

Message #21**Job 19:1-29**

There is an interesting phenomenon that shows up many times in the Bible, especially in a book like Psalms. A man like David will be praying to God concerning terrible circumstances and then all of a sudden seem to realize God is going to answer and deliver him even before He has done it (i.e. Psalms 13). When people are right with God, they seem to have a sense that eventually God is going to step in and set the record straight.

Job was surrounded by hostile and hateful forces who were speaking out against him. Job was a man who was hurting and a man who was threatened, and in many ways a man who was alone. But deep inside, he had a sense about him that God would set this record straight.

WHEN A RIGHTEOUS PERSON IS HURTING AND BEING FALSELY ACCUSED, GOD WILL GIVE THAT PERSON A SENSE THAT HE WILL EVENTUALLY COME TO HIS RESCUE AND PUNISH THOSE WHO HAVE DONE EVIL AGAINST HIM.

Job had just listened to the most insulting critique of his situation from the lips of Bildad and he decided to respond. There are eight responses to what Bildad said:

RESPONSE #1 – Job responds by stating the negative things his friends had done. **19:1-6**

Keep in mind every one of Job’s friends were doing what they were doing in the “name of God.” They all claimed they were right with God and they all claimed they were giving him a message from God. But what they thought and said they were doing and what in God’s view they were actually doing were far apart. They were not being led to communicate the will of God; they were doing negative things for which God would hold them accountable. Just because one says “God is leading me to say this,” does not mean He really is.

Negative #1 - They were continuing to torment Job. **19:2a**

Twice Bildad began his speeches “How long” (8:2; 18:2); Job throws the question back at him. To torment or afflict someone means to torment them to the point they are grieved and sad.

Negative #2 - They were verbally crushing Job. **19:2b**

The Hebrew indicates that Job was broken and crushed into little pieces. His spirit was crushed by what these men were saying (Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 198).

Negative #3 - They were continually insulting Job. **19:3a**

Ten times refers to multiple times and multiple insults. These friends hit Job with one verbal assault after another. They would not shut their evil mouths.

Negative #4 - They were not ashamed to wrong Job. **19:3b**

These self-proclaimed spiritual giants had no sense of shame when they were doing wrong. The word “wrong” indicates they were saying things that were shameful and stunning. Job was shocked by what they said about him (Gesenius, p. 223).

Negative #5 - They were playing God with Job. **19:4-5**

Job says even if there were any hint of truth to your charge that I have sinned (which there wasn't), Job said my problem is my problem. Job says in **verse 5**, even if you could prove I have done something wrong (which you cannot), you still have no business coming to me in vaunting arrogance and insulting me.

Job never asked these guys to come to him and give him their assessment. In fact, they were actually playing God, a role they were in no position to play (**19:22**). By the way, who was it that was pushing them to talk like that to Job? Who was behind these insults? Satan. Satan was still trying to get Job to curse God.

Negative #6 - They did not know what God was doing to Job. **19:6**

These guys had no clue as to what God was really doing. Job knew that God had sovereignly done all of this. Job is telling these men that he was not responsible for the negatives, God was responsible. Job had not closed the net around himself, God had done it. The word “net” is different from the six words Bildad used (18:8-10); this was a hunters net into which you drove animals.

Now before we move on let us remember that these friends pretended to be men who loved God and loved Job. These were very pious and religious men, but they were agents of Satan and God would hold them accountable for the way they demeaned Job.

When you are under attack, people who profess to really love God and love you will come to you and say things which are at times very negative and very hurtful. There will be people who are arrogant and obnoxious and they will say things that will rip your heart out. You stay faithful to God, you stand your ground and know that what they are saying is satanic and God will hold them accountable.

RESPONSE #2 – Job cries out to God and describes what God was doing. **19:7-13**

Notice the repetition of the pronoun “He.” Job believes everything is from God—yet he does not curse God. Job was crying out to God because of all the negative things that were happening to him. He was asking God for help and justice. Job had been wronged terribly and he held on to his concept of the sovereignty of God. He describes here what God was sovereignly doing. Most of Job's description is accurate.

Description #1 - God was not yet answering his prayer. **19:7**

Terrible wrongs were happening to Job and Job was not getting answers.

Description #2 - God was not yet allowing Job to get out of his dark situation. **19:8**

There was no way for Job to get humanly out of this situation. All possible routes of human escape were blocked.

Description #3 - God was allowing Job to be stripped of his honor. **19:9**

Job's dignity and honor were gone. We cannot help but look at this and see the Lord Jesus.

Description #4 - God was allowing Job to be broken and uprooted. **19:10**

Job's whole world had been uprooted. His whole world had caved in.

Description #5 - God was angry with Job and treating him as an enemy. **19:11**

Here is where Job makes a miscalculation. Job doesn't realize that the attack is due to his faithfulness and God's high esteem of him.

But again, we cannot help but think of Jesus Christ who was hanging on the cross and the very moment that He bore our sin and took God's wrath. In that moment, God had to turn his back on His own Son.

Description #6 - God was allowing Job to be surrounded by enemies. **19:12**

God had permitted Job to be surrounded by all kinds of enemies, one after another, including his so-called friends.

Description #7 - God had caused those closest to Job to turn against Job. **19:13**

There is nothing so terrible as when a human believes that he has been abandoned by God and man.

The fact is, God had permitted these things to hit Job, but what Job didn't know is that these things were a direct attack of Satan.

