

## Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

### **Monday (November 13) – Job 7, 8**

In chapter 7 Job turns from talking to his friends to talking to God. Job laments his condition to God. Job decides to pour out his heart to God. Job is not able to understand that God sends His chastisements to His children not out of punishment (as Job's friends think) but out of love to draw us closer in faith to Him and to Christ (Heb. 12:3-11). In chapter 8 Bildad says Job has only gotten what he deserves (vss. 1-5). Bildad promises Job that if he would only repent, then God would restore his fortunes (vss. 6-7). Bildad appeals to the sayings of the fathers (the wisdom and traditions of the ancients) which teach that God would never reject those who believe in him. Bildad in this chapter and Eliphaz in chapters 4–5 both try to use other authorities to prove that Job must have done something to deserve his suffering. Eliphaz cites visions and supposed revelations to him. Bildad in this chapter quotes traditions and supposed wisdom from the past. Both Eliphaz and Bildad are spiritual fools because God's Word is the only source of authority for what we should believe and how we should live.

### **Tuesday (November 14) – Job 9, 10, 11**

In chapter 9 Job agrees that God is truly righteous. But how can man be righteous before God? Job says even we believers would be guilty because we all still have sin. Yet Job knows that his suffering is not because he is a sinner or unbeliever. Job has not abandoned faith in Christ. Job confesses that he is not perfectly sinless and he wishes that there was an arbitrator between God and him. Job's wish comes true with Christ who is our arbitrator. Jesus is the one able to take our case before God's court and have us declared righteous by His blood. In chapter 10 Job gives free rein to his complaint to God asking why God is doing this to him? In chapter 11 Zophar, now speaks. Zophar believes that Job is an unrepentant unbeliever. Zophar admonishes Job to turn back to God and to confess whatever sin he has done. Then God would bless him again. Zophar is wrong in believing that the reason someone might be suffering must automatically be because he has done something to deserve it.

### **Wednesday (November 15) – Job 12, 13**

In chapter 12 Job says God doesn't take in consideration the deeds and merits of men. This is the opposite of Zophar who asserted that God must reward according to merit. Zophar and his friends reduce God to a machine. "If I do X then God must do Y." God becomes somebody who can be manipulated. This is a human-centered view of God that puts people in control of God. But Job in his speech forgets one important truth. The truth that God has revealed Himself as also the gracious one—not only as the absolute and majestic one but also the one who is gracious and merciful. He is kind to those He chastens, and there is a suffering which flows from God's love. When we suffer, this truth is easily forgotten. In chapter 13 Job's main thought is that he is innocent of any particular sin. Job in verse 15 has a magnificent confession of his faith. Even if God should kill him, he will still trust in God. No matter what

afflictions God may send us, we still trust in His Son, for we know He loves us because He died for us (Rom. 8:31-39).

### **Thursday (November 16) – Job 14, 15**

Chapter 14 is a lament to God about the troubles of mankind. The common lot of mankind is death. Job confesses the universal sinfulness of mankind. We are all born “unclean.” Job recognizes that all people are sinners, and all people suffer. He is just not sure why he is suffering more than everyone else is. The loss of hope, fear of God’s wrath, and his self-absorption is due to immense pain he is in and explains why he talks about death in a worldly way with no mention of heaven or the resurrection. Job needs to hear encouraging words about Christ’s love for sinners, of the resurrection and the hope of eternal life. But instead, in chapter 15, Eliphaz says that misfortune strikes only the wicked and ungodly. Thus, Job must be wicked. This is Eliphaz’s idea of “the comforts of God” (vs. 11).

### **Friday (November 17) – Job 16, 17**

In chapter 16 Job feels like God is against him and yet Job turns to God. He cries for justice from God against God. It seems to him that there are two sides to God: God is his enemy and also his friend and defender. When suffering it might feel like God has two sides to Him. When we feel like God is our enemy, we must turn to Jesus, who is our witness and advocate. When a Christian only sees God as angry, then he must cling to Christ and His Word of grace and love. In chapter 17 Job forsakes of any earthly hope to deliver him. Only God can save him.

### **Saturday (November 18) – Job 18, 19**

In chapter 18 Bildad accuses Job of raging against God. Bildad firmly believes that Job is wicked and that is why Job is suffering. In chapter 19 Job asks how long will his friends torment him. This chapter has the most beautiful confession of the resurrection from the dead (vv. 23–27). Job knows that His Redeemer, Jesus the Christ, will raise him up after he dies and he will see God with his very eyes. This is the great hope we believers have!

### **Sunday (November 19) – Job 20, 21**

In chapter 20 Zophar again repeats that the wicked are punished here on earth. They may enjoy the pleasures of sin for a brief time but then their downfall comes quickly. This insinuates that Job’s downfall is because he is wicked. In chapter 21 Job says that actually the wicked are prosperous. They seem to live blessed lives. The false teaching that the wicked suffer on earth and the righteous are blessed on earth is simply not true. Dear Christian, don’t let the prosperity of the wicked on earth cause you to fall away from Christ. On the Last Day, the wicked will be condemned. Those who sincerely believe in Christ and live a Christian life suffering for it will live in everlasting blessedness and joy with Christ.