

Chapter 22

22:1

Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said: Rotation 3, friend 1.

22:2-3

“Can a man be profitable to God, Though he who is wise may be profitable to himself? 3 Is it any pleasure to the Almighty that you are righteous? Is Eliphaz right here to insinuate that God is impassible (unable to be affected emotionally by the actions of men)? Or is it gain to Him that you make your ways blameless?”

22:4-5

5 Is not your wickedness great, And your iniquity without end? “I think you could make anybody look good, Job.”

22:7

You have not given the weary water to drink, And you have withheld bread from the hungry. Again, he’s looking at the current condition of Job and reverse engineering his lifestyle and dealings with the less fortunate. Eliphaz is not “a perfect and upright man, one that feared God and eschewed evil,” and so only Job has been equipped for this judgmental group of friends...and that after his difficult days. Job had particular grace to be...Job. Reader, the reason I don’t have your burden is because I can’t handle it.

22:12-14

“Is not God in the height of heaven? And see the highest stars, how lofty they are! 13 And you say, ‘What does God know? Can He judge through the deep darkness? 14 Thick clouds cover Him, so that He cannot see, And He walks above the circle of heaven.’ Clouds and stars and horizons or circuits...these men knew nature.

Chapter 23-24

23:1-4

4 I would present my case before Him, And fill my mouth with arguments. “God would hear my case” in answer to 22:3.

23:5-11

I would know the words which He would answer me, And understand what He would say to me. Job says he would like to know the plan of God (what he would like to know is 23:6-9), but the comforting thought to Job is that “God knows” (23:10).

7 There the upright could reason with Him, And I would be delivered forever from my Judge. This seems in answer to Eliphaz’s words in 22:3-4.

10 But He knows the way that I take; “He knows where I am,” and this is a reply to God’s impassibility and ultra transcendence posed by Eliphaz (22:3). **When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.** Eliphaz tries to entice Job with empty promises concerning gold (22:24) with a belief that he’ll be golden rather than “have gold.” It really seems like 1 Peter 1:7-10 are commentaries on Job 23:10—understanding that Job was ultimately fulfilled in Jesus. Peter was a student of the Old Testament (as were Paul and James). Incidentally, between 1 Peter 1:10 and James 5:10, we find two statements of faith that Job is a prophet. We are also told by Peter that the Spirit of Christ actually abode on Job (1 Peter 1:11). Why did the Spirit of Christ rest on Job? 1 Peter 4:12 says it is because he was a “partaker of Christ’s sufferings.” He furthermore, testified (Job did) of the “sufferings of Christ” and the “glory that should follow” (1 Peter 1:10-11). When we suffer as a Christian, we are a partaker of His suffering, and we testify of the Gospel...and the glory that follows. Nobody should read 1 Peter 1:7 and 4:10 without a backdrop of this 23rd chapter of Job.

11 My foot has held fast to His steps; I have kept His way and not turned aside. “I’ll be ‘golden’ because I have been a man of integrity.” How precious for believers to say “I am doing what I know I’m supposed to be doing.”

23:12-14

12 I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; This is probably a retort to Eliphaz’s counsel in 22:22. **I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food.** Job wants to hear from God more than anything else...even his “daily necessity” or “innermost need.” He furthermore states that he knows a heavenly frame of mind is more important than having what he would like. Even more, “hearing His voice” is more important than knowing God’s plans (23:10).

14 For He performs what is appointed same Hebrew word as “necessary” in verse 12. In other words, Job need not worry about his “daily necessity” or “innermost need” because God will perform it.

23:15-16

16 For God made my heart weak, And the Almighty terrifies me; Job expresses fear. A real uncertainty pervades his mind.