

Correct Theology: Wrong Motives

Job 4:1-5:27 / September 4, 2021

Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said: (4:1)

A) OPENING REMARKS (4:2)

He is compelled to give advice to Job (4:2)

“If one ventures a word with you, will you be impatient? / Yet who can keep from speaking?”

B) EXHORTATIONS (4:3-6)

He compliments Job as a teacher to the suffering (4:3-4)

Behold, you have instructed many, / and you have strengthened the weak hands.

Your words have upheld him who was stumbling, / and you have made firm the feeble knees.

But he reminds Job that he is now the sufferer (4:5-6)

But now it has come to you, and you are impatient; / it touches you, and you are dismayed.

Is not your fear of God your confidence, / and the integrity of your ways your hope?

C) GOD’S DEALINGS (4:7-11)

He explains Job is experiencing the “Law of Just Retribution”; God punishes evil; rewards good (4:7-9)

“Remember: who that was innocent ever perished? / Or where were the upright cut off?”

As I have seen, those who plow iniquity / and sow trouble reap the same.

By the breath of God they perish, / and by the blast of his anger they are consumed.

He gives an illustration from nature: Lions can’t change natural law; Job can’t change the moral law (4:10-11)

The roar of the lion, the voice of the fierce lion, / the teeth of the young lions are broken.

The strong lion perishes for lack of prey, / and the cubs of the lioness are scattered.

D) THE “SPECIAL REVELATION” (4:12-21)

He has received a special “revelation” for Job (4:12-16)

“Now a word was brought to me stealthily; / my ear received the whisper of it.

Amid thoughts from visions of the night, / when deep sleep falls on men,

dread came upon me, and trembling, / which made all my bones shake.

A spirit glided past my face; / the hair of my flesh stood up.

It stood still, / but I could not discern its appearance.

A form was before my eyes; / there was silence, then I heard a voice:

The message: Man is guilty before God; therefore, Job is guilty (4:17-21)

‘Can mortal man be in the right before God? / Can a man be pure before his Maker?’

Even in his servants he puts no trust, / and his angels he charges with error;

how much more those who dwell in houses of clay, / whose foundation is in the dust, / who are crushed like the moth.

Between morning and evening they are beaten to pieces; / they perish forever without anyone regarding it.

Is not their tent-cord plucked up within them, / do they not die, and that without wisdom?’

C¹) GOD'S DEALINGS (5:1-16)

He tells Job he has no one to advocate for him, including God (5:1)

“Call now; is there anyone who will answer you? / To which of the holy ones will you turn?”

Why can't Job advocate before God? Job is a “fool” as seen in his suffering (5:2-5)

Surely vexation kills the fool, / and jealousy slays the simple.

I have seen the fool taking root, / but suddenly I cursed his dwelling.

His children are far from safety; / they are crushed in the gate, / and there is no one to deliver them.

The hungry eat his harvest, / and he takes it even out of thorns, / and the thirsty pant after his wealth.

Job's suffering is a result of his evil; he is not a victim of circumstances (5:6-7)

For affliction does not come from the dust, / nor does trouble sprout from the ground,

but man is born to trouble / as the sparks fly upward.

He tells Job to seek God in repentance because God is just and merciful (5:8-16)

“As for me, I would seek God, / and to God would I commit my cause,

who does great things and unsearchable, / marvelous things without number:

he gives rain on the earth / and sends waters on the fields;

he sets on high those who are lowly, / and those who mourn are lifted to safety.

He frustrates the devices of the crafty, / so that their hands achieve no success.

He catches the wise in their own craftiness, / and the schemes of the wily are brought to a quick end.

They meet with darkness in the daytime / and grope at noonday as in the night.

But he saves the needy from the sword of their mouth / and from the hand of the mighty.

So the poor have hope, / and injustice shuts her mouth.

B¹) EXHORTATIONS (5:17-26)

He tells Job to accept God's discipline of suffering (in order to regain his loss) (5:17-26)

“Behold, blessed is the one whom God reproves; / therefore despise not the discipline of the Almighty.

For he wounds, but he binds up; / he shatters, but his hands heal.

He will deliver you from six troubles; / in seven no evil shall touch you.

In famine he will redeem you from death, / and in war from the power of the sword.

You shall be hidden from the lash of the tongue, / and shall not fear destruction when it comes.

At destruction and famine you shall laugh, / and shall not fear the beasts of the earth.

For you shall be in league with the stones of the field, / and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with you.

You shall know that your tent is at peace, / and you shall inspect your fold and miss nothing.

You shall know also that your offspring shall be many, / and your descendants as the grass of the earth.

You shall come to your grave in ripe old age, / like a sheaf gathered up in its season.

A¹) CLOSING REMARKS (5:27)

He tells Job to listen to this good advice as truth (5:27)

Behold, this we have searched out; it is true. / Hear, and know it for your good.”

