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Survey of Job

by
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Survey of Job

**A study of the book of Job for
Small Group or Personal Bible Study**

Survey of Job

Small Group or Personal Study Course

Introduction

This is a small group Bible study course to help you grow in your understanding of the book of Job. This study will be most effective as you get together with a small group to share the answers that each of you has written in your personal study. This can also be used as a personal study course to help you grow in your understanding of the book of Job. This course is designed to help you grow in three ways. Throughout the course you will read a paragraph to help you grow in your knowledge of the verses that you will be reading. After each paragraph you will usually have three questions. These three questions will focus on three things: Knowledge, Understanding and Application.

The first question will ask you to find the answer to some question in the verses that you are reading. This question is to help you pick out a key fact in those verses to help you grow in your knowledge of those verses. The answer to this question will usually be found in the verses as you read them.

The second question will ask you a question that will help you to think through the verses to understand the meaning of the group of verses being discussed. As you read this question, pray that the Lord will give you understanding of the passage as well as knowledge of the facts.

The third question will ask you a question that will help you to apply what you have learned from those verses both to your own life and to your service for Christ. It is as we understand and apply the Scripture to our lives that the Lord really begins to change and transform our lives.

At the end of each lesson there will be an opportunity to write down something that you have learned for your own life through the study of those verses. Our prayer is that as you work through these lessons that three things will happen in your life:

1. First, you will grow in your knowledge of the Bible.
2. Second, you will grow in your understanding of the verses that you have studied.
3. Third, you will learn how to apply the Word of God to your life.

The basic material in each of these lessons was originally written in one of six Bible Survey texts written between 1969 and 1974 that covered the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We are making this material available in this new form to help you grow in your knowledge, understanding and application of the Bible to your life. The Lord willing, we will continue to make other books available as we have time to prepare them in this new form.

May the Lord bless you as you learn His Word.

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Survey of Job
Lesson #1
Job 1:1-2:13

Many Christians wonder why they are allowed to suffer. As we study the book of Job, we will learn many lessons about suffering. We will also learn many lessons about the way that Satan works. In our lesson today we will learn about the efforts of Satan to destroy the faith of Job. As we study the book of Job, we will see that Job gives us many examples of the reasons why we need to have a strong faith in the Lord. When our dependence is on the Lord, we will have the strength that the Lord provides to help us have victory over the tests that Satan brings into our lives to discourage us.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why God allows Satan to test us.
- Explain how Satan tried to destroy the faith of Job.
- Explain what Job did when his health was destroyed.
- Explain what Job said when his wife turned against him.

It is probable that the book of Job was the very first book of the Bible that was written and that the events that happened in this book happened prior to the development of the nation of Israel. Job was a man that had a great love for God. He was a person that loved what was right and hated what was evil. God had also blessed Job with many earthly blessings. He had seven sons and three daughters. In addition, Job also had large flocks of animals. In fact Job was described as the greatest of all of the men of the east. Everyone recognized that Job was a man of great riches and wealth. However, the riches and wealth were not the center of his life as we will see in the chapters that we will be studying today.

1. Read Job 1:1-12 and write what the sons of Job did each day.
2. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to follow the example of Job and love what is right and hate what is evil.
3. Explain why you think that it is important for us to develop a great love for the Lord in our own lives.

The seven sons of Job would each take a turn having a feast. The other sons as well as the three daughters were invited to these feasts. Because Job was very concerned about the spiritual condition of his children, he would offer sacrifices for them each day. Here, we see a real example of the concern that parents should have for the spiritual condition of their children. When parents have a real concern for the spiritual condition and development of their children, the family will usually be centered in Christ. Meanwhile there were things happening in other places about which Job had no knowledge. One day, the angels came to present themselves to God.

4. Read Job 1:1-12 and write who came with these angels when they presented themselves before God.
5. Explain why it is very important for all Christian parents to be concerned about the spiritual condition of their children.
6. Explain why you think that Job offered sacrifices for his children and prayed to the Lord for them every day.

God asked Satan where he had been traveling recently. Satan replied that he had been traveling in various parts of the earth. Then, God asked Satan if he had noticed the tremendous life of Job. God reminded Satan that Job was a man that feared God. He loved what was right and hated what was evil. Satan immediately replied that Job loved God because God had blessed

him with great riches. Satan thought that Job worshiped God because of the fact that God had given him great possessions. Here, we see that Satan does not understand the meaning of true worship.

7. Read Job 1:1-12 and write what Satan said would cause Job to curse God.

8. Explain why it was impossible for Satan to understand why Job loved and worshiped the Lord.

9. Explain why you think that Satan thought that Job served the Lord because the Lord had given Job riches.

Suddenly, the Lord shocked Satan. God told Satan that he could destroy all of the possessions of Job. The only thing that Satan could not touch was Job. Here, we see that God allows Satan to test Christians for a purpose. The purpose of testing is to show that our dependence is on the Lord and not on the things that God has given us. The tests that we receive are a testimony to Satan as well as to all those who are not Christians. Each time God allows a test to happen in our lives God allows Satan to bring that test to show Satan that our faith is genuine. An important thing to notice is that Satan cannot do evil to a Christian unless God allows that testing because God knows that He will turn that testing around for our good.

10. Read Job 1:1-12 and write what Satan said that Job would do if all of the things that he had were destroyed.

11. Explain why God allows Satan to test Christians.

12. Explain why you think that God allows Satan to bring tests into your own life.

Satan was eager to test Job and so he immediately left the presence of the Lord. Then, Satan developed his plan to try and destroy the faith of Job. He waited until the right day came when all of the circumstances fit his plan. All of the children of Job were gathered together at the house of the oldest son of Job. There they were enjoying a feast together. That provided Satan with the opportunity to begin to carry out his plan. Suddenly, one of the servants of Job came running to him to tell him that all of his servants that cared for his oxen and asses had been killed and the animals had all been captured.

