

Job Refutes Their Arguments (Job 21)

I. Job Reasons With the Friends (1-6)

A. Job challenges them to listen before they mock (1-3)

1. Job desires they would listen and take comfort from his words
2. Bear with him = give him opportunity to speak
3. Job ridicules them – After I have spoken, you can continue mocking
 - a. Job has about had enough of their mockery
 - b. Job is becoming increasingly frustrated

B. Job Proclaims that His Complaint is With God (4)

1. Job states that his complaint is not with men
 - a. He doesn't care what his friends think
 - b. Let them mock, he desires an audience with God
2. Since his complaint is with God he is right to be impatient
 - a. God is all-knowing and all-powerful – should he not hear?
 - b. Job says that God should be able to answer his cry

C. Job Counsels His Friends to Join in His Suffering (5-6)

1. They should be shocked at what has happened to Job (5)
 - a. They should look at him and be appalled
 - b. They should cover their mouths in horror

II. Job Has Witnessed the Success of the Wicked (7-26)

A. The Wicked Do Indeed Flourish (7-18)

1. Job Has Seen the Wicked Continuously Prosper (7-13)
 - a. Wicked men become powerful and reach old age (7)
 - b. They get to see their descendants prosper
 - c. They seem to be safe from God's rod (9)
 - d. Their cattle even prosper (10)
 - e. Their children are happy and rejoice (11-12)
 - f. All their days are lived in peace and prosperity (13)
2. Job Has Seen the Wicked Continuously Defy God (14-16)
 - a. They tell God to leave them alone (14)
 - b. They do not desire to know his way
 - c. They refuse to serve the almighty (15)
 - d. They see no profit in praying to Him
 - e. Yet, they prosper by their own hand
 - f. Job doesn't understand this – (16b)
3. Job Has Seen that the Wicked are not Punished (17-18)
 - a. The wicked don't seem to be punished for their wickedness
 - b. They stand strong rather than being blown away in His wrath

B. The Wicked Seem to Escape Punishment (19-26)

1. The Wicked Should Be Punished Before they Die (19-22)
 - a. Job questions Zophar's Assertion of Justice
 - i. He says if you think God is storing up punishment for their children – he should send it now

- ii. Job thinks their own eyes should see God's wrath come upon them (20)
- iii. What do the wicked care if their houses are judged after they are gone

2. The Suffering and the Prosperous Both End the Same (23-26)

- a. One man dies prosperous and profitable
- b. Another dies poor and bitter
- c. Both go to the grave and worms cover them

III. Job Refutes Their Arguments (27-34)

A. The Friends Cannot Prove Their Claims (27-33)

1. Job Anticipates Their Objection (27-28)

- a. Job says, "your schemes wrong me"
- b. They have told Job that the wicked's tents are removed from the earth by God – they cannot be found

2. Job Asks them for Proof (29-30)

- a. Haven't you seen and heard the people who travel around?
- b. They know the evil men are spared from calamity
- c. They know the evil men are rescued from judgment

3. Job Asserts that the Wicked Prosper even in death (31-33)

- a. No one repays him for what he has done (31)
- b. He has grand funerals in death and people laud over his memory (32-33)

B. The Friends' Argument is Rejected (34)

- 1. They are trying to comfort Job with empty words
- 2. Their answers to his questions are false