

“Job Continued His Parable”

Job 27:1-23

This is, as the first phrase says, a continuation of Job’s reply to Bildad. The first word “moreover” would give some indication that he hesitated before continuing to allow for a reply by his three friends, and since none came, Job continued. In fact, he continues for quite a while (recorded for us in the next 5 chapters) and gives us some great truths of Scripture – part of the reason for this is that he had held back from saying more out of respect for his friends, and wanting them to be able to respond to him.

The first verse says that “Job continued his parable” – the Old Testament parable was quite different than the New Testament parable (like those that Jesus used). The Old Testament parable was more a proverb than a story-type parable. As stated by one author, “it is a literary genre, device, and style in the form of short, pithy sayings, prophetic utterances, or compositions of comparison” (Zodhiates).

We find some very familiar things in this passage of Job – things that have been said before but, because they are repeated so often in the book of Job, it is necessary we look at them again. We also find here a few things that Job says about himself that will help us understand him a little bit better, and things we need to emulate in our own lives as he did in his.

I. JOB’S RESOLVE – VS. 2-6

A. No matter what the circumstance, he would not blame God – vs. 2-4.

B. No matter what others said or did, he would not compromise – vs. 5.

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.

C. No matter how tempted he was, he would do right – vs. 6.

Psalms 18:20-23

²⁰ The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me.

²¹ For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.

²² For all his judgments were before me, and I did not put away his statutes from me.

²³ I was also upright before him, and I kept myself from mine iniquity.

II. JOB'S RESPONSE – VS. 7-10

A. To the allegations that he was a hypocrite, and to those that made the allegations – they were as an enemy of Job – vs. 7.

B. He asks a series of questions to show that he wasn't a hypocrite – vs. 8-10.

1. The first question Job asks (vs. 8) in his response to being accused of being a hypocrite is a simple one – what is the hope of a hypocrite, considering that a hypocrite, by the very definition of the

word, would know he is a hypocrite, no matter what he gains in life, when he comes to the end of his life.

Matthew 16:26

26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

2. The second question he asks (vs. 9) is another simple one – will God hear a hypocrite when he prays or cries out in time of help? Job had the assurance that God would hear him – therefore he could testify with complete assurance that he was not a hypocrite.

Proverbs 1:27–30

27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

3. The third question (vs. 10a) – “Will he delight himself in the Almighty?” Would a hypocrite try and please God in all that he did? Hardly.
4. The fourth question (vs. 10b) – “Will he always call upon God?” – Job continued to pray and call upon God, again, testifying

to the fact that he was not a hypocrite, for they stop calling unto God.

III. JOB'S RESENTMENT – VS. 11-23

A. Towards his friends for their unwillingness to treat him in a respectable manner and for their unwillingness to believe him – vs. 11-12.

B. Towards those that were truly wicked – vs. 13-23

1. Vs. 13-15 demonstrate that the offspring of the wicked man will reap what he has sown – the sword, hunger, early death (15a); and that his widows (polygamy being common in that day) would have so little regard for him they would not weep when he was gone.
2. Vs. 16-18 deal with his wealth. Vs. 17 points out that he may build up wealth, but God will have the last say and those that need it (the poor that the wicked despised) would be the benefactor.

[Proverbs 13:22](#)

²² A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

[Proverbs 28:8](#)

⁸ He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.

[Ecclesiastes 2:26](#)

²⁶ For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but

to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit.

3. Vs. 19-21 speaks of his death

- a) Vs. 19 – he feels he is safe and secure in his riches, but he will be taken away (“gathered”) in a moment, and, metaphorically speaking, when he wakes up, he is no more.
- b) Vs. 20 points to this terror that he feels when he goes to bed – he deprived himself of sleep by worrying over his riches and it became a “terror” to him – it was his undoing, his destruction.
- c) Vs. 21 is a poetic way of showing the completeness of his destruction. It shows the violence with which he faces death, or, perhaps in this case, the thought of death, and then when it comes it is without mercy.

4. Vs. 22-23 speak of his misery after death

- a) Vs. 22 – God will have no mercy for him.
- b) Vs. 23 – Man, will rejoice when he is gone.

Conclusion: What is our resolve in life? As the song in our hymn book says, “I am resolved no longer to linger, charmed by the world’s delights . . .” – is that actually true of us? What is our response to those that would accuse us of being a hypocrite? Could our lives prove to them that we are not? What do we resent? Do we resent the world’s view of Christianity, and the wickedness of people? We should – Jesus did.