

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 82 – Job’s Bitterness Through Job Feeling Like A Moth Eaten Garment (Job 10-13)

1. Does Job want to continue his complaining?

Yes: “*My soul is weary of my life; I will leave my complaint upon myself; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul*” (Job 10:1).

See also: “*Therefore I will not refrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul*” (Job 7:11).

2. Does Job feel like God should explain to him why he is suffering?

Yes: “*I will say unto God, Do not condemn me; shew me wherefore thou contendest with me*” (Job 10:2).

Think about that for a moment: **Romans 9:20**

3. Did Job feel that God could understand his woes?

No: “(3) *Is it good unto thee that thou shouldest oppress, that thou shouldest despise the work of thine hands, and shine upon the counsel of the wicked?* (4) *Hast thou eyes of flesh? or seest thou as man seeth?* (5) *Are thy days as the days of man? are thy years as man's days,* (6) *That thou enquirest after mine iniquity, and searchest after my sin*” (Job 10:3-6)?

4. In all of Job’s foolish words, does he realize at all whom he is talking to?

He knows God is the all-knowing creator, capable of ending life, though he seems to not appreciate those facts: “(7) *Thou knowest that I am not wicked; and there is none that can deliver out of thine hand. (8) Thine hands have made me and fashioned me together round about; yet thou dost destroy me. (9) Remember, I beseech thee, that thou hast made me as the clay; and wilt thou bring me into dust again. (10) Hast thou not poured me out as milk, and curdled me like cheese? (11) Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh, and hast fenced me with bones and sinews. (12) Thou hast granted me life and favour, and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit*” (Job 10:7-12)?

5. Did Job feel like God has hidden from himself that he created Job?

Yes: “*And these things hast thou hid in thine heart: I know that this is with thee*” (Job 10:13).

6. Did Job feel that he was doomed regardless of doing good or evil?

Yes. Remember, when reading the following passages, Job considered himself to be right according **verse 7**: “(14) *If I sin, then thou markest me, and thou wilt not acquit me from mine iniquity. (15) If I be wicked, woe unto me; and if I be righteous, yet will I not lift up my head. I am full of confusion; therefore see thou mine affliction; (16) For it increaseth. Thou huntest me as a fierce lion: and again thou shewest thyself marvellous upon me. (17) Thou renewest thy witnesses against me, and increasest thine indignation upon me; changes and war are against me*” (Job 10:14-17).

7. We have seen Job curse the day he was conceived (Job 3:1-6). Has his mindset changed yet?

No: “(18) Wherefore then hast thou brought me forth out of the womb? Oh that I had given up the ghost, and no eye had seen me! (19) I should have been as though I had not been; I should have been carried from the womb to the grave. (20) Are not my days few? cease then, and let me alone, that I may take comfort a little, (21) Before I go whence I shall not return, even to the land of darkness and the shadow of death; (22) A land of darkness, as darkness itself; and of the shadow of death, without any order, and where the light is as darkness” (**Job 10:18-22**).

8. Did Zophar the Naamathite think that Job’s complaining should go unanswered?

No: “(1) Then answered Zophar the Naamathite, and said, (2) Should not the multitude of words be answered? and should a man full of talk be justified? (3) Should thy lies make men hold their peace? and when thou mockest, shall no man make thee ashamed” (**Job 11:1-3**)?

9. Did Zophar think Job was getting what he deserved?

No, he thought Job was getting less than he deserved in punishment: “(4) For thou hast said, My doctrine is pure, and I am clean in thine eyes. (5) But oh that God would speak, and open his lips against thee; (6) And that he would shew thee the secrets of wisdom, that they are double to that which is! **Know therefore that God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth**” (**Job 11:4-6**).

10. Did Zophar establish that God cannot be “figured out” (so to speak)?

Yes: “(7) Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? (8) It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know? (9) The measure thereof is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea” (**Job 11:7-9**; cf. **Isaiah 55:6-9** and **Romans 11:33-36**).

11. Is there anyone who can stop God from doing whatever He wants?

No: “If he cut off, and shut up, or gather together, then who can hinder him” (**Job 11:10**)?

12. Can a vain man hide himself from God?

No: “For he knoweth vain men: he seeth wickedness also; will he not then consider it” (**Job 11:11**)?

13. Could a vain man find God if he sought him with the right heart?

Yes: “(12) For vain man would be wise, though man be born like a wild ass's colt. (13) If thou prepare thine heart, and stretch out thine hands toward him” (**Job 11:12-13**).

14. What is Job counseled to do if he has iniquity found in him?

Cease it before coming to God: “(14) If iniquity be in thine hand, put it far away, and let not wickedness dwell in thy tabernacles. (15) For then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot; yea, thou shalt be stedfast, and shalt not fear” (**Job 11:14-15**).

This is sound advice: **Proverbs 28:9**, **Isaiah 1:10-18**, **Isaiah 59:1-2**, and **Lamentation 3:39-44**).

