



# Eternal PERSPECTIVE *Job*

## BIBLE TEXT | JOB 20:1-29

- 1** Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said:  
**2** "Therefore my thoughts answer me,  
because of my haste within me.  
**3** I hear censure that insults me,  
and out of my understanding a spirit answers me.  
**4** Do you not know this from of old,  
since man was placed on earth,  
**5** that the exulting of the wicked is short,  
and the joy of the godless but for a moment?  
**6** Though his height mount up to the heavens,  
and his head reach to the clouds,  
**7** he will perish forever like his own dung;  
those who have seen him will say, 'Where is he?'  
**8** He will fly away like a dream and not be found;  
he will be chased away like a vision of the night.  
**9** The eye that saw him will see him no more,  
nor will his place any more behold him.  
**10** His children will seek the favor of the poor,  
and his hands will give back his wealth.  
**11** His bones are full of his youthful vigor,  
but it will lie down with him in the dust.  
**12** "Though evil is sweet in his mouth,  
though he hides it under his tongue,  
**13** though he is loath to let it go  
and holds it in his mouth,  
**14** yet his food is turned in his stomach;  
it is the venom of cobras within him.  
**15** He swallows down riches and vomits them up  
again; God casts them out of his belly.  
**16** He will suck the poison of cobras;  
the tongue of a viper will kill him.  
**17** He will not look upon the rivers,  
the streams flowing with honey and curds.  
**18** He will give back the fruit of his toil  
and will not swallow it down;  
from the profit of his trading  
he will get no enjoyment.  
**19** For he has crushed and abandoned the poor;  
he has seized a house that he did not build.  
**20** "Because he knew no contentment in his belly,  
he will not let anything in which he delights escape  
him.  
**21** There was nothing left after he had eaten;  
therefore his prosperity will not endure.  
**22** In the fullness of his sufficiency he will be in  
distress; the hand of everyone in misery will come  
against him.  
**23** To fill his belly to the full, God will send his burning  
anger against him and rain it upon him into his body.  
**24** He will flee from an iron weapon;  
a bronze arrow will strike him through.  
**25** It is drawn forth and comes out of his body;  
the glittering point comes out of his gallbladder;  
terrors come upon him.  
**26** Utter darkness is laid up for his treasures;  
a fire not fanned will devour him;  
what is left in his tent will be consumed.  
**27** The heavens will reveal his iniquity,  
and the earth will rise up against him.  
**28** The possessions of his house will be carried away,  
dragged off in the day of God's wrath.  
**29** This is the wicked man's portion from God,  
the heritage decreed for him by God."



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## DEVOTIONAL FOR JOB 20:1-29

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A three-against-one argument is never enjoyable to watch, especially when they could all be considered correct. Job's friends make very good points when it comes to pointing out that the wicked will suffer when God's judgement comes upon them. Job is correct that what he is suffering has nothing to do with any sin that he has committed. What a frustrating amount of drama. In this chapter, we see Zophar the Naamathite fed up with Job's answers, to the point of feeling insulted (verse 3). He decides it's time to take off the kid gloves and let Job know what happens to those that hold themselves too high.

The thing is, Zophar is not altogether wrong. Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death..." Those whose god is their own appetite will find no pleasure in death (Philippians 3:19). They may have gained all the material goods they wanted in life, all the prestige they could have gained in society, yet when it is time to face the Judge on His throne, they will all be brought low.

The truth is: even Job, in all his righteousness, was not perfect. He was a wonderful example of a man who loved God the best he could, even through all of his suffering. The suffering Job experienced reminds me of the story from John 9. Jesus and His disciples came upon a man who was blind from birth. The disciples ask Jesus whether it was the man or his parents that had sinned that he was born blind. Jesus answered that the blindness was not a punishment of sin, but that the works of God might be displayed.

Job's friends are like the disciples, seeing sickness and disaster in this life as the punishment for sins of the wicked. What they miss is that the wicked often flourish in this world, while the righteous do suffer. Instead of looking for an apparent reason why a friend is suffering, prodding for sin, may the Lord help us to trust Him through the suffering and know that His ways are not our ways, nor are His thoughts our thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9). We won't have all the answers in this lifetime, but we can trust in the One who has all wisdom and power.



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## Questions:

1. When your brother or sister in Christ admonishes you, how do you react? Are you thankful or defensive?
2. How do you respond when your advice is rejected? Why?
3. When your friends bring culturally accepted ideas to bear on your biblical worldview (karma, lack of faith or purity being the reason for illness), do you stand on the Word or your own understanding? Read Proverbs 3:5-6.