

REALLY?!

Job 20-21

Is Job really wicked or not?

I. ZOPHAR'S CONCLUSION - Chapter 20

- Job is deluded and wicked

A. ZOPHAR IS REALLY OFFENDED BY JOB (2-3)

1. Offended by Job's confidence in God (19:23-27)
2. Offended by Job's warning about judgment (19:28-29)
3. Offended by Job's insinuation that Zophar might not be all that wise!

B. ZOPHAR IS REALLY CONVINCED ABOUT THE WICKED (4-5, 29)

1. His Authority (4)
2. His Assertion (5)
3. His Assurance (29)

C. ZOPHAR IS REALLY CERTAIN ABOUT GOD'S JUDGMENT (6-28)

1. This is what happens to the wicked (6-11)
2. This is why it happens to the wicked (12-21)
 - a. He conceals evil (12-13)
 - b. He gets his just deserts (14-16)
 - c. He oppresses the poor (17-19)
 - d. He is never content (20-21)
3. This is how it happens to the wicked (22-28)
 - a. God's vengeance terrorizes him (22-26)
 - b. Heaven and earth testify against him (27-28)

D. ZOPHAR IS REALLY LIMITED WITH HIS OPTIONS

1. He considers no contrite sinner
2. He considers no compassionate God

E. ZOPHAR IS RATHER POINTED IN HIS ACCUSATION

- Without saying so, Zophar insinuates that Job is one of these wicked and is therefore experiencing Job's judgement.

II. JOB'S CONTENTION - Chapter 21

- The friends are unobservant and wrong

A. JOB IS REALLY DISTURBED WITH HIS FRIENDS (1-7)

1. Listen to me (2-4)
2. Look at me (5-6)
3. Answer me (7)

- If you are right about the wicked (see 20:5), why are they living and powerful?

B. JOB IS REALLY CONTESTING ZOPHAR'S CONCLUSIONS (8-13)

1. The wicked have large families and estates (8-12)
- They are not fleeting and insignificant (20:7-9)
2. The wicked die an easy death (13)

- They do not die a premature (20:11) or violent death (20:16) as you say

C. JOB IS REALLY OBSERVANT ABOUT THE WICKED (14-16)

1. They do not want God's presence, knowledge, worship or blessing (14-15)
2. Job wants nothing to do with them (16)

D. JOB IS REALLY QUESTIONING GOD'S HASTY JUDGMENT (17-22)

1. How often are the wicked judged quickly? (17-18)
2. How often is judgment delayed? (19-21)
3. How long will you try to force God into your theological system? (22)

E. JOB IS REALLY ASTUTE ABOUT IMPORTANT MATTERS (23-33)

1. Consider the neutrality of death (23-26)
2. Consider the evil intentions of His friends (27-28)
3. Consider traveler's observations regarding the fate of the wicked (29-33)

F. JOB IS REALLY DISAPPOINTED WITH HIS FRIENDS (34)

1. Their words are empty ...
2. Because their answers are riddled with falsehood

III. SOME CAUTIONS FOR US

- Things to consider as we interact with others

A. We must guard against being offended by other's confidences in God and/or warnings to us (20:3)

B. We must be careful with appeals from antiquity or tradition (20:4)

C. We must never close the door on the potential for a sinner's repentance (20:29)

D. We should resist the urge to broadly apply principles that sometimes have exceptions (21:7, 17)

E. We should be cautious about forcing our theological systems on things we cannot fully explain (21:22)

CONCLUSION:

What is true is that Job, like us, is sinful ...

- But though sinful he was "saved" through faith in a redeemer God (19:25)

What is true of you?

- Are you a saved sinner or an unsaved one?

Are you really certain of your eternal destination?