

# NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOES

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

## *Job - Chapters 19-21*

### Lesson 7

Our words either hurt or heal. In these chapters, Job described the words of his friends as *tormenting, wronging, scheming, and falsehoods*. He pleaded with them to *listen carefully, to bear with him, to look at him, to put their hand over their mouth*. The prosperity of the *wicked* is examined in these chapters, concluding that we must trust in the *wisdom of God*. May your study bring you closer to being a *comforter* whose words can best be described as trusting in God's *wisdom* when life seems so unfair.

#### **OBSERVATION: Read Job 19**

1. Read Job 19 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, Jesus, and Job*.  
  
Key Words: *God, Job, Redeemer (Jesus), and words that relate to Job's friends*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used in verse 16. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.

#### **READ JOB 19**

1. Job again responded to the accusations made against him by his friends. Using verses 2-3, record your impression of Job's impression of their *words*.
  - a. Reflect upon a recent conversation you have had with someone who is in distress. How do you think they would describe your words?

1.) What do the following verses teach us about our *words*?

Psalm 19:14

Proverbs 10:19

Proverbs 16:24

Ephesians 4:29

Challenge: Share other verses that relate to the use of our *words*.

2.) What do you do to:

guard your *words*?

speaking *words* that edify?

2. In Job 3-6, Job maintained his innocence, claiming that if the distress he was suffering was because of wrongdoing on his part, then God had made a mistake. "Listen" to Job's frustration in Job 19:7-13. What do you "hear" him saying?

a. Job spoke many misperceptions about God in these verses. Record the misperception spoken by Job that is countered by each of the following verses:

**Deuteronomy 32:4** *He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He.* Job's contrary statement:

**John 8:12** *Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."* Job's contrary statement:

**Psalm 31:24** *Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the LORD.* Job's contrary statement:

3. Job 19:13-19 address Job's loneliness. List a few of his statements that reflect this.

a. Although God has ordained relationships in our lives, in what ways does God meet your needs for companionship that no person can meet?

4. Job turns to his *friends* in the next verses. What did he ask from them?
  - a. Record synonyms for the word *pity*.
  
5. Although Job was frustrated and in much distress, he makes an incredible pronouncement in verses 25,26. What did he say?
  - a. In your own words, explain what Job was proclaiming.
  
  - b. How does knowing these truths help you in times of distress?

### **OBSERVATION: Read Job 20**

1. Read Job 20 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*, *Job*, and *Zophar*.  
Key Words: *God*, *Job*, *Zophar*, and words that relate to the *wicked/hypocrite*
  
3. The contrasting words *but* and *yet* are used five times in Job 20. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

### **Read Job 20**

1. The words of Zophar in chapter 20 reflect his second attempt to *answer* Job. Reflect upon the introductory words of his first speech in Job 11:2,3. Describe the tone of his words.
  - a. Now, consider his words as recorded in Job 20:2,3. What changes or similarities do you see?
  
  - b. How can you tell that Zophar had still not understood Job?

2. Zophar proceeded to exhort Job by indirectly referring to him as *wicked* and a *hypocrite*. Therefore, the remainder of the chapter is an indirect reminder of the fate of the *wicked*. Scan verses 4-11 and choose some phrases that describe the *short triumph* of the wicked man.
  - a. Most of us may not describe ourselves as *wicked* since we became believers. What lesson is there for us in these warnings?
  
3. Zophar described the *misery* of the *wicked* man in Job 20:12-19. Read through these verses and describe this *misery* in your own words.
  - a. How would you personally describe the *misery* of choosing sin?
  
  - b. As believers, what are we to do when we find our lives more describable as *wicked* than *holy*?  
Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer.
  
4. According to verse 19, what was Zophar accusing Job of doing regarding the *poor*?
  - a. Record Job's defense in Job 31:16,19, and 22.
  
  - b. What does James 1:27 say about helping those in need?
    - 1.) Why is helping the *poor* and *needy* a sign of *pure and undefiled religion*?
  
5. Zophar described *the portion from God for a wicked man* in Job 20:20-29. He used words that not only described material lack, but also emotional lack. Notice the words of verse 20. What will he not *know*?
  - a. Record the truth of Isaiah 57:21.
    - 1.) Describe the *unrest* or lack of *quietness in the heart* when a person chooses sin.
  
    - 2.) The opposite of *lack of quietness in the heart* is peace. Describe the peace of God.

6. According to Job 20:21, what will not *last* in the life of the *wicked*?
  - a. The *wicked* often have a deceived sense of *well-being*. What is different about the sense of *well-being* that God gives?

