JOB 11-14

REVIEW…

- TESTING

  Satan
  Lord
  to
  - The
    lost

    Lord!
  - The
    Satan

    over
  - But
    either
    with
- The
  Job

  sin

  sin

  - Job
    ONE
    an
  - He
    was
    who

  Hebrew

Job…
- TWICE
came before the
– and demanded
TEST Job…
FIRST time Job
EVERYTHING in a
moment – but he
worshiped the

SECOND time
struck him with
painful boils – all
his body!
Job did NOT sin –
in his ACTIONS or
his WORDS!
THREE friends of
arrived for
COMFORT him…
- Eliphaz
ACCUSED Job - of
having HIDDEN
[verified by a
spirit] …
- Bildad
rebuked Job – for
having HIDDEN
[verified by the
wisdom of the
Fathers] …
pointed out – NO
– can stand before
OMNIPOTENT
God…
regrated there
NO MEDIATOR –
could stand
between God and
himself!
- REMINDER:
POETRY…

- Hebrew POETRY does not attempt to RHYME words – it is not based on similar sounds…
- Hebrew POETRY is formed by the COMPARING or CONTRASTING ideas…
- An idea will be stated – then a number of verses will be dedicated to COMPARING it…
- OR we will see the idea CONTRASTED – a RHYME of COMPARING or CONTRASTING ideas!

Lot of Problems… (4 points)

- **1st –** Rebuke of Zophar **– Chapter 11 [NLT]**
  - 1st – Empty talk … vs. 1-3
    - Then Zophar the Naamathite answered…
      - Zophar [depart early] – from Naamah [pleasant] – perhaps named after daughter of Cain…
      - Was the THIRD and final friend of Job to speak up – and he was NOT happy…
      - He opens up his response to Job by saying he also could NOT hold back!
    - Should not [your] multitude of words be answered - should a man full of talk be vindicated…
      - Should [your lies] cause [me to say nothing] - when you mock should no [אֵין] one rebuke you!
      - Just because Job used a LOT of words – TWENTY chapters [his friends only use NINE] …
      - Did NOT mean that Job was RIGHT – and Zophar was compelled to answer his LIES!
      - We are going to see this THEME in the book of Job – less words would have been BETTER…
      - These men [including Job] spouting off their ideas - end up provoking a response from God…
      - God gave us TWO ears and ONE mouth for a good reason – listen twice as much as we speak!
      - Better to hold our LIPS – then open our mouths and let empty words pour out!
      - It has been said the fool opens his mouth – and removes all doubt!
      - **Proverbs 10:19** – "Too much talk leads to sin. Be sensible and keep your mouth shut."
  - 2nd –Rebuke of Zophar… vs. 4-12
    - LESS than you deserve… vs. 4-6
      - You claim - your beliefs are pure – and you are clean in the sight of God…
      - But oh - that God would speak [piel – imperative] - and open His lips against you…
      - If only He would tell you the secrets of wisdom - for true wisdom is not a simple matter…
      - LISTEN! God is doubtless punishing you far less than you deserve!
      - Job had argued he did NOT deserve what had happened to him…
      - Zophar argued he did NOT get half of what he deserved – God went easy on him!
      - A lot of people have the perspective today – I do NOT deserve what is happening to me…
      - But Zophar was RIGHT – what we all DESERVE – is eternal separation – **Romans 6:23**

    - Wisdom of God… vs. 7-9
      - Can you solve the mysteries of God [אֱלוֹהַּ] - discover everything about the Almighty [שַׁדַּי]…
      - Such knowledge is higher than the heavens - and who are you…
      - It is deeper than the underworld - what do you know…
      - It is broader than the earth - and wider than the sea!
      - Zophar correctly points out Job had NO idea what God was doing…
      - There was NO way for Job to understand EVERYTHING about the ALMIGHTY!
      - Another THEME that we see running through the Book of Job…
      - We are NOT going to understand everything God allows – at least on this side of eternity…
      - It is a guarantee we will have questions that will not get answered until we get to heaven…
      - Because the wisdom and knowledge of God are beyond our ability to comprehend!

