

The Proudful Misguided Counsel of Zophar (Job 11)

I. Zophar Accuses Job (1-6)

- A. Job's Painful Laments are Repudiated (1-4)
 - 1. Zophar Accuses Job of Empty Words (1-2)
 - a. Job's laments are called empty words
 - b. Job is a man "full of talk"
 - 2. Zophar Accuses Job of Mocking God (3)
 - a. Job's "babble" cannot silence men
 - b. Job should be shamed for mocking God
 - a. By questioning and complaining, Job is accused of mocking God
 - b. Zophar's implication is that to question God is to mock Him
 - 3. Zophar Accuses Job of Claiming Perfection (4)
 - a. Zophar says Job claimed to have "pure doctrine"
 - b. Zophar says Job claimed to be clean in God's eyes
 - a. Job never said these things
 - b. He never claimed perfection but that he had no secret unrepented sins
- B. Job's Painful Laments are condemned as sin (5-6)
 - 1. Zophar wishes God would speak to Job (5)
 - 2. Zophar accuses Job of Ignorance of God (6a)
 - a. The implication is that if God were to speak He would tell Job a thing or two
 - b. Job would be "put in his place"
 - 3. Zophar accuses Job of disregarding God's grace (6b)
 - a. Zophar says Job deserves a lot worse than he got
 - b. Zophar states that Job's guilt is not completely atoned

Many of the things Zophar says are things we might say to someone hurting. However, while some of Zophar's words are true, they do not apply to Job in this instance. He misrepresents Job and condemns Job for sins Job has not committed.

II. Zophar Challenges Job (7-12)

- A. Job is Challenged in his Understanding of God (7-9)
 - 1. The depth and limits of God are beyond Job's understanding (7)
 - 2. The height of God are beyond reach (8)
 - a. He is higher than heaven man cannot reach
 - b. He is deeper than Sheol (the grave) man cannot know
 - 3. The Length of God is longer than the earth and broader than the sea
- B. Job Cannot Bring Charge Against God's Actions (10-12)
 - 1. God's Ways are Beyond Man's Disputes (10)

- a. No one can turn God back if He decides to summon court and imprison
- 2. God's Ways are Perfect and Just (11)
 - a. God knows who the worthless men are (implying that Job is)
- 3. God will always bring vengeance on iniquity – (implying that if Job is experiencing this, God must be angry with him.)
- 4. God's ways cannot be understood by stupid men (12)
 - a. It is impossible for sinners to understand
 - b. Just as it is impossible for a man to be born from a donkey

III. Zophar Instructs Job (13-20)

- A. Job is Exhorted to Repent before God (13-14)
 - 1. Job must prepare his heart
 - a. After this he can reach out to God
 - b. In worship and for aid
 - 2. Job must put iniquity far away
 - a. "If" implies that Job has some
 - b. Job cannot call on God unless he repents
 - c. Job cannot call on God unless he reforms
 - a. Don't let injustice dwell in your tents
 - b. God won't hear you unless you fix your ways
- B. Job's Situation Will be Reversed (15-19) – if he repents
 - 1. Job will be forgiven (15)
 - a. Only then will Job be able to lift his face
 - b. Only then will he be secure and without fear
 - 2. Job's Life will be Restored (16-17)
 - a. Job will forget he was ever miserable (16)
 - b. Job's life will be brighter than it was before
 - 3. Job will Hope in Security (18)
 - a. Job will feel secure in his life
 - b. Job will have hope
 - c. Job will be able to rest in security
 - 4. Job will return to Men's Favor (19)
 - a. Job will rest from men who cause fear
 - b. Job's favor will be courted by others
- C. Job will Perish without Repentance (20)
 - 1. The eyes of the wicked will fail
 - a. Meaning they will fade into darkness
 - 2. They will lose all hope of escape
 - 3. They will die
 - 4. Without repentance Job will join them

these things are true and happen to Job at the end - but job has no secret sins
 the motivation for Zophar's repentance is the same motivation of Satan's accusation

If Job repents in order to regain blessing - He proves Satan right