### **OBSERVATION: Read Job 21**

1. Read Job 21 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*, words that relate to *Zophar*, and words that relate to the *wicked*
3. The contrasting word *yet* occurs two times in Job 21. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

### **Read Job 21**

1. As Job *answers* Zophar's accusations, what does he ask of him? verses 2-6
  - a. Notice Job's request, *look at me and be astonished* (verse 5). What do you think they would have seen if they had stopped and really "looked" at Job's condition?
2. In Job 21:7-13a, Job reminded Zophar that the *wicked* do *prosper* temporarily. The question then could be, since the *wicked* prosper, cannot the *righteous* suffer? What temporary prosperity do the *wicked* enjoy?
3. Using verses 14,15, record the three irreverent statements of the *wicked*.
  - a. How would you answer those questions?
4. God is all wise. Yet, the *wicked* sometimes prosper and the *righteous* sometimes suffer. What question does Job ask in verse 22?

- a. This is an important question, which God Himself will answer in many ways at the end of the book. God reminds His people of this truth by posing questions Himself. Using the book of Isaiah, record those questions.

Isaiah 40:13

Isaiah 40:14

Isaiah 45:9

- 1.) What have you learned about the *wisdom of God*?
  
5. Job reminded Zophar in verse 27, *I know your thoughts*. Job knew Zophar's words regarding the *wicked* were intended for Job. What did Job say about Zophar's *schemes*?
  
6. Record Job's challenge to Zophar in verse 34.
  - a. Zophar's words were *falsehoods*. Job uses the word *comfort* and *comforters* seven times in this book. Job wanted *comfort* from his friends, but found none. Describe the *comfort* you would like when you are in *distress*.

### REVIEW: Job 19-21

1. What lesson did you learn from:

Job 19

Job 20

Job 21

2. What did you learn about the consequences of the *wicked* that can be applied to the rebellious choices of a believer?

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.*

*- Psalm 19:14*

## Observation Worksheet

### Job 19

<sup>1</sup> Then Job answered and said: <sup>2</sup> "How long will you torment my soul, and break me in pieces with words? <sup>3</sup> These ten times you have reproached me; you are not ashamed that you have wronged me. <sup>4</sup> And if indeed I have erred, my error remains with me. <sup>5</sup> If indeed you exalt yourselves against me, and plead my disgrace against me, <sup>6</sup> know then that God has wronged me, and has surrounded me with His net. <sup>7</sup> "If I cry out concerning wrong, I am not heard. If I cry aloud, there is no justice. <sup>8</sup> He has fenced up my way, so that I cannot pass; and He has set darkness in my paths. <sup>9</sup> He has stripped me of my glory, and taken the crown from my head. <sup>10</sup> He breaks me down on every side, and I am gone; my hope He has uprooted like a tree. <sup>11</sup> He has also kindled His wrath against me, and He counts me as one of His enemies. <sup>12</sup> His troops come together and build up their road against me; they encamp all around my tent. <sup>13</sup> "He has removed my brothers far from me, and my acquaintances are completely estranged from me. <sup>14</sup> My relatives have failed, and my close friends have forgotten me. <sup>15</sup> Those who dwell in my house, and my maidservants, count me as a stranger; I am an alien in their sight. <sup>16</sup> I call my servant, but he gives no answer; I beg him with my mouth. <sup>17</sup> My breath is offensive to my wife, and I am repulsive to the children of my own body. <sup>18</sup> Even young children despise me; I arise, and they speak against me. <sup>19</sup> All my close friends abhor me, and those whom I love have turned against me. <sup>20</sup> My bone clings to my skin and to my flesh, and I have escaped by the skin of my teeth. <sup>21</sup> "Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has struck me! <sup>22</sup> Why do you persecute me as God does, and are not satisfied with my flesh? <sup>23</sup> "Oh, that my words were written! Oh, that they were inscribed in a book! <sup>24</sup> That they were engraved on a rock with an iron pen and lead, forever! <sup>25</sup> For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; <sup>26</sup> and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, <sup>27</sup> whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me! <sup>28</sup> If you should say, 'How shall we persecute him?'-- since the root of the matter is found in me, <sup>29</sup> be afraid of the sword for yourselves; for wrath brings the punishment of the sword, that you may know there is a judgment."

### Job 20

<sup>1</sup> Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said: <sup>2</sup> "Therefore my anxious thoughts make me answer, because of the turmoil within me. <sup>3</sup> I have heard the rebuke that reproaches me, and the spirit of my understanding causes me to answer. <sup>4</sup> "Do you not know this of old, since man was placed on earth, <sup>5</sup> that the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite is but for a moment? <sup>6</sup> Though his haughtiness mounts up to the heavens, and his head reaches to the clouds, <sup>7</sup> yet he will perish forever like his own refuse; those who have seen him will say, 'Where is he?' <sup>8</sup> He will fly away like a dream, and not be found; yes, he will be chased away like a vision of the night. <sup>9</sup> The eye that saw him will see him no more, nor will his place behold him anymore. <sup>10</sup> His children will seek the favor of the poor, and his hands will restore his wealth. <sup>11</sup> His bones are full of his youthful vigor, but it will lie down with him in the dust. <sup>12</sup> "Though evil is sweet in his mouth, and he hides it under his tongue, <sup>13</sup> though he spares it and does not forsake it, but still keeps it in his mouth, <sup>14</sup> yet his food in his stomach turns sour; it becomes cobra venom within him. <sup>15</sup> He swallows down riches and vomits them up again; God casts them out of his belly. <sup>16</sup> He will suck the poison of cobras; the viper's tongue will slay him. <sup>17</sup> He will not see the streams, the rivers flowing with honey and cream. <sup>18</sup> He will restore that for which he

