

Job 20 - Zophar's 2nd Discourse

II. Dialogue (Job 3:1–42:6)

- (3) Second dialogue cycle (Job 15:1–21:34)
 - (C) Job's exchange with Zophar (Job 20:1–21:34)
 - (a) Zophar's second speech (20:1-29)
 - (i) Zophar responds out of anger (20:1-3)
 - (ii) The wicked man's fleeting prosperity (20:4-11)
 - (iii) The bitterness of the wicked man's ill gotten gain (20:12-19)
 - (iv) The sudden anger of God will overtake the wicked rich (20:20-29)

Job 20

- (C) Job's exchange with Zophar (Job 20:1–21:34)
 - (a) Zophar's second speech (20:1-29)
 - (i) Zophar responds out of anger (20:1-3)

1 Then Zophar the Naamathite responded,

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1 Then Zophar from Naamath replied:

1 Then answered Zophar the Naamathite, and said,

2 "Therefore my disquieting thoughts make me respond, Even because of my inward agitation.

2 "Therefore my disquieting thoughts make me respond, Even because of my inward agitation.

2 "Therefore my anxious thoughts cause me to answer because I'm agitated within me.

2 Therefore do my thoughts cause me to answer, and for this I make haste.

3 "I listened to the reprimand which insults me, And the spirit of my understanding makes me answer.

3 "I listened to the reproof which insults me, And the spirit of my understanding makes me answer.

3 Whenever I hear an insulting rebuke, I respond from my spirit because I understand."

3 I have heard the check of my reproach, and the spirit of my understanding causeth me to answer.

(ii) The wicked man's fleeting prosperity (20:4-11)

4 "Do you know this from ancient times, From the establishment of mankind on earth,
4 "Do you know this from of old, From the establishment of man on earth,
4 "Haven't you known this from ancient times, since mankind was placed on the earth?
4 Knowest thou not this of old, since man was placed upon earth,

5 That the rejoicing of the wicked is short, And the joy of the godless momentary?
5 That the triumphing of the wicked is short, And the joy of the godless momentary?
5 The wicked triumph only briefly; the joy of the godless is momentary.
5 That the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment?

6 "Though his arrogance reaches the heavens, And his head touches the clouds,
6 "Though his loftiness reaches the heavens, And his head touches the clouds,
6 Though he grow as tall as the sky, or though his head touches the clouds,
6 Though his excellency mount up to the heavens, and his head reach unto the clouds;

7 He perishes forever like his refuse; Those who have seen him will say, 'Where is he?'
7 He perishes forever like his refuse; Those who have seen him will say, 'Where is he?'
7 he'll perish forever, like his own excrement; those who saw him will ask, 'Where is he?'
7 Yet he shall perish for ever like his own dung: they which have seen him shall say, Where is he?

8 "He flies away like a dream, and they cannot find him; Like a vision of the night he is chased away.
8 "He flies away like a dream, and they cannot find him; Even like a vision of the night he is chased away.
8 He'll vanish like a dream, and no one will find him; he will be chased away like a night vision."
8 He shall fly away as a dream, and shall not be found: yea, he shall be chased away as a vision of the night.

9 "The eye which saw him sees him no longer, And his place no longer beholds him.
9 "The eye which saw him sees him no longer, And his place no longer beholds him.
9 "An eye that gazes at him won't do so again; and his place won't even recognize him.
9 The eye also which saw him shall see him no more; neither shall his place any more behold him.

10 "His sons favor the poor, And his hands give back his wealth.

10 "His sons favor the poor, And his hands give back his wealth.
10 His sons will make amends to the poor; their hands will return his wealth.
10 His children shall seek to please the poor, and his hands shall restore their goods.

11 "His bones are full of his youthful strength, But it lies down with him in the dust.
11 "His bones are full of his youthful vigor, But it lies down with him in the dust.
11 Though his bones were full of youthful vigor; yet they will lie down with him in the dust.
11 His bones are full of the sin of his youth, which shall lie down with him in the dust.

(iii) The bitterness of the wicked man's ill gotten gain (20:12-19)

12 "Though evil tastes sweet in his mouth *And* he hides it under his tongue,
12 "Though evil is sweet in his mouth *And* he hides it under his tongue,
12 Though evil tastes sweet in his mouth, though he conceals it under his tongue,
12 Though wickedness be sweet in his mouth, though he hide it under his tongue;

13 *Though* he desires it and will not let it go, But holds it in his mouth,
13 *Though* he desires it and will not let it go, But holds it in his mouth,
13 though he savors it and delays swallowing it so he can taste it again and again in his mouth,
13 Though he spare it, and forsake it not; but keep it still within his mouth:

14 Yet his food in his stomach is changed To the venom of cobras within him.
14 Yet his food in his stomach is changed To the venom of cobras within him.
14 his food will turn rancid in his stomach— it will become a cobra's poison inside him.
14 Yet his meat in his bowels is turned, it is the gall of asps within him.