13. Read Job 1:13-22 and write what group of people had killed the servants and stolen the animals.

14. Explain why Satan began looking for what he thought was the perfect time to test Job by destroying all that God had given him.

15. Explain why you think that Satan is continually looking for ways to try to destroy the faith of those who are following the Lord.

While the first messenger was talking to Job, other messengers also began to arrive. Each of these messengers came with terrible news about the destruction of part of what had belonged to Job. Within a few minutes Job learned that all of his possessions had been destroyed. Another servant came and told Job that all of his children had been killed when a strong wind destroyed the house in which they were having their feast. Satan was making every possible effort to destroy the faith of Job. Instead of being the richest man in the east, Job suddenly had nothing.

16. Read Job 1:13-22 and write what Job did when he heard what had happened to his children and his possessions.

17. Explain what Job probably felt when he heard within a few minutes that everything that he owned had been destroyed.

18. Explain why you think that Satan thought that Job would lose his faith if his possessions and family were destroyed.

We read that instead of blaming God that Job chose to worship God. He realized that everything that he had lost belonged to God. It was the right of God to take all of those things away because He was the One that had given all of those things to Job in the first place. Today, many Christians are tempted to blame God when something happens to their possessions or to

their family. However, we have no right to blame God. Instead, we need to learn to thank God for all things including those things that bring us sorrow. Even in times of great sorrow we can experience the joy of the Lord as we learn to thank God in all situations and for all things.

19. Read Job 1:13-22 and write what Job said as he worshiped God after he had just heard that everything that he had possessed had been destroyed.

20. Explain why Christians should thank God in all situations and for all things.

21. Explain why you think that it is important for you in your own life to choose to worship God even though you may experience the loss of many things.

Satan had destroyed the family and the possessions of Job. However Satan had not been able to destroy the faith of Job. One day, the angels came again to present themselves to the Lord. Again Satan came with the angels. The Lord asked Satan where he had been. Satan replied that he had been walking from place to place around the earth. Then, the Lord asked Satan if he had noticed what had happened to Job since God had allowed Satan to destroy the family and possessions of Job. Here, we see that God was reminding Satan that Job had a genuine faith.

22. Read Job 2:1-8 and write what God said Job was still doing even though Satan had destroyed his family and his possessions.

23. Explain why God chose to remind Satan of the fact that Job continued to show a genuine faith even though Satan had destroyed all that he possessed.

24. Explain why you think that God wanted Satan to realize that the faith of Job was not based on the way that the Lord had blessed Job.

Satan had brought great suffering to the life of Job. However, Job had remained strong in his faith to the Lord. Satan still thought that he could destroy the faith of Job. Satan said that Job had kept his faith in God because God had not allowed Satan to touch the body of Job. Satan said that Job would curse God if Job was forced to suffer physically. Here, we see that Satan thought that faith depended on feelings. Today, Satan is still trying to get people to base their faith on feelings. However, true faith is not based on feelings. Instead, true faith is based on the promises of God. We have those promises contained in His Word that He has given us. When our faith is based on the Word of God, there is nothing that Satan can do to destroy our faith.

25. Read Job 2:1-8 and write how the Lord answered Satan this time.

26. Explain why Satan thought that the faith of Job would be destroyed if Job experienced a time of suffering.

27. Explain why you realize that it is important to base your faith on the promises of God and not on your present feelings.

The Lord wanted to show Satan that true faith is not based on feelings. As a result, the Lord allowed Satan to touch the body of Job. Satan caused the entire body of Job to become covered with boils. Even the bottoms of his feet were covered with boils. Every movement of Job was very painful. However, Job did not blame God for his pain and suffering. Today, there are many people that are basing their faith on their feelings instead of basing their faith on the Word of God. Then, when problems come in their lives, they blame God because they do not have a true and genuine faith.

28. Read Job 2:1-8 and write what Job did after his body had become covered with boils.

29. Explain why it is important to make certain that our faith is not based on our feelings.

30. Explain why you think that people that depend on their feelings and do not have true faith will quickly blame God when they begin to experience various kinds of problems.

Although the boils all over the body of Job were very painful, Satan had saved his worst forms of opposition for the last. When the wife of Job saw his painful condition, she came to Job and told him to curse God and die. Here, we see that the wife of Job turned against him right in the middle of his suffering. Instead of encouraging him to continue to have his faith in God, his

wife told him to curse God. One of Satan's favorite tricks has been to try to divide and destroy the family. Satan thought that the opposition of the wife of Job would certainly destroy the faith of Job and that he would turn from God instead of continuing to show true faith. Here, we also see that Satan cannot know how we will react to the things that he does to try and turn us from the Lord.

31. Read Job 2:9-13 and write how Job told his wife that she was speaking.

32. Explain why Satan thought that Job would turn from the Lord when his wife told him to curse God and die.

33. Explain why you think that Satan will always try to bring division and destroy the family.

Job realized the fact that a woman can be more easily deceived by her feelings. That was what had happened to Eve back in the Garden of Eden. That was also the reason why God gave man the responsibility for spiritual leadership in the home. Here, we see that Job fulfilled his responsibility as a spiritual leader. He encouraged his wife not to be deceived by her feelings. Then, he went on to give her some instructions about the plan of God for our lives. Just as we should thank God for the good things, we should also thank Him when things do not go according to our plans. Job continued to keep his faith in God so that he did not sin by speaking evil against God.

34. Read Job 2:9-13 and write how many friends came to visit Job.

35. Explain why Job said that it is important to continue to thank the Lord even when things do not go according to our plans.

36. Explain why you think that Job was willing to take the spiritual leadership in his family and help his wife to understand what God was allowing in his life.

Three of the friends of Job talked together and decided that they should come and comfort Job. However, we are going to see that the friends of Job did not actually comfort him. Instead, they took turns telling Job that his suffering was a result of hidden sin in his life. Today, there are many friends like the friends of Job. Instead of encouraging and comforting a Christian when that Christian is going through a difficult time, such people spend their time trying to find out what the other person has done wrong. Many times such people are trying to make themselves look better by showing the failures of others.

