

Job

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Job 27



Job 27

Vss. 1-6

- Job here continues what he began in Ch. 26, which is his longest speech of the book, covering a full six chapters. Here in this chapter Job is maintaining his innocence and righteousness, demanding to be believed when he says that he has not committed a sin so great as to deserve this punishment.
- “As God lives...” – A common opening as one takes an oath. Job wants to seal his testimony by taking an oath before God that he is telling the truth.
- Yet he cannot contain his frustration with God. God, the Almighty, “who has taken away my right...who has embittered my soul.”
- Job declares that as long as he has breath, he will not live in deceit or act unjustly. But as God lives, “I have kept hold of my righteousness and will not let it go. My heart does not rebuke any of my days.”

Vss. 7-12

- The remaining verses of the chapter are Job’s attempt to draw a distinction between himself and people who are truly evil. His true enemy is not God, not even his useless friends, but the wicked and the unjust.
- Job asks a series of questions designed to draw us to one conclusion: that the godless person has no hope. “For what is the hope of the godless when he makes an end of life, when God requires his life? Will God hear his cry?” The answer seems to be No. Not because God closes his ears but because the wicked one will not cry out to God. Why should one who does not delight in God, who does not regularly call on God, call on one whom he does not know?
- Job then becomes the teacher. “I will instruct you in the power of God. What is with the Almighty I will not conceal.” He suggest that the truth of God and humanity is there for all to see, but that his friends have seen but not understood, causing them to speak foolishly and vainly, filled with empty nonsense.

Vss. 13-23

- The remaining verses focuses on the life of the wicked. “This is the portion of a wicked person from God and the inheritance which tyrants receive from the Almighty.”
- Job argues that the processes of God are at work in every life and in the communal life of all people. Words like “portion” and inheritance” are used to help us understand that Life is a gift from God that the wicked misuse, trample on, and waste.
- Normally in that time and that part of the world, having many sons would be seen as a blessing from God, but here there is a tragic twist. The wicked one’s many sons, “are destined for the sword” and the wicked one’s descendants “will not be satisfied with bread” for they will starve to death. If there are any survivors, they will die with the plague and death will come so quickly the widows will die before they even have time to weep.
- Yes, it is a fact that the wicked often accumulate great wealth, so that silver to them is like dust to a poor man. But the wicked will lose it all and his money and material wealth will be divided among the just and the innocent. When Ebenezer Scrooge is being led by the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, he sees his old housekeeper and her man dividing up his clothes and goods such as his gold watch. He is incensed over their lack of feeling, but such is the concern for the poor toward the wicked rich.
- The wicked does not build his house on the solid rock of God, but on a life as unstable as a spider’s web or as flimsy as an impromptu hut built by the shepherd’s watchman.
- Nor does the wicked sleep easy. “He lies down rich, but never again. He opens his eyes, and it no longer exists. Terrors overtake him like a flood. A storm steals him away in the night.” Nightmares of losing all his riches interrupt his sleep. Thieves, natural disasters, and the unknown can take it all away, all his security, all his power can be lost in a single night.
- And as powerful east wind blows it all away, what sympathy does the wicked one receive from those around him? “People will clap their hands at him and will whistle at him from their places.” Yet this is not who Job is.