“Just Retribution”
Blessings for Obedience to God; Suffering for Disobedience to God

“Remember: who that was innocent ever perished? / Or where were the upright cut off?
 As I have seen, those who plow iniquity / and sow trouble reap the same.
 By the breath of God they perish, / and by the blast of his anger they are consumed. (4:7-9)

OBEDIENCE	DISOBEDIENCE	PASSAGE
Tree of Life	Tree of Death	The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Genesis 2:15-17, ESV)
World	Noah	The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the LORD said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.” But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. (Genesis 6:5-8, ESV)
Abraham	Nations	And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Genesis 12:2-3, ESV)
Lot	Lot’s Wife	The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar. Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven. And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. But Lot’s wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. (Genesis 19:23-26, ESV)
Moses	Pharaoh	Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh, and the LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the people of Israel go out of his land. (Exodus 11:10, ESV)
Law’s Blessings	Law’s Curses	“And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. 2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God. (Deuteronomy 28:1-2, ESV); “But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. (Deuteronomy 28:15, ESV)
Joshua’s Blessings	Joshua’s Curses	And they answered Joshua, “All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be with you, as he was with Moses! Whoever rebels against your commandment and disobeys your words, whatever you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and courageous.” (Joshua 1:16-18, ESV)
Judges	Israel	Whenever the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them. But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. (Judges 2:18-19, ESV)
Israel	Assyria	In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria, and he carried the Israelites away to Assyria and placed them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. (2 Kings 17:6, ESV)
Judea	Babylon	And in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came with all his army against Jerusalem and laid siege to it. And they built siegeworks all around it. (2 Kings 25:1, ESV)

WRONG THEOLOGY: INCORRECT MOTIVES: *Nothing Missing* by Joel Osteen

Someone may have left you, walked out of a relationship, you think you'll always be alone - the right person is going to find you, someone better than you've imagined. You tried to accomplish the dream, the doors didn't open, God's going to open a better door. He didn't give you the dream and not have a way to bring it to pass. Maybe you didn't have a good childhood, nobody was there to encourage you, you feel shortchanged - don't worry, God saw what happened. **He's going to make up for who did you wrong. He's going to pay you back for what you didn't get.** Instead of living discouraged, thinking you've seen your best days, turn it around, "Father, thank you that nothing will be missing in my life. The joy, the peace, the health, the strength, the family, the dreams, Lord I thank you that you were restoring everything that I've lost".

See, instead of having a poor-old-me mentality, "Look what I've been through", **have a nothing-missing-mentality, "I'm gonna get it all back". This is what happened with Job.** He was a good man, had a good family, successful business, then one thing after another came against him. He lost his health, lost his business, lost his children. He was so discouraged, the scripture says he sat down among the ashes. He thought, **"I'll never recover from this. It's all downhill from here"**. His wife even said to him, "Job just curse God and die" - really encouraging wife.

Just when he's about to give up, this friend came along, said in Job chapter 5, **"Job, if you'll look to God, he will rescue you. He will save you from death. You will not be taken before your time. When you visit your pastors, nothing will be missing"**.

Here he's just lost all of his flocks, lost his health, his family, it's all gone, and **God showed up and said "Job, stay in faith, this loss is only temporary. When I get through nothing will be missing"**. I can see Job get up out of the ashes, dust his clothes off, he looked up to the heavens and said (Job 19:26) **"I know my redeemer lives"**. In the midst of all the trouble, all the heartache, when he could have been complaining, bitter, he started declaring that God

was on the throne, that what he started he would finish. **There was a shift in his thinking from "This loss is permanent, I've seen my best days", to "Restoration is coming, health is coming, victory is coming". I can hear him saying, "Father, it doesn't look good. The odds are against me, but I believe what you promised: nothing will be missing in my life. I don't have joy now, but thank you that joy is coming. I don't feel well, but thank you that health is coming. My flocks are all gone, but thank you that abundance is on the way".**

When you go through setbacks you can complain, talk about what you've lost or **you can get an agreement with God and talk about restoration.** "Father, thank you that what was meant for my harm you're turning to my advantage. You said no weapon formed against me is going to prosper. Lord, thank you that I will recover everything that I've lost". That's what God did for Job he not only restored what he lost, but God gave him twice what he had before. He was more blessed after the challenge than he was before. God makes the enemy pay for bringing the difficulty. Verse 16 says, **"Job went on to live another 140 years after the challenge, and saw his children and grandchildren. He died an old man, having lived a long, good life"**. He didn't die bitter, lonely, discouraged.

Just like God promised nothing was missing. He had his health, his family, his business, peace, abundance. He didn't look like what he'd been through. If you would have told him in the middle of the difficulty, when he had boils all over his body, that one day he was going to be happy, healthy, living an abundant life, he would have thought "How's that possible"? That's the way our God is. Don't judge the rest of your life by what's coming against you now. **God is saying to you what he said to Job: nothing is going to be missing.**

<https://sermons.love/joel-osteen/8339-joel-osteen-nothing-missing.html>