37. Read Job 2:9-13 and write what the three friends of Job did when they arrived to visit him in his suffering.

38. Explain why it is important to encourage our family and friends instead of condemning them when they are going through a difficult time in their lives.

39. Explain why you think that many people are like the friends of Job and immediately begin to accuse a person of sin when they have no idea if the person has sinned.

When the three friends of Job arrived, they did not even recognize him because his body was covered with so many boils. Then, they all cried and tore their clothes which was the custom of the day. The three men also sprinkled dust on their heads. Then, the three friends of Job sat down next to him. Instead of saying a word to Job to comfort and encourage him, the three friends of Job just sat and looked at him. They could see that Job was filled with sorrow. Many times just sitting with people during their times of sorrow can be a real comfort to them.

40. Read Job 2:9-13 and write how long the three friends of Job sat and looked at him without saying a word.

41. Explain why these three friends did several things to try and show Job that they felt sorrow for the way that he was suffering.

42. Explain how you think that Job felt after his friends had sat and looked at him for seven days without saying a word.

Now, reread Job 1:1-2:13 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Job
Lesson #2
Job 3:1-6:30

In our last lesson, we learned that three friends of Job came to visit him in his suffering. Instead of saying anything, they sat and looked at him for seven days and seven nights. Many times people can show their comfort to those who are in sorrow by just sitting with them. However, we are going to see that the friends did not provide comfort to Job. As we begin our lesson today, we see that Job finally broke the silence. After Job had spoken, Eliphaz decided to tell Job why he was suffering. Eliphaz began by saying that those who are innocent do not suffer. What Eliphaz was actually trying to do was to get Job to tell what kind of sin he had committed that caused him to experience this great suffering.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why Job said that he should not have been born.
- Tell about the night vision that Eliphaz said he saw.
- Explain what Eliphaz said about the faithfulness of God.
- Explain how Job answered the charges of Eliphaz.

We will see in chapter seven that Job had been suffering for several months by the time his three friends arrived. As a result, Job had become a little discouraged by the time his friends arrived. His friends increased this discouragement. They looked at Job for seven days without saying a word because it was common to spend that long in mourning and silence for a person that had died. Finally, Job broke the silence by saying that it was a terrible day on which he was conceived. It was a day of darkness. Because of the things that had happened to Job in his life over the previous several months, Job felt that it would have been better if he had not been conceived.

1. Read Job 3:1-26 and write when Job said that he should have died.
2. Explain why the fact that these three friends sat for seven days without saying a word to Job only added to his discouragement.
3. Explain why you think that Job felt by this time that it would have been better for him if he had not even been conceived.

Since Job had been conceived by his parents, he next questioned why he did not die on the day that he was born. Here, we see that Job was suffering from real discouragement and depression. Job felt that if he had died on the day of his birth that he would at least have been in the presence of kings and other leaders although he realized that he could not go directly to heaven yet. Here, we are reminded of the fact that the Old Testament saints could not go to heaven until Christ completed His victory over death by rising from the dead. Job felt that at least if he had died that he would now be experiencing rest instead of suffering.

4. Read Job 3:1-26 and write what Job said about the time that he should have died.
5. Explain why intense suffering will often cause even strong Christians to become discouraged.
6. Explain why you think that it is not necessarily sin for Christians to experience times of discouragement in their lives.

Here, we see that in his suffering that Job looked forward to death. In fact it sounds like death was the only thought in his mind. Today, we often meet people, particularly those who are growing older and experiencing suffering, that long for death to come. Such an attitude is an attitude for Christians to commit to the Lord because as Christians we are to realize that God is leaving us here on this earth to complete the ministry that He has given us. When we have

completed our ministry, God will take us home to heaven. This chapter also shows us that sickness and discouragement are often related. When Christians are sick or going through an intense time of suffering, they may become discouraged.

7. Read Job 3:1-26 and write what Job said about the thing that he greatly feared.

8. Explain why it is important to encourage those who are discouraged rather than try to blame them for being discouraged.

9. Explain why you think that it is important for us to realize that the Lord has a ministry for us as long as He leaves us on this earth.

Instead of offering encouragement to Job in his discouragement and depression, his friends did something very different. Job had shown great patience by watching his friends for seven days without saying a word. He recognized that they wanted to show their concern by being there. However, as soon as Job expressed words of discouragement, his friends began to condemn him. Here, we are going to see that the three friends destroyed any comfort that their presence might have given to Job. Eliphaz said that it was impossible to keep quiet any longer after the words of Job. Job had encouraged many other people during their times of discouragement. Now, he was the one that was discouraged and needed some encouragement.

10. Read Job 4:1-21 and write what Eliphaz told Job to remember.

11. Explain why the friends of Job should have offered encouragement to him since he had encouraged many others in their times of discouragement.

12. Explain why you think that many people choose to condemn others when they are going through times of discouragement rather than encourage them.

We will see that the friends of Job spoke for many chapters about the reason why they thought that Job was suffering. Eliphaz began by saying that everyone knows that those who are innocent do not suffer. He said that only those who do evil and sow wickedness suffer. Therefore, Job must have done something very terrible to receive this severe judgment. Eliphaz began with this theme and we will see that the other two friends continue to emphasize the same thing. Today, many people still associate suffering with evil. We will see as we go through the book of Job that this is human reasoning instead of the wisdom of God. In fact Job's friends continually came to the wrong conclusions because they followed their own wisdom instead of listening to God to learn from the wisdom of God.

13. Read Job 4:1-21 and write how Eliphaz received his information about the sinful condition of Job.

14. Explain why the thinking of Eliphaz that the innocent do not suffer shows that he had a wrong understanding of the cause of suffering.

15. Explain why you think that many people are like Eliphaz and think that a person that is suffering must have done something very evil.

