

“Hear Now My Reasoning”

Job 13:1-28

This is a continuation of the previous chapter in Job, where he is answering Zophar in particular, and his other friends in general. The poem is split in two parts – in the first part he is addressing his friends (vs. 1-19) and in the second part he is addressing God (vs. 20-28).

In this chapter is found sound reasoning, sound logic, sound biblical principles, that if carried out will make us a better servant of the Lord. If not, however, we will make a miserable example of a believer to others.

I. SILENCE IS WISDOM – VS. 1-5, ESP. VS. 5

A. Vs. 1-2 – Job tells his friends that he’s seen what they’ve seen, and he understands what is going on with his situation equally as well as they do, if not better.

B. In verse 3 he tells them that his desire was to just talk to God about his problems, but they just kept interfering with that plan.

C. Then, in verses 4-5 we find Job telling them as plainly as he could that since all they had to say was of no value to him, and all they were saying was a lie, it would be the better part of wisdom if they simply stopped talking and were silent.

Proverbs 17:28

²⁸ Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.

[Ecclesiastes 5:3](#)

³ For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.

[James 1:19](#)

¹⁹ Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

II. BE CAREFUL HOW YOU TALK ABOUT GOD – VS. 6-11, ESP. VS. 7

- A. In these verses are a series of questions addressed to his friends with the intended purpose of bringing to the forefront of their minds just how dangerous their opinions were to them – how God would not hold them guiltless for the false accusations they had made against Job and for taking the place of God Himself in their dealings with Job.***
- B. Mentioned twice is a reference to the acceptance of persons (vs. 8 and 10) – it is in reference to Job's problems and how they related to God. His friends, rightfully, of course, claimed that since God was holy, just, and right then Job must be in the wrong, and no matter what Job said or did, they would not "accept" his "person" – they would not accept his argument, and just assumed he was wrong.***

C. Although God is absolutely right, just, and holy, it in no way makes those that have problems and trials in life to be wrong simply because someone believes that God is right, just, and holy – God doesn't need someone to "contend" for Him (vs. 8), but we do, and to just blindly and foolishly believe all bad comes because of sin, and to preach that, is calling God a liar, and is a very dangerous road to travel.

D. The point to be made here is a simple one – be careful how we use God to justify what we say or do – if it's not of Him and His Word, then we need to be "afraid" of offending Him – vs. 11 (in other words, the ends never justify the means).

Romans 3:5–8

⁵ But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man)

⁶ God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world?

⁷ For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory; why yet am I also judged as a sinner?

⁸ And not rather, (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us do evil, that good may come? whose damnation is just.

III. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, AND NO MATTER WHAT OTHERS DO OR SAY, TRUST THE LORD – VS. 12-19, ESP. VS. 15

- A. In verse 12 Job uses an ancient saying to make his point to his friends – what you have said is as useless as a fire that has burned out – had good in it at one time but now (in application to Job in particular) it is of no more use. Not only were their words of no value, they themselves, physically, were of no value. And, to Job, it didn't really matter – he was still going to trust the Lord and go on.**
- B. He then tells them to let him be – if he died, he died, but he didn't want any more "help" from them – vs. 13-14.**
- C. Verse 15 is a wonderful verse – even if God saw fit to take Job's life, he would never cease to trust His will. And no matter what happened, He would stay as true as he could.**

Psalm 23:4

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Romans 8:38–39

³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- D. In verse 16 he is addressing the accusation that he was a hypocrite – he points out that he wasn't, again.**

E. In verses 17-19 Job makes the case that when it was all over, he would be "justified" – he would be proven right and just before God.

Job 23:10

¹⁰ But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

2 Corinthians 1:12

¹² For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

IV. SEEK THE LORD – VS. 20-28, ESP. VS. 20

A. In these remaining verses Job begins another dialogue with God directly.

B. He asks God for two things: (vs. 20-22)

1. Don't "withdraw" his "hand far" – that is, he is asking God to stay near to him so He can know He is always going to be there, even in the bad times;
2. "Let not thy dread make me afraid" – we are to fear God, but we are not to "dread" His presence – to be afraid because He is God is what we are to do, to be afraid when He is near is not.

C. In seeking the Lord and His presence, Job asks Him to reveal his sin to him – if that was why he was going through all this, then he wanted to know what it was he did so he can make it right (vs. 23).

D. He concludes this chapter with a bit of despair – he still wondered why it seemed God had turned on him. Of course, we know, and he knew, that wasn't true, but He was just so desperate for it all to end – vs. 24-28.

E. It is at the darkest moments that we will need to seek His presence and be open to him.

Conclusion: Do we make sense to those around us as to why we live for the Lord? Job just wanted those around him to understand that no matter what happened, he was going to do his best to live for the Lord. That's what we are to do as well.