

# 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.