Eliphaz goes on to describe what happened to him one night. He said that as he was sleeping that he was suddenly filled with fear. That fear was so great that his whole body began to shake. He felt a spirit pass in front of his face. This filled him with such great fear that his hair stood up. Then, this spirit stood still in front of Eliphaz. Here, we see the danger of human wisdom. When people begin to depend on human wisdom, they open themselves up to demonic influence. They are then deceived by a spirit of fear instead of being led by the Holy Spirit. This is the reason why many young people are returning to old religions or to the occult. Instead of seeing a messenger of God, Eliphaz saw a demon of Satan.

16. Read Job 4:1-21 and write what this demon asked Eliphaz according to the words that Eliphaz spoke to Job.

17. Explain why Eliphaz was so easily deceived by a spirit from Satan instead of realizing that fear has its source in Satan.

18. Explain why you think that many people open themselves up to demonic influence when they depend on human wisdom instead of godly wisdom.

Here, we are given a little picture of the demonic deception of Satan. II Corinthians 11:14 tells us that Satan comes as an angel of light. Here, we see that he was pretending to speak for God. Satan said that since God charged angels with sin that men certainly could not expect any less since they are made from the dust. As we read the words of Satan, the message certainly sounds similar to a message that many people would expect to hear from God. In the same way we have many people today that claim that they are receiving visions from God. Here, we see why it is important to stick to the Word of God rather than depending on the visions of men. People can easily be deceived by demonic influence when they follow their own visions and dreams.

19. Read Job 4:1-21 and write the two questions that Eliphaz asked Job about the relationship between mortal man and God.

20. Explain what you learn from these verses about some of the ways that Satan tries to deceive both Christians and non-Christians.

21. Explain why you think that Eliphaz felt so free to say that he spoke for God when he was really only giving his own opinions.

Eliphaz then went on to give his teaching based on his own experiences rather than seeking to know the will of God. Eliphaz said that he had watched many things grow. Those things never grew without roots. The only reason that Job could be receiving evil had to be due to the fact that he had planted evil. Eliphaz said that evil does not suddenly spring out of the ground by itself. Men do evil and sooner or later the sparks begin to fly up. Suddenly, Eliphaz told Job that he should follow the example of what Eliphaz would have done. Eliphaz says here that if he had been tempted as Job was tempted, he would have depended on the Lord instead of depending on his own strength. Here, we see that the words of Eliphaz were filled with pride.

22. Read Job 5:1-27 and write what kind of things Eliphaz said that God does.

23. Explain why many people base their teaching on their own experience rather than teaching what God says in His Word.

24. Explain why you think that Eliphaz was showing his own pride when he said that he would have depended on God if he had been tempted.

Even though Eliphaz was depending on his own wisdom and experiences in his life, he did understand many things about God. His words do give us a picture of the greatness of God. God is the One that sends the rain. God helps those who are in need and judges the proud. God destroys the plans of the crafty. As a result, Eliphaz told Job that he should be happy because he was being corrected by the Lord for his sin. Here, we see that Eliphaz spoke in such a way that it made it sound like he had a very close relationship with God and could understand the ways of God much better than Job. This attitude is common when people depend on their own wisdom.

25. Read Job 5:1-27 and write from how many troubles God will deliver man.

26. Explain why Eliphaz thought that he had a very close relationship with God and could understand the ways of God much better than Job.

27. Explain why you think that many people think that they are in close fellowship with God even when all they ever share is their own wisdom and experiences in life.

Eliphaz said that there were seven forms of evil from which the Lord was able to deliver Job. It is true that God is able to deliver people from seven forms of evil. However, it is not the complete truth because God is able to deliver people from all forms of evil. Here, we see that God records the limited understanding of man to help us realize our own limited understanding of the greatness of God. Eliphaz concluded his words by saying that Job would again enjoy the blessing of the Lord when he repented of his sins. This means that his conclusion was that Job was suffering because of sin in his life.

28. Read Job 5:1-27 and write what man Eliphaz said would be happy.

29. Explain why our teaching will be confusing if we base our teaching on our own experiences rather than basing our teaching on the Word of God.
30. Explain why you think the Eliphaz reached the conclusion that Job was actually suffering because of hidden sin in his life.

Job began his answer to the charge of Eliphaz by saying that his suffering was much greater than his friends could imagine. If suffering could be weighed, his suffering would be heavier than the sand of the sea. Job pointed out the fact that the suffering that God had allowed in his life had been very great. He made it clear that he was not complaining without any reason. He pointed out the fact that even animals do not complain unless their needs are not being met. Then, Job turned his plea to God and asked God to grant the request that he asked.

31. Read Job 6:1-30 and write what Job requested of God.
32. Explain why it is important for us to realize and understand that we may not really be able to understand the suffering that others are experiencing.
33. Explain why you think that Job was being ignored by Eliphaz when Job said that he was going through great suffering.

Job said that he did not need to fear death. In fact he would find comfort in death because he would be delivered from his pain. The reason that Job did not need to fear death was due to the fact that he had faithfully spoken the message of God. His hope was not in his own strength. Instead, his hope was in the Lord. Here, we have the reason why we do not need to be afraid of death when our trust is in the Lord. Because our trust is in the Lord, we do not need to depend on our own strength. Instead, we can trust in the strength of the Lord.

34. Read Job 6:1-30 and write how Job said that his friends had treated him.
35. Explain why Job was confident that he did not need to fear death even though he was going through a time of great suffering.
36. Explain why you think that we can trust in the strength that the Lord provides even when we go through times of suffering and face death.

Here, we see that Job began to talk about the attitude of his friends. Job was very disappointed with his friends. They were like a dry river. When people have been traveling a long distance, they eagerly look forward to reaching a river where they can refresh themselves. However, the friends of Job were like a dry river that provided no refreshment to a dry and tired traveler. The friends of Job were afraid to offer encouragement to Job because they were afraid that they might receive the same suffering as Job if they offered him their comfort or encouragement.

