

# ***“Perceptive Perspective”***

Job 3-42; Psalm 19 & 29

## **VIDEO: “Upside Down Perspective”**

\*\*\* “Empty Seat Perspective” \*\*\*

### **Review:**

1. **God has a PLAN** = HIM HERE HURT HELP HOPE
  
2. **Perfect P.E.O.P.L.E. Plan** - for imperfect people (Genesis 12-29)
  1. *Proper Perspective*
  2. *Elect*
  3. *Obedience in faith*
  4. *Powerful Promises*
  5. *Loves the un-lovely*
  6. *Everything*
  
3. **P.E.C.U.L.I.A.R.** (Genesis 30-50)
  1. *Peculiar Promise, Plan, People*
  2. *Peculiar Election*
  3. *Peculiar Church*
  4. *Peculiar Uniforms*
  5. *Peculiar Love – “agape”*
  6. *Peculiar Inclusivity*
  7. *Peculiar Absolutes*
  8. *Peculiar Reminder*
  
4. **PERCEPTIVE** (vs. perception)
  1. **What you perceive, you believe... What you believe YOU BECOME**
  2. Job teaches us to be PERCEPTIVE: “to keenly discern;” to rightly detect fine lines of distinction
  3. Only those who trust the God of the Bible... trust the one true God.

HOW you perceive leads to WHAT you perceive...

**You cannot be *perceptive* without the right *perspective*.**

**Example:**

Do you trust God equally when proclaiming His goodness from both Job 2:3 & John 3:16

"...the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason." - **Job 2:3**

## P. E. R. S. P. E. C. T. I. V. E.

Job offers an object lesson on the role and utter necessity of beginning with and maintaining a proper, biblical perspective - on both the broadest spectrums of life, as well as the tiniest of details. Ultimately, Job teaches us to trust God and His unfathomable goodness... all the time – NO MATTER WHAT!

God's pattern of communication continues in Job... Once again we are shown how important it is to have a proper perspective (thereby making us truly "perceptive"), regarding His P.E.C.U.L.I.A.R., P.E.O.P.L.E. PLAN (for imperfect people) – in which God explains all we need to know about:

HIM, HERE, HURT, HELP, & HOPE -- Amen!

**T/S:** Remember our SETTING/CONTEXT:

Storyline =

**CREATOR GOD  
HEAVEN vs. Here  
GOD vs. SATAN  
JOB (*Past, Present, Future*)  
3 "FRIENDS"  
COCKY KID  
GOD & JOB**

Contributors =

**ANGELS  
SERVANTS  
CHILDREN  
WIFE**

*Which perspectives are defining your perceptions?*





Learn from these 3 “counterfeit friends”

1. **Eliphaz**

- Most gentle
- Senior statesman...
- Claims a CONFIRMING VISION (**Watch Out!**)
- Suffering is ALWAYS EVIDENCE of Sin... i.e. God “gotcha!”
- Sympathy gives way to Sarcasm...
- **“Sharp spiritual sarcasm is the Devil’s dagger... NOT our Savior’s scalpel.”** – JDP
- Claims **“God’s TOO BIG to CARE** about you...”

2. **Bildad**

- Tradition; Cliché & Formula; **“What’s new cannot be true”**
- **NO COMPASSION!**
- **“Your kids must have sinned a lot!”**
- “Must we listen to all this???”

3. **Zophar**

- **MOST DOGMATIC!** (of the friends)
- “Shut up and put up Job...”

Choose... **“WORD or WORLD Perspective”** --- Talk is cheap!

**KEY NOTE:** *GOD SAYS THE “FRIENDS” WERE WRONG... SO DON’T QUOTE THEM!*

**I.** INCOMPLETE perspective

**Elihu**

**Conceited Kid**

**NOTE:** Job never answers/replies to him... that says a lot!

**Attributes = ARROGANCE of YOUTH!**

- Claims to be hesitant & reluctant to speak... BUT ISN’T!
- Doesn’t really add much in the way of enlightenment...
- **Still missing the point...**

**V.** VALIDATED perspective

**God**

**Creator Sustainer**

Read: Job 38:3, 33, 36...

*Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. 33  
Do you know the laws of the heavens? Can you set up God's dominion over  
the earth? 36 Who endowed the heart with wisdom or gave understanding to  
the mind?*

Job 40:1-8

*The LORD said to Job: "Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct  
him? Let him who accuses God answer him!" Then Job answered the LORD:  
"I am unworthy—how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth. I  
spoke once, but I have no answer— twice, but I will say no more." Then the  
LORD spoke to Job out of the storm: "Brace yourself like a man; I will question  
you, and you shall answer me. "Would you discredit my justice? Would you  
condemn me to justify yourself?"*

Job 42:1-2

*Then Job replied to the LORD: "I know that you can do all things;  
no plan of yours can be thwarted."*

**E.** ETERNAL perspective

Bible

Correct & Perfect!

Key Issue of PERSPECTIVE in Job: CREATOR's vs. CREATION's P's

Read:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 = *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for  
teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in  
righteousness, so that the man of God may be  
thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Psalm 119:105 = *Your Word is a lamp to my feet & a light to my path*

Romans 15:4 = *For whatever was written in earlier times was written  
for our instruction, so that through perseverance & the  
encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*

## **VIDEO: “Francis Chan: Courage to Stand Alone”**

**John 17:17** = *Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.*

God’s Word is the only perfect perspective...

**Isaiah 46: 8-10** = *“Remember this, and be assured; take it to heart, you rebels. Remember the former things, those (things) of long ago, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me. 10 I make known the end from the beginning; and from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all that I please.”*

**Let’s PRAY!**

**VIDEO #1 = “My Redeemer Lives”**

**VIDEO #2 = “All I Have Is Christ”**

**VIDEO #3 = My Redeemer Lives!**

## Job 3-42

Poetry section begins...

Ch. 3:

vv.1-26 = All of ch. 3 is a “lament,” a discourse of despair...

v.1 = Afterward Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his *birth*.

Note that Job was doing fine (in the midst of suffering) until he opened his mouth and began to complain...

It is never ok to curse what God has given you!

v.20 = “Why is light given to him who suffers, And life to the bitter of soul...

Note that Job here begins to question God...

It is never ok to question God’s goodness!

\*\*\* Take heed... it is one thing to empathize, and something altogether different to authorize grumbling!

Key observations:

- Job begins to show his humanness... he’s a sinner.
- Job begins to display a sinful despair (evidenced by God’s later response & reprimand)
- While our grief & God’s grace go together like peanut butter & jelly, mixing in “grumbling” is like adding sardines to that divine sandwich. – JDP
  - o Grumbling fits in between grace & grief like a third person fits into the Tango... (see Geico commercial)

### Ch.4. Eliphaz: Innocent Do Not Suffer

vv.4-5 = “Your words have helped the tottering to stand, And you have strengthened feeble knees. **5** “But now it has come to you, and you are impatient; It touches you, and you are dismayed.

Note: Eliphaz is basically calling Job a hypocrite...

v. 6 = “Is not your fear of *God* your confidence, And the integrity of your ways your hope?

Note: Hope is never to be found in self – period.

Eliphaz has the wrong PERSPECTIVE... Consequently, he has a perception of grace/blessing that is “works” based... and it is WRONG!

vv.7-8 = “Remember now, who *ever* perished being innocent? Or where were the upright destroyed? **8**

“According to what I have seen, those who plow iniquity And those who sow trouble harvest it.

Note: The error of Eliphaz here is that he is assuming an “absolute” where God has placed a principle...

Note: The entire point being made here is that while we can be certain that what God calls sin is sin... we CANNOT be certain that all suffering is a derivative of sin.

Note: Don’t miss the Pharisaical posture that such a disposition puts forth...

vv.12-21... Eliphaz claims to have had a vision/dream in which God reportedly affirms Eliphaz’s perceptions of Job’s situation...

Note: God later speaks for Himself rejects Eliphaz’s assertions...

Note: This proves that not everyone who says they are speaking on behalf of the Lord (or are representing His truth) are the real-deal!

Note: The assumption here is NOT that Eliphaz must not have heard ANYTHING... but rather, that he heard the voice and bought into the poisonous perceptions of the enemy.

- Beware the spiritual counterfeits...
- You need to KNOW God through His Word to tell the difference
- Wake up to the reality of spiritual warfare!
- Live perpetually “in” the “full armor of God” (Ephesians 6:10ff)  
Note: Eliphaz’s false religious confidence is his Achilles heel...
- Bad hearts birth ballooning heads. – JDP

#### Ch. 5 (Eliphaz continues... but in a different way)

Eliphaz shifts his focus away from assuming/proclaiming that Job’s suffering is the consequence/judgment for sin...

