

“And Job Answered”

Job 12:1-25

This chapter in the life of Job, and the next two, give us Job’s answer to his three friends – collectively. He addresses their arguments as a whole and then continues with thoughts on God – both about Him TO his friends, and TO God Himself.

In this chapter we find that Job addresses some personal things that he took some offense to that his friends had said. He also shows them that they were wrong in their assessment of him and how God is in control of everything.

He tells his friends that:

I. THEY WERE NO BETTER THAN HIM – VS. 1-3

A. In verse 2 he uses sarcasm, showing them that he understands that they think themselves better than him, and even better than they really are.

B. In the first part of verse 3 he shows them that he is not ignorant, and that they are no better nor smarter than he.

C. In the latter part of verse 3, Job makes the remark that, in fact, what he was about to say regarding his trial was common enough knowledge for anyone to know.

II. THEY MOCKED HIM DURING HIS TRIAL – VS. 4-6

A. 4a – They mocked him because he had the audacity to pray and ask God to help

him when, to them, it was obvious it was because of sin that he was suffering, and there would be no help coming from God.

B. Vs. 4b – They mocked him because he said he was an “upright” man but that couldn’t be true because (they said) he was a sinner and only sinners suffer.

C. Vs. 5 – They mocked him because he used to be so great (“a lamp that is despised”) but now he was nothing (“ready to slip with his feet”), and those that were “at ease” viewed him as nothing.

D. One argument that Job gives to prove them wrong is in verse 6 where he points out that, although they mocked him for what they saw as being hypocrisy, “robbers prosper” – that is, that not all, or not just, bad people suffer, and that not all, or only, good people are blessed.

III. EVEN CREATION KNOWS THE TRUTH ABOUT LIFE – VS. 7-8

A. Job tells his friends in verses 7 and 8 to look to the animals, and the earth itself (to creation) and ask them if he is not right with God, and if, in truth, good people do suffer trials – they knew better than his friends did (for creation knows the struggle of life).

[Romans 8:18-23](#)

¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

²⁰ For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

²¹ Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

²² For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

²³ And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

B. If we just look at life itself, we will see that sin has left its mark on all of creation, and it seems that the only part of creation that has trouble understanding life is man.

IV. ULTIMATELY, GOD IS IN CONTROL – VS. 9-25

A. Verses 9 and 10 are wonderful verses, showing us that we are not alone in our trials, and that God is still in control of all of creation, and all of life.

B. Verse 11 begins a section that is all about God, and how He is, in fact, in control, and why, by asking the questions, "Doesn't the ear hear the truth about God, and hasn't the mouth tasted the meat of His Word, and tasted the strength it gives?"

C. Verse 12-13 – God is the "ancient" – He had no beginning, and He has, and is, the

ultimate understanding – not just “has” ultimate understanding, but “is” ultimate understanding (that is, it all comes from Him).

D. Verse 14-15 – His strength cannot be stood against – once God decides and does something, nothing can stop it – His will is Sovereign.

E. Verses 16-25 are all about how God is in control of everything, and in particular the affairs of nations, kings, and rulers – nothing happens in the world, even today, that He doesn’t allow.

Conclusion: Job had been vilified by his friends, and he fires back with some wonderful truths about trials, about life, and about God. Although his friends aren’t done with him, Job makes it clear that he isn’t fazed by what they had said, and he still stands true to God. Would to God that would be true of each of us today – that we would know enough about God, and how He is in control of everything to such an extent that we can stand as true as Job did.