

NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOES

A study of the lives of Joseph, Jonah, and Job

Job - Chapters 12-14

Lesson 5

Much of these chapters reflect Job's response to Zophar's statements and accusations. Job began with Zophar's second accusation - that Job had no knowledge of God (Job 11:5-12). Job affirmed that he had wisdom and understanding just as they did (Job 12). Then he replied to Zophar's first accusation - that Job was a guilty sinner (11:1-4). Job once again affirmed his integrity (Job 13). Job then closed his speech by challenging Zophar's third point - that there was still hope (11:13-20). Although Job expressed confidence in God and in his own innocence, in Job 14 we see Job admitting that his hope is almost gone.

OBSERVATION: Read Job 12

1. Read Job 12 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Job*.

Key Words: *God*, *Job*, and words that relate to Job's friends.
3. The contrasting word *but* occurs two times in Job 12. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

READ JOB 12

1. Job's response to the words of his friends was tainted with sarcasm. What did he say to them in verse 2?
2. List the three statements Job made in verse 3.

- a. Summarize Job's point.
- b. How do you feel when someone gives you advice that belittles you?
 - 1.) Job was irritated by the advice given by his friends. If asked, they would have probably stated their good intentions. Before giving advice, what are some things we should consider?
3. Rather than console Job, as his friends intended, what two words did Job use in verse 4 to describe the results of their statements?
 - a. Use synonyms to define the words:
mocked

ridiculed
 - b. Connect Job's statements in verses 2,3 with his feelings of being *mocked* and *ridiculed* by reflecting on some of Job's friends' statements in previous chapters. Record one statement or attitude from those chapters that might have provoked these feelings.
4. In verses 7-12, Job explained his understanding of God's ways. To what things or creatures did Job point to as evidence of God's ways?
 - a. Job was stating that even animals understand the basics - that all things are under God's sovereignty. Write the words of Job 12:10.
 - 1.) Considering Job's suffering, what do you think he was stating about God?
5. Job used the rest of the chapter to show Zophar that he indeed understood the power of God. Scan verses 13-25 and list what God has power over.

- a. Consider your own life. What does God have power over?

OBSERVATION: Read Job 13

1. Read Job 13 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Job*.

Key Words: *God*, *Job*, and words that relate to Job's friends.

3. The contrasting words *but* and *yet* occur three times in Job 13. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 13

1. Job warned his friends that in erroneously speaking for God, He would hold them accountable for misrepresenting Him. What are some instances when you heard someone misrepresent God?

2. What do the following verses express regarding the character/intentions of God?

Isaiah 40:11

Jeremiah 29:11

Jeremiah 33:3

Romans 8:38,39

Philippians 2:13

Ephesians 3:20

James 1:17

3. What are some characteristics/intentions of God that people use to describe Him that are erroneous?

4. In the midst of all of Job's pain and distress, what statement did he make in the first part of verse 15?
 - a. Record the words of Habakkuk as he faced a great calamity. See Habakkuk 3:17,18.
 - 1.) In your own words, express the words of Habakkuk 3:17,18.
 - b. What do you need to know about God, before you can sincerely say those words?
5. Although Job appeared to be so helpless, according to Job 13:16, what did he know God would be for him?
 - a. The word *salvation* indicates the idea of rescuing from distress or danger. What does this say to you that, in the midst of his hopelessness, Job still believed God would rescue him?
6. In Job 13:18, Job declared that he *knew he would be vindicated*. Using verse 21, list the *two things* Job did not want God to *do to* him.
 - a. Why are these *two things* something to *dread*?
 - b. Go back to Job 7:16. Notice that Job wanted God to *leave him alone*. Now we read, that Job feared that possibility. Consider times when you have thought or felt rashly. Express your thanksgiving to God for not granting your request.
7. Read the final words of this chapter. Job was the one *decaying like a rotten thing*; Job was like a *garment that is moth-eaten*. Zophar could talk about it; Job was living it. What can we learn from this when ministering to others?

OBSERVATION: Read Job 14

1. Read Job 14 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Job*.

Key Words: *God* and *Job*
3. The contrasting words *but* and *yet* occur five times in Job 14. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 14

1. Job continued his reflections on the brevity of man's life (verses 1-12). As you consider the brevity of your life, what are your thoughts?
2. Beginning with verse 13, we see that although Job longs for the *grave*, he hopes for a life beyond it. Knowledge of the afterlife was limited to those of the Old Testament. Although this was a hope for Job, what assurance does Paul give us in 2 Timothy 1:10?
3. Record the last four words of Job 14:14.
 - a. Using 1 Corinthians 15:51-55, describe that *change* that will happen to *all* believers.
 - 1.) What *change* are you personally looking forward to?
4. Record the last phrase of Job 14:15.
 - a. You are the *work of His hands*. What was the psalmists request in Psalm 138:8?
 - b. Reflect and comment upon what it means to you that God *desires* you.

5. *My transgression is sealed up in a bag, and You cover my iniquity* (verse 17). Explain what God has done with your sin.

Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer.

6. In verses 18-22, Job reflects upon his seeming *hopelessness*. There is truth in his declaration of God's sovereignty. Yet, what thinking do you see that might contribute to Job's distress?

REVIEW: Job 12-14

1. How should the fact that God is all powerful make us feel?
2. How has the fact that life is fleeting affected the way you live your life?
3. How is your understanding of life after death like or unlike Job's.
4. Share a way this lesson has impacted you?

