

A Study of the Book of Job: When Bad Things Happen to God's People

Lesson 8: Zophar Speaks and Job's Reply (Chapters 11-14)

First Cycle

Eliphaz (ch. 4-5)	→	Job (ch. 6-7)
Bildad (ch. 8)	→	Job (ch. 9-10)
Zophar (ch. 11)	→	Job (ch. 12-14)

11:1-12

- V. 2-4: How does Zophar respond to Job? What accusation does he launch against him?
- V. 6-9: Zophar shows his ignorance by claiming God has only forgotten part of Job's sin (!). What argument does he make in favor of our ignorance of God's will and ways?

11:13-20 What is Zophar's proposed solution to Job's troubles?

12:1-12

- V. 2-3; 7-12: Why is Job unimpressed with Zophar's words?

12: 13-25 Summarize Job's observation in these verses. Can you give some Biblical examples?

13:1-12

- Job insists that he can go toe-to-toe with their human reason. Of what does he warn them as they launch their accusations against him?

13:13-28

- V. 15-16: One commentator has suggested that the struggle in Job is not between God and Job, nor Job and his friends, but rather between two different conceptions of God. How do Job's words simultaneously accentuate this struggle and profess his faith?
- During times of suffering we may wish we could stand before God and ask him why this is happening. Can we approach him? What would he tell us? (cf. Romans 5:1-2; 2 Cor. 12:9; John 9:3)

14:1-6

- V. 4: How does this verse support the Biblical doctrine of original sin?
- V. 5: In what sense are our lives (and deaths) "predetermined" by God? (cf. Psalm 139:16)

14:7-12

- V. 7-12: In what way does it seem that a plant may have life better than a person? But what was Job's hope and when would it be fulfilled (v. 12)?

14:13-22

- By faith, what does Job see waiting for him in his future? (v. 13-17)
- V. 18-22: Job returns to his complaint over his life. What he hopes for is not what he sees now. What does he see instead?