

# Job 13 - Job Argues His Case

## 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)

##### (b) Job's reply (Job 12:1—14:22)

##### (i) Job rejects his friends' council (Job 12:1—13:19)

(c) Job reiterates his equality of knowledge in comparison to his friends (13:1-2)

(d) Job declares his friends' knowledge is minute in comparison to God's wisdom (13:3-12)

(e) Job desires to present his case before God (13:13-19)

##### (ii) Job presents his innocence before God (13:20-28)

## Job 13

(c) Job reiterates his equality of knowledge in comparison to his friends (13:1-2)

1 "Behold, my eye has seen all *this*, My ear has heard and understood it.

1 "Behold, my eye has seen all *this*, My ear has heard and understood it.

1 "Look, I've seen everything; I've listened carefully and I understand.

1 Lo, mine eye hath seen all this, mine ear hath heard and understood it.

2 "What you know I also know; I am not inferior to you.

2 "What you know I also know; I am not inferior to you.

2 What you know, I know, too; I'm not inferior to you.

2 What ye know, the same do I know also: I am not inferior unto you.

(d) Job declares his friends' knowledge is minute in comparison to God's wisdom (13:3-12)

3 "But I would speak to the Almighty, And I desire to argue with God.

3 "But I would speak to the Almighty, And I desire to argue with God.

3 But I want to talk to the Almighty; and I'm determined to argue my case before God."

3 Surely I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to reason with God.

4 "But you smear *me* with lies; You are all worthless physicians.

4 "But you smear with lies; You are all worthless physicians.

4 "But as for you, you whitewash with lies; all of you are worthless quacks.

4 But ye are forgers of lies, ye are all physicians of no value.

5 "Oh that you would be completely silent, And that it would become your wisdom!

5 "O that you would be completely silent, And that it would become your wisdom!

5 I wish you'd all just shut up. Then at least you would appear to be wise.

5 O that ye would altogether hold your peace! and it should be your wisdom.

6 "Please hear my argument, And give your attention to the contentions of my lips.

6 "Please hear my argument And listen to the contentions of my lips.

6 "Now listen to my dispute! Pay attention to my arguments.

6 Hear now my reasoning, and hearken to the pleadings of my lips.

7 "Will you speak what is unjust for God, And speak what is deceitful for Him?

7 "Will you speak what is unjust for God, And speak what is deceitful for Him?

7 Why do you speak falsely on God's behalf and speak deceitfully about him?

7 Will ye speak wickedly for God? and talk deceitfully for him?

8 "Will you show partiality for Him? Will you contend for God?

8 "Will you show partiality for Him? Will you contend for God?

8 Will you show partiality to him? Will you plead God's case?

8 Will ye accept his person? will ye contend for God?

9 "*Will it go well* when He examines you? Or will you deceive Him as one deceives a man?

9 "*Will it be well* when He examines you? Or will you deceive Him as one deceives a man?

9 Will things go well for you under his cross-examination? Can you lie to him, as you would to a human being?

9 Is it good that he should search you out? or as one man mocketh another, do ye so mock him?

10 "He will certainly punish you If you secretly show partiality.

10 "He will surely reprove you If you secretly show partiality.

10 "He will be sure to rebuke you, if you show partiality in secret.

10 He will surely reprove you, if ye do secretly accept persons.

11 "Will His majesty not terrify you, And the dread of Him fall upon you?

11 "Will not His majesty terrify you, And the dread of Him fall on you?

11 His splendor will petrify you with terror, paralyzing you with fear, won't it?

11 Shall not his excellency make you afraid? and his dread fall upon you?

12 "Your memorable sayings are proverbs of ashes, Your defenses are defenses of clay.

12 "Your memorable sayings are proverbs of ashes, Your defenses are defenses of clay.

12 Your maxims are just worthless proverbs; your defensive arguments are made of clay."

12 Your remembrances are like unto ashes, your bodies to bodies of clay.

(e) Job desires to present his case before God (13:13-19)

**13** "Be silent before me so that I may speak; Then let come upon me what *may*.

**13** "Be silent before me so that I may speak; Then let come on me what may.

13 "Don't talk to me! It's my turn to speak; then whatever happens.

13 Hold your peace, let me alone, that I may speak, and let come on me what will.

14 "Why should I take my flesh in my teeth, And put my life in my hands?

14 "Why should I take my flesh in my teeth? And put my life in my hands?