Eliphaz not lifts up the “truth” that God is always just...

v.8 = “But as for me, I would seek God, And I would place my cause before God;

Note: Pharisees act pious but are actually pompous. - JDP

Key observations:

Note: Eliphaz now sprinkles in truth with his error...

Note: Many people fall prey to false teaching/teachers who, like Eliphaz, blur the lines between help & heresy...

Note: Nothing does more to protect and strengthen al lie, than to present it and surround it with truth. - JDP

#### Ch. 6 (Job’s first response to Eliphaz)

vv.1-9 = Job is rejecting Eliphaz’s assumptions and restating his despair. He is longing for God-given understanding...

v. 10 = “But it is still my consolation, And I rejoice in unsparing pain, That I have not denied the words of the Holy One.

Note: While Job is grumbling (not dealing with his suffering in a way that rests in God’s never-ending goodness), Job continues to:

“rejoice in unsparing pain” and...

“not deny the words of the Holy One (God).”

vv.14-15 = “For the despairing man *there should be* kindness from his friend; So that he does not forsake the fear of the Almighty. **15** “My brothers have acted deceitfully like a intermittent stream, like the torrents of streams which vanish...

Note: Job calls his “friends” out as not being true friends

How many true friends do you have...

More importantly... to how many are you a true friend?

Note: In the verses that follow, Job says phony friends come and go... coming (often like a flood that does damage), and going (like a dried up stream) when the heat is applied and the water is most needed...

Remember: Jesus called Himself “living water”

Remember: Real “Church” (ekklesia) is UNIFIED!

VV.24-25 = “Teach me, and I will be silent; And show me how I have erred. **25** “How painful are honest words! But what does your argument prove?”

Note: Job champions God's way over man's assumptions...

Job acknowledges that "Pharisees" hate the truth, even as they profess to be proclaiming it...

More specifically... The truth hurts liars. – JDP

Liars are pierced by the truth, in the same way light enters the eyes of a mole... it hurts them and leaves them vulnerable and totally debilitated – hence their hatred and aggression against it. – JDP

Liars fight like and along side Satan... against the likes of Christ and His Christ-like truth-tellers. – JDP

Remember: True Christ-like friends truly live like Christ. - JDP

## Ch. 7 (Job's life seems futile)

v.20 = "Have I sinned? What have I done to You, O watcher of men? Why have You set me as Your target, So that I am a burden to myself?"

Note: Job here gives us a great summary view of his head, heart, hurt, & Helper!

## Ch. 8 (Bildad says that God rewards the "good" people)

vv.2-4 = "How long will you say these things, And the words of your mouth be a mighty wind? **3** "Does God pervert justice? Or does the Almighty pervert what is right? **4** "If your sons sinned against Him, Then He delivered them into the power of their transgression.

Note: Cold hearted "cause & affect) calculations are the antithesis of Christ-likeness!

Note: Here again, we see man's head wrongly speaking of God's heart...

Don't miss the role of presumption here...

While the potential for such relationship between cause/affect is true, man is out of line when he declares God's ultimately unknowable mind in the matter...

"Close to right... is wrong." – JDP

Note: Prophets share God's truth, as given by God... Pharisees declare religious spoof, as measured by man. – JDP

vv.5-7 = *"If you would seek God and implore the compassion of the Almighty, **6** If you are pure and upright, surely now He would rouse Himself for you and restore your righteous estate. **7** "Though your beginning was insignificant, yet your end will increase greatly.*

Note: The BIRTH OF the "PROSPERITY GOSPEL"

Note: Again, per God's later discourse... the "Prosperity Perspective" is HERESY!

Note: While Job's eventual results are in line with Bildad's assessment, that does not validate this woefully wrong perception.

Note: This is a great example of why we MUST UNDERSTAND the MEANING of God's Word, IN & THRU its FULL & PROPER CONTEXT...

\*\*\* Job 8:5-7 is truly God's Word, but it is not true...

Many "prosperity people" will quote this passage & believe it...

The proper response is to see it as a false claim & bad example...

God gave us this falsehood to teach us His truth!

vv.20-21 = *“Lo, God will not reject a man of integrity, Nor will He support the evildoers. 21 “He will yet fill your mouth with laughter And your lips with shouting.*

Note: Here again, God’s eternal truths are being wrongly applied to a temporal setting...

Note: Righteous truth can be wrongly applied, creating a wrong perception of right...

Note: Don’t miss the contrast between the “assumption” of 8:20 and the truth of 2:3...

- God Himself declares that Job has maintained his integrity...