15. If Job presented himself rightly before God, would his calamity end?

Yes: “(16) Because thou shalt forget thy misery, and remember it as waters that pass away: (17) And thine age shall be clearer than the noonday; thou shalt shine forth, thou shalt be as the

morning. (18) *And thou shalt be secure, because there is hope; yea, thou shalt dig about thee, and thou shalt take thy rest in safety. (19) Also thou shalt lie down, and none shall make thee afraid; yea, many shall make suit unto thee*” (Job 11:16-19).

16. What do wicked people have to look forward to?

Death: *“But the eyes of the wicked shall fail, and they shall not escape, and their hope shall be as the giving up of the ghost”* (Job 11:20).

This is sad concerning Job, for he has talked as though death is the only think he has to look forward to (Job 3:20-21, Job 6:8-9, Job 7:15, and Job 10:19).

17. Does Job humbly accept the words of Zophar?

No: *“(1) And Job answered and said, (2) No doubt but ye are the people, and wisdom shall die with you. (3) But I have understanding as well as you; I am not inferior to you: yea, who knoweth not such things as these”* (Job 12:1-3)?

Essentially, the same thing is said in Job 13:1-2: *“(1) Lo, mine eye hath seen all this, mine ear hath heard and understood it. (2) What ye know, the same do I know also: I am not inferior unto you.”*

18. Does Job feel as one who is being helped or one who is being mocked?

He feels mocked: *“(4) I am as one mocked of his neighbour, who calleth upon God, and he answereth him: the just upright man is laughed to scorn. (5) He that is ready to slip with his feet is as a lamp despised in the thought of him that is at ease”* (Job 12:4-5).

19. Does Job think God is with the just or with the wicked?

The wicked: *“The tabernacles of robbers prosper, and they that provoke God are secure; into whose hand God bringeth abundantly”* (Job 12:6).

20. Does Job think that everything is controlled entirely by God?

Yes, Job thinks that God is behind every good and bad thing (Job 12:8-25). This of course, is not the case (James 1:13-17).

21. Job said he would speak to God, but what prevented that concerning those giving him counsel (according to Job)?

*“(3) Surely I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to reason with God. (4) But ye are forgers of lies, ye are all physicians of no value. (5) O that ye would altogether hold your peace! and it should be your wisdom”* (Job 12:3-5).

Job continues his “who are you to tell me” attitude.

22. Job has maintained that God would afflict him though he had not sinned. His friends have argued the opposite. In light of that, does Job feel like his friends are unjustly defending God?

Yes: *“(7) Will ye speak wickedly for God? and talk deceitfully for him? (8) Will ye accept his person? will ye contend for God”* (Job 13:7-8)?

23. What “warning” does Job give his friends?

“(9) *Is it good that he should search you out? or as one man mocketh another, do ye so mock him? (10) He will surely reprove you, if ye do secretly accept persons. (11) Shall not his excellency make you afraid? and his dread fall upon you? (12) Your remembrances are like unto ashes, your bodies to bodies of clay*” (Job 13:9-12).

24. Does Job want counsel or does he trust his life being in his own hands?

He trusts his life in his own hands: “(13) *Hold your peace, let me alone, that I may speak, and let come on me what will. (14) Wherefore do I take my flesh in my teeth, and put my life in mine hand*” (Job 13:13-14)?

25. Was Job confident that the Lord would provide him with salvation, even though he thought God was behind his sufferings?

Yes: “(15) *Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him. (16) He also shall be my salvation: for an hypocrite shall not come before him*” (Job 13:15-16).

26. What did Job think would cause him to die?

If he held his tongue: “(17) *Hear diligently my speech, and my declaration with your ears. (18) Behold now, I have ordered my cause; I know that I shall be justified. (19) Who is he that will plead with me? for now, if I hold my tongue, I shall give up the ghost*” (Job 13:17-19).

27. What two conditions does Job give God?

“(20) *Only do not two things unto me: then will I not hide myself from thee. (21) **Withdraw thine hand far from me: and let not thy dread make me afraid***” (Job 13:20-21).

28. Does Job seem to want to talk with God?

Yes, he seems to though he is proceeding in an ignorant manner: “*Then call thou, and I will answer: or let me speak, and answer thou me*” (Job 13:22).

29. What question does Job put to God?

“(23) *How many are mine iniquities and sins? make me to know my transgression and my sin. (24) Wherefore hidest thou thy face, and holdest me for thine enemy*” (Job 13:23-24)?

30. Does Job feel that God has brought him to nothing?

Yes: “(25) *Wilt thou break a leaf driven to and fro? and wilt thou pursue the dry stubble? (26) For thou writest bitter things against me, and makest me to possess the iniquities of my youth. (27) Thou puttest my feet also in the stocks, and lookest narrowly unto all my paths; thou settest a print upon the heels of my feet. (28) And he, as a rotten thing, consumeth, as a garment that is moth eaten*” (Job 13:28).