37. Read Job 6:1-30 and write for whom Job said that Eliphaz was digging a pit.
38. Explain why some people today are afraid to offer comfort and encouragement to the people that they see in need.
39. Explain why you think that Eliphaz chose not to try and give Job any comfort or encouragement.

We see that Job realized that his friends had a lack of understanding of the nature of God. The friends thought that they were on the side of God when they condemned their friend. Apparently these friends thought that God enjoyed condemning people. As a result, they thought that they could gain favor with God by condemning others. The friends of Job had decided that he was being judged because of great sin in his life. As a result, they had judged and condemned Job. Here, we see a complete lack in understanding of the nature of God. The Bible tells us that God is merciful. He is longsuffering. He does not want any to perish.

40. Read Job 6:1-30 and write what Job said that these three men were doing to a friend.
41. Explain why you think that many Christians think that they are doing the work of the Lord when they condemn others.
42. Explain why you think that the friends of Job felt that they were on the side of God when they condemned him.

Now, reread Job 3:1-6:30 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Job
Lesson #3
Job 7:1-10:22

As we studied the message of Eliphaz to Job, we saw that Eliphaz based his ideas on human experience. We saw the dangers of depending on human experience as we saw the way that the devil was able to deceive Eliphaz. Today, we will be studying the first message that Bildad had for Job. Bildad had a different source for his words. Bildad depended on human tradition rather than human experience as his source of knowledge. Many people today also choose human traditions as the source for their words because they think that those traditions were established by people that had great knowledge. As we study our lesson today, we will see that there will be great problems if we choose to depend on human tradition.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how Job concluded his answer to Eliphaz.
- Explain what Bildad said about tradition.
- Explain why Job said that mankind cannot be righteous before God.
- Explain why Job said that both the righteous and the wicked suffer.

As we finished chapter six, we saw that Job was answering the charge of Eliphaz. In chapter seven we will see that Job directs his thoughts to God. This is a pattern that we will see throughout the book of Job. First, Job answers the charges of his friends and then he directs his thoughts toward God. Since the friends of Job were not offering him any encouragement, Job knew that his strength must come from the Lord. Job goes on to compare his life to the life of a worker in a field. During the hot day, the servant eagerly waits for the cool shadows of the evening. Job was looking toward the time when he would be past the painful time that he was experiencing.

1. Read Job 7:1-21 and write the question that Job asked when he laid down to sleep at night.
2. Explain why it is important to look to the Lord for encouragement instead of trying to depend on the encouragement that people give from their human experiences.
3. Explain why you think that Job looked forward to the time when he would be past the painful time that he was experiencing.

Here, we see the feelings that Job was experiencing in his suffering. During the day, he eagerly waited for the evening. At night he eagerly waited for the morning. Day or night he could not find relief from his pain. At night Job would just toss and turn until the morning came. He had open sores on his body that produced a terrible smell. Days came and days went. None of the days brought him additional help from the suffering and pain that he was experiencing. Job realized that his life was like a breath of air. He realized that he could be here one moment and his life could be taken the next. Once the time of death came, Job knew that he would not return from the grave.

4. Read Job 7:1-21 and write what will not know a person any more once that person dies.
5. Explain why Job waited eagerly for the night during the day and for the day during the night.
6. Explain why you think that human suffering is an experience that even most Christians find difficult to handle.

Here, Job points out the fact that once a person dies that he will not return to his home on this earth any more. Man will either be with the Lord or he will face judgment when his life on this earth comes to an end. Job also pointed out the fact that unless God showed pity to him soon, it would be too late to show pity to him on this earth. At that time it seemed to Job that he was constantly being watched like a sea monster that was about to do evil. He had thought that he

could find comfort when he went to sleep. Instead, it seemed that the night was also a time of fear.

7. Read Job 7:1-21 and what scared Job when he went to sleep.

8. Explain why Job seemed to become more and more discouraged as the suffering continued to last day after day.

9. Explain why you think that it is often hard for a person that is experiencing suffering to try and understand why the suffering is happening.

Job was experiencing great pain during the day. Things were no better at night because he experienced bad dreams at night as Satan continued his efforts to break the faith of Job. This was the reason why Job felt that he would rather die. It seemed to Job that he was being tested at every moment. In fact the testing seemed so bad that he felt like God was not even giving him time to swallow his spittle. Job had just heard his friend say that his terrible punishment was due to his sin. As a result, Job asked the Lord to forgive his sin if that was really the reason for his suffering. By the way that Job makes this statement, we see that Job realized that his suffering was not the result of sin.

10. Read Job 7:1-21 and write what Job felt that God would not pardon as he went through this terrible time in his life.

11. Explain why Job felt so depressed during this period of time in his life.

12. Explain why you think that Job realized that his suffering was not the result of sin even though that was the accusation that his friend had made.

Eliphaz had given his first speech about why Job was suffering. Now, it was Bildad's turn to tell Job why he thought that Job was suffering. Bildad began by accusing Job of talking too much and trying to defend himself. Job should know by now that people only received what they deserved. Bildad said that the children of Job had died because of their terrible sin. Now, Job better start praying to the Lord quickly before he received the same judgment as his children. If Job would have been pure and right, God would have listened to his prayers. If Job were righteous, the Lord would have continued to bless him instead of destroying everything that had belonged to Job. In fact God would begin to bless Job again if he would get right with the Lord.

13. Read Job 8:1-22 and write who Bildad suggested would agree with him.

14. Explain why Bildad seemed to think that God would have listened to the prayers of Job if Job had been righteous in the sight of God.

15. Explain why you think that Bildad was convinced that Job could not be righteous since he was experiencing all of this suffering.

Bildad said that his words would be backed by the fathers that had lived before them. In fact Bildad goes on to quote many sayings of the fathers. Job and his friends had lived just a short time in comparison to the fathers. The days of man are so short that they are just like a shadow. This was the reason that Bildad said that Job should study the writings of those who had lived before them. Today, we have many people that give advice very similar to the advice that Bildad was giving to Job. These people base their beliefs on tradition rather than the Word of God.