15 "He swallows riches, But will vomit them up; God will expel them from his belly.
15 "He swallows riches, But will vomit them up; God will expel them from his belly.
15 "Though he swallows wealth, he will vomit it; God will dislodge it from his stomach.
15 He hath swallowed down riches, and he shall vomit them up again: God shall cast them out of his belly.

16 "He sucks the poison of cobras; The viper's tongue kills him.
16 "He sucks the poison of cobras; The viper's tongue slays him.
16 He will suck the poison of cobras; the fangs of a viper will slay him.
16 He shall suck the poison of asps: the viper's tongue shall slay him.

17 "He does not look at the streams, The rivers flowing with honey and curds.

17 "He does not look at the streams, The rivers flowing with honey and curds.

17 He won't look at the rivers— the torrents of honey and curd.

17 He shall not see the rivers, the floods, the brooks of honey and butter.

18 "He returns the product of his labor And cannot swallow *it*; As to the riches of his trading, He cannot even enjoy *them*.

18 "He returns what he has attained And cannot swallow *it*; As to the riches of his trading, He cannot even enjoy *them*.

18 "He will restore what he has attained from his work and won't consume it; he won't enjoy the profits from his business transactions,

18 That which he laboured for shall he restore, and shall not swallow it down: according to his substance shall the restitution be, and he shall not rejoice therein.

19 "For he has oppressed *and* neglected the poor; He has seized a house which he has not built.

19 "For he has oppressed *and* forsaken the poor; He has seized a house which he has not built.

19 because he has crushed and abandoned the poor; he has seized a house that he didn't build.

19 Because he hath oppressed and hath forsaken the poor; because he hath violently taken away an house which he builded not;

(iv) The sudden anger of God will overtake the wicked rich (20:20-29)

20 "Because he knew no quiet within him, He does not retain anything he desires.

20 "Because he knew no quiet within him, He does not retain anything he desires.

20 "Since his appetite won't quit; he won't let anything escape his lust.

20 Surely he shall not feel quietness in his belly, he shall not save of that which he desired.

21 "Nothing remains for him to devour, Therefore his prosperity does not endure.

21 "Nothing remains for him to devour, Therefore his prosperity does not endure.

21 Because nothing was left for him to devour, therefore his prosperity won't last.

21 There shall none of his meat be left; therefore shall no man look for his goods.

22 "In the fullness of his excess he will be cramped; The hand of everyone who suffers will come *against* him.

22 "In the fullness of his plenty he will be cramped; The hand of everyone who suffers will come *against* him.

22 Even though he is satiated and self-sufficient, he suffers— everyone in any sort of trouble will attack him.

22 In the fulness of his sufficiency he shall be in straits: every hand of the wicked shall come upon him.

23 "When he fills his belly, God will send His fierce anger on him And rain *it* on him while he is eating.

23 "When he fills his belly, God will send His fierce anger on him And will rain *it* on him while he is eating.

23 "It will come about that, when he has filled himself to the full, God will vent his burning anger on him; he will pour it out on him and on his body.

23 When he is about to fill his belly, God shall cast the fury of his wrath upon him, and shall rain it upon him while he is eating.

24 "He may flee from the iron weapon, *But* the bronze bow will pierce him.

24 "He may flee from the iron weapon, *But* the bronze bow will pierce him.

24 Though he dodges an iron weapon, a bronze arrow will pierce him.

24 He shall flee from the iron weapon, and the bow of steel shall strike him through.

25 "It is drawn and comes out of his back, Even the flashing *point* from his gallbladder; Terrors come upon him,

25 "It is drawn forth and comes out of his back, Even the glittering point from his gall. Terrors come upon him,

25 It will impale him and come out through his back; the point will glisten as it protrudes through his gall bladder, and he will be terrified.

25 It is drawn, and cometh out of the body; yea, the glittering sword cometh out of his gall: terrors are upon him.

26 Complete darkness is held in reserve for his treasures, And unfanned fire will devour him; It will consume the survivor in his tent.

26 Complete darkness is held in reserve for his treasures, And unfanned fire will devour him; It will consume the survivor in his tent.

26 "Total darkness has been reserved for his treasures; a fire that has no need to be kindled will devour him and consume whatever remains in his possession.

26 All darkness shall be hid in his secret places: a fire not blown shall consume him; it shall go ill with him that is left in his tabernacle.

27 "The heavens will reveal his guilt, And the earth will rise up against him.

27 "The heavens will reveal his iniquity, And the earth will rise up against him.

27 Heaven will reveal his iniquity, while the earth will rise up against him.

27 The heaven shall reveal his iniquity; and the earth shall rise up against him.

28 "The increase of his house will disappear; *His possessions* will flow away on the day of His anger.

28 "The increase of his house will depart; *His possessions* will flow away in the day of His anger.

28 A flood will wash away his house; dragging it away when God becomes angry.

28 The increase of his house shall depart, and his goods shall flow away in the day of his wrath.

29 "This is a wicked person's portion from God, The inheritance decreed to him by God."

29 "This is the wicked man's portion from God, Even the heritage decreed to him by God."

29 This is what the wicked person inherits from God; it is the inheritance that God appoints for him."

29 This is the portion of a wicked man from God, and the heritage appointed unto him by God.