- **Romans 11:33** – "Oh - the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

▪ Knowledge of God… vs. 10-12

- If God puts a person in prison - or calls the court to order - who can stop Him…
- For He knows those who are [vain] - and He takes NOTE of all their sins…
- An [empty] person will become wise – when a wild donkey can give birth to a man!
- Zophar accuses Job of being VAIN – living life for himself rather than God…
- And God who SEES everything – had judged [prison] Job accordingly…
- Because so long as Job was living for himself [vain] – he would NOT be WISE!
- Emphasized with the rather colorful analogy of a donkey giving birth to a man!
- A self-centered life – is an EMPTY life – that will cause us to MISS what God is doing…
- If are only focused on our problems – we are going to be miserable…
- Because all we will see is OUR problems – and quickly become overwhelmed…
- But when live to SERVE others - our perspective changes!
- **Philippians 2:4** – "Do not look out only for your own interests - take an interest in others…"

○ 3rd – Conclusion of Zophar… vs. 13-20

▪ Repent from the heart… vs. 13-14

- If you would prepare your heart - and stretch out your hands toward Him…
- If iniquity were in your hand - and you put it far away…
- And would not let wickedness dwell in your tents!
- Zophar tells Job to REPENT – not just in his HEART – let it be seen in his ACTIONS!
- Repentance is not just being sorry – it is a changed life!
- When someone gets drunk – wakes up the next morning with a splitting headache…
- Has cuts and bruises because they got into a fight - they cannot even remember…
- Of course they swear they will - never do that again - because they are miserable…
- But give them a chance - a month / week / perhaps just a day – and it happens again!
- If we do not turn from our sinful ways TO JESUS – we will not change…
- True repentance is seen through a transformed life – no longer doing the same things!
- Not that we are perfect – but we are different – desiring to live for Jesus!

▪ God will RESTORE… vs. 15-20

- Then you could lift up your face without spot – you could be steadfast and not fear…
- Because you would forget your misery - and remember it as waters that have passed away…
- Life would be brighter than noonday - though it were dark - you would be like the morning…
- You would be secure because there is hope - you would dig around you - your rest in safety…
- You would also lie down - and no one would make you afraid - many would court your favor!
- But the eyes of the wicked will fail - and they shall not escape - and their hope is loss of life!
- Zophar was doing so WELL – till he comes to his conclusion…
- He defaults back to the same FLAWED response of Eliphaz and Bildad…
- Bad things ONLY happen to BAD people – so if you REPENT life will be AMAZING…
- But if you do NOT – then there is NO escape – your life is OVER!

- **2ND – ANSWERING ZOPHAR – CHAPTER 12 [NLT]**

○ 1st – You have no WISDOM… vs. 1-3

▪ Then Job spoke again:

▪ You people REALLY know everything - when you die - wisdom will die with you!

- I know a few things myself - and you are no better than I am…
- Who does NOT know these things you have been saying!
- Job sarcastically responds– surely you know EVERYTHING – and wisdom will die with you!
- Job was NOT ignorant – he knew the WISDOM of the WORLD as well as anyone…
- The idea that BAD things only happen to BAD people…
- But the common convention of men had proven to be WRONG – and Job wanted to know WHY!
- Since men could not give him the answers – including his three FRIENDS – he would ask God!

