

WISDOM FROM THE BOOK OF JOB

[BIBLE TEXT](#) : Job 5:17-27; 18:5-18; 14:1-22; 19:23-27; 28:1-28

LESSON 373 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding" (Job 28:28).

[BIBLE TEXT in King James Version](#)

Job 5:17-27

17 Behold, happy *is* the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:

18 For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole.

19 He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee.

20 In famine he shall redeem thee from death: and in war from the power of the sword.

21 Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue: neither shalt thou be afraid of destruction when it cometh.

22 At destruction and famine thou shalt laugh: neither shalt thou be afraid of the beasts of the earth.

23 For thou shalt be in league with the stones of the field: and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with thee.

24 And thou shalt know that thy tabernacle *shall be* in peace; and thou shalt visit thy habitation, and shalt not sin.

25 Thou shalt know also that thy seed *shall be* great, and thine offspring as the grass of the earth.

26 Thou shalt come to *thy* grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season.

27 Lo this, we have searched it, so it *is*; hear it, and know thou *it* for thy good.

Job 18:5-18

5 Yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out, and the spark of his fire shall not shine.

6 The light shall be dark in his tabernacle, and his candle shall be put out with him.

7 The steps of his strength shall be straitened, and his own counsel shall cast him down.

8 For he is cast into a net by his own feet, and he walketh upon a snare.

9 The gin shall take *him* by the heel, *and* the robber shall prevail against him.

10 The snare *is* laid for him in the ground, and a trap for him in the way.

11 Terrors shall make him afraid on every side, and shall drive him to his feet.

12 His strength shall be hungerbitten, and destruction *shall be* ready at his side.

[Bible References:](#)

I The Protection of the Righteous

1. He shall be delivered from all distress, Job 5:17-22;

Psalm 103:3

3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

Psalm 103:4

4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;

2. He shall be in harmony with nature, Job 5:23, 24;

Isaiah 55:12

12 For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands.

3. His days shall be prolonged, Job 5:25-27;

Psalm 91:16

16 With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

Proverbs 3:2

2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

II The Destruction of the Wicked

1. His light shall be put out, Job 18:5, 6;

Matthew 8:12

12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

2. His own counsel shall cast him down, Job 18:7, 8;

Proverbs 3:5

5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

3. He shall go from bad to worse, Job 18:9-18.

III The Resurrection from the Dead

1. This present life is brief, Job 14:1-6, 10-13;

James 4:14

14 Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

1 Peter 1:24

24 For all flesh *is* as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

2. There are examples of resurrection in nature, Job 14:7-9;

1 Corinthians 15:36-38

36 *Thou* fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:

37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other *grain*:

38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

3. Job is confident of his resurrection, Job 14:14, 15; 19:23-27.

4. Job's past sins had been forgiven, Job 14:16, 17;

Psalm 32:1

¹ Blessed *is he* whose transgression is forgiven, *whose* sin is covered.

5. Death and decay are seen in nature and man, Job 14:18-22.

13 It shall devour the strength of his skin: *even* the firstborn of death shall devour his strength.
 14 His confidence shall be rooted out of his tabernacle, and it shall bring him to the king of terrors.
 15 It shall dwell in his tabernacle, because *it is* none of his: brimstone shall be scattered upon his habitation.
 16 His roots shall be dried up beneath, and above shall his branch be cut off.
 17 His remembrance shall perish from the earth, and he shall have no name in the street.
 18 He shall be driven from light into darkness, and chased out of the world.

Job 14:1-22

1 Man *that is* born of a woman *is* of few days, and full of trouble.
 2 He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.
 3 And dost thou open thine eyes upon such an one, and bringest me into judgment with thee?
 4 Who can bring a clean *thing* out of an unclean? not one.
 5 Seeing his days *are* determined, the number of his months *are* with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;
 6 Turn from him, that he may rest, till he shall accomplish, as an hireling, his day.
 7 For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease.
 8 Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground;
 9 *Yet* through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant.
 10 But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where *is* he?
 11 *As* the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up:
 12 So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens *be* no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.
 13 O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me!
 14 If a man die, shall he live *again*? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.
 15 Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.
 16 For now thou numberest my steps: dost thou not watch over my sin?