- Bildad here says that God will not reject (allow to suffer) a man of integrity...

## Ch. 9 (Job says there is no arbitrator between God and man)

vv.1-24 open with Job declaring the awesome sovereignty of God Almighty... Job is explaining the tension he feels... acknowledging the ever-present goodness and power of God, in conjunction with his belief that he has not done anything that would represent a blatant “cause” for the consequences he now suffers... whereas his false-friends are declaring incorrectly both God’s cause & affect herein...

vv.32-34a = *“He is not a man like me that I might answer him, that we might confront each other in court. 33 If only there were someone to arbitrate between us, to lay his hand upon us both, 34 someone to remove God’s rod from me...”*

Note: **Here is a “type” or foretelling of the Gospel of Jesus Christ**

Note: There is only One Mediator... His name is Jesus!

## Ch. 10 (Job despairs of God’s ways of dealing with him)

vv.1-7 reveal Job really crossing the line with God... Job has drifted from chapter two where he sat quiet and contemplative before the Lord. Here he blatantly questions God’s goodness and the appropriateness of His sovereign choices.

Note: While we may feel akin to Job and empathize with him, we cannot condone him!

Note: Do you see and sense the grace of God? How might God have responded here?

Note: Job directly questions God, infers injustice, disrespects & nearly mocks God...

Note: Job says: ‘God you know I’m innocent... Yet you won’t deliver me from Your hand’

vv.8-22 Job continues to acknowledge God as Almighty, the Creator & Sustainer of all things, including the specific circumstances of Job’s life... Within that context, however, Job continues to complain and grumble. Job’s sin is found in his floundering...

Note: **His worship has been replaced with worry and whining.**

Note: **Job is acknowledging that he “knows” the truth, but he’s not trusting Truth**

## Ch. 11 (Zophar rebukes Job)

vv.1-6 Zophar jumps into the discussion with aggressive vigor. His demeanor portrays one who is compelled to put Job in his place. Here again, note the swagger of the Pharisee... as if to be God’s hired gun. And while it may sound overly repetitious, drawing attention to the cause & consequence of yet another WRONG RELIGIOUS ASSUMPTION, cannot be overstated.

Note: Zophar is “barking” when he should be backing down & backing up his “friend.”

Note: Again, like with the others... the wrong specific perceptions are wrapped in right general perceptions... thereby making them all the more difficult to expose to the spiritually deceived.

Note: Zophar also wrongly asserts the principles of the prosperity heresy...

Note: Zophar (like the others) is also implying/pronouncing God’s judgment upon Job

## Ch. 12 (Job now chides his accusers/"friends")

vv.1-4 Job lashes back and basically says two things:

1. You three guys are the types of people you are accusing me to be...
2. You are no better than me...

v. 5 = *"He who is at ease holds calamity in contempt, As prepared for those whose feet slip.*

Note: Job exposes their hardened hearts by calling out their callous assessments...

vv. 9-10 = *"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?"*

Note: Job again acknowledges that he has a right understanding of God's sovereignty

Note: Job is telling the "friends" that his questions are not targeted at God's power but rather, His purpose...

While Job is not handling himself well here, he is right in his assessment...

\*\*\* Humans cannot assume "cause" based on perceived "affect." – JDP

vv.13-25 Job speaks of the sovereign, boundless, power of God, giving many word-picture examples.

## Ch. 13 (Job dismisses their opinions & he is confident that God will vindicate him)

vv.1-5 = *"My eyes have seen all this, my ears have heard and understood it. 2 What you know, I also know; I am not inferior to you. 3 But I desire to speak to the Almighty and to argue my case with God. 4 You, however, smear me with lies; you are worthless physicians, all of you! 5 If only you would be altogether silent! For you, that would be wisdom.*

Note: Job doesn't hold anything back... lies have no power over the truth!

Note: **Compare Job 13:5 with Titus 1:11**... very powerful parallel!

v.12 = *"Your memorable sayings are proverbs of ashes, Your defenses are defenses of clay.*

v.15 = **trusting faith** = *"Though He slay me, I will hope in Him. Nevertheless I will argue my ways before Him.*

v.18 = **confident faith** = *"Behold now, I have prepared my case; I know that I will be vindicated.*

v.23 = *"How many are my iniquities and sins? Make known to me my rebellion and my sin.*

Note: Job wants to know where & how he sinned... Do we???

Note: Job's heart is truly to get right with God... Is ours???

Note: Job trusts God's goodness over his perceptions... Do you???