o 2nd – Looking to the LORD… 4-13

- Expecting an ANSWER… vs. 4-6
  - My friends laugh at me - for I call on God and expect an answer…
  - I am a just and blameless man - yet they laugh at me…
  - People who are at ease mock those in trouble - give a push to people who are stumbling…
  - Robbers are left in peace - and those who provoke God live in safety…
  - Though God keeps them in his power [God is still in control]!
  - Job wanted God to answer – why are BAD people [robbers / provokers] left in peace…
  - Yet he was a JUST and BLAMELESS man – and his life fell apart!
  - And Job was BLAMELESS [תָּם] – God said so Himself – **Job 1:8 / Job 2:3**
  - The FRIENDS of Job might mock Job for expecting God to answer…
  - But they would be wrong – because in the end that is exactly what God did – **Job 38-41**
  - The world – family – might think we are crazy to ask God questions…
  - But if we are truly looking for answers – God is the ONLY one who has them!
  - **Jeremiah 29:13** – "You will find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."
- God DID this to me… vs. 7-10
  - Ask the animals [imperative] and they will teach you - birds of the sky will tell you…
  - Speak [imperative] to the earth and it will instruct you - let the fish in the sea speak to you…
  - For they all know - that my disaster has come from the hand of the LORD…
  - For the life of every living thing is in his hand - and the breath of every human being!
  - Hand of the LORD [יְהוָה] – the ONLY time the NAME of God is mentioned - **Job 3-37**
  - Perhaps in a dramatic contrast – the animals / birds / earth / and fish…
  - All knew the LORD – by NAME – and could tell you HE brought the disaster on Job…
  - But the FRIENDS of Job did NOT know His name – called him [אֱלוֹהַּ] and [שַׁדַּי]!
- True WISDOM… vs. 11-13
  - The ear tests the words it hears just as the mouth distinguishes between foods…
  - Wisdom belongs to the aged - and understanding to the old…
  - But true wisdom and power are found in God - counsel and understanding are his!
  - Although WISDOM does come with AGE – UNDERSTANDING to the OLD…
  - Job had heard the WISDOM of his friends – and TESTED it – and found it LACKING…
  - But who is OLDER than God – He was the ONLY one who could give Job the RIGHT answer!
  - **I John 4:1** - "Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits..."
  - The world is ALWAYS trying to convince us they have the ANSWERS in life…

- They may even pass LEGISLATION to tell us that their answer is the LAW…
- But we need to TEST the words we hear – VERIFY and see if they are RIGHT…
- TRUE wisdom comes from only ONE place – asking the Lord – **James 1:5**

- 3rd – The SOVEREIGNTY of God… vs. 14-25
  - What [God] destroys cannot be rebuilt - when he puts someone in prison - there is no escape…
    - If He holds the rain the earth becomes a desert - if He releases - they flood the earth!
    - Yes - strength and wisdom are His - deceivers and deceived are both in his power…
    - He leads counselors away - stripped of good judgment - wise judges become fools [piel]…
    - He removes the royal robe of kings - they are led away with [shackles] around their waist…
    - He leads priests away - stripped of status - He overthrows those with long years in power…
    - He silences the trusted adviser - and removes the insight of the elders…
    - He pours disgrace upon princes - and disarms the strong…
    - He uncovers [sin] hidden in darkness - he brings light to the [darkest corners] …
    - He builds up nations only to destroy [piel] them - expands nations and He abandons them…
    - He strips kings of [their heart] - and leaves them wandering in a pathless wasteland…
    - They grope [piel] in the darkness without a light - He makes them stagger like drunkards!
  - Job – with a tirade of Hebrew POETRY - defines the SOVEREIGNTY of God…
    - But NOTE - all his EXAMPLES are negative – reflecting his pessimistic perspective…
    - His EXPERIENCE darkened his view of HOW God interacted with men…
    - And while all of his statements are TRUE – it is NOT all that God does!
    - **Psalm 103:9** – "[God] will not constantly accuse us - nor remain angry forever."
    - As much as we are affected by our circumstances – we need to remember God is NOT…
    - And we must NOT interpret the actions of the Lord through the lens of our sorrow…
    - God never changes – and He is always working with ONE motive – His love for us!
    - **Lamentations 3:22** – "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases…"

