

Handout Job Lesson 4: Chapters 3-4

Job 3:1–10

- Job is NOT cursing God, but rather he is cursing the day of his birth.
- Is it wrong to express your pain?
- It is in *severe* suffering that the really important questions are asked.

Job 3:11–19

- What is the purpose of God in making me suffer?
- Dramatic irony- We already know the answer, though Job does not.

Job 3:20–26

- Is God good?
- The answer to this is in the rest of the Bible.

Speeches:

- Three sets of speeches by Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar and Job.
 - The friends try to convince Job of their view of how the world works (DR principle).
 - Job denies their assertions.
 - Epistemology- What is the proof for our belief about how the world works?
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- Set 1: **Pre-modern** worldview- Natural events are caused by supernatural causes. God, angels, demons, and the like were a reality to pre-modern people.
 - Set 2: **Modern** worldview- People can use logic and science to become neutral observers in the world can find the one “true” answer to each question asked through observation of nature. Modernism disregards the supernatural as it cannot be proven by science.
 - Set 3: **Postmodern** worldview- Everyone has a point of view through which they see the world, and no one person’s view is any more valid than another’s.

Eliphaz focuses on **history**, Bildad on **science**, and Zophar on **philosophy/theology**. These three brilliant minds are coming together to apply their specialty to the key question of “why” did this happen to Job. They do a brilliant job of applying the very best of human wisdom to solve this problem. We already know the outcome of their labors; they fail. You CANNOT understand why God did this without access to special revelation.

Job 4:1–7

- Eliphaz tries to answer but doesn't succeed.
- He questions whether Job will listen to him.
- He accuses Job of being a hypocrite.
- Eliphaz reaffirms the DR principle (his main thesis).

Job 4:7–11

- Eliphaz- appeals to history.
- Eliphaz- God is the agent of the DR principle.
- Eliphaz- There are no exceptions to the DR principle.

Job 4:12–21

- Most important question man can ask is in verse 17.
- Eliphaz says no one can be right before God, not Job, not even the angels.
- Irony in verse 18.
- Greater to Lesser Argument verses 18-19.
- Verses 19-21- Eliphaz- Men are frail and fragile; they die without having it all figured out. This is absolutely right, but it applies not only to Job but also to Eliphaz.
- Human wisdom cannot figure out what God is doing.