

Job 11 - Zophar Accuses Job

II. Dialogue (Job 3:1–42:6)

(2) First dialogue cycle (Job 4:1–14:22)

(C) Job's exchange with Zophar (Job 11:1–14:22)

(a) Zophar's first speech (11:1-20)

- (i) Zophar criticizes Job for defending himself and not acknowledging his sin (11:1-6)
- (ii) God's vast wisdom can ascertain man's sin (11:7-12)
- (iii) Zophar pleads with Job to repent of his iniquity so that he can experience divine blessing (11:13-20)

Job 11

(C) Job's exchange with Zophar (Job 11:1–14:22)

(a) Zophar's first speech (11:1-20)

- (i) Zophar criticizes Job for defending himself and not acknowledging his sin (11:1-6)

1 Then Zophar the Naamathite responded,

1 Then Zophar the Naamathite answered,

1 Zophar from Naamath had this to say:

1 Then answered Zophar the Naamathite, and said,

2 "Shall a multitude of words go unanswered, And a talkative man be acquitted?

2 "Shall a multitude of words go unanswered, And a talkative man be acquitted?

2 "Shouldn't a multitude of words be answered, or a person who talks too much be vindicated?

2 Should not the multitude of words be answered? and should a man full of talk be justified?

3 "Shall your boasts silence people? And will you scoff, and no one rebuke?

3 "Shall your boasts silence men? And shall you scoff and none rebuke?

3 Will your irrational babble silence people, and when you mock them, will you escape without being shamed?

3 Should thy lies make men hold their peace? and when thou mockest, shall no man make thee ashamed?

4 "For you have said, 'My teaching is pure, And I am innocent in your eyes.'

4 "For you have said, 'My teaching is pure, And I am innocent in your eyes.'

4 You've said, 'My teaching is flawless; I'm clean in God's sight.'

4 For thou hast said, My doctrine is pure, and I am clean in thine eyes.

5 "But if only God would speak, And open His lips against you,

5 "But would that God might speak, And open His lips against you,

5 "But what if God were to speak? What if he were to talk with you,

5 But oh that God would speak, and open his lips against thee;

6 And show you the secrets of wisdom! For sound wisdom has two sides. Know then that God forgets part of your guilt.

6 And show you the secrets of wisdom! For sound wisdom has two sides. Know then that God forgets a part of your iniquity.

6 and disclose his wise secrets? After all, there's so much more to understanding. So be aware that God will exact from you less than your sin deserves."

6 And that he would shew thee the secrets of wisdom, that they are double to that which is! Know therefore that God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth.

(ii) God's vast wisdom can ascertain man's sin (11:7-12)

7 "Can you discover the depths of God? Can you discover the limits of the Almighty?

7 "Can you discover the depths of God? Can you discover the limits of the Almighty?

7 "Can you search through God's complex things? Can you uncover the limits of the Almighty?

7 Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?

8 "They are as high as the heavens; what can you do? Deeper than Sheol; what can you know?

8 "They are high as the heavens, what can you do? Deeper than Sheol, what can you know?

8 These things are higher than the heavens, so what can you do? They are deeper than Sheol, so what can you know?

8 It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know?

9 "Its measurement is longer than the earth And broader than the sea.

9 "Its measure is longer than the earth And broader than the sea.

9 They are longer than the earth's circumference, and broader than the ocean.

9 The measure thereof is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea.

10 "If He passes by or apprehends people, Or calls an assembly, who can restrain Him?

10 "If He passes by or shuts up, Or calls an assembly, who can restrain Him?

10 "If he bypasses, or imprisons, or convenes a court, who can stop him?

10 If he cut off, and shut up, or gather together, then who can hinder him?

11 "For He knows false people, And He sees injustice without investigating.

11 "For He knows false men, And He sees iniquity without investigating.

11 For he knows mankind's deceitfulness; when he sees iniquity, won't he himself consider it?

11 For he knoweth vain men: he seeth wickedness also; will he not then consider it?

12 "An idiot will become intelligent When a wild donkey is born a human.

12 "An idiot will become intelligent When the foal of a wild donkey is born a man.

12 An empty-headed person will gain understanding when a wild donkey is born a human being!"

12 For vain man would be wise, though man be born like a wild ass's colt.

(iii) Zophar pleads with Job to repent of his iniquity so that he can experience divine blessing (11:13-20)

13 "If you would direct your heart *rightly* And spread out your hands to Him,

13 "If you would direct your heart right And spread out your hand to Him,

13 "Now for you, if you will prepare your heart, spread out your hands to him.

13 If thou prepare thine heart, and stretch out thine hands toward him;

14 If wrongdoing is in your hand, put it far away, And do not let malice dwell in your tents;

14 If iniquity is in your hand, put it far away, And do not let wickedness dwell in your tents;

14 If you have any iniquity, throw it far away. Don't let evil live in your residence.

14 If iniquity be in thine hand, put it far away, and let not wickedness dwell in thy tabernacles.

15 Then, indeed, you could lift up your face without *moral* blemish, And you would be firmly established and not fear.

15 "Then, indeed, you could lift up your face without *moral* defect, And you would be steadfast and not fear.

15 Then your confidence will be flawless, and your security will keep you from terror.

15 For then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot; yea, thou shalt be stedfast, and shalt not fear:

16 "For you would forget *your* trouble; Like waters that have passed by, you would remember *it*.

16 "For you would forget *your* trouble, As waters that have passed by, you would remember *it*.

16 You'll forget your suffering; you'll remember it like water that has evaporated.

16 Because thou shalt forget thy misery, and remember it as waters that pass away:

17 "Your life would be brighter than noonday; Darkness would be like the morning.

17 "Your life would be brighter than noonday; Darkness would be like the morning.

17 Your life will be brighter than noonday. Even its darkness will be like dawn.

17 And thine age shall be clearer than the noonday; thou shalt shine forth, thou shalt be as the morning.

18 "Then you would trust, because there is hope; And you would look around and rest securely.

18 "Then you would trust, because there is hope; And you would look around and rest securely.

18 You'll be secure, because there is hope; you'll see that you're at rest and safe.

18 And thou shalt be secure, because there is hope; yea, thou shalt dig about thee, and thou shalt take thy rest in safety.

19 "You would lie down and none would disturb you, And many would flatter you.

19 "You would lie down and none would disturb you, And many would entreat your favor.

19 When you sleep, there'll be nothing to fear; and many will court your favor.

19 Also thou shalt lie down, and none shall make thee afraid; yea, many shall make suit unto thee.

20 "But the eyes of the wicked will fail, And there will be no escape for them; And their hope is to breathe their last."

20 "But the eyes of the wicked will fail, And there will be no escape for them; And their hope is to breathe their last."

20 But what the wicked look for will fail; their way of escape will be taken away from them; their only hope is to take their final breath."

20 But the eyes of the wicked shall fail, and they shall not escape, and their hope shall be as the giving up of the ghost.