- **3RD – WORTHLESS PHYSICIANS - CHAPTER 13**
  - 1st – I KNOW what you KNOW … vs. 1-3
    - I have seen all this with my own eyes - and heard it with my own ears - and now I understand...
    - I know as much as you do - you are no better than I am…
    - As for me - I would speak directly to the Almighty - I want to argue my case with God himself!
    - It can be easy to FORGET – we are ALL in the same BOAT – we are ALL sinners…
    - If people come to us looking for ANSWERS – we need to remember we are NOT the answer…
    - Our ONLY job is to be the billboard to point them to Jesus – so they can speak to the ALMIGHTY!
  - 2nd – STOP Talking… 4-12
    - As for you - you smear me with lies - as physicians - you are worthless quacks… vs. 4-5
      - If only you could be silent! That is the wisest thing you could do!
      - The FRIENDS of Job came to HELP heal his wounds [physician]…
      - But instead they had ATTACKED him – WOUNDED him more - accusing him of LIES…
      - The WISEST things they could do at this point – was to STOP talking!
    - Start LISTENING… vs. 6-12
      - Listen [imperative] to my charge - pay attention [imperative] to my arguments…

- For God are you speaking [piel] lies - do you make your dishonest arguments for His sake…
- Will you slant your testimony in his favor - will you argue His case for Him…
- What will happen when He finds out what you are doing - can you fool Him…
- No - you will be in trouble with Him - if you secretly slant your testimony in His favor…
- Does His majesty not terrify [piel] you - does your fear of Him not overwhelm you!
- Your platitudes are as valuable as ashes - your defense is as fragile as a clay pot!
- The three FRIENDS were claiming to speak on behalf of God…
- Job warned them to be AFRAID – because when God found out – He would NOT be happy!
- Hophi and Phinehas were the sons of Eli - **I Samuel 2:12-17**
- They would take the best of the meat of the sacrifices (*steal*) from the people...
- The had affairs with the women who came to worship - **I Samuel 2:22**
- Such such poor representatives - the people hated coming to God - **I Samuel 2:17**
- When someone who claims to SPEAK for God – and is WRONG…
- They end up MISREPRESENTING God to people – confusing or discouraging them…
- And God will judge those people more severely for the damage they do - **James 3:1**

o 3rd – TRUST God… vs. 13-19

▪ Be silent [imperative] - let ME just ME speak - and I will face the consequences… vs. 13-14

- Yes - I will take my life in my hands - and say what I really think!
- No doubt the FRIENDS of Job are ready to being ARGUING with him again…
- He DEMANDS they stay SILENT – Job would take his case to God…
- And he was more than willing to accept the consequences for his actions!

▪ Not a HYPOCRITE… vs. 15-19

- Though He slay me – yet will I TRUST Him - I am going to argue my case with him!
- He also shall be my salvation - for a HYPOCRITE could not come before Him…
- REMEMBER – in Hebrew the word HYPOCRITE speaks of someone who denies God exists!
- Listen [imperative] closely to what I am about to say - hear me out…
- I have prepared my case - I will be proved innocent…
- Who is he who can argue with me – If now I hold my tongue – I will perish!
- Job did NOT trust his FRIENDS – but he did TRUST the Lord…
- So there was nothing they could say that could keep him from CRYING out to the God!

o 4th – Prayer of Job… vs. 20-28

▪ O God - grant me these two things - and then I will not hide [niphal] myself from you… vs. 20-21

- Remove your heavy hand from me - and do not terrify me with your awesome presence…
- FIRST - Job wanted God to do TWO things – stop the TRIALS [heavy hand] …
- SECOND - he wanted God to explain WHY – but not terrify him with His AWESOME presence!
- The TRIALS were DONE – but God was still showing Job WHY he lost everything!
- Trials can come in a LOT of shapes and sizes – FINANCIAL / PHYSICAL / RELATIONAL…
- But as hard as the actual TRIALS can be – it is equally as challenging to understand WHY…
- Because the answer is DEATH – learning to DIE to ourselves – **Luke 9:23**
- And it is NOT easy to come to a place of BROKENNESS and DEPENDENCE on Jesus!

