

## ....In Your Answers There Remaineth Falsehood ~

### **Job 20:1 – 22:2**

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~ Why does it seem the wicked prosper effortlessly generation after generation? Vast amounts of property and wealth remain in the same despicable families to be passed along in aristocracy and nepotism from ungodly parents to unholy offspring who are typically myriad times worse than their parents. Does that make sense when so many genuine Christians and otherwise decent, law-abiding people are suffering and impoverished so horribly today? If God makes the rich and the poor, perhaps He is wrong? Well, we're going to begin to get the Biblical answer to this difficult question in this report from our Spiritual Safari.

Why God's people suffer cannot be sufficiently answered in a single chapter – or even in a single book of the Bible – and that's why this expedition is considering the entire panorama of the Word of God. There is a complete answer from God for all of our questions; but, friends, that answer is not going to be wrapped up in few little quips and flowery phrases. Further, if you think you're going to master Scripture in a few expedited lessons – or even in a few years – you need to wake up and learn how to learn. Line upon line; precept upon precept – here a little, there a little. Don't lower yourself to the level of vast multitudes today who are literally unlearned and un-teachable, yet think they know everything; and insist on their ignorance.

Many people suffer from cancer, heart troubles, and countless physical ailments. Many new diseases and variations of them are baffling medical communities today. Other people suffer from heavy debt, broken marriages, rebellious children, and a whole never-ending list of devastating problems. However, very few – and I do mean *VERY* few – understand what it means to suffer for the Lord Jesus Christ — or to stand for the furtherance of the Gospel. Most people who post their disconnected and randomly irrelevant Bible verses in religious circles would absolutely wither, fold-up and deactivate their social-media accounts if true suffering were to be allowed to come to them – as it was allowed to come to Job — by God

— through the Satanic attacks God permitted. Face it friends, if you lost your family, home, jobs and friends for your faith and belief in Christ — or if you were required to die for His sake — then most self-professing believers would renounce their religion faster than you could say “*Book of Job!*” I’m sure you probably don’t think so. Let’s pray you don’t have the opportunity to discover your error anytime soon.

In our last report, we began to examine the second discourse from Zophar the Naamathite. Thankfully, this is the last time we’re going to hear from the old boy. Quite frankly, we’ve already heard enough from him. Remember, Zophar is a legalist who declares God works only according to law and measure. Zophar has what we would label the “*scientific mind;*” and every minute circumstance of our existence must be placed into the test tube of experience, and have the acid of life poured over it — and each experiment always yields the same result. Zophar says the rules of the universe can never be changed or altered. He says all things continue as they have since the foundation of the world.

Zophar is utterly ignorant of the grace of God; and that makes him appear strong and unbending. His second statement is much less impressive than his first discourse was in chapter eleven. He is much more brutal and cruelly unforgiving here than he was in his first discourse, and he is giving it all he has now – which isn’t much. He isn’t going to say anything new, either. He’s just going to repackage it all with extra hate. I think he realizes this will be his last opportunity to speak.

All three of Job’s so-called friends — Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar — who are very definitely *NOT* his friends any longer, have asserted a theory that Job has hidden and secret sins; and that the wicked must be punished! They desperately want Job to admit whatever his sin is; because they wanted to stone Job to death right then and there in the garbage dump landfill of an ancient oriental city named Uz — where the beleaguered Job is scraping his open sores with a piece of broken pottery. We’re looking at one ugly picture of humanity right now, my beloved readers. Human nature never changes, either. Make a note....

**XX**

***<sup>1</sup> Then answered Zophar the Naamathite, and said,***

***<sup>2</sup> Therefore do my thoughts cause me to answer, and for this I make haste.***

***<sup>3</sup> I have heard the check of my reproach, and the spirit of my understanding causeth me to answer.***

***<sup>4</sup> Knowest thou not this of old, since man was placed upon earth,***

***<sup>5</sup> That the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment?***

~ Naturally, Zophar deems himself capable of answering anything. Zophar is like the modern-day politician during their campaign; they don't mind telling us they're more qualified than the opponent. Whenever you hear a man make that claim, you can write "FOOL" across his forehead. As we read on, Zophar claims his philosophies are age-old irrefutable established facts. Zophar says, "... *the triumphing of the wicked is short.*" But I suppose that depends on how long "short" is — and exactly what the length of a "moment" is. Suddenly, his statements all become subjective. I have seen some wicked, piously hypocritical men holding on to riches *MUCH* longer than I have been alive! Well, either way, Zophar loves the drama. That seems to be all he cares about in this passage....