IV The Place of Wisdom

1. Man has not found it in his search for wealth, Job 28:1-12.
2. Man cannot buy it with his wealth, Job 28:13-21.
3. God knows the place of wisdom, Job 28:22-27;

Ecclesiastes 2:26

26 For *God* giveth to a man that *is* good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to *him* that *is* good before God. This also *is* vanity and vexation of spirit.

4. God instructs man to fear Him and depart from evil, Job 28:28;

Ecclesiastes 12:13

¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man.

Ecclesiastes 12:14

¹⁴ For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.

Notes:

The Wicked Destroyed; the Righteous Protected

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all" (Psalm 34:19). Job was tested almost to the limit in his affliction; so much so that his friends thought he surely must be guilty of some hideous sin. If Job were righteous he would be delivered, reasoned Eliphaz. Although he was wrong in his opinion of Job, Eliphaz did cite some beautiful truths of God's protection of His own: "In famine he shall redeem thee from death: and in war from the power of the sword" (Job 5:20). "Thou shalt be in league with the stones of the field: and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with thee" (Job 5:23).

Just as sin disrupted the harmony of the Garden of Eden, so sin today sets man at odds with the course of nature. In the first place, it breaks his fellowship with his Creator. Sinful habits put him out of gear with normal, healthful living. Smoking of tobacco produces disease such as lung cancer. Shows, television, and dancing accentuate lust, which leads to broken homes. Drinking of alcoholic beverages sets man adrift and destroys his usefulness. "Terrors shall make him afraid . . . His strength shall be hunger bitten, . . . His confidence shall be rooted out . . . His roots shall be dried up beneath, and above shall his branch be cut off. . . . He shall be driven from light into darkness, and chased out of the world" (Job 18:11-18).

While the "king of terrors" (Job 18:14) is ever on the trail of the wicked, the Lord "withdraweth not his eyes from the righteous" (Job 36:7). "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Romans 8:35-37).

God sent famine to Israel as a result of their sins, but fed His prophet, Elijah, by the ravens. When the tongues of evil men plotted the overthrow of Daniel, God delivered him from the lions' den. God protected Noah when the whole world was destroyed and let him live at peace in the ark with the beasts of the field of every species. Surely it is proved that "in famine he shall redeem thee from death: and in war from the power of the sword. Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue: neither shalt thou be afraid of destruction when it cometh. . . . neither shalt thou be afraid of the beasts of the earth" (Job 5:20-22).

Resurrection

Although accused of being a hypocrite, Job was fully aware of

17 My transgression *is* sealed up in a bag, and thou sewest up mine iniquity.
 18 And surely the mountain falling cometh to nought, and the rock is removed out of his place.
 19 The waters wear the stones: thou wastest away the things which grow *out* of the dust of the earth; and thou destroyest the hope of man.
 20 Thou prevailest for ever against him, and he passeth: thou changest his countenance, and sendest him away.
 21 His sons come to honour, and he knoweth *it* not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth *it* not of them.
 22 But his flesh upon him shall have pain, and his soul within him shall mourn.

Job 19:23-27
 23 Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book!
 24 That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever!
 25 For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth:
 26 And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God:
 27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; *though* my reins be consumed within me.

Job 28:1-28
 1 Surely there is a vein for the silver, and a place for gold *where* they fine *it*.
 2 Iron is taken out of the earth, and brass *is* molten *out of* the stone.
 3 He setteth an end to darkness, and searcheth out all perfection: the stones of darkness, and the shadow of death.
 4 The flood breaketh out from the inhabitant; *even the waters* forgotten of the foot: they are dried up, they are gone away from men.
 5 *As for* the earth, out of it cometh bread: and under it is turned up as it were fire.
 6 The stones of it *are* the place of sapphires: and it hath dust of gold.
 7 *There is* a path which no fowl knoweth, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen:
 8 The lion's whelps have not trodden it, nor the fierce lion passed by it.
 9 He putteth forth his hand upon the rock; he overturneth the mountains by the roots.
 10 He cutteth out rivers among the rocks; and his eye seeth every precious thing.
 11 He bindeth the floods from overflowing; and *the thing that is hid* bringeth he forth to light.

the brevity of this life and the immortality of the soul. Job asked: "What is the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul?" (Job 27:8). "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, . . . He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down" (Job 14:1, 2). Job observed: "There is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, . . . Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground; yet through the scent of water it will bud, . . . But man dieth, . . . and where is he?" (Job 14:7-10). From his observation, no one had ever come forth out of the grave. But when he asked the question, "If a man die, shall he live again?" his soul within him responded, "All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee" (Job 14:14, 15).