16. Read Job 8:1-22 and write what Bildad said about the rush.

17. Explain why long life does not produce wisdom in the lives of many people.

18. Explain why you think that many people base their beliefs on the traditions of their fathers rather than believing the Word of God.

Bildad pointed out the fact that plants cannot grow without the dirt and the water. He said that just like plants without water, those who forget God will wither and be destroyed. After giving several of these traditions to back up his teaching, Bildad stated that God would not punish an innocent man just as He would not help an evil man. By the use of tradition as his source,

Bildad came to the same conclusion that Eliphaz had reached earlier. The reason that Job was suffering was due to the fact that he was a very great sinner.

19. Read Job 8:1-22 and write what Bildad said that God would never do to a perfect man.
20. Explain why the use of tradition rather than the Word of God to back up a teaching will lead to false doctrine.
21. Explain why you think that Bildad quoted tradition as his basis to say that God would not punish an innocent man.

Job began his answer to Bildad by agreeing with him that no one could be just as he stood before God. If a man tried to answer God as God was judging that man, he would not even be able to answer God once in a thousand times. Here, we see that Job is now viewing God as the Judge before whom it is useless to plead his cause because of the greatness of God. This is then followed by a section on the greatness of God. God is the One that moves mountains and shakes the earth. God is the One that controls the sun and the stars. He also has complete control over the waves of the sea. Job also realized that God is the One that gives order to the groups of stars that are called constellations. He is pointing out that God is in control of all things.

22. Read Job 9:1-35 and write the names of the constellations that are mentioned in these verses.
23. Explain why Job realized that God is great and that it would be useless for him to plead his case before God if he were being judged for sin.
24. Explain why you think that Job explained to his friends that no one would be able to answer God even once in a thousand times.

Job then goes on to make a reference to the constellations of the south. This shows us that the men of his time had some understanding about the shape of the earth. Job also points out the fact that the ways of God are so great that they are past his understanding. This is the reason why Job said that it would be useless for him to try and argue with God. Job said that he would not challenge God even if all of his ways were righteous because he knew that God would be able to answer his challenge and still judge him. This statement shows that Job understood clearly that his own righteousness was nothing in the sight of God.

25. Read Job 9:1-35 and write what Job said would condemn him if he tried to justify himself.
26. Explain why it is important for all people to understand that the ways of God are so great that they are past understanding.
27. Explain why you realize that it is important not to try and depend on your own righteousness when you stand before God.

Job realized the impossibility of man being perfect before God. Because this was true, Job knew that it was useless for him to try and challenge the way that God was working in his life. Job realized that the only thing that he could challenge was the reasoning and words of his friends. Job did this by pointing out the fact that God judges those who are right with God as well as those who are very evil. Since that was true, it was wrong for the friends of Job to continue to tell him that his suffering was a result of the fact that he was a very evil man.

28. Read Job 9:1-35 and write what Job said that he wished he had to stand between him and God.
29. Explain why Job makes it clear that no man has any right to challenge the judgment of God.
30. Explain why you think that Job realized that the only thing that he could challenge was the reasoning and words of his friends.

Job understood fully that he could not justify himself before God. Regardless of what he would do to cleanse himself, he would still be sinful in the sight of God. He could not answer God because God is not a man. Instead, Job realized that what he really needed was a mediator that could stand between him and God and plead his case before God. Although Job did not know

that Christ would be that mediator in the future, Job certainly knew that every person needed a mediator to stand between that person and God. In I Timothy 2:5 we read that Christ is our mediator. We see here that Job understood that a mediator was needed.

31. Read Job 9:1-35 and write what a mediator would be able to do.

32. Explain why it is important for every person to have a mediator to stand between that person and God.

33. Explain why you are thankful that Christ is your mediator that stands between you and God when Satan accuses you before God.

When Job made his plea for a mediator, he had reached the depth of his discouragement. Throughout the rest of the book we will see the faith of Job grow and slowly overcome his discouragement. Here, we see that Job now spoke to God and reminded God of the fact that God is the Creator as well as his judge. Job wanted to know if it is good for God to punish one of those that God has created when that person was serving God while the wicked people that reject God are able to enjoy the blessing of God. Job also asked God to look at his condition from the view of a man instead of looking at him from the view of God.

34. Read Job 10:1-22 and write what Job said the Lord knew about him.

35. Explain why Job chose to remind God that God is also his Creator as well as his judge.

36. Explain why you think that God does allow suffering to happen in the life of a person that is faithfully serving the Lord.

Job goes on to emphasize the fact that God is the One that has made each part of him. First, God had fashioned him and now it looked like God planned to destroy him. God had made man from the dust of the earth and now it looked to Job as if he was going to return to the dust. God was the One that had created each and every part of the body of Job. It was God that had given life to Job. It was God that had preserved the life of Job for many years. Now, Job asked God to remember all of these things and deal with him accordingly.

37. Read Job 10:1-22 and write the question that Job asked God about his birth.

38. Explain why Job said that he wanted a mediator.

39. Explain why you think that Job still had hope in God even though he was sure that he would soon die.

Job then went on to point out again that both the righteous and the wicked suffer. As we come to the final part of the answer of Job to Bildad, we see that Job again expressed his discouragement. It seemed to Job that his suffering just seemed to continue and increase. Again he expressed the thought that it would have been better if he had not been born. Now, he realized that he would soon die. Job asked that he might be left alone so that he could be comforted before the darkness of death came to him.

40. Read Job 10:1-22 and write where Job said he should have been carried when he came out of the womb.

41. Explain why it is important for every Christian to understand the fact that both the righteous and the wicked suffer.

42. Explain why you think that the speeches of the first two friends of Job caused him to experience even greater discouragement.