Don't miss this point. Satan can work through people whom you thought were your friends. He can get them to turn against you. They can surround you and say degrading, demeaning and crushing things to you. When those kinds of things happen, take comfort in knowing that God is watching, God is listening, God is protecting and God will settle the score.

RESPONSE #3 – Job assesses what his family and close friends were doing to Job. **19:14-19**

This assessment of what those close to Job had done to Job is pathetic. There are eight assessments Job presents:

Assessment #1 - Job's relatives failed Job. **19:14a**

The word “fail” means to fail in the sense of forsaking, leaving or abandoning a person in a time of need (*Ibid.*, p. 261).

Assessment #2 - Job's close friends had forgotten Job. **19:14b**

The word “forgotten” means to forget what a good, godly friend he had been (*Ibid.*, p. 261).

Assessment #3 - Job's employees, whom he supported, acted like they didn't know Job. **19:15**

Many of Job's employees had been killed, but some who had worked for Job had survived. We know Job's wife survived and also some who worked in Job's house had survived. Job had employed these people and taken care of these people and they were now treating him like they didn't even know him.

Assessment #4 - Job's employees would not respond to Job. **19:16**

Job apparently called out for help to a servant who worked for him and he wouldn't even respond.

Assessment #5 - Job's wife abandoned him. **19:17a**

Job's own wife had abandoned Job in front of everyone. Job's wife knew this was a righteous and powerful man of God. She knew it. She knew that her husband was not involved in some evil, secret sin and yet she would not support Job.

Assessment #6 - Job's brothers abandoned Job. **19:17b**

Job's own brothers viewed Job as being cursed by God.

Assessment #7 - Young children had been taught to despise and speak against Job. **19:18**

The parents even influenced the children to mock Job and speak against Job. This is serious business because God does not appreciate loud-mouthed children who mock and ridicule a faithful man of God. This kind of thing will bring the wrath of God down (II Kings 2:23-24; II Chron. 36:16).

Assessment #8 - All the people Job loved, hated Job and turned against Job. **19:19**

What a lonely existence. All Job had to cling to was God and God would prove to be enough. If you are faithful to God, there will be times when you will stand for what is right and true and you will stand alone.

Even those you thought were your closest friends may not understand you, they may not rally around you, they forget all you have done and they may actually turn against you. It happened to Jesus when all fled from Him the night He was betrayed. It happened to Paul when he said all had forsaken him except Luke, and it can happen to us.

In those moments it is good to remember that God is on your side and if God is on your side, He is all you need to eventually be delivered.

RESPONSE #4 – Job describes his physical condition. **19:20**

Job had no strength within himself and he was barely hanging on to life. There was no medical treatment or medication that could help him. He was an emaciated skeleton, but he knew that he was still clinging on to life by the sovereignty of God.

RESPONSE #5 – Job appeals to his friends to help him. **19:21-22**

Job asks his friends to start pitying him and stop persecuting him. Job wanted these men to realize that God had done this and Job had not done anything to bring this on. These men did not need to play God when God had already hit him and struck him with terrible things.

Samuel Cox said this was a tender and moving appeal that Job gave to his friends, but their hard Pharisaic faces were unmoved by it. These guys continued to think they were on some mission for God (*Job*, p. 240).

RESPONSE #6 – Job wanted his words written. **19:23-24**

Job wanted his words recorded that he continued to declare his innocence. Job had done nothing to deserve this and he wanted his testimony written down. He was innocent and he wanted it recorded.

By the way, he will get his wish. Not only will his words be written, but so will the corrupt words of Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar. When God says he has a record of every idle word, this book of Job proves this is literally true.

RESPONSE #7 – Job knew about his Redeemer. **19:25-27**

As low as Job was, here is, as Roy Zuck said, “a magnificent burst of faith” (*Job*, pg. 88).

Notice how **verse 25** begins, Job says “I know” with an absolute certainty of knowledge. Job knew he had a living Redeemer. This living Person was both his Redeemer and Avenger. Job knew that this Redeemer would someday reign on this earth and he knew that if he died, he would see his Redeemer. Job would proclaim his innocence until the moment he saw his Redeemer.

Notice carefully Job classifies his Redeemer as God (19:26). This Redeemer is none other than Jesus Christ. Job’s confidence was in his Redeemer and he knew that his Redeemer would vindicate Job. Job expected to see his Redeemer. When? Look carefully at **verse 26**, when he left his flesh body.

Now if you remember, it is most probable that Job is the first book chronologically written and this first book of the Bible is one that focuses on a Divine Redeemer. All of the Bible testifies of this Divine Redeemer because all of the Bible testifies of Jesus Christ.

RESPONSE #8 – Job knew about the future judgment of his mouthy friends. **19:28-29**

Job knew that if his friends were saying negative things against him, which they could not prove, they were heading to severe judgment. Job knew that God was listening to everything these people were saying and he also knew what they were saying was not true.

When you are right with God, you will have a God-given sense that He will settle the score. No matter what the opposition or trouble, we can wait on Him, knowing God will intervene on our behalf.

PRACTICAL LESSONS:

- 1. Arrogant people who claim to be right with God who verbally demolish you are being led by Satan.**
- 2. When Satan is at work, people you thought were your friends can and will turn against you.**
- 3. There will come a day of accountability for things people have said.**
- 4. We do have a wonderful Redeemer who watches over us, protects us and will save us.**