

Handout Job Chapter 23

Job 23 Job's response to Eliphaz.

Verse 2

- Job's complaining has become bitter.
- Both Job's mind and body are worn out, and he has reached the point of desperation in his suffering.

Verse 3

- An expression of Job's wish. Job wants:
 - to know where God is physically
 - to find God
 - to come before Him and present his case
 - to receive divine revelation

Q: How has Job's wish fundamentally changed from Job 7:17-19?

Q: Is this transition in Job's thought significant? Why?

Verses 4-5

Q: What are the assumptions Job makes about God in the wish he expresses in verses 4-5? In other words, what can we infer from these verses about how Job views God?

Q: Is there any significance to the fact that Job wishes in verse 5 that God would answer him?

Verses 6-7

- (6) Job has conviction that God is good. God's compassion would balance out His power.
- (7) Job asserts that he is upright and hopes that God would justify him once he presents his case.

Verses 8–9 These verses stand in contrast to verses 6-7.

- Job has expressed his confidence that God would listen to him and deliver him.
- However, Job cannot find God though he looked for Him diligently.

Verses 10-12

- God will have to be the initiator for this meeting to take place.
- The rest of verse 10 is very important and is a famous, often quoted verse from Job.

Q: Considering verses 11 and 12, what is the primary meaning of verse 10? What is Job most likely saying here? Consider 1 Peter 1:6-7.

Q: Do verses 11-12 indicate that Job has stepped over the line from honest self-examination to the sin of self-righteousness?

Verses 13–14

- Job contemplates the uniqueness and sovereignty of God
- Job recognizes that God had the power and the right to afflict him
- Job appreciates God's uniqueness
- Job realizes that no one can question God
- Job believes that God has the right to do whatever He pleases
- Job seems almost relieved with this realization

Verses 15–16

Q: If Job is so confident of his own rightness, and certain of the rightness and goodness of God, why does he shift here to stating that he is “dismayed at His presence” and “terrified of Him”?

- 1 John 4:9–10
- Acts 17:30–31
- 1 Thessalonians 1:9–10

Think about the words from our Lord Himself in John 6:37–40.