

JOB

Chapter-By-Chapter Through The Greatest Poem in Literature

Session 11 | Job 12:11-13:28

Job's Response to Zophar | Job 12-15

- Verses 12:1-10 included on session 10
- Verse 12:11 - This is Job's way of saying, "question the assumptions!"
- Verses 12:12-25 –
 - With the exception of v. 12, these verses could be nothing more than a description of God. Verse 12 can either be taken as a reference to God (the *ancient of days*) or to the wisdom of God that *should* come with age (for those who have not rejected Him. Those who reject God become more anti-God as they age).
 - Job describes God as having-
 - Mental strength and wise insight (vv. 13, 16-17, 22)
 - Physical strength (v. 14)
 - Power over nature (v. 15)
 - Political strength (vv. 18-19, 23)
 - Social strength (vv. 20-21, 24-25).
- Verses 13:1-5 –
 - In Job's progression toward understanding, he is (slowly but surely) recognizing that his friends are of no spiritual value and that he is not a guilty man (as accused). His request to his friends is **that ye would altogether hold your peace!**
 - If Job is a type of Israel through the Tribulation (as suspected), then it shows the slow progression of the nation toward the rejection of false views of God presented by worldly wisdom.
- Verses 13:6-8 –
 - Now Job confronts his "friends" and asks them to **hearken to the pleadings of my lips.**
 - He chastises them with a series of rhetorical questions designed to chastise them and express his disapproval of their theological thought.
 - He accuses them of speaking **wickedly for God**, an accurate accusation of falsehood/sin in the content of their speech.
 - He accuses them of deceitful speech (probably a reference to the pious nature of many of the speeches, while the overall content was filled with theological garbage).
 - He challenges them to **accept his person**, likely a challenge to "meet God face to face" rather than talk about Him at a distance. Or, possibly a challenge to accept *the real God* rather than their *image of God*.
 - When he asks **will ye contend for God** he is asking, "would you like to plead God's case?" This is sarcasm, asking whether or not his friends feel confident enough to serve as God's lawyer.

- Verse 13:9 - Job asks his friends, "what will happen if God **should search you out?**" The implication is that they would be in trouble. When God comes, Job wonders if they would **mock him**, that is, to attempt a cover-up in order to deceive God like they had (by implication) deceived other men.
- Verses 13:10-11 –
 - If God did search them out (v. 9), then He would **reprove** them if they **secretly accept persons**. Many translations interpret this as a Hebraism meaning "show partiality" (see v. 8).
 - Whatever its meaning, there is a negative connotation that involves a challenge (positive or negative) in v. 8 and a chastisement in v. 10. It likely has to do with honest dealings with people, and what would often be called *transparency*.
- Verse 13:12 –
 - Job says their **remembrances** (i.e.: their recollections of Job's integrity) are **like unto ashes** (worthless).
 - The word **bodies** is difficult, literally meaning "a convex surface" (a mound), and is translated as everything from *eyebrows* (Lev. 14:9) to *bodies* (Job 13:12) to *back* (Ps. 129:3) to *rings* (Ezek 1:18) to *an eminent place* (Ezek. 16:24).
 - If we take it as the *body of their speech* then the point would be that *it is manmade* and will not stand the test of time.
- Verses 13:13-18 –
 - In these verses Job gives an inspirational and strong-willed testimony of his allegiance to God almighty (and does so as a foreshadow of Israel in her days of tribulation).
 - He insists that his friends remain silent as he makes his claim that he will *stand or fall* before God on his own merit, but even if he falls, **I trust in him** (v. 15) and **He also shall be my salvation** (v. 15). Speaking directly to his friends, he says **an hypocrite shall not come** between him and God (v. 16) and he is confident (faith-filled) that he **shall be justified** (v. 18).
- Verse 13:19 - Job is now so confident in his position with God that he is certain nobody can lay a charge against him. He is also so certain of his innocence that he cannot sit silently by and not testify.
- Verses 13:20-21 – Every indication is that Job is now speaking to God (so much so that Young's Literal puts it into the text). Job's prayer request to God is two-fold:
 - That God would not remove His hand (a remarkable prayer and understanding from a man in his position), and,
 - That Job would not fear God's **dread** (the tribulation he was enduring).
- Verses 13:22-28 –
 - Job (continuing to foreshadow Israel in her future tribulation) begs for the word or the ear of God. If he were able to have a conversation, he wants to know the full count of his **iniquities and sins**.
 - He begs for the mercy of God and (like Israel) recognizes that God has written **bitter things against me** (that is, God is the author of his pain, even if Satan is the one who carries out the work).
 - Israel, in coming days, will be made to **possess the iniquities of my youth** and will have her feet **in the stocks** with a **rotten thing** that **consumeth** her and will not let her go.