Now, reread Job 7:1-10:22 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Job
Lesson #4
Job 11:1-14:22

Eliphaz was the first to say that Job must have been guilty of great sin since he was receiving such great judgment. He had used human experience as the basis for his argument. Bildad had agreed that Job must be guilty of great sin but he backed his argument by the traditions of the fathers. Today, we will be studying what Zophar had to say. Zophar was a legalist. He claimed to understand the mind of God. This meant that he thought that anything that he said was equal to the Word of God because he knew the mind of God. There are many people like Zophar who think that their words are equal to the Word of God.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why Zophar thought that his ideas were better than the ideas of Job.
- Explain why the wicked are not punished immediately.
- Explain why Job said that his friends were not good comforters.
- Explain what Job said about the resurrection.

Zophar felt that the words of Job needed an answer. Like his two other friends, Zophar was convinced that Job was suffering because he had been very evil and had great sin in his life. As Zophar began to talk, he used very strong language to answer Job. He called Job a liar and said that he could not allow the lies of Job keep him quiet. Then, he went on to accuse Job of mocking God. Zophar said that Job had been guilty of these sins when he claimed that his teaching was pure and clean. Instead, Zophar said that God should speak against Job so that his friends would know about the greatness of the evil that was causing Job to suffer.

1. Read Job 11:1-20 and write what God was exacting of Job according to the words of Zophar.
2. Explain why Zophar was so bold that he would accuse Job of being a liar and mocking God.
3. Explain why you think that all three friends quickly came to the conclusion that Job was suffering because of great sin in his life.

The first two friends of Job said that Job must have done something very evil to receive such a terrible judgment. However, Zophar made an even more serious charge against Job. Zophar said that Job was so evil that God was not punishing him nearly as much as he deserved. Here, we see that Zophar was very unhappy because he could not discover the sins of which he thought Job was guilty. The three friends of Job had started with the idea that Job was a great sinner and now they wanted to prove their point even though they did not know of a single evil thing that Job had done. Many people are like the friends of Job. They want to prove that others are guilty of some sin so that they can feel better about themselves.

4. Read Job 11:1-20 and write what Zophar asked Job if he could find it by searching.
5. Explain why Zophar was so eager to prove that Job was a great sinner even though he could not list a single sin that Job had committed.
6. Explain why you think that many people will accuse others so that they can feel better about their own lives.

Since Zophar could not find anything with which to convict Job, he decided to claim that God was on his side in accusing Job. In order to do this, Zophar pointed out the fact that God knows all things and fills all places. Because God knows all things, He knew the wickedness that Job had done even though the three friends did not know what he had done. Here, we see that Zophar is trying to combine his own ignorance with the wisdom of God to show that he was not ignorant. This is an example of the way that men try to justify their own actions when they condemn others. Such thinking is false because such people base their argument on the idea

that their knowledge is equal to the knowledge of God when in fact the thoughts and ways of God are far greater.

7. Read Job 11:1-20 and write what Zophar suggested that Job prepare.

8. Explain why Zophar was trying to combine his ignorance with the knowledge of God when in actual fact he knew nothing that Job had done wrong.

9. Explain why you think that many people act like they think that God has revealed special information to them that others do not know.

Since Zophar thought that his words had proved that Job was evil, he now encouraged Job to get his heart right with the Lord. He said that Job should remove his sin far from him. Zophar said that Job would be able to get rid of his misery as soon as he got rid of his sin. This would also remove the fear in his life. Then, there would be peace, hope and security in the life of Job. Here, we see that because Zophar had started with the false idea that Job was very evil that his conclusion was based on his own false idea and not the thoughts and ways of God. Zophar went on to say that there was only one hope for the wicked. That was the hope of death.

10. Read Job 11:1-20 and write what Zophar said would happen to Job if Job would put away his iniquity.

11. Explain why the teachings of Zophar did not agree with the teachings of God.

12. Explain why you realize that when people start with a false idea that they will always come to a false conclusion.

Job had become tired of listening to the false teachings of his friends. As a result, Job began his answer by speaking to them with a bit of mocking. He said that they acted as if they were the only ones that had any wisdom. If that was true, then wisdom would die with them. However, Job told them that God had also given Him understanding. He was not inferior to them. He said that fact is proved by the fact that many robbers and other evil men are prospering even though they are very evil. He said that even the animals of creation showed that God blesses both the good and the evil. The earth and the fish of the sea also taught the same thing.

13. Read Job 12:1-25 and write who allows all of these things to happen.

14. Explain why Job explained to his friends that God blesses both the good and the evil because even many evil people were prospering.

15. Explain why you think that Job told his three friends that it was important for them to realize that they were not the only ones that had wisdom.

God is the One that allows all things to happen. He is the One that allows good to happen to both the people that are good and the people that are evil. God is the One that controls the life and breath of every person. God is the One that is the source of all wisdom and strength. He is the One that can give counsel and understanding. God also is the One that controls all things. He is able to break some things so that they cannot be built again. God can also withhold the water and cause everything to become dry. Here, we see that God is the source of all power.

16. Read Job 12:1-25 and write who is the source of wisdom and strength.

17. Explain why it is important for every person to realize that God is the One that is the true source of all wisdom and understanding.

18. Explain why you think that many people fail to seek the wisdom and understanding of God even though He is the One that is the true source.

We go on to read that God is the One that controls all of the kings and the rulers of the earth. He can strengthen the weak and bring down the strong. Nothing can be hidden from God. He is able to reveal all of the secrets of men. He can choose to either bless a nation or destroy that nation. When the leaders of the nations do not have their trust in the Lord, God can take them away from their place of leadership and cause them to wander in a wilderness. Such men are like those who are lost in the darkness without any light. They are like drunken men that are unable to control themselves.

19. Read Job 12:1-25 and write how they are compared to drunken men.
20. Explain what you learn about the greatness of God for your own life from this chapter.
21. Explain why you think that Job said that God can take away the place of leadership of those who do not have their trust in the Lord.