***<sup>6</sup> Though his excellency mount up to the heavens, and his head reach unto the clouds;***

***<sup>7</sup> Yet he shall perish for ever like his own dung: they which have seen him shall say, Where is he?***

***<sup>8</sup> He shall fly away as a dream, and shall not be found: yea, he shall be chased away as a vision of the night.***

***<sup>9</sup> The eye also which saw him shall see him no more; neither shall his place any more behold him.***

- 10 His children shall seek to please the poor, and his hands shall restore their goods.***
- 11 His bones are full of the sin of his youth, which shall lie down with him in the dust.***
- 12 Though wickedness be sweet in his mouth, though he hide it under his tongue;***
- 13 Though he spare it, and forsake it not; but keep it still within his mouth:***
- 14 Yet his meat in his bowels is turned, it is the gall of asps within him.***
- 15 He hath swallowed down riches, and he shall vomit them up again: God shall cast them out of his belly.***
- 16 He shall suck the poison of asps: the viper's tongue shall slay him.***
- 17 He shall not see the rivers, the floods, the brooks of honey and butter.***
- 18 That which he laboured for shall he restore, and shall not swallow it down: according to his substance shall the restitution be, and he shall not rejoice therein.***
- 19 Because he hath oppressed and hath forsaken the poor; because he hath violently taken away an house which he builded not;***
- 20 Surely he shall not feel quietness in his belly, he shall not save of that which he desired.***
- 21 There shall none of his meat be left; therefore shall no man look for his goods.***
- 22 In the fulness of his sufficiency he shall be in straits: every hand of the wicked shall come upon him.***

***23 When he is about to fill his belly, God shall cast the fury of his wrath upon him, and shall rain it upon him while he is eating.***

***24 He shall flee from the iron weapon, and the bow of steel shall strike him through.***

***25 It is drawn, and cometh out of the body; yea, the glittering sword cometh out of his gall: terrors are upon him.***

***26 All darkness shall be hid in his secret places: a fire not blown shall consume him; it shall go ill with him that is left in his tabernacle.***

***27 The heaven shall reveal his iniquity; and the earth shall rise up against him.***

***28 The increase of his house shall depart, and his goods shall flow away in the day of his wrath.***

***29 This is the portion of a wicked man from God, and the heritage appointed unto him by God.***

~ The language in the Book of Job is genuinely tremendous, isn't it? All of the truly great wordsmiths of the past seem to have acquainted themselves with the Book of Job. They may not understand the Word of God, but they know the prose found here. Quite frankly, man is the single most colossal failure in God's wide-open universe as far as I can tell. One explanation for our failure is in both meanings of the word "brevity," too, ironically enough! We construct philosophies and theories in elaborate languages that are as ridiculous as present-day common core math. Utter failure to communicate, and a total meaninglessness of life, are the common cores of mankind — with the only exception being the child of God. Even if death did "end it all" and the so-called Christian life is just imaginary, I still say it is more worthwhile than atheism. I realize that statement creates a little tug at the heart of disappointment — because man wants eternity. God hath set eternity in our hearts, my friends, because eternity just happens to be as real as rain is wet.

Well, Zophar opens up one can of phony theological worms after another; and we are not going to address them all – because it would take a hundred reports to do so; and he hasn't said anything new — so, we're just going to move on. The bottom line is: Zophar calls Job a wicked hypocrite. That's pure projection at its finest. See, God has already contradicted Zophar; because God told us way back in the beginning of this book that Job was perfect, upright, hated evil, and sinned not with his lips.

Interestingly, Zophar even takes an insulting jab at Eliphaz, in verse eight. Remember, Eliphaz told us of some spooky vision he had that kept him awake all night in chapter four; but his fools dream was completely devoid of substantial content. This conversation is becoming puerile and jejune. It is out of control. I hope you read this section of Scripture very carefully after praying for wisdom, judgment and discernment....

## **XXI**

***<sup>1</sup> But Job answered and said,***

***<sup>2</sup> Hear diligently my speech, and let this be your consolations.***

***<sup>3</sup> Suffer me that I may speak; and after that I have spoken, mock on.***

***<sup>4</sup> As for me, is my complaint to man? and if it were so, why should not my spirit be troubled?***

***<sup>5</sup> Mark me, and be astonished, and lay your hand upon your mouth.***

***<sup>6</sup> Even when I remember I am afraid, and trembling taketh hold on my flesh.***

***<sup>7</sup> Wherefore do the wicked live, become old, yea, are mighty in power?***

***<sup>8</sup> Their seed is established in their sight with them, and their offspring before their eyes.***

***<sup>9</sup> Their houses are safe from fear, neither is the rod of God upon them.***

***10 Their bull gendereth, and faileth not; their cow calveth, and casteth not her calf.***

***11 They send forth their little ones like a flock, and their children dance.***

***12 They take the timbrel and harp, and rejoice at the sound of the organ.***

***13 They spend their days in wealth, and in a moment go down to the grave.***

***14 Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways.***

***15 What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?***

***16 Lo, their good is not in their hand: the counsel of the wicked is far from me.***

***17 How oft is the candle of the wicked put out! and how oft cometh their destruction upon them! God distributeth sorrows in his anger.***

