

HOSTILE TO HOPEFUL

Job 18-19

**Job struggled with perspective about his suffering situation
- Sometimes hostile and other times hopeful**

Where we look affects what we see.

I. LOOKING AROUND (18:1-19:22)

- Frustration will plague the saint who is focused on the immediate.

A. HOSTILE DEFIANCE (18:1-19:5)

1. Bildad's Response (18:1-21)

a. His rebuke of Job's attitude (1-4)

- Job needs to show understanding (2), respect (3), self-control (4a) and humility (4b)

b. His report about the wicked (18:5-21)

- Pessimistically reminding Job that a fate worse than pain awaits the wicked

2. Job's Reply (19:1-5)

a. You torment me (2-3)

b. You should mind your own business! (4)

c. You are taking pleasure in my misfortune (5)

B. HOSTILE DECLARATION (19:6-19)

1. Attacking God's Integrity (6)

a. Job has spoken badly of God in the past

- See 3:23; 6:19; 9:17-18, 34-35; 10:3; 13:27-28; 16:7-9, 12

b. Job now speaks blasphemously about God

- He does not curse God, but he does condemn Him

2. Attacking God's silence (7)

3. Attacking God's brutality (8-12)

4. Attacking God's isolation (13-19)

- God removed all of Job's associates (13)

C. HOSTILE DESPERATION (19:20-22)

1. His pathetic plight (20)

2. His plea for pity (21)

3. His problem with their persecution (22)

II. LOOKING AHEAD (19:23-29)

- Faith will lift the spirit of the saint who sets his eyes on the future

A. A CONFIDENCE (19:25-27)

1. He has a personal kinsman-redeemer
 - a. The duty of a kinsman-redeemer
 - 1) Explanation: An obligation to “recover the losses and salvage the dignity of one who has suffered loss.” [John H. Walden, “The NIV Application Commentary: Job,” p. 218]
 - 2) Examples in Lev. 25:25, Num. 35:19, Ruth 3:9-11 and Jer. 32:7-8
 - b. The deliverance of a kinsman redeemer
 - 1) God delivering Israel from Egyptian bondage - Ex. 6:6 and Psalm 74:2 with 77:15
 - 2) God removing Israel from Babylonian captivity - Is. 43:1-7
 - c. The distinction of a Messianic Redeemer
 - 1) Job’s Redeemer is not Christ the Messiah but God the Deliverer
 - 2) As revelation unfolds the Messianic Redeemer will be predicted then presented
2. His Redeemer will be publically displayed
 - At the end of his trial ... finally
3. He will personally see this
 - After the fleshly pain (26a)
4. Here is Job’s proclamation of faith
 - a. A genuine expression of faith, “for he makes an unconditional affirmation about God’s commitment to him against all circumstantial evidence to the contrary.” [John Hartley, “Job,” p.295]
 - b. See also 13:15-16; 14:13-15 and 16:18-21

B. A COMMITMENT (23-24)

1. The Record: This must be preserved, protected, presented and proclaimed
2. The Writing: Staking his honor on his future justification
3. The Reality: I am a man of integrity following God and trusting Him completely
4. The Residence: My dwelling is not with the wicked who know not God (cf. 18:21)

C. A CAUTION (28-29)

1. The Friend’s Practices (28)
2. The Friend’s Peril (29)
 - God’s wrath, punishment and judgment

CONCLUSION:

Job moves from the pit of despair to the pinnacle of deliverance
- Yet the only thing that changed was his perspective!

Perspective is everything and sometimes we do not see clearly because we’re looking in the wrong direction.

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