

Zophar's Condemnation of Job (Job 20)

Once again, we have a picture of what hell is like. Everything Zophar says here is true regarding what God will do with sinful mankind. However, Zophar misses the application because he believes this will happen in this life. The wicked will receive wrath, but any casual look around our world reveals that some lost people are doing quite well in this life. In fact, it was the rich people in Jesus' day that had the hardest time accepting Him. Job, understanding his righteousness before God (not sinlessness, but acceptance), realizes that Zophar is wrong. In this fallen world, the wicked often are rewarded. However, Zophar's speech is true and there will be a day when God's wrath is fully meted out.

I. Zophar Declares God Has Been Wronged by Job (1-3)

A. Zophar is Livid With Job

1. Zophar feels he must answer Job's claims
2. Zophar feels a haste within him to prove Job wrong
3. Zophar feels as if Job is charging God with injustice

B. Zophar is insulted by Job's comments and must answer

II. Zophar Declares God Will Deal With the Wicked (4-29)

A. The Wicked Cannot Remain Happy (4-7a)

1. Wicked people cannot be joyful in God's world (4-5)
 - a. Ever since man was placed on earth the wicked cannot exult in their wickedness
 - b. Wicked people cannot triumph/rejoice/sing because God will cut them short
2. Wicked people may be joyful for a moment only
 - a. Even if a person was joyful at a point in time
 - b. God would cut that person down because of their wickedness
3. The Wicked Cannot Remain Proud (6-7a)
 - a. He may think his greatness reaches the heavens
 - b. He will perish like his own waste (dung)

B. The Wicked Cannot Remain Prosperous (7b-11)

1. The Wicked Will Disappear in Judgment (7b-9)
 - a. No one will be able to find those taken in Judgment
 - i. he will fly away like a dream
 - ii. he will be chased away like a vision
 - b. He will never be seen again
 - c. His place will not see him
2. The Wicked will Not Prosper (10-11)
 - a. He will not prosper financially (10)
 - i. His children will beg from the poor
 - ii. He will return his own wealth
 - b. He will not prosper in his health (11)
 - i. His youthful vigor will be destroyed
 - ii. His vigor will lie down in the dust of death

C. The Wicked Will Suffer In His Own Evil (12-22)

1. The Wicked Will Be Poisoned By His Evil (12-16)

a. The Wicked take pleasure in their evil (12-13)

- i. Evil is sweet in his mouth
- ii. He hides evil under his tongue
- iii. He does not want to let go of his evil
- iv. He holds it in his mouth

b. The Wicked's Evil will Destroy Him (14-16)

- i. What he holds in his stomach will be turned to venom
- ii. The riches he swallows will be spewed back up
- iii. God will cast them out of him
- iv. The poison he loves will kill him

2. The Wicked Will Suffer For His Evil (17-19)

a. He will no longer look upon beautiful things

- i. He will not see rivers or streams
- ii. He will not see honey or curds
- iii. He will be deprived of all beauty

b. He will no longer enjoy the fruit of his labor (18)

- i. He will give back what he has worked for
- ii. He will not profit from his trading
- iii. He will get no enjoyment

c. He will suffer the penalty for his wickedness (19)

- i. He has crushed and abandoned the poor
- ii. He has stolen the houses of the poor

3. The Wicked Cannot Be Satisfied (20-22)

a. He will search hopelessly for enjoyment (20-21)

- i. Because he could not be satisfied he went after everything that delighted him
- ii. But there will be nothing left after he consumes it

b. He will be empty in the midst of his fullness (22)

- i. He will experience distress even when he is full
- ii. everyone in misery will come against him

D. The Wicked Will Receive Wrath For His Evil (23-28)

1. The Wicked will Experience Nothing but Wrath (23-25)

a. God will send burning anger against him

b. the man will flee from one terror and be struck by another (no escape)

c. The terror of the Lord is drawn against him

2. The Wicked will Pay for What He has Done (26-28)

a. He will receive only utter darkness and fire

b. Even what is left after that wrath will be consumed

c. His iniquity will be revealed and all creation will rise against him

d. God's wrath will take everything he has

E. The Wicked will Receive His Due from God (29)