## Ch. 14 (Job speaks about the finality of death & God's sovereignty over ALL)

v.5 = God is sovereign over life, living, & death = *"Since his days are determined, the number of his months is with You; and his limits You have set so that he cannot pass.*

v.12-14 = **Hope in Resurrection!** = *So man lies down and does not rise. Until the heavens are no longer, He will not awake nor be aroused out of his sleep. 13 "Oh that You would hide me in Sheol, That You would conceal me until Your wrath returns to You, That You would set a limit for me and remember me! 14 "If a man dies, will he live again? All the days of my struggle I will wait Until my change comes.*

## Ch. 15 (Eliphaz says Job presumes too much)

vv.5-6 = *“For your guilt teaches your mouth, And you choose the language of the crafty. 6 “Your own mouth condemns you, and not I; And your own lips testify against you.*

Note: Eliphaz now ratchets things up against Job...

Note: Hard hearts hit & hurt hard. - JDP

v.9 = *“What do you know that we do not know? What do you understand that we do not?”*

Note: Eliphaz asks a rhetorical question that should have been a genuine question...

Note: Would you be well served in asking this question at times?

vv.17-35 Eliphaz undergirds his stated opinions with practical and pragmatic “evidence” from his life experiences and the perceptions that he has developed along the way... Here again, if he were asserting general observations (which is typical in “wisdom writings”), Eliphaz would have been correct most of the time. However... because he is applying absolute interpretation (out of a hardened heart) of a general principle, he is wrongly interpreting God’s sovereign actions... and using those misperceptions to hurt someone who is already suffering...

## Ch.16 (Job says God has shattered him...)

v.2 = *Sorry comforters are you all.*

Note: Job tells them all how “unlike” God they really are... By contrast, in v.5 Job says that if their roles were reversed: “the solace from my lips could lessen your pain.”

v.17&19 = *Although there is no violence in my hands, and my prayer is pure... “Even now, behold, my witness is in heaven, And my advocate is on high.*

Note: Job may be a complainer but he’s not a traitor...

Note: Job knows that while his body is weak, his heart still worships...

Note: Job knows that while his “friends” have defiled him, God will deliver him – Amen!

Note: Reference to our ONE MEDIATOR sitting on high...

## Ch.17 (Job says God has made him a despicable man in the eyes of men)

v.4 = *You have closed their minds to understanding; therefore you will not let them triumph.*

Note: Job recognizes that God has everything in His control... even his “friends” minds...

v.9 = *Nevertheless, the righteous will hold to their ways, and those with clean hands will grow stronger.*

Note: Job knows that God is ultimately on the side of the righteous...

## Ch.18 (Bildad speaks about the “wicked people”)

vv.1-21 The entire chapter is Bildad attempting to define Job as one who is wicked... Bildad claims to see Job’s circumstances as aspects of the very definition of wickedness.

Note the incredibly callous parallel that Bildad draws between Job’s suffering and the definition of wicked that Bildad espouses...

Bildad says Job’s physical sores/suffering is a reflection of wickedness...

Worse yet, Bildad links the death of Job’s children with the definition of wicked...

## Ch.19 (Job vents and then re-centers around Christ)

vv.1-6 = Job tells his “friends” that even if what they are saying were true, it would not give license to the way they are treating him...

vv.7-22 = Job does some more grumbling and questioning... He is truly baffled by his turn of events

Note: In some ways, Job’s confusion is rooted in a similar understanding of cause and affect that his friends have... the difference is that Job knows he did not do anything to cause these circumstances. Consequently, God is giving Job a deeper, richer understanding of Himself through this struggle.

**vv.25-27 = “As for me, *I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth. Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God; whom I myself shall behold, and whom my eyes will see and not another. My heart faints within me!*”**

Note: Job whines and complains... BUT he ALWAYS trusts in God’s ultimate goodness!

vv.28-29 = “*If you say, ‘How shall we persecute him?’ And ‘What pretext for a case against him can we find?’ ‘Then be afraid of the sword for yourselves, for wrath brings the punishment of the sword, so that you may know there is judgment.’”*

Note: Job makes it clear... Those that live on witch hunts will die on witch hunts! – JDP

Note: Those who live by the sword, die by the sword...

Note: How you judge/treat others is how you will be judged/treated by God...

