

THE BOOK OF JOB

Ch 15-21 Wrong Answers to Wrong Questions



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 15

¹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied: ² “A wise man wouldn’t answer with such empty talk! You are nothing but a windbag. ³ The wise don’t engage in empty chatter. What good are such words? ⁴ Have you no fear of God, no reverence for him? ⁵ Your sins are telling your mouth what to say. Your words are based on clever deception.

...¹⁴ Can any mortal be pure? Can anyone born of a woman be just? ¹⁵ Look, God does not even trust the angels. Even the heavens are not absolutely pure in his sight. ¹⁶ How much less pure is a corrupt and sinful person with a thirst for wickedness!

Job 16

¹Then Job spoke again: ² “I have heard all this before. What miserable comforters you are! ³ Won’t you ever stop blowing hot air? What makes you keep on talking? ⁴ I could say the same things if you were in my place. I could spout off criticism and shake my head at you. ⁵ But if it were me, I would encourage you. I would try to take away your grief.

⁹ God hates me and angrily tears me apart. He snaps his teeth at me and pierces me with his eyes. ¹⁰ People jeer and laugh at me. They slap my cheek in contempt. A mob gathers against me. ¹¹ God has handed me over to sinners. He has tossed me into the hands of the wicked. ¹² “I was living quietly until he shattered me. He took me by the neck and broke me in pieces. Then he set me up as his target, ¹³ and now his archers surround me. His arrows pierce me without mercy. The ground is wet with my blood.

...¹⁷ Yet I have done no wrong, and my prayer is pure. ¹⁸ “O earth, do not conceal my blood. Let it cry out on my behalf. ¹⁹ Even now my witness is in heaven. My advocate is there on high. ²⁰ My friends scorn me, but I pour out my tears to God. ²¹ I need someone to mediate between God and me, as a person mediates between friends. ²² For soon I must go down that road from which I will never return.

Job 17

¹ “My spirit is crushed, and my life is nearly snuffed out. The grave is ready to receive me. ² I am surrounded by mockers. I watch how bitterly they taunt me. ³ “You must defend my innocence, O God, since no one else will stand up for me. ...¹⁵ Where then is my hope? Can anyone find it? ¹⁶ No, my hope will go down with me to the grave. We will rest together in the dust!”

**IF MY UNDERSTANDING OF GOD IS
EXPOSED AS FAULTY, DOES THAT CREATE A
SPIRITUAL CRISIS FOR ME?**



Job 18

¹ Then Bildad the Shuhite replied: ² “How long before you stop talking? Speak sense if you want us to answer! ³ Do you think we are mere animals? Do you think we are stupid? ⁴ You may tear out your hair in anger, but will that destroy the earth? Will it make the rocks tremble? ⁵ “Surely the light of the wicked will be snuffed out. The sparks of their fire will not glow.

Job 19

¹ Then Job spoke again: ² “How long will you torture me? How long will you try to crush me with your words? ³ You have already insulted me ten times. You should be ashamed of treating me so badly. ⁴ Even if I have sinned, that is my concern, not yours. ⁵ You think you’re better than I am, using my humiliation as evidence of my sin. ⁶ But it is God who has wronged me, capturing me in his net. ⁷ “I cry out, ‘Help!’ but no one answers me. I protest, but there is no justice.

²¹ “Have mercy on me, my friends, have mercy,
... for the hand of God has struck me. ²² Must you
also persecute me, like God does? Haven’t you
chewed me up enough? ²³ “Oh, that my words
could be recorded. Oh, that they could be
inscribed on a monument, ²⁴ carved with an iron
chisel and filled with lead, engraved forever in the
rock. ²⁵ “But as for me, I know that my Redeemer
lives, and he will stand upon the earth at last. ²⁶
And after my body has decayed, yet in my body I
will see God!

27 I will see him for myself. Yes, I will see him with my own eyes. I am overwhelmed at the thought!

28 “How dare you go on persecuting me, saying, ‘It’s his own fault’? 29 You should fear punishment yourselves, for your attitude deserves punishment. Then you will know that there is indeed a judgment.”

Job 20

¹ Then Zophar the Naamathite replied: ² “I must reply because I am greatly disturbed. ³ I’ve had to endure your insults, but now my spirit prompts me to reply. ⁴ “Don’t you realize that from the beginning of time, ever since people were first placed on the earth, ⁵ the triumph of the wicked has been short lived and the joy of the godless has been only temporary?”

Job 21

¹ Then Job spoke again: ² “Listen closely to what I am saying. That’s one consolation you can give me. ³ Bear with me, and let me speak. After I have spoken, you may resume mocking me. ⁴ “My complaint is with God, not with people. I have good reason to be so impatient. ⁵ Look at me and be stunned. Put your hand over your mouth in shock. ⁶ When I think about what I am saying, I shudder. My body trembles. ⁷ “Why do the wicked prosper, growing old and powerful?”

⁸ They live to see their children grow up and settle down, and they enjoy their grandchildren. ⁹ Their homes are safe from every fear, and God does not punish them.

...¹⁷ “Yet the light of the wicked never seems to be extinguished. Do they ever have trouble? Does God distribute sorrows to them in anger? ¹⁸ Are they driven before the wind like straw? Are they carried away by the storm like chaff? Not at all! ¹⁹ “‘Well,’ you say, ‘at least God will punish their children!’ But I say he should punish the ones who sin, so that they understand his judgment.

20 Let them see their destruction with their own eyes. Let them drink deeply of the anger of the Almighty. 21 For they will not care what happens to their family after they are dead. 22 “But who can teach a lesson to God, since he judges even the most powerful?

**AM I WILLING TO BE FLEXIBLE ABOUT THE
ANSWERS I SEEK FROM GOD?**



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