

Job 23 - Job Responds to Eliphaz

II. Dialogue (Job 3:1–42:6)

(4) Third dialogue cycle (Job 22:1–31:40)

(A) Job's exchange with Eliphaz (Job 22:1–24:24)

(b) Job 's reply (Job 23:1–24:25)

- (i) Job longs for an opportunity to be heard in God's courtroom so his innocence can be established (23:1-7)
- (ii) Job reiterates his righteousness (23:8-12)
- (iii) Although awestruck by God Job would not hold back his case from him (23:13-17)

Job 23

(b) Job 's reply (Job 23:1–24:25)

- (i) Job longs for an opportunity to be heard in God's courtroom so his innocence can be established (23:1-7)

1 Then Job responded,

1 Then Job replied,

1 Job's response was to say:

1 Then Job answered and said,

2 "Even today my complaint is rebellion; His hand is heavy despite my groaning.

2 "Even today my complaint is rebellion; His hand is heavy despite my groaning.

2 "I'm still complaining bitterly today; my hand is heavy because of groaning.

2 Even to day is my complaint bitter: my stroke is heavier than my groaning.

3 "Oh that I knew how to find Him, That I might come to His home!

3 "Oh that I knew where I might find Him, That I might come to His seat!

3 If only I knew where to find him, I would visit him where he has taken his seat.

3 Oh that I knew where I might find him! that I might come even to his seat!

4 "I would present *my* case before Him And fill my mouth with arguments.

4 "I would present *my* case before Him And fill my mouth with arguments.

4 I would lay out my case before him; and fill my mouth with arguments.

4 I would order my cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments.

5 "I would learn the words *which* He would answer, And perceive what He would tell me.
5 "I would learn the words *which* He would answer, And perceive what He would say to me.
5 I know how he would answer me; I understand what he'll tell me.
5 I would know the words which he would answer me, and understand what he would say unto me.

6 "Would He contend with me by the greatness of *His* power? No, surely He would pay attention to me.

6 "Would He contend with me by the greatness of *His* power? No, surely He would pay attention to me.

6 "Would he use his great power to fight me? No, he'll pay attention to me.

6 Will he plead against me with his great power? No; but he would put strength in me.

7 "There the upright would argue with Him; And I would be free of my Judge forever.

7 "There the upright would reason with Him; And I would be delivered forever from my Judge.

7 In that place, the upright can reason with him; and I'll be acquitted once and for all by my judge."

7 There the righteous might dispute with him; so should I be delivered for ever from my judge.

(ii) Job reiterates his righteousness (23:8-12)

8 "Behold, I go forward but He is not *there*, And backward, but I cannot perceive Him;

8 "Behold, I go forward but He is not *there*, And backward, but I cannot perceive Him;

8 "Look! If I go east, he isn't there! If I go to the west, I don't perceive him.

8 Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him:

9 When He acts on the left, I cannot see *Him*; He turns to the right, but I cannot see Him.

9 When He acts on the left, I cannot behold *Him*; He turns on the right, I cannot see Him.

9 If he's working in the north, I can't observe him; If he turns south, I can't see him.

9 On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him:

10 "But He knows the way I take; When He has put me to the test, I will come out as gold.

10 "But He knows the way I take; When He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

10 Because he knows the road on which I travel, when he had tested me, I'll come out like gold.

10 But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

11 "My foot has held on to His path; I have kept His way and not turned aside.
11 "My foot has held fast to His path; I have kept His way and not turned aside.
11 My feet stay where his footsteps lead; I kept on his pathway and haven't turned aside.
11 My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined.

12 "I have not failed the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.
12 "I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.
12 I haven't wandered away from the commands that he has spoken; I've treasured what he has said more than my own meals."
12 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

(iii) Although awestruck by God Job would not hold back his case from him (23:13-17)

13 "But He is unique, and who can make Him turn? *Whatever His soul desires, He does it.*
13 "But He is unique and who can turn Him? And *what His soul desires, that He does.*
13 "But he is One—who can change him? He does whatever he wants to do.
13 But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? and *what his soul desireth, even that he doeth.*

14 "For He carries out what is destined for me, And many such *destinies* are with Him.
14 "For He performs what is appointed for me, And many such *decrees* are with Him.
14 He'll complete what he has planned for me; he has many things in mind for me!
14 For he performeth the thing that is appointed for me: and many such things are with him.

15 "Therefore, I would be terrified at His presence; *When I consider this, I am frightened of Him.*
15 "Therefore, I would be dismayed at His presence; *When I consider, I am terrified of Him.*
15 That's why I'm terrified at his presence! When I think about it, I'm afraid of him.
15 Therefore am I troubled at his presence: when I consider, I am afraid of him.

16 "*It is God who has made my heart faint, And the Almighty who has terrified me,*
16 "*It is God who has made my heart faint, And the Almighty who has dismayed me,*
16 God has caused me to faint; the Almighty makes me terrified!

16 For God maketh my heart soft, and the Almighty troubleth me:

17 But I am not destroyed by darkness, Nor by deep gloom *which* covers me.

17 But I am not silenced by the darkness, Nor deep gloom *which* covers me.

17 Nevertheless, I haven't been silenced because of the darkness, even when thick darkness obscures my vision."

17 Because I was not cut off before the darkness, neither hath he covered the darkness from my face.