

# THE BOOK OF JOB

Ch 8-14 Job Wants a Lawyer



# THE RECIPROCITY PRINCIPLE (A DEEPLY INGRAINED ASSUMPTION)

**HUMAN ACTION**

**GOD'S JUSTICE**

**DO GOOD**



**BLESSING/BENEFIT**

**DO WRONG**



**PUNISHMENT &  
DISASTER**

**GOD'S JUSTICE**



**TENSION**

**RECIPROCITY  
PRINCIPLE**

**JOB'S  
INNOCENCE**

## Job 8

<sup>1</sup> Then Bildad the Shuhite replied to Job: <sup>2</sup> “How long will you go on like this? You sound like a blustering wind. <sup>3</sup> Does God twist justice? Does the Almighty twist what is right? <sup>4</sup> Your children must have sinned against him, so their punishment was well deserved. <sup>5</sup> But if you pray to God and seek the favor of the Almighty, <sup>6</sup> and if you are pure and live with integrity, he will surely rise up and restore your happy home.

...<sup>8</sup> “Ask the former generation and find out what their ancestors learned, <sup>9</sup> for we were born only yesterday and know nothing, and our days on earth are but a shadow. <sup>10</sup> Will they not instruct you and tell you? Will they not bring forth words from their understanding?”

**20 “But look, God will not reject a person of integrity, nor will he lend a hand to the wicked. 21 He will once again fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy. 22 Those who hate you will be clothed with shame, and the home of the wicked will be destroyed.”**

## Job 9

<sup>1</sup> Then Job spoke again: <sup>2</sup> “Yes, I know all this is true in principle. But how can a person be declared innocent in God’s sight? <sup>3</sup> If someone wanted to take God to court, would it be possible to answer him even once in a thousand times? <sup>4</sup> For God is so wise and so mighty. Who has ever challenged him successfully?”

...<sup>14</sup> “So who am I, that I should try to answer God or even reason with him? <sup>15</sup> Even if I were right, I would have no defense. I could only plead for mercy. <sup>16</sup> And even if I summoned him and he responded, I’m not sure he would listen to me.

...<sup>19</sup> If it’s a question of strength, he’s the strong one. If it’s a matter of justice, who dares to summon him to court? <sup>20</sup> Though I am innocent, my own mouth would pronounce me guilty. Though I am blameless, it would prove me wicked.



<sup>21</sup> “I am innocent, but it makes no difference to me—I despise my life. <sup>22</sup> Innocent or wicked, it is all the same to God. That’s why I say, ‘He destroys both the blameless and the wicked.’ <sup>23</sup> When a plague sweeps through, he laughs at the death of the innocent. <sup>24</sup> The whole earth is in the hands of the wicked, and God blinds the eyes of the judges. If he’s not the one who does it, who is? ...<sup>29</sup> Whatever happens, I will be found guilty. So what’s the use of trying

<sup>32</sup> “God is not a mortal like me, so I cannot argue with him or take him to trial. <sup>33</sup> If only there were a mediator between us, someone who could bring us together. <sup>34</sup> The mediator could make God stop beating me, and I would no longer live in terror of his punishment. <sup>35</sup> Then I could speak to him without fear, but I cannot do that in my own strength.

## Job 10

...<sup>9</sup> Remember that you made me from dust— will you turn me back to dust so soon? <sup>10</sup> You guided my conception and formed me in the womb. <sup>11</sup> You clothed me with skin and flesh, and you knit my bones and sinews together. <sup>12</sup> You gave me life and showed me your unfailing love. My life was preserved by your care. <sup>13</sup> “Yet your real motive— your true intent— <sup>14</sup> was to watch me, and if I sinned, you would not forgive my guilt.

**DO I ALLOW MY SUFFERING TO DEFINE  
GOD'S CHARACTER IN MY THINKING?**



## Job 11

<sup>1</sup> Then Zophar the Naamathite replied to Job: <sup>2</sup>  
“Shouldn’t someone answer this torrent of words?  
Is a person proved innocent just by a lot of talking?  
<sup>3</sup> Should I remain silent while you babble on?  
When you mock God, shouldn’t someone make you  
ashamed? <sup>4</sup> You claim, ‘My beliefs are pure,’ and ‘I  
am clean in the sight of God.’ <sup>5</sup> If only God would  
speak; if only he would tell you what he thinks! <sup>6</sup> If  
only he would tell you the secrets of wisdom, for  
true wisdom is not a simple matter. Listen! God is  
doubtless punishing you far less than you deserve!

**7 “Can you solve the mysteries of God? Can you discover everything about the Almighty? <sup>8</sup> Such knowledge is higher than the heavens— and who are you? It is deeper than the underworld — what do you know?**

**...<sup>13</sup> “If only you would prepare your heart and lift up your hands to him in prayer! <sup>14</sup> Get rid of your sins and leave all iniquity behind you. <sup>15</sup> Then your face will brighten with innocence. You will be strong and free of fear. <sup>16</sup> You will forget your misery; it will be like water flowing away.**

**AM I WILLING TO EXTEND THE BENEFIT OF THE  
DOUBT TO SOMEONE WHO IS SUFFERING?**



## Job 12

<sup>1</sup> Then Job spoke again: <sup>2</sup> “You people really know everything, don’t you? And when you die, wisdom will die with you! <sup>3</sup> Well, I know a few things myself— and you’re no better than I am. Who doesn’t know these things you’ve been saying? ...<sup>16</sup> Yes, strength and wisdom are his; deceivers and deceived are both in his power. <sup>17</sup> He leads counselors away, stripped of good judgment; wise judges become fools. <sup>18</sup> He removes the royal robe of kings. They are led away with ropes around their waist.



## Job 13

<sup>1</sup> “Look, I have seen all this with my own eyes and heard it with my own ears, and now I understand. <sup>2</sup> I know as much as you do. You are no better than I am. <sup>3</sup> As for me, I would speak directly to the Almighty. I want to argue my case with God himself. <sup>4</sup> As for you, you smear me with lies. As physicians, you are worthless quacks. <sup>5</sup> If only you could be silent! That’s the wisest thing you could do.

**<sup>6</sup> Listen to my charge; pay attention to my arguments. <sup>7</sup> “Are you defending God with lies? Do you make your dishonest arguments for his sake? <sup>8</sup> Will you slant your testimony in his favor? Will you argue God’s case for him? <sup>9</sup> What will happen when he finds out what you are doing?**

**12 Your maxims are proverbs of ashes; your defenses are defenses of clay. 13 “Keep silent and let me speak; then let come to me what may. 14 Why do I put myself in jeopardy and take my life in my hands? 15 Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face.**

Job 14

...<sup>3</sup> Must you keep an eye on such a frail creature and demand an accounting from me?

...<sup>7</sup> “Even a tree has more hope! If it is cut down, it will sprout again and grow new branches.<sup>8</sup> Though its roots have grown old in the earth and its stump decays,<sup>9</sup> at the scent of water it will bud and sprout again like a new seedling.<sup>10</sup> “But when people die, their strength is gone. They breathe their last, and then where are they?”

**14 Can the dead live again? If so, this would give me hope through all my years of struggle, and I would eagerly await the release of death. 15 You would call and I would answer, and you would yearn for me, your handiwork.**

**IS A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD ENOUGH  
FOR ME?**



THE BOOK OF  
JOB

