

Pious Religion Cannot Comfort Suffering (Chapter 6)
Job's Response to Eliphaz

I. Job's Agony is Not Appeased by Religious Words (v. 1-7)

A. Job Agonizes Under God's Wrath (v. 1-4)

1. Job Cries Out in Anguish Over His Suffering (1-3)

- a. Job's grief is enormous "heavier than the sand"
- b. Job's grief is the reason he cried out

2. Job's Anguish is from God's Wrath (4)

- a. God has pierced him with arrows
- b. God's wrath infects Job like poison
- c. God's terrors are set against Job

NOTE: Job is suffering under God's wrath, not simply because because he lost his family, possessions, and his health.

B. Job Cannot Accept Eliphaz's Religious Explanation (5-7)

1. Job's Cry of Anguish is Justified (5)

- a. No animal cries in anguish when they are fed
 - i. The wild donkey doesn't bray near grass
 - ii. The ox doesn't low near fodder
- b. Job is crying for good reason

2. Job Refuses Eliphaz's undigestible Religious words (6-7)

- a. Tasteless food can't be eaten without salt
 - i. example: Egg whites have no taste
- b. Eliphaz's Words are tasteless to Job
 - i. Job cannot accept them
 - ii. Job refuses pious explanation

II. Job's Desire For God is Not Shaken by Their Religion (8-13)

A. Job Desires Death Before Dishonoring God (8-10)

- 1. Job prefers death than resting in religious piety (8-9)
- 2. Job prefers death than dishonor God (10)
 - a. Job fears his breaking point is coming
 - b. Job wants death to come before he breaks

B. Job is Fearful of His Own Weakness (11-13)

- 1. Job knows his strength will not hold (11-12)
- 2. Job knows he cannot deliver himself (13)

III. Job's Friends Religion Bring him no Comfort (14-21)

A. Job's Friends offer no pity (14)

- 1. "Pity" is the word Chesed – covenant faithfulness / kindness
- 2. To fail to give this kindness is forsaking God
- 3. Responsibility to care and suffer with each other

B. Job's Friends offer only empty words (15-17)

- 1. Job's Friends are like Seasonal Brooks (15-16)
 - a. The streams disappear when the thirsty need them
 - b. In the Winter the streams are covered with ice
 - c. In the Summer the streams dry up
- 2. Job's Friends cannot refresh with their religious words

C. Job's Friends are shamefully confident in their Advice (18-21)

1. Caravans turn aside looking to be refreshed by the streams (18-19)
2. Caravans were confident the streams were there
 - a. they trusted in them
 - b. they were shamed when they realized the streams were empty
3. Job compares his friend's advice to these streams
 - a. They are no help at all
 - b. They are fearful of what has happened to Job
 - i. they try to make sense out of senselessness
 - ii. they convince themselves of its reason

IV. Job Rejects His Friend's Religious Words (22-30)

A. Job Challenges His Friend's Advice (22-26)

1. Job has not been selfish in seeking deliverance (22-23)
 - a. Job asked no gift from his friends
 - b. Job asked no deliverance from his friends
2. Job Challenges His Friend's to show His Sin (24)
3. Job Charges his friends with doubting his truthfulness (25-26)

B. Job Affirms His Innocence (27-29)

1. Job challenges friends to trust his word (27-28)
2. Job reaffirms his innocence (29-30)