***18 They are as stubble before the wind, and as chaff that the storm carrieth away.***

***19 God layeth up his iniquity for his children: he rewardeth him, and he shall know it.***

***20 His eyes shall see his destruction, and he shall drink of the wrath of the Almighty.***

***21 For what pleasure hath he in his house after him, when the number of his months is cut off in the midst?***

***22 Shall any teach God knowledge? seeing he judgeth those that are high.***

***23 One dieth in his full strength, being wholly at ease and quiet.***

***24 His breasts are full of milk, and his bones are moistened with marrow.***

***25 And another dieth in the bitterness of his soul, and never eateth with pleasure.***

***26 They shall lie down alike in the dust, and the worms shall cover them.***

***27 Behold, I know your thoughts, and the devices which ye wrongfully imagine against me.***

***28 For ye say, Where is the house of the prince? and where are the dwelling places of the wicked?***

***29 Have ye not asked them that go by the way? and do ye not know their tokens,***

***30 That the wicked is reserved to the day of destruction? they shall be brought forth to the day of wrath.***

***31 Who shall declare his way to his face? and who shall repay him what he hath done?***

***32 Yet shall he be brought to the grave, and shall remain in the tomb.***

***33 The clods of the valley shall be sweet unto him, and every man shall draw after him, as there are innumerable before him.***

***34 How then comfort ye me in vain, seeing in your answers there remaineth falsehood?***

~ So, Job comes back strong against old man Zophar in this last rebuttal statement. Unfortunately, it would have been much better if Job hadn't even answered Zophar anymore. In fact, it would be better if Job didn't say anything else from here on out! Well, that's not Job's style – and I can relate to him. Job isn't about to not defend himself. Job is growing a little



bit tired of their false charges now. Job knows they only want a reason to stone him at this point. These three friends have done nothing but scare Job half to death.

Job agrees that the wicked should be punished — but that doesn't apply to Job. The more Job talks, however, the more these three men mock him. That simply makes Job all the more sarcastic. The one thing Job has going for him is he refuses to make his complaint to man. Job is appealing to a higher authority; and he rightfully tells these others repeatedly to just shut up. But he should also have taken his own advice in that regard.

Job understands the wicked are not always cut off in this world. Sometimes, they live to be very old — and then they pass their wealth along to their ilk — who are usually much worse. They always seem to have a whole flock of little brats who fight each other over the inheritances and usually come to hate each other as a result. Even so, they act like they are having the best time in the world — and they sometimes are — and sometimes their folly isn't apparent. See, the rich jet from Acapulco to Martha's Vineyard, and then on to the coast of Spain and Monte Carlo. Then, from there, they fly over to Tuscany and on to Maui — and back to Acapulco again where they begin again. Most of them are as drunk and drugged up and lawless as one could ever possibly be. Quite frankly, my advice is for them to eat, drink, and live it up, because where they're going, they don't serve alcohol — and the view is treacherous. Yes, ungodly men and women will ultimately disappear one by one — but they certainly do prosper in the world. Job isn't in that class, though; and, even if what Zophar had just said were true, it would not be applicable to Job.

I believe this greatly disturbed Job. It disturbed King David in his day. I *KNOW* it disturbs Andrew Hunt — and it probably disturbs you, too. Think of any name that stands for wealth in the world today. *NONE* of them have a reputation for Godliness — even the millionaire false prosperity teachers and television evangelists do *NOTHING* worthwhile for the Lord; they just accumulate more and more money. They are living it up right now; there's no question about that. They permeate politics, high society, Hollywood, and even the church; and they don't seem to suffer much in any way. Make no mistake — the wicked godless man will almost always prosper.

The rich mock God and ask the man who truly believes God why they should serve Him. They don't think God could provide anything they couldn't obtain themselves. Well, God says they will be judged. Specifically, Scripture tells us ".... *the wicked are reserved for judgment.*" That's something that's almost never said anymore. See, friends, there comes a time in our Christian life that we will have to decide if we really believe the Bible is the Word of God – or not. God is going to reward His own children – and He is going to torment the wicked – you can just write that all down....

## **XXII**

***<sup>1</sup> Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said,***

***<sup>2</sup> Can a man be profitable unto God, as he that is wise may be profitable unto himself?***

~ So, our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition interrupting Eliphaz — again — as he begins his final discourse. Eliphaz is telling Job that Job thinks just a little too highly of himself. Moreover, Eliphaz is questioning what God might think of Job; and that's just not a very comforting thought to anyone in Job's condition. Eliphaz is so far out in left field that he is simply not worthy of thoughtful consideration; and hasn't been since he first spoke. What Job needs now is help and light directly from Heaven — not the darkness from hell; which is all these friends can provide. Alright, this report is finished — but this great contest of wit and wisdom isn't over — and we'll continue our examination as we move along in our expedition through the entire Word of God ~

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