

JOB

Chapter-By-Chapter Through The Greatest Poem in Literature

Session 12 | Job 12:14:1-22

Job's Response to Zophar | Job 12-14

- Chapters 12-13 included in Session 11
- Verses 14:1-2 –
 - Job began talking directly to God in 13:20, and continues the conversation in these verses.
 - He states a basic theology of man that has been true since the fall of man, namely that his life is short, trouble-ridden, and far too temporary.
 - Rather than a statement of gloom (though it has gloom in it), it is a statement of reality and is solid *anthropology* in the theological sense.
- Verse 14:3a- Having noted the condition of man, Job now praises the *condescension* of God, who would **open thine eyes upon such an one**.
- Verses 14:3b-4
 - The question in 3b goes with verse 4.
 - Job is impressed that God would even think of him (3a), and amazed that God would bring him into judgment, for the judgment is futile in the sense that **not one** is able to **bring a clean thing out of an unclean**.
 - In the statement, Job recognizes the lowliness and limitations of man.
- Verses 14:5-6 –
 - Job 14:5 is related to 7:1 in that it does not imply a fixed count of days, but a dependence upon God for any days, months, or years.
 - Because man is so utterly in God's hands and God has given him (because of sin) a shortness of days, Job pleads for **rest** enough to **accomplish, as an hireling, his day**.
 - Job's prayer is somewhat hopeless but also filled with realism and acceptance. Many are frustrated with life because they look for *greatness* instead of simply living faithfully day-by-day.
- Verses 14:7-13 –
 - Job compares man to a tree. The tree **will sprout again** with just **the scent of water**, when it will **bring forth boughs like a plant**.
 - As for man, however, he **giveth up the ghost, and where is he?** He is like evaporated waters that are gone and seen no more.
 - In v. 12 it appears that Job is not knowledgeable of the resurrection. But in v. 13 he prays for a death - burial - resurrection type experience.
- Verses 14:14-15 –
 - Though he speaks in the form of a question, Job gives evidence of belief in the resurrection in these verses.

- He answers, giving hope that someday **my change will come**. Someday God **shalt call** and Job will answer. Someday God will **desire...the work of thine hands** (that is, His creation, with man at the pinnacle).
- The phrase **appointed time** (v. 14) should not be construed to be *specific days*. The Hebrew word is a military word meaning *campaign*.
 - Young's Literal translates as "All [the] days of my warfare."
 - Darby translates as "time of toil." It is a word that involves duty and difficulty, but not one that involves a set period of days.
- Verses 14:16-22 –
 - In response to his friends who are convinced that Job sins, Job (speaking to God) says, **thou numberest my steps** and so surely also **watch[es] over mine iniquity**. Thus Job reminds his friends that God sees and knows and does not need their commentary and analysis.
 - As previously, the comment that God **numberest my steps** does not require a fatalistic worldview.
 - The Hebrew word means "to make a written record," which is contextually much more pertinent than some fixed existence would be.
 - If God *makes a written record* of our steps, then surely He is aware of our sin.
 - In vv. 18-22 Job makes note of how even the "permanent" structures of creation **cometh to nought** (v. 18), so man does not stand firm against God.
 - This is perhaps Job's way of saying to his friends, "If I've sinned, God knows about it and can handle it very well."