

Job

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Job 24-25



Job 24 – 25

Vss. 1-12

- In Chapters 24 – 27 Job’s mind seems to wander. Here in Ch. 24 he is frustrated with God, but not for himself. Rather, Job is frustrated that God allows the wicked to go unpunished and prosper, while the poor whom the wicked abuse, only go from suffering to suffering.
- In vs. 1 Job is essentially asking why the times of Judgement are delayed, “hidden” even from those in Heaven who know Him, the council of angels.
- Vss. 2-4 speak to the crimes of the wicked. Removing landmarks is a means by which land may be legally stolen. Boundaries were set by landmarks and if the landmarks are removed whose to say where the property line really is? The wicked steal from orphans and widows and cause the poor to hide from them.
- Vss. 5-8 focus on the sufferings of the poor who live homeless in the desert, searching for food for their children. They try to pick over the harvested fields for scraps and sleep exposed to the elements.
- Vss. 9-10 return to the crimes of the wicked, laying the specific sufferings of the poor at their feet.
- Vss. 11-12 go back to the poor who work hard but never see the reward of their work. They cry out, as Job does, but as with himself, in his view “God does not pay attention”.

Vss. 13-17

- One wonders if the Apostle John had recently read Job before writing his gospel, for so much of his gospel has to do with light and darkness, how Jesus is the light and how evil and sin are a synonym for darkness.
- “Others have been with those who rebel against the light. They do not want to know its ways, nor stay in its paths...In the darkness they dig into houses. They shut themselves up by day. They do not know the light.”

Vss. 18-25

- Vss. 18-20 speak to how, despite God’s seeming lack of concern, the wicked never last long despite their efforts. They are here one day and gone the next as quickly as snow melts and

evaporates. For all their bluster, the life of the wicked is very short and fragile. The wicked person's own mother will soon forget him.

- Vss. 21 – 22 return to the crimes of the wicked who “wrongs the barren/infertile woman and does no good for the widow. He drags off the valiant man, the mighty by his power.”
- Finally in Vss. 23-25, Job goes back to the certain punishment of the wicked and how whatever success they may enjoy is temporary at best. God is in fact watching them, “His eyes are on their ways”. Like a flower or plant of the field, “They are exalted a little while, then they are gone”.
- Job ends his speech with a challenge: “Now if it is not so, who can prove me a liar and make my speech worthless?” Job concedes to his friends that he too would like a strict moral universe where good is rewarded and evil punished, but he does not see that anywhere, and thus still has no answers to his own suffering.

25:1-6

- Bildad is running out of things to say to Job. Perhaps he is just somewhat surprised that Job is sort of agreeing with him.
- Vss. 2 – 3 speak to the awesomeness of God. In God's heights there is peace where there is no peace here below. There in Heaven God has a seemingly unlimited army of angels to call upon and in Heaven there is no where that His light does not shine.
- But we do not live in Heaven. We live here, in a fallen and corrupt Creation. Here sin has infected everything, Bildad says, so that there is no way that a sinful man can be just/righteous before God. Remembering that a woman's birth pains are a sign of the Fall from Eden, the short answer is “No, there was never a sinless mortal born”. Oddly, here it is Bildad who is pointing toward the need for Christ to be born as He was, sinless and pure.
- Bildad concludes by pointing out that the moon, as beautiful as it is, has no brightness of its own and the stars “are not pure in His sight”, referring to how the ancients astronomers were confounded by how the planets, which they did not differentiate from stars, could not be counted on to behave, but rather wandered through the night skies, as did the comets, and what to make of the meteors?! Bildad is asking if these magnificent parts of creation are unreliable and corrupt, how much more so is humanity? We are mere maggots and worms.
- So on the one hand, Bildad sounds a lot like Paul in Romans when he is speaking to how thoroughly sinful humanity truly is, he completely misses God's love for sinful humanity and His amazing grace.