

Handout Job Chapter 13

In Chapter 13 Job continues his response by moving from contradicting his friends' conclusions about his trial to warning them about the mistake they are making.

Job 13:1–2

- Job reminds his friends that he is not inferior to them in intellect.
- History is an inadequate source of data to fully understand the ways of God.

Job 13:3

- This is one of Job's major "wishes" which is that he will get to have his day in the heavenly court.
- "Argue with God" indicates that Job wants to present his case before Him, and to find out why God had allowed him to be so terribly afflicted.

Job 13:4–5

- Job accuses his friends of telling lies.
- Job accuses them of being worthless physicians.

Q: Why does Job accuse them of lying rather than just making a mistake?

Job 13:7–8

Q: What is Job accusing his friends of doing in verses 7-8?

Q: How can this be a legitimate accusation against the friends? Isn't it good and noble that the friends are speaking for God and trying to defend his actions in regard to Job?

Job 13:9-12

- Job demonstrates a remarkable concern for his friends' spiritual safety.
- Job 42:7

Job 13:13–14

- Job is putting his life on the line in making his assertion of innocence.
- Job exalts the virtue of truthfulness no matter the personal cost.

Job 13:15

An alternate reading of the Hebrew translates the verse to read "He will slay me, and I have no hope, nevertheless I will argue my ways before Him."

- The translations differ on the key point of whether Job HAS or DOES NOT HAVE hope.
- The context must decide the meaning.
 - Job 9:2–3
 - Job 9:14–20

Q: Why does Job feel that he has no hope in the heavenly court? Job 9:32-33

Job 13:16

- Job would be vindicated in the heavenly court if he gets a chance to present his case before God.
- If God is really fair and just, then a righteous man would be accepted by Him.
- Job knows he is not sinless, and though his present pain is not the result of some terrible sin, he nevertheless has no hope that he will be able to stand in God's presence.
- Philippians 1:18–20: Why can Paul know he will be delivered while Job has no hope of vindication in the heavenly court?

Job 13:17–19

Q: Here Job says that he WILL be vindicated! Is Job contradicting himself?

Job 13:20–22 Note that Job is now addressing God.

Q: What two things is Job wishing God would stop doing to him?

- 1)
- 2)

Q: Is this ironic?

Job 13:23–28

- Job is struggling with the question of theodicy.
- “iniquities of my youth” is a significant phrase; Job acknowledges that he was not sinless.
- Theodicy problem solved: God allows evil and suffering because it serves His greater purposes, all of which are beneficent.
 - The existence of sin allows us to know the depths of the love of God.
 - James 1: suffering perfects and refines us
 - Job 1:20–22: the model response to suffering that we should emulate