*It is good that one should hope and wait
quietly For the salvation of the LORD.*

- Lamentations 3:26

Observation Worksheet

Job 12

¹ Then Job answered and said: ² "No doubt you are the people, and wisdom will die with you!
³ But I have understanding as well as you; I am not inferior to you. Indeed, who does not know such things as these? ⁴ I am one mocked by his friends, who called on God, and He answered him, the just and blameless who is ridiculed. ⁵ A lamp is despised in the thought of one who is at ease; it is made ready for those whose feet slip. ⁶ The tents of robbers prosper, and those who provoke God are secure-- in what God provides by His hand. ⁷ But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; and the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ⁸ or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; and the fish of the sea will explain to you. ⁹ Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this, ¹⁰ in whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind? ¹¹ Does not the ear test words and the mouth taste its food? ¹² Wisdom is with aged men, and with length of days, understanding. ¹³ With Him are wisdom and strength, He has counsel and understanding. ¹⁴ If He breaks a thing down, it cannot be rebuilt; if He imprisons a man, there can be no release. ¹⁵ If He withholds the waters, they dry up; if He sends them out, they overwhelm the earth. ¹⁶ With Him are strength and prudence. The deceived and the deceiver are His. ¹⁷ He leads counselors away plundered, and makes fools of the judges. ¹⁸ He loosens the bonds of kings, and binds their waist with a belt. ¹⁹ He leads princes away plundered, and overthrows the mighty. ²⁰ He deprives the trusted ones of speech, and takes away the discernment of the elders. ²¹ He pours contempt on princes, and disarms the mighty. ²² He uncovers deep things out of darkness, and brings the shadow of death to light. ²³ He makes nations great, and destroys them; He enlarges nations, and guides them. ²⁴ He takes away the understanding of the chiefs of the people of the earth, and makes them wander in a pathless wilderness. ²⁵ They grope in the dark without light, and He makes them stagger like a drunken man.

Job 13

¹ "Behold, my eye has seen all this, my ear has heard and understood it. ² What you know, I also know; I am not inferior to you. ³ But I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to reason with God. ⁴ But you forgers of lies, you are all worthless physicians. ⁵ Oh, that you would be silent, and it would be your wisdom! ⁶ Now hear my reasoning, and heed the pleadings of my lips. ⁷ Will you speak wickedly for God, and talk deceitfully for Him? ⁸ Will you show partiality for Him? Will you contend for God? ⁹ Will it be well when He searches you out? Or can you mock Him as one mocks a man? ¹⁰ He will surely rebuke you if you secretly show partiality. ¹¹ Will not His excellence make you afraid, and the dread of Him fall upon you? ¹² Your platitudes are proverbs of ashes, your defenses are defenses of clay. ¹³ "Hold your peace with me, and let me speak, then let come on me what may! ¹⁴ Why do I take my flesh in my teeth, and put my life in my hands? ¹⁵ Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him. ¹⁶ He also shall be my salvation, for a hypocrite could not come before Him. ¹⁷ Listen carefully

to my speech, and to my declaration with your ears. ¹⁸See now, I have prepared my case, I know that I shall be vindicated. ¹⁹Who is he who will contend with me? If now I hold my tongue, I perish. ²⁰Only two things do not do to me, then I will not hide myself from You: ²¹Withdraw Your hand far from me, and let not the dread of You make me afraid. ²²Then call, and I will answer; or let me speak, then You respond to me. ²³How many are my iniquities and sins? Make me know my transgression and my sin. ²⁴Why do You hide Your face, and regard me as Your enemy? ²⁵Will You frighten a leaf driven to and fro? And will You pursue dry stubble? ²⁶For You write bitter things against me, and make me inherit the iniquities of my youth. ²⁷You put my feet in the stocks, and watch closely all my paths. You set a limit for the soles of my feet. ²⁸"Man decays like a rotten thing, like a garment that is moth-eaten.

Job 14

¹"Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. ²He comes forth like a flower and fades away; he flees like a shadow and does not continue. ³And do You open Your eyes on such a one, and bring me to judgment with Yourself? ⁴Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one! ⁵Since his days are determined, the number of his months is with You; You have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass. ⁶Look away from him that he may rest, till like a hired man he finishes his day. ⁷"For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its tender shoots will not cease. ⁸Though its root may grow old in the earth, and its stump may die in the ground, ⁹yet at the scent of water it will bud and bring forth branches like a plant. ¹⁰But man dies and is laid away; indeed he breathes his last and where is he? ¹¹As water disappears from the sea, and a river becomes parched and dries up, ¹²so man lies down and does not rise. Till the heavens are no more, they will not awake nor be roused from their sleep. ¹³"Oh, that You would hide me in the grave, that You would conceal me until Your wrath is past, that You would appoint me a set time, and remember me! ¹⁴If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, till my change comes. ¹⁵You shall call, and I will answer You; You shall desire the work of Your hands. ¹⁶For now You number my steps, but do not watch over my sin. ¹⁷My transgression is sealed up in a bag, and You cover my iniquity. ¹⁸"But as a mountain falls and crumbles away, and as a rock is moved from its place; ¹⁹as water wears away stones, and as torrents wash away the soil of the earth; so You destroy the hope of man. ²⁰You prevail forever against him, and he passes on; You change his countenance and send him away. ²¹His sons come to honor, and he does not know it; they are brought low, and he does not perceive it. ²²But his flesh will be in pain over it, and his soul will mourn over it."