

## Job Recap: Chapters 1-10

In **Chapter 1**, Job receives his first test, that of the loss of everything important to him except his own health. Job handled this test well. Job 1:20-22

In **Chapter 2**, Job receives the second test, that of his terrible disease. He refuses to curse God though goaded toward this sin by his own wife. Job 2:9-10. Later in Chapter 2, his friends show up, and it is clear that they are there not primarily to comfort him but to try to establish what Job did to anger God so they themselves can avoid a similar fate.

In **Chapter 3**, Job expresses the degree of his suffering, but there is no suggestion that he is becoming bitter or blaming or questioning God. He simply expresses his wish that he had never been born in light of the degree of his suffering.

In **Chapters 4-5**, Eliphaz describes the Divine Retribution principle, and calls on Job to repent in light of the obvious truth that Job must have sinned terribly to deserve this trial.

In **Chapter 6**, Job answers Eliphaz, again expressing his pain but also affirming that he has not sinned against God. He also attacks Eliphaz for his miserable attempt at comfort and denies that any of Eliphaz's arguments have proven that Job had sinned. Job 6:10

In **Chapter 7**, there is the first hint that Job might be becoming bitter, but the most significant aspect of Job's thinking in chapter 7 is that he is starting to ask the really important questions of life. Job 7:17-20

In **Chapter 8**, Bildad resorts to science and a study of nature to reiterate the divine retribution principle and to assert again that Job needs to repent because God does not persecute the righteous. Job 8:20-21

In **Chapter 9** Job contradicts Bildad saying that God is more complicated than his friends seem to understand, and that the D/R principle is frequently not applicable to life. Job expresses his most significant wish for a mediator between God and man. Job 9:32-33

In **Chapter 10**, we finally see that bitterness is taking root in Job's thinking. Though Job knows God is more complicated than his friends understand, nevertheless Job has no explanation for God's acts other than the divine retribution principle. Job 10:20

### THE PROBLEM

- Job has NOT committed a serious sin
- Job is in severe torment
- The only known principle of how God operates is the divine retribution principle

### JOB CAN FATHOM ONLY TWO SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM

- God made a mistake in oppressing a man who did not sin; God is therefore fallible in that He is torturing an innocent man: God is not RIGHT
- Because Job knows he is not sinless, perhaps God is oppressing him on account of his relatively minor sins, in which case God is not fair: God is not GOOD

Because Job cannot think of a third explanation, his distress and despair is building and turning into resentment and bitterness, because with his mind, he rejects both of these possibilities but he is not able to reconcile the facts without being forced to one of these terrible conclusions. The point is that Job's torment is INCREASED by his inability to logically reject both of these untrue allegations against God.

## Job Chapter 11

Job 11:1–6: Zophar

- Accuses Job of being prideful in continuing to protest his innocence
- Attacks the integrity of Job in verse 4
- He accuses Job of having asserted that he was sinless
- Rebukes Job in verses 5-6 saying he should be suffering more

**Q:** Is Zophar right or wrong?

Job 11:7–12: Here we see the brilliance of Zophar the theologian

- Verse 7-8- God transcends both heaven and the grave; He is both inaccessible and mysterious
- Verse 9- God transcends nature and science. Zophar is addressing Bildad who purported to know how God has set up cause and effect relationships in nature and also Job who protested his own innocence.

**Q:** What is Zophar saying in verses 7-9. What is his accusation against Job?

Job 11:10-11: Additional aspects of the theology of Zophar

- God knows what is going on without having to exert any effort to discover it
- Having infinite power, His power is not in the least depleted after exerting it to accomplish his ends
- When it comes to knowledge, He just knows everything without having to search out information.

**Q:** Is this section of Zophar's speech ironic? If so, why?

**Q:** What is the accusation against Job given in verse 12?

**Q:** What do you think is motivating Zophar to be so cruel to Job?

Job 11:13–20: A magnificent theological treatise on repentance

Examples of repentance and its results in the rest of Scripture:

- Isaiah 1:27
- Isaiah 30:18
- Jeremiah 15:7
- Ezekiel 18:30–32
- Matthew 3:7
- Matthew 11:20–21

Example of the complexity of how the Divine Retribution principle works: Luke 13:1-5

**Q:** Is Zofar right in verse 17? Does repentance result in relief of suffering?

**Q:** What is ironic about verse 19 that “many would entreat your favor” (Job 42:10)?