

Job Believes He has Been Mistreated (Job 19)

I. Job Says He has Been Victimized (1-6)

A. Job Charges His Friends with Wrongdoing (1-3)

1. Job Accuses his friends of tormenting him (1-2)

- a. He claims they are breaking him in pieces with words
- b. They have constantly bombarded him with accusation because of their graceless system of morality
- c. God only inflicts suffering on the wicked therefore Job must be wicked because he is suffering

2. Job Accuses his friends of wronging him (3)

- a. They have cast reproach on him 10x (or repeatedly)
- b. He asks them if they are ashamed for what they have done

B. Job Charges God with Wrongdoing (perverting justice) (4-6)

1. Job does not claim to be sinless (4)

- a. He understands the possibility that there may be error within him
 - i. Job is not here speaking of unrepented, unforgiven sin
 - ii. Job is speaking of any inadvertent transgression he may have done – Of course, Job has spent his life sacrificing and repenting of his sin and his children's sin
- b. He claims that his suffering is punishment enough
 - i. "his error remains with myself"
 - ii. The word he uses for remain is one that speaks of "dwelling with"
 - iii. Even if he were guilty (hypothetical) their condemnation of him is unwarranted. They should be treating him with love and compassion as one suffering

2. Job's state is evidence of God's Attack on him (5-6)

- a. Job's friends are gloating over him (5)
 - i. they "magnify" themselves against Job
 - ii. By his condemnation they are saying they have acted better than he – they are more favorable in God's sight
- b. Job's friends are making his suffering their argument
 - i. They are reasoning in a circle
 - ii. They think that all suffering is God's judgment for unrepentant sin – Job is suffering – therefore his sin must be the cause.
 - iii. Job's suffering becomes the argument against him
- c. Job asserts that God has put him in the wrong (6)
 - i. Job is saying that even if he were guilty, God is punishing him
 - ii. He does not need or deserve further condemnation from his friends.
 - iii. He does not believe his life has warranted such treatment – but God is in control and has seen fit to

allow suffering to come upon him. – “closed his net about me.”

II. Job Has Been Separated As a Sinner (7-19)

A. Job Believes He Has Been Separated From God ((7-12)

1. God does not answer his call (7)
 - a. He cries out “Violence” – Help me – I am being attacked
 - b. He is not answered
 - c. He calls out to God for help but there is no justice offered to him
 - d. Although he doesn’t understand what is going on, he assumes that God has left him and forsaken him
2. God has cut off his way of escape (8)
 - a. He believes God has walled him up in suffering
 - b. There is no escape for his pain
 - c. There is no light in his future – “he has set darkness on his path
3. God has taken all his hope away (9-10)
 - a. He has stripped Job of all his glory and removed his crown (9)
 - i. He no longer has anything in which to glory
 - ii. He has no reputation, no blessing, nothing
 - b. He has been broken down on every side (10)
 - i. There is no part of his life untouched by suffering
 - ii. He is a shadow of his former self
 - iii. God has yanked up his hope like a tree
4. God has treated him like an enemy (11-12)
 - a. God has kindled his wrath against Job
 - i. Job doesn’t know the events of chapter 1 and 2
 - ii. He believes God is counting him as an adversary because he is allowing all this suffering to come upon him
 - b. God has sent his soldiers against Job (11-12)
 - i. God’s troops have laid siege against job
 - a. They camp around him and let him have no rest
 - b. They camp around him so no good can come to him
 - ii. Job asserts that God will let no good befall him

NOTE: We as the readers know Job is mistaken. God has not abandoned him, but is allowing Satan to test him.

B. Job Has Become Separated From all People (13-19)

1. God has caused Job’s Isolation (13)
 - a. He has put my brothers far from me – “people have forsaken him because of his condition”
 - b. His relatives no longer support him (“failed me”) (14)
 - c. His close friends have forgotten him

d. He is a stranger and a foreigner to those of his house (15)

NOTE: His suffering has caused this rejection – He is seen as a man who is unclean and under God's wrath

2. Job has become lower than his servants (16)

a. His servants no longer answer his call – (i.e. He has had his position and authority stripped out from under him

b. Now he must plead with his servant for mercy – he has fallen as low as a man can possibly get

3. Job has become estranged from his closest loved ones (17-19)

a. His wife does not recognize his breath (17)

- Perhaps Job's physical suffering has changed him so much his wife no longer desires to be with him

- Perhaps the shame and hurt of the entire episode has distanced her from him.

b. Young children speak against him because of his outcast status – He has a horrible skin disease and wouldn't be allowed around others. (18)

c. His intimate friends and the people that he loves have turned against him. – Its easy to be friends when everything is going well.

III. Job Still Refuses To Accept His Friends' Assessment (20-29)

A. Job is Confident He Will Be Vindicated (20-27)

1. Job Asks His Friends For Mercy (20-22)

a. Job's physical health is failing (20)

i. He has lost so much weight his bones stick to his skin

ii. His appearance has probably been altered greatly

b. Job asks for their mercy because God has touched him with suffering

i. He believes God has brought about this suffering

ii. He is begging his friends to have some compassion

c. Job asks why they are treating him like God is treating him (22)

i. Why are they not satisfied with the judgment God has given

ii. Why are they seeking to compound his misery

2. Job Wants All this Remembered (23-24)

a. It is as if he is saying, "mark this down"

b. You can take this to the bank

c. He will follow by saying he will eventually be vindicated

3. Job is Confident He will Be Vindicated in the End (25-29)

a. He knows that there is one who will Redeem Him (buy him back or pay for all that he has done

b. He knows that this redeemer will come to the earth and vindicate him.

c. He assumes that his vindication will come after his death, but he understands that he will stand before God

d. He appeals to no other authority than God himself (his eyes shall behold not another)

B. Job is Confident His Friends Will Be Judged (28-29)

1. They have said Job himself is at fault (28)

a. "the root of the matter is found in him" (i.e. this is all his own fault)

b. Job warns them for trying to pursue him even after God has placed this suffering on him

2. They have God's judgment awaiting them (29)

a. Job warns them to be afraid of the sword

b. God's wrath will bring the sword – he is telling them that because they are speaking falsely about God and his dealings with Job, they will incur God's wrath

c. They can be sure that a judgment awaits.