labored, and will not swallow it down; from the proceeds of business he will get no enjoyment. <sup>19</sup> For he has oppressed and forsaken the poor, he has violently seized a house which he did not build. <sup>20</sup> "Because he knows no quietness in his heart, he will not save anything he desires. <sup>21</sup> Nothing is left for him to eat; therefore his well-being will not last. <sup>22</sup> In his self-sufficiency he will be in distress; every hand of misery will come against him. <sup>23</sup> When he is about to fill his stomach, God will cast on him the fury of His wrath, and will rain it on him while he is eating. <sup>24</sup> He will flee from the iron weapon; a bronze bow will pierce him through. <sup>25</sup> It is drawn, and comes out of the body; yes, the glittering point comes out of his gall. Terrors come upon him; <sup>26</sup> total darkness is reserved for his treasures. An unfanned fire will consume him; it shall go ill with him who is left in his tent. <sup>27</sup> The heavens will reveal his iniquity, and the earth will rise up against him. <sup>28</sup> The increase of his house will depart, and his goods will flow away in the day of His wrath. <sup>29</sup> This is the portion from God for a wicked man, the heritage appointed to him by God."

## Job 21

<sup>1</sup> Then Job answered and said: <sup>2</sup> "Listen carefully to my speech, and let this be your consolation. <sup>3</sup> Bear with me that I may speak, and after I have spoken, keep mocking. <sup>4</sup> "As for me, is my complaint against man? And if it were, why should I not be impatient? <sup>5</sup> Look at me and be astonished; put your hand over your mouth. <sup>6</sup> Even when I remember I am terrified, and trembling takes hold of my flesh. <sup>7</sup> Why do the wicked live and become old, yes, become mighty in power? <sup>8</sup> Their descendants are established with them in their sight, and their offspring before their eyes. <sup>9</sup> Their houses are safe from fear, neither is the rod of God upon them. <sup>10</sup> Their bull breeds without failure; their cow calves without miscarriage. <sup>11</sup> They send forth their little ones like a flock, and their children dance. <sup>12</sup> They sing to the tambourine and harp, and rejoice to the sound of the flute. <sup>13</sup> They spend their days in wealth, and in a moment go down to the grave. <sup>14</sup> Yet they say to God, 'Depart from us, for we do not desire the knowledge of Your ways. <sup>15</sup> Who is the Almighty, that we should serve Him? And what profit do we have if we pray to Him?' <sup>16</sup> Indeed their prosperity is not in their hand; the counsel of the wicked is far from me. <sup>17</sup> "How often is the lamp of the wicked put out? How often does their destruction come upon them, the sorrows God distributes in His anger? <sup>18</sup> They are like straw before the wind, and like chaff that a storm carries away. <sup>19</sup> They say, 'God lays up one's iniquity for his children'; let Him recompense him, that he may know it. <sup>20</sup> Let his eyes see his destruction, and let him drink of the wrath of the Almighty. <sup>21</sup> For what does he care about his household after him, when the number of his months is cut in half? <sup>22</sup> "Can anyone teach God knowledge, since He judges those on high? <sup>23</sup> One dies in his full strength, being wholly at ease and secure; <sup>24</sup> his pails are full of milk, and the marrow of his bones is moist. <sup>25</sup> Another man dies in the bitterness of his soul, never having eaten with pleasure. <sup>26</sup> They lie down alike in the dust, and worms cover them. <sup>27</sup> "Look, I know your thoughts, and the schemes with which you would wrong me. <sup>28</sup> For you say, 'Where is the house of the prince? And where is the tent, the dwelling place of the wicked?' <sup>29</sup> Have you not asked those who travel the road? And do you not know their signs? <sup>30</sup> For the wicked are reserved for the day of doom; they shall be brought out on the day of wrath. <sup>31</sup> Who condemns his way to his face? And who repays him for what he has done? <sup>32</sup> Yet he shall be brought to the grave, and a vigil kept over the tomb. <sup>33</sup> The clods of the valley shall be sweet to him; everyone shall follow him, as countless have gone before him. <sup>34</sup> How then can you comfort me with empty words, since falsehood remains in your answers?"