

## Chapter 11

### 11:1-2

**Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said: 2 “Should not the multitude of words be answered? And should a man full of talk be vindicated?”** “Will you ever quit talking?” 13:4 gives Job’s opinion of them. Zophar is using Job’s own words in 9:1-4 concerning God’s wisdom and justice and here Zophar uses it to ask Job about his so-called **vindication**.

### 11:6-9

**That He would show you the secrets or “limit” of wisdom! For they would double your prudence. Know therefore that God exacts from you Less than your iniquity deserves.** “You’re not even getting what you’ve got coming.” It’s almost like they were saying “it could be harder.”

**7 “Can you search out the deep things of God?”** His secret wisdom (11:6). Of course the answer seems as absent as the question to 9:1 is. Both of these questions are found in the New Testament. Just as 9:1 is given in Romans 5:1, so also this question of God’s unsearchable wisdom is found in 1 Corinthians 1:18-30. We find that Christ—particularly His crucifixion (1:22-23)—is the end of the search for “unsearchable wisdom.”

Amazingly, this theme is carried through 1 Corinthians 2:1-2 where Paul is enamored with Job’s wisdom about “wisdom.” Remember, the only time Job is quoted in the N.T. is in 1 Corinthians 3:19 (quoting Job 5:13). We are not, then, surprised that Paul references “princes of this world” (1 Corinthians 2:8) in view of these “princes” sitting around Job. Both parties were unaware that Job and Jesus were innocent of so-called judgment brought on from their sin.

1 Corinthians 3:19 speaks of the wisdom of God still...and it is the only place Paul quotes Job. Paul knew much about the “wisdom literature” of Job.

So, concerning the “limits of God’s wisdom” (Job 11:6), 1 Corinthians 2:9-11 says the “the Spirit searches out” these limits (2:10) and shares it with those who “love God” (2:9). The wisdom of God (“Christ crucified”, 1:23) was revealed by the Spirit (2:10) to the one who loves God (2:9). Dead people do not make themselves love God and, thus, do not show themselves anything.

The answer, then, to Zophar’s question, is “No, I cannot search out the limits of God’s wisdom...but the Holy Spirit can. The “limits of God” can be seen in God stretching out His Son on the cross and His cross asking for the forgiveness for those human beings that nailed Him there. The limits of God can be in a patient Christ Who dealt with the reality of an awful sacrifice He must make. There is an extraordinary explanation of God’s wrath and glory and love in Hebrews 2:10: “glory.” It is interesting, furthermore, to note that things that surround Calvary have limits: “cup” has circumference; “three hours” have an end, and so on...

**Can you find out the limits of the Almighty? 8 They are higher than heaven—what can you do? Deeper than <sup>4</sup>Sheol—what can you know? 9 Their measure is longer than the earth And broader than the sea.** Paul is clearly influenced in Ephesians. Ephesians 3:17-18 show these same four dimensions: height (Job 11:8); depth (Job 11:8); length (Job 11:9); breadth (Job 11:9). Paul says these difficult questions of Zophar are found in the loving heart of God.

### 11:10

**“If He passes by, imprisons, and gathers to judgment, Then who can hinder Him?”** Job begins with His wisdom (9:3) and speaks of the limitlessness of God (9:11). Zophar is telling Job nothing he doesn’t know.

In 12:1, Job basically tells these folks, “wow! You’re so smart as wisdom dies with you.” He furthermore says in 12:10 and following Job agrees with Zophar about the unsearchable wisdom of God. There is no argument here.

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<sup>4</sup> The abode of the dead