## Ch.20 (Zophar retorts... that the reign of the wicked will be short lived)

Key observations:

- Zophar is directly challenging Job’s defense of himself and assessment of the friends
- Zophar again speaks of some general truths but wrongly applies them...
- Ironically, Zophar’s truths are actually self-convicting... they befit him more than Job...
- Zophar takes some of the truths too far and begins to speak of them as absolutes... no longer just an error in application...
- Pharisees often push principles past proper application. – JDP

## Ch.21 (Job rightly says that God will deal with the wicked)

Key observations:

- Job responds to Zophar but expressing his trust in God as the final judge...
- Job then goes back once again to some inquisitive grumbling...
- Job is clearly baffled as to his circumstances and he wants desperately for God to explain why he is going through all this... but he never gives up on God or His goodness – Amen!

v.14 = “*They say to God, ‘Depart from us! We do not even desire the knowledge of Your ways.*”

Note: It’s still the same today... the most demeaning detractors are never real disciples...

**Jesus told His disciples not to be dismayed, for “when they reject you, they are really rejecting Me.”**

## Ch.22 (Eliphaz again accuses and exhorts Job)

### Key observations:

- Eliphaz is now going so far as to re-write history...
  - o He is accusing Job of things he never did...
  - o Moreover, Eliphaz is speaking in a way that presumes his claims to be factual
  - o Note how others typically build on one man's lie to construct their own lies...
  - o Manipulative, revisionist history is one of sin's most slippery of slopes. – JDP
- Eliphaz claims that Job has been an absolutely detestable man in the eyes of God
- Eliphaz claims that Job thought he could get away with his sinful choices/life
  - o Again, note how untrue this is... per God's 3X description of Job in ch.1&2
  - o Again, note how befitting Eliphaz's claims befit himself... per God's later remarks
- Eliphaz claims that Job has walked away from God in unrighteousness
  - o This is presumed because of Job's circumstances (WRONG)
  - o There is another critically wrong assumption
    - Here again are the roots of the Prosperity gospel Heresy...
    - Eliphaz says: "If you do \_\_\_\_\_, then (as if guaranteed), God will give you \_\_\_\_\_"

vv.23; 28-29 = *"If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored; If you remove unrighteousness far from your tent..... "You will also decree a thing, and it will be established for you; And light will shine on your ways. "When you are cast down, you will speak with confidence, And the humble person He will save.*

Note: This is a classic example of where/how the Prosperity teachers ("Word of Faith" teachers) pervert the Scriptures and twist the Truth that is God's Word into untruths...

Imagine hearing the "promises" of vv.28-29 (read straight out the Bible with force and vigor), and then, semi-correctly being told that those two verses are connected ("in context") to v.23...

- Most will believe that validates the prosperity gospel's message...
- Most will never realize that the quoted passage is included in God's Word as a "bad example" or wrong understanding... thereby disqualifying its claims...
- Too many people are led astray by these types of tactics...

## Ch.23 (Job says that he longs for God)

vv.1-23 Job makes it clear that while still not understanding the reason why he is going through all that he has/is dealing with... he trusts that if he could just hear God's voice and get some heavenly insight, everything would make sense... Job trusts the goodness of God – ALL the time!

vv.10-12 = *"But He knows the way I take; When He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold. 11 "My foot has held fast to His path; I have kept His way and not turned aside. 12 "I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.*

vv.16-17 = *"It is God who has made my heart faint, And the Almighty who has dismayed me, 17 But I am not silenced by the darkness, Nor deep gloom which covers me.*

## Ch. 24 (Job says it appears that God is ignoring wrong-doing)

vv.1-25 Job articulates his frustration and confusion with what appears to be a lack of justice in God's dealings... The wicked appear to get away with heinous acts, while the righteous are suffering... Job is

giving voice to his despair and anguish.

Note: **It is futile to ask God “Why?” questions...**

Note: **Peace does not come with the “answers” to our questions... Peace comes when we no longer feel the need to ask the questions.**

Ch.25 (Bildad makes the last speech of Job’s friends)

vv.1-6 = This is a short, six verse chapter in which Bildad makes a pithy closing argument...

Note: Bildad restates some of the truths that are universally accepted by all 4 men...

Note: Then Bildad goes for the throat one last time...

“Bildad made his third speech (the last for the 3 friends), and restated the same theory – that God was majestic and exalted (vv.2-3) and man was sinful, especially Job (vv.4-6).” – John MacArthur

v.6b = “*man (Job), that maggot, And the son of man, that worm!*”

\*\*\* This is Bildad’s closing thoughts about/for his “friend.”

