

## Job Chapters 25-28 - John Karmelich

Here's a question I'd like everyone to ponder: Why don't we talk more about God to others? Yes, we'll discuss God with our church friends or at a bible study, but do we ever discuss Him with our family, or strangers? Why's that? I'm asking because these four chapters are pretty much a discussion of what He is like and how He works in the world around us. It talks about God's wisdom and in effect how He's in charge! Still, we're usually afraid to discuss God with those who generally don't share our view on His existence let alone what He does in the world! In these four chapters, most of the text focuses on what God can do in our world and what He does! It is about visible signs of His existence that Job and his 4 friends could observe. Based on some of the comments, they knew far more than what most people do! Ok, yes, we all get scared to discuss Him at times. Give Job credit that he wasn't afraid for this endless debate to bring God in the picture! How does that affect us? That's my central topic in this little study!

I should also state that we have reached the end of the "great debate" between Job and his three friends. Chapter 25 has a short six-verse speech by one of them and that's the last time we hear any of them say a word. They originally came (supposedly) to comfort Job during his suffering, but the visit turned into a great debate about why he is suffering so badly. They maintained Job must have sinned, "something awful" to get this type of punishment and Job refused to believe that. All of this is occurring based on the fact Satan believed Job was only a God-fearing man because He blessed Job with great wealth, and good health plus his large family. God allowed Satan to take all that away for what we'll discover near the end of the book it was only for a time to test Job to see how he'd react to losing all that. While Job wasn't perfect in his reactions, he never turned from God through all of that! While much of the book is repetitive and it seems to go on "forever and ever" making what we'd consider the same point over and over again, it's also making Job and his 3 friends think about God and how He works in the world. Just saying bringing God in the conversation is a good lesson for all of us about being a witness for Him!

The same way we'd be eavesdropping if people were discussing us, so I picture God "paying attention" when the conversation is about Him. Remember what Jesus called all believers to do: "Spread the word about Jesus and baptize people in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit!" (Matthew 28:19). How can we be a good witness for God if, "we're not talking about Him". That's why God laid it on me that I should talk about the importance of not being afraid to talk about Him! Even if we're not perfect in the points we make about God, at least we're discussing Him and putting Him in people's thoughts. Yes, I realize there's situations for which it's not appropriate. If we are having say, a private conversation with someone, we must have the boldness to talk about Him and how He has been working in our lives. The apostles prayed for an ability to be bold! I suspect most of us fail to pray that way, and fail to speak up for that reason!

With that said, this is a study of Chapters 25-28 of Job. As I discuss these short chapters, hopefully we can see the underlying message of talking the evidence of how God works in our world! Chapter 25's a final speech by one of the "three" and it's only six verses. Job gives his final reply to them, in what will be a six-chapter speech. (Chapter numbers weren't added until after the printing press was invented as I state way too often). Half of that final response is covered in this lesson! The final thoughts by Bildad essentially says, "God's too big for any of us to comprehend!" Bildad made that statement because Job argued that he didn't do anything wrong. The final two lines of Bildad's speech states Job's nothing but a maggot because God is so much bigger than we can comprehend. Bildad didn't think about is if he is saying Job is a maggot, that means Bildad isn't any better! That little final speech (a strange way to end their arguments) leads Job into a discourse on the wisdom of God for six chapters (three in this lesson)!

The first thing Job does is "go off" on his three friends saying in effect, "If none of us know what He is capable of doing, then aren't we wasting our time debating?" That leads Job into a speech about what's visible to God! It reminds us that we are all to fear God, in the sense that He's in charge of all things as well as the fact He will judge each of us! Chapter 26 gives a bunch of verses explaining how the world works. Does Job's friends realize these facts? I would argue they already get it, and even most readers would when we think logically about how the world works. So why mention it? Well, it gets our focus on God and gets each of us to think about our relationship with Him! Remember this is the oldest book in the bible. This chapter mentions heaven and hell. It mentions how the seas have size limits. Job also tells us they knew the earth "hangs on nothing" yet still spins. They understood some basic facts about God and even how the world "works" back then!

In Chapter 27 Job is making a final plea of his "integrity". That didn't mean Job thought he was sinless before God. Just that he didn't commit any sin that warranted how he was suffering. In other words, he refused to lie just to bring the debate to an end! In effect that's what Chapter 27 deals with. Job says in effect, "As long as I breathe, I'll try to do what's right no matter what God allows to happen to me!" By the middle of the chapter Job is accusing his friends of being vain in their accusations. He is putting all their words "back in their face"! The point is these three guys failed to prove Job did any sin worthy of all that suffering! Job goes on to give a speech about wicked people who ignore God all their lives but still prosper! The underlying point is God will judge all people and in spite of their ignoring God all of their lives, they'll suffer for eternity for it! I know we're aware of that! The underlying point to me is to not be afraid to talk to God and talk about Him about how He works in the world around us.

Chapter 28 in effect asks where does wisdom come from? Almost every morning I try to do a time for a bible reading. If people ask me why I do it, I state the truth: Wisdom comes from God! Therefore, I want to grow in wisdom, so I study this book daily! Anyway Chapter 28 lists facts about the world that we can compare to how God works. Of all things, Job discusses mining operations which existed even at the time of Job! The point is even though say lions or birds have no knowledge of a mining shaft, it's still there (man created) and God's aware of those dark places! The point of that strange little speech is that wisdom does not come from such deep places as mines, but from God. It's a way to remind us that no matter how ingenious we are in what we can do, it's still no big deal compared to God's wisdom. He ends this chapter with a reminder that man's duty is to fear God's judgment (See Proverbs 9:10 et.al.) I know I'm preaching to the choir, but Job ends this part of his speech on that note. We need to keep the basics of Christianity in focus just as a well-trained athlete will practice fundamentals all their career.

I'm also aware that Job can get boring as this poetry repeats itself a lot. As any teacher will tell you, it is necessary to repeat key points over and over again until it sinks in! God is the same way when He is stressing key points in the bible. While the points made here are fundamentals in most cases, what we need to remember is to develop the boldness to take stands for God when the situation arises. Recently I was asked why I read my bible daily and I gave my "this is my source of wisdom" answer. I don't say it to brag, but just to give an example of why it is we study His word, and even the long repetitive parts of poetry like here in the middle of Job! The good news is we are done with the back and forth debates that dominated much of the book. Yes, there's more speeches to come and lessons to be learned from it so I encourage you to stick it out. Hope this little study reminds us to keep God in our focus and not be afraid to discuss Him when the right moments arise!

If you liked this study, I wrote a more detailed account some years back with the links on this web site! Thanks for reading this!