

"Now Mine Eyes Seeth Thee"

Lesson 6

Zophar's First Speech & Job's Reply Job 11-14

Introduction

It appears from Zophar's opening words that he has heard enough from Job and wants to set him straight (11:2). Zophar is like his two "friends"...so confident of his judgments against Job that he desires that God would speak and finally convince Job of his sinfulness (11:5). Zophar adds little to what has already been said against Job, and his speech is full of unfair accusations and insinuations.

In his reply, Job firmly rebukes the three for their supposed wisdom, and Zophar in particular for his blunt accusations (ch. 12). The patriarch then launches his desire to plead his case before God, knowing that he will in the end be vindicated (ch. 13). He concludes his reply with another lamenting of life's frailties and the gloomy prospects of death and the grave that awaits all men (ch. 14).

Zophar's First Speech (Job 11:1-20)

1. How does Zophar feel about Job's defenses to Eliphaz & Bildad? (11:1-3) Of what does Zophar accuse Job in 11:4? Was this fair? Of what is Zophar convinced that would settle this whole predicament? (11:5-6)
2. How does Zophar describe the wisdom of God in relation to Job? (11:7-12) With what climactic extreme does Zophar finish his lecture on the superiority of God's wisdom over man's wisdom? (11:12)
3. What is Zophar's advice to Job in 11:13-14? What benefits does Zophar say would be Job's if he does what is suggested? (11:15-19) What final warning does he give Job? (11:20)

Job's Reply To Zophar (Job 12:1 - 14:22)

4. What is Job's initial response? (12:2) Summarize how you think Job feels based on what he says.

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5. What else does Job say about his "friends?" (12:3) While trying to show his "friends" that he, too, has wisdom, what does Job teach them in 12:4-6? How does this fit in with the their theories already presented?
6. How does Job show that the wisdom provided by his "friends" was really common knowledge? (12:7-12) What else does Job say about God's wisdom and His power that has been shown to man? (12:13-25)
7. How does Job equate himself with the "friends" in 13:1-2? In spite of what he has just said regarding God's wisdom, what is still Job's desire? (13:3) How could these men have shown real worth to Job in his sufferings? (13:5) Yet, what did they do? (13:4)
8. Of what does Job accuse them in 13:7-8? What would be revealed if God searched their hearts? (13:9-11) How did Job look on their sayings to him? (13:12) What do you think he meant by this?
9. Of what is Job so sure in 13:13-19? What does he say is his confidence in this? Before he can plead his case, what two requests does Job have of God? (13:20-21) What does Job request that God show him? (13:22-28)
10. What further observations does Job offer about life in general? (14:1-6) In somewhat of a soliloquy, how does Job illustrate man's hopelessness? (14:7-12)
11. What hope does Job have in 14:13-15? How are Job's words representative of life's ups & downs? To what reality does Job return in 14:16-17? What does Job conclude finally about hope? (14:19) What finally awaits man? (14:20)