The more Job pondered the question, the more confident he became, until he exclaimed, "Oh that my words were now written! Oh that they were printed in a book! . . . For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me" (Job 19:23-27). Job believed not only in the immortality of the soul, but in the resurrection of the body. He foretells the reign of Christ on the earth by stating that He "shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: . . . and mine eyes shall behold, and not another."

A Search for Wisdom

"Where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding?" (Job 28:12). In probing into this question, Job noted that silver, gold, iron, brass, and sapphires all had their place. Men searched them out by digging into the mountains, penetrating to a place that "the vulture's eye hath not seen" and where even the lions had not trodden. "The thing that is hid bringeth he forth to light," digging it out of the darkness below the surface of the ground.

Man has discovered many rare gems, going to the depth of the mountains; but of the place of wisdom, "the sea saith, It is not in me." Man dives into the sea to obtain pearls, but "the sea saith, It is not with me." Man with his ability and endless search for treasures has not discovered the place of wisdom.

Neither with all the priceless treasures man has accumulated can he buy wisdom. "It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof" (Job 28:15). "Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding?" (Job 28:20). Man has not found it in the sea, nor on the land, neither under the earth, nor in the air. "Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears." But they had not discovered the place of wisdom.

The answer to the search is that "God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof. For he looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven" (Job 28:23, 24). Man's vision is limited, but God is portrayed as seeing everywhere with the flash of his lightning. "Then did he see it, and declare it; he prepared it, yea, and searched it out" (Job 28:27). God turns then to man and tells him: "behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding" (Job 28:28). Solomon, the wisest man, after searching every avenue of life brought up a similar conclusion: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13,

12 But where shall wisdom be found?
and where *is* the place of understanding?

13 Man knoweth not the price thereof;
neither is it found in the land of the
living.

14 The depth saith, It *is* not in me: and
the sea saith, *It is* not with me.

15 It cannot be gotten for gold, neither
shall silver be weighed *for* the price
thereof.

16 It cannot be valued with the gold of
Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the
sapphire.

17 The gold and the crystal cannot equal
it: and the exchange of it *shall not be for*
jewels of fine gold.

18 No mention shall be made of coral, or
of pearls: for the price of wisdom *is*
above rubies.

19 The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal
it, neither shall it be valued with pure
gold.

20 Whence then cometh wisdom? and
where *is* the place of understanding?

21 Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all
living, and kept close from the fowls of
the air.

22 Destruction and death say, We have
heard the fame thereof with our ears.

23 God understandeth the way thereof,
and he knoweth the place thereof.

24 For he looketh to the ends of the
earth, *and* seeth under the whole
heaven;

25 To make the weight for the winds;
and he weigheth the waters by measure.

26 When he made a decree for the rain,
and a way for the lightning of the
thunder:

27 Then did he see it, and declare it; he
prepared it, yea, and searched it out.

28 And unto man he said, Behold, the
fear of the Lord, that *is* wisdom; and to
depart from evil *is* understanding.

14).

QUESTIONS

1. Name some troubles from which God delivers the righteous, and give Bible examples of the deliverance.
2. What is meant by being in league with the stones of the field?
3. What are some of the things that happen to the wicked? (Job 18).
4. Give some Scriptural comparisons of the brevity of life.
5. Give some natural examples of resurrection.
6. What did Job mean by "Till my change come"? (Job 14:14).
7. Give proof that Job believed in the resurrection of the body.
8. What did Job say that prophesies the second coming of Christ?
9. What has man failed to find, in his search for precious things?
10. What is wisdom?