14 Why shouldn't I bite my flesh or take my life in my hands?

14 Wherefore do I take my flesh in my teeth, and put my life in mine hand?

15 "Though He slay me, I will hope in Him. Nevertheless I will argue my ways before Him.

15 "Though He slay me, I will hope in Him. Nevertheless I will argue my ways before Him.

15 Even though he kills me, I'll continue to hope in him. At least I'll be able to argue my case to his face!

15 Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.

16 "This also *will* be my salvation, For a godless person cannot come before His presence.

16 "This also will be my salvation, For a godless man may not come before His presence.

16 I have this as my salvation: the godless person won't be appearing before him.

16 He also shall be my salvation: for an hypocrite shall not come before him.

17 "Listen carefully to my speech, And let my declaration *fill* your ears.

17 "Listen carefully to my speech, And let my declaration *fill* your ears.

17 Pay attention to what I have to say and listen to my testimony with your own ears."

17 Hear diligently my speech, and my declaration with your ears.

18 "Behold now, I have prepared my case; I know that I will be vindicated.

18 "Behold now, I have prepared my case; I know that I will be vindicated.

18 "Look, now! I've prepared my case for court. I know that I'm going to win.

18 Behold now, I have ordered my cause; I know that I shall be justified.

- 19 "Who could contend with me? For then I would be silent and die.  
19 "Who will contend with me? For then I would be silent and die.  
19 Who can oppose me? If they do, I'll be silent and die.  
19 Who is he that will plead with me? for now, if I hold my tongue, I shall give up the ghost.

(ii) Job presents his innocence before God (13:20-28)

- 20 "Only two things *I ask that You* do not do to me, Then I will not hide from Your face:  
20 "Only two things do not do to me, Then I will not hide from Your face:  
20 Grant me only two things as you deal with me; then I won't hide from you.  
20 Only do not two things unto me: then will I not hide myself from thee.
- 21 Remove Your hand from me, And may the dread of You not terrify me.  
21 Remove Your hand from me, And let not the dread of You terrify me.  
21 Withdraw your hand far from me and keep me from being petrified with terror.  
21 Withdraw thine hand far from me: and let not thy dread make me afraid.
- 22 "Then call and I will answer; Or let me speak, then reply to me.  
22 "Then call, and I will answer; Or let me speak, then reply to me.  
22 Then call and I'll answer, or let me speak and then you reply to me!"  
22 Then call thou, and I will answer: or let me speak, and answer thou me.
- 23 "How many are my guilty deeds and sins? Make known to me my wrongdoing and my sin.  
23 "How many are my iniquities and sins? Make known to me my rebellion and my sin.  
23 "How many of my iniquities and sins have you counted? Show me my transgression and sin.  
23 How many are mine iniquities and sins? make me to know my transgression and my sin.
- 24 "Why do You hide Your face And consider me Your enemy?  
24 "Why do You hide Your face And consider me Your enemy?  
24 Why do you hide your face and regard me as your enemy?  
24 Wherefore hidest thou thy face, and holdest me for thine enemy?
- 25 "Will You scare away a scattered leaf? Or will You pursue the dry chaff?  
25 "Will You cause a driven leaf to tremble? Or will You pursue the dry chaff?  
25 Are you a god who would make a leaf tremble or who would prosecute a dry straw?  
25 Wilt thou break a leaf driven to and fro? and wilt thou pursue the dry stubble?

26 "For You write bitter things against me And make me inherit the guilty deeds of my youth.

26 "For You write bitter things against me And make me to inherit the iniquities of my youth.

26 You've accused me of bitter things; you've caused me to reap the sins of my youth.

26 For thou writest bitter things against me, and makest me to possess the iniquities of my youth.

27 "You put my feet in the stocks And watch all my paths; You set a limit for the soles of my feet,

27 "You put my feet in the stocks And watch all my paths; You set a limit for the soles of my feet,

27 You've locked my feet in stocks; you watch all my steps; You've limited where I can walk.

27 Thou puttest my feet also in the stocks, and lookest narrowly unto all my paths; thou settest a print upon the heels of my feet.

28 While I am decaying like a rotten thing, Like a garment that is moth-eaten.

28 While I am decaying like a rotten thing, Like a garment that is moth-eaten.

28 So I'm a man who wears out like something rotten, like a garment that has become moth-eaten."

28 And he, as a rotten thing, consumeth, as a garment that is moth eaten.