▪ God please SPEAK…vs. 22-28

- Now summon me [imperative] - and I will answer! Or let me speak to You - and You reply…
- Tell me - what have I done wrong - show me [imperative] my rebellion and my sin…
- Why do you turn away from me - why do You treat me as your enemy!
- Would you terrify a leaf blown by the wind - would you chase dry straw…

- You write bitter accusations against me - and bring up all the sins of my youth…
- You put my feet in stocks - You examine all my paths - You trace all my footprints…
- I waste away like rotting wood - like a moth-eaten coat!
- I was raised in a GODLY home – with an amazing father and mother…
- But when I was a teenager – everything went wrong – and my life FELL APART…
- I can remember wanting to know WHY – demand [imperative] God SPEAK and tell me!
- But God has SPOKEN – we have the ANSWER – if we are just willing to LISTEN…
- We come to His WORD – through the Bible God unlocks the answers to our questions!

- **4TH – DEATH IS THE END – CHAPTER 14**
  - 1st – Life is SHORT … vs. 1-12
    - How frail is humanity! How short is life - how full of trouble… vs. 1-4
      - We blossom like a flower and then wither - like a passing shadow - we quickly disappear…
      - Must you keep an eye on such a frail creature - and demand an accounting from me…
      - Who can bring purity out of an impure person - no one!
      - Job recognizes the SHORT time men are given in this life – like a flower or shadow…
      - They are here ONLY for a moment – then they are gone…
      - Therefore – why does God demand PURITY from someone whose life is so FRAIL!
    - No HOPE… vs. 5-12
      - You have decided the length of our lives - and we are not given a minute longer…
      - So leave us alone and let us rest! We are like hired hands - so let us finish our work in peace…
      - Even a tree has more hope! If it is cut down - it will sprout again and grow new branches…
      - Though its roots have grown old in the earth - and its stump decays…
      - At the scent of water it will bud - and sprout again like a new seedling!
      - But when people die their strength is gone - they breathe their last - then where are they…
      - As water evaporates from a lake - and a river disappears in drought…
      - People are laid to rest and do not rise again - until the heavens are no more…
      - They will not wake up - nor be roused from their sleep!
      - Herein we see the IGNORANCE of Job – he did NOT understand death…
      - He assumed that when someone DIES – they will NOT wake up – it was the END!
      - God would rebuke Job [and his friends] for their IGNORANCE in the end!
      - **Job 38:2** – "Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge…"
  - 2nd – The HOPE… 13-17
    - I wish you would hide me in the grave - and forget me there until your anger has passed…
      - But mark your calendar to think of me again!
      - Job though the GRAVE was a place to HIDE from the judgement of God…
      - He assumed if He died – then all of his troubles would be OVER!
    - A resurrection… vs. 14-17
      - Can the dead live again - this would give me hope through all my years of struggle…
      - You would call and I would answer - and You would yearn for me - Your handiwork…
      - For then you would guard my steps - instead of watching for my sins…
      - My sins would be sealed in a pouch- and you would cover my guilt!
      - Job realized that IF there was a RESURRECTION – that would change everything…
      - All of the TRIALS and STRUGGLES could have greater purpose in an ENTERAL context…
      - God would not be PUNISHING Job – He would be GUARDING Job!
  - 3rd – The TROUBLE… vs. 18-22

- Instead - as mountains fall and crumble - and as rocks fall from a cliff…
- As water wears away the stones - floods wash away the soil - so you destroy hope…
- You always overpower them - and they pass from the scene….
- You disfigure them in death and send them away…
- They never know if their children grow up in honor - or sink to insignificance…
- They suffer painfully - their life is full of trouble!
- The THOUGHT was fleeting – Job goes back to – life is FULL of trouble…
- He assumed God is just wearing him down – like water slowly erodes stone…
- Because Job did not understand DEATH – therefore he also did not understand LIFE!
- God allows DIFFICULTIES – because He is working to ensure our ETERNITY!