

Job

Dr. Charles "Buddy" Parrish
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Job 9-10



Job 9 – 10

Chapter 9

- Job here is responding to Bildad, the second of his friends. In Chapter 8, Bildad rebukes Job for questioning God. He suggests that Job's words were like an empty wind. And then he fires a rhetorical question at Job. Is God unjust? Does God bless the evil and punish the good? If your sons died, then they must have transgressed against God. And like Eliphaz before him, Bildad suggests to Job that his poor condition must be due to sin and if he would just go to God and confess and repent of his sin then God even now would restore his life and fortunes.
- Job concedes that Bildad is right, but then asks a rhetorical question of his own: "How can a man be right before God?" Indeed, how can weak and imperfect people stand before a perfect and almighty God? In verses 5-10, we have a beautiful poetic testimony to the power and glory of God. All of Creation is at His mercy and He does "wondrous works without number". Who then is there to hold God accountable?
- In verses 13-24 Job points to how God is constantly at work in our lives, often making us very uncomfortable. God will not turn back His anger towards our sin, using "the helpers of Rahab", the dragon of chaos (Psalm 89:10; Isaiah 51:9), to punish us.
- Job continues to insist "I am guiltless" (vs. 21), but that God is not interested in hearing from one as small and insignificant as he. Job sees no justice in a world where God "destroys the guiltless and the wicked" (vs. 22). It seemingly makes no sense, but "if it is not He, then who is it?" Ah! Who indeed?
- Chapter 9 is concluded with Job lamenting how fast life goes by, but yet why cling to life if you can never win? You can try to smile through pain (vs. 27) but what's the point (vs. 29)?
- No, there is no way to fake it or try to excuse it, because the pain is always there. There is no umpire, no mediator. The best that Job is hoping for is that there will be a time out! Let the pain and beatings stop for a little bit! "Then I would speak and not fear Him."

Chapter 10

- But with no particular hope of his sufferings to let up, Job, in verses 1-7, says he doesn't care about that and brushing aside Bildad, he launches into a courtroom questioning, with God in the dock. Still not aware of Satan's role in his life, Job presses God to answer "Do not condemn me!

Let me know why You contend with me. Is it right for You indeed to oppress, to reject the labor of **Your** hands and to look favorably on the schemes of the wicked?”

- In verses 8-17, Job reminds God that it was God who made him, that it is God who knows him intimately. Indeed, God has filled him with love and all good things (vs. 12), so how can it be possible that God created him so wonderfully just to then destroy him? The answer seems to be hidden in God’s heart (vs. 13).
- Job is frustrated beyond words. If he were guilty of some egregious sin, then he would not pretend to be innocent (vs. 14-15a), but even if he is found to be completely righteous, as he believes he is, it seems that his punishment would be no different! If he lifts up his head to cry out in pain and frustration, it would only bring more punishment from God.
- In the final verses of 18-22, Job returns to his previous theme from Chapter 3, of wishing that he had never been born and longing for death to come in order to end the suffering. Once, God’s presence in his life was evident from His many blessings, now the divine presence is only known by the plagues God sends.
- While not expecting his request to be answered, Job pleads for God to just let him die, but “would He not let my few days alone? Withdraw from me that I may have a little cheer before I go—and I shall not return—to the land of darkness and deep shadow, the land of utter gloom as darkness itself, of deep shadow without order, and which shines as the darkness.”
- For Job, he would be happy to die and go to Hell, if God would only give him a little peace before.