Ch.26-31 (Job’s last speech begins here and goes for six chapters)

Key observations from Job’s last speech:

- Job describes many facets of God’s awesome power and overall mystery...
- Job is sharing an extended poem on TRUST
- Job begins by blowing off Bildad’s short response/reply in ch.25
- Job then goes on at length, making the point that humans cannot know the full mind of God
- Job also makes the point of defending his life’s motives

26:14 = “Behold, these are the fringes of His ways;

And how faint **(P)**a word we hear of Him!

But His mighty **(Q)**thunder, who can understand?”

27:2-12 = **2** “As God lives, **(B)**who has taken away my right, And the Almighty, **(C)**who has embittered my soul, **3** For as long as **[b]**life is in me, And the **[c]****(D)**breath of God is in my nostrils, **4** My lips certainly will not speak unjustly, Nor will **(E)**my tongue mutter deceit. **5** “Far be it from me that I should declare you right; Till I die **(F)**I will not put away my integrity from me. **6** “I **(G)**hold fast my righteousness and will not let it go. My heart does not reproach any of my days.

## The State of the Godless

**7** “May my enemy be as the wicked

And **[d]**my opponent as the unjust.

**8** “For what is **(H)**the hope of the godless **[e]**when he is cut off,

When God requires **(I)**his **[f]**life?

**9** “Will God **(J)**hear his cry

When **(K)**distress comes upon him?

**10** “Will he take **(L)**delight in the Almighty?

Will he call on God at all times?

**11** “I will instruct you in the **[g]**power of God;

What is with the Almighty I will not conceal.

12 “Behold, all of you have seen it;  
Why then do you [h]act foolishly?”

28:12-13 = “But (B)where can wisdom be found?  
And where is the place of understanding?”

13 “(C)Man does not know its value,  
Nor is it found in the land of the living.

28:15 = “(D)Pure gold cannot be given in exchange for it,  
Nor can silver be weighed as its price.

28:20 = “(H)Where then does wisdom come from?  
And where is the place of understanding?”

28:23-28 = “(J)God understands its way, And He knows its place. 24 “For He (K)looks to the ends of the earth And sees everything under the heavens. 25 “When He imparted (L)weight to the wind And (M)meted out the waters by measure, 26 When He set a (N)limit for the rain And a course for the (O)thunderbolt, 27 Then He saw it and declared it; He established it and also searched it out. 28 “And to man He said, ‘Behold, the (P)fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; And to depart from evil is understanding.’”

29:3 = When (C)His lamp shone over my head, And (D)by His light I walked through darkness;

29:4-7 = As I was in [a]the prime of my days, When the [b](E)friendship of God was over my tent; 5 When [c]the Almighty was yet with me, And my children were around me; 6 When my steps were bathed in (F)butter, And the (G)rock poured out for me streams of oil! 7 “When I went out to (H)the gate of the city, When I [d]took my seat in the square,

\*\*\* Illustration: Imagine the difference between having front row seats for a concert... and then experiencing the concert from the farthest “nose-bleed” seats in the arena...

\*\*\* Where can wisdom be found: 4 guys views...

1. Eliphaz – learning & experiencing firsthand...
2. Bildad – inherited from the past, traditions, etc.
3. Zophar – wisdom belongs to the wise... self reliant people think themselves wise
4. Job – God alone is the source of wisdom... step #1 for us is to fear God (28:20-28)

29:14-17 = “I (R)put on righteousness, and it clothed me; My justice was like a robe and a turban. 15 “I was (S)eyes to the blind And feet to the lame. 16 “I was a father to (T)the needy, And I investigated the case which I did not know. 17 “I (U)broke the jaws of the wicked

Note: Back in chapters 1 & 2 God validated Job’s claims here... 3X God backed up and validated Job’s claims...

29:18-20 = “Then I [f]thought, ‘I shall die [g]in my nest, And I shall multiply my days as the sand. 19 ‘My (V)root is spread out to the waters, And (W)dew lies all night on my branch. 20 ‘My glory is ever new with me, And my (X)bow is renewed in my hand.’

Note: There are no temporal guarantees about “tomorrow”

29:23-25 = “They waited for me as for the rain, And opened their mouth as for the spring rain. 24 “I smiled on them when they did not believe, And the light of my face they did not cast down. 25 “I chose a way for them and sat as (AB)chief, And dwelt as a king among the troops, As one who (AC)comforted the mourners.

30:1 = “But now those younger than I (A)mock me,

Whose fathers I disdained to put with the dogs of my flock.

30:9-10 = “And now I have become their [f](B)taunt, I have even become a (C)byword to them. 10 “They abhor me and stand aloof from me, And they do not [g]refrain from (D)spitting at my face.

30:15 = “(J)Terrors are turned against me; They pursue my [n]honor as the wind, And my [o]prosperity has passed away (K)like a cloud.

Note: Job’s weakness, honesty, & humanness is revealed

30:20 = “I (P)cry out to You for help, but You do not answer me; I stand up, and You turn Your attention against me.

30: 25-26 = “Have I not (V)wept for the [s]one whose life is hard? Was not my soul grieved for (W)the needy? 26 “When I (X)expected good, then evil came; When I waited for light, (Y)then darkness came.

Ch.31 – Job closes out by defending his INTEGRITY

31:5-8 = “If I have (G)walked with falsehood, And my foot has hastened after deceit, 6 Let Him (H)weigh me with [a]accurate scales, And let God know (I)my integrity. 7 “If my step has (J)turned from the way, Or my heart [b]followed my eyes, Or if any (K)spot has stuck to my hands, 8 Let me (L)sow and another eat, And let my [c](M)crops be uprooted.

31:9-22 = Job shares evidences of his righteous, real-deal life

31:24-40 = Job acknowledges that sin deserves wrath...

31:23 = “For (AG)calamity from God is a terror to me, And because of (AH)His [m]majesty I can do nothing.

Note: Job has a true and healthy, reverent fear of God

31:24-25 = “If I have put my confidence in (AI)gold, And called fine gold my trust, 25 If I have (AJ)gloated because my wealth was great, And because my hand had secured so much; (as sin, it would have deserved God’s wrath...)

Note: Job never put his trust in his wealth or worldly stuff and standing

31:33 = “Have I (AR)covered my transgressions like [v]Adam, By hiding my iniquity in my bosom...

Note: Job has not hidden any sins here.... He is honest.

Note: You can fool people... but you will never fool God!

Ch.32-37 = (Speech given by Elihu, the young man observing...)

Key observations from Elihu’s speech:

- Elihu rebukes Job & the 3 friends... “his anger burned against them”
- Note: Elihu is not gentile in his contribution...
- Note: God uses another “younger” over the older...
- Elihu adds some truth to the dialogue...
- However, Elihu only gives a partial answer to Job’s questions
- Note: Elihu is also self-righteous... “listen to me and learn wisdom” (“Job adds rebellion to his sin”)
- Note: Elihu is correct to the extent that he rightly says

- 1. Man cannot know the full mind of God
- 2. All true wisdom and insight comes from God alone
- 3. Man must trust God & His goodness no matter what
- Note: “the best answer yet” does not equate to God’s answer!
- Note: the 3 friends said Job suffered for past sins...
- Note: Elihu now says Job is suffering for present sin... and that his suffering would not go away unless/until he realized and changed his current sin (Job’s arrogant attitude in defending himself and questioning God).
- Note: Elihu also said that suffering is not as much a “punishment” as an instrument of discipline and correcting – all with an ultimate purpose of restoring His people and getting them back on the right path.
- Note: Elihu shares much TRUTH... but not complete truth
- Note: Elihu helps Job/us see suffering from a different PERSPECTIVE, with a greater purpose in mind...
- HOWEVER... Elihu’s ultimate answer/understanding to suffering is also WRONG... because he ASSUMES the PROSPERITY GOSPEL’s guidelines... namely: 1). Proper response always brings an end to suffering; and 2). Suffering is always connected to sin (34:11 vs John 9)
- Perfect example of the prosperity gospel disease... Listen to Elihu in 36:10-11 (“**(L)**He opens their ear to instruction, And **(M)**commands that they return from evil. **11** “If they hear and serve Him, They will **(N)**end their days in prosperity And their years in **(O)**pleasures...” A passage like that is often used to motivate people to respond in a “IF you do \_\_\_\_, THEN God will give you PROSPERITY.” The only problem is.... Elihu’s quote is in the Bible, not to direct us, but rather, as a BAD EXAMPLE that we learn from...
- Notice how Elihu’s closing words (early in ch.37) sound very similar to God’s upcoming words... Key Point: “Similar is not the same!” One of the ways we are misled and maligned by the enemy is thru our lack of “keenness” in perceiving... We need to know God and His Word well enough to detect the “fine lines of distinction” between what is truly of God... and ALL others. Elihu was not representing God, even though he sounded an awful lot like Him....