Job continued his reply to Zophar by pointing out the fact that he was not inferior to his friends. He wanted to talk to God and let God decide his case instead of being judged by his three friends. If Job would have been suffering for his sin, he would have tried to hide from the Lord as Adam had done in an earlier day. However, Job knew that he was innocent. He knew that He had been obedient to God. That was why he wanted to stand before God rather than be judged by his friends. He felt that his friends had just made up the lies that they were speaking about him. Now, it was his desire for his friends to keep quiet and let God speak.

22. Read Job 13:1-28 and write what Job asked his friends to hear.
23. Explain why Job wanted to let God decide his case rather than being judged by his three friends.
24. Explain why you know that God is more merciful than people when He judges those who trust in Him.

Job told his friends that rather than speaking for God by their arguments, they were actually fighting against God. In fact they were actually mocking God with their arguments. The three friends of Job could be certain that the day would come when God would reprove them for their words. Job told his friends that they should be filled with fear as they realized how they had been speaking about God. Their words were like ashes or pieces of clay that could be easily broken. Here, we see an important lesson for our own lives. We need to be careful about giving our own opinions instead of listening to what God has to say to us.

25. Read Job 13:1-28 and write what Job told his friends to hold.
26. Explain why Job said that the three friends were actually fighting against God by giving their own opinions.
27. Explain why you think that we may also be in danger of fighting against God when we give our own opinions instead of sharing the Word of God.

Job was prepared to plead his case before God rather than try to plead his case before his friends. His trust was in the Lord regardless of what happened to him. He knew that the Lord was the only One that would provide him with salvation because no hypocrite would dare to stand before the Lord. As Job thought of standing before the Lord, there were only two things that he requested of the Lord. Job said that his first request was that the Lord would not withdraw His hand from him. His second request was that the Lord would give him victory over fear as he stood before the Lord. Now that we have the entire Bible, we know that the Lord promises that He will never leave us or forsake us. We also know that His perfect love will cast out fear in our lives and that when we stand before Him we will be able to stand with boldness.

28. Read Job 13:1-28 and write what Job felt that the Lord was hiding from him.
29. Explain why Job was not afraid to stand before the Lord and plead his case with the Lord instead of his friends.
30. Explain why you know that you will be able to stand before the Lord with boldness when He comes again.

Job continued his request to the Lord by asking the Lord to answer him. He asked God to show him what sins he had committed. Job could not understand why it seemed that the Lord was hiding His face from Job. Although Job continued to tell his friends that his suffering was not a result of sin, Job also knew and understood the fact that he was not perfect in the sight of God. However, Job knew that his suffering was much greater than the suffering of a normal man. He was like a prisoner that had his feet placed in stocks and could do nothing.

31. Read Job 14:1-22 and write how Job described the length of the life of a man on the earth.
32. Explain why Job found it difficult to understand why he was suffering so greatly when he knew that he was following the Lord.
33. Explain why you think that it is possible for Christians today to have a difficult time understanding when they are going through great suffering.

Job realized that life on this earth is very short. His life can even be compared to a flower that is cut or a shadow that disappears as the sun moves. Job realized that every person has a set time to die. God has appointed the day of death for every person and a person cannot pass that day. The desire of Job was that he would be allowed to live his days normally until the day appointed for his death. If he were a tree, he realized that there would be hope of new life even if he were cut down because the root of a tree is able to send up a tender new sprout.

34. Read Job 14:1-22 and write what will cause the tree to bud.
35. Explain why it was the desire of Job to be allowed to live his days normally until the time of his death.
36. Explain why you think that we also need to realize that our time on this earth is very short.

Job realized that man is not like a tree that can sprout again even after it has been cut down. When man dies, he will not rise up again on this earth. However Job suddenly looked past death to the greater future that awaits those who trust in the Lord. He asked that he might die and go to Sheol. One part of Sheol was the waiting place where those who trusted in the Lord would wait until Christ rose from the dead and completed His victory over death. Job now looked past death to the fact that he would one day rise again. He we see that Job was now waiting for the time that the Lord would cause this change to come in his life.

37. Read Job 14:1-22 and write what Job said that God had done with his transgressions and his iniquities.
38. Explain what these verses teach about death and resurrection.
39. Explain why you know that you can also look past death to the fact that Christ has given us victory over death through His resurrection

After this bright look at his future state, Job returned to the discussion of his present condition. Job realized that he was sinful. At the same time Job also realized that the Lord had sealed his sin in a bag. Mankind had to realize that the Lord is the One that is in control. He is the One that causes the mountains to move. He causes the water to wear the stones. God is also the One that is able to destroy the hopes of man. God is the One that is in control of the life of every person that comes on the earth and man cannot change that control.

40. Read Job 14:1-22 and write what Job said the flesh of man will have.
41. Explain why Job was thankful that the Lord had sealed his sin in a bag.
42. Explain why you think that it is important for every Christian today to realize that God has blotted out our sins and has buried them in the depths of the sea.

Now, reread Job 11:1-14:22 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Job
Lesson #5
Job 15:1-18:21

As we have studied the earlier chapters of the book of Job, we have seen that the three friends of Job tried to convince him of the fact that there was a reason for his suffering. In fact they had tried to convince him that the reason for his suffering was the fact that he was a great sinner. We have seen how Job answered the charges of each of the three friends. However, the friends of Job would not accept the answers of Job because they were convinced in their own minds that Job was guilty of great sin. As a result, our study today will cover the messages of two of his friends as they try again to show that Job was guilty of great evil.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what Eliphaz told Job in his second speech.
- Explain why Job felt that his friends were poor comforters.
- Explain why Job looked forward to death.
- Explain what Bildad told Job in his second speech.

Eliphaz sounded angry as he began his second speech. He accused Job of vain speaking and accused him of being full of the hot air of the east wind. He called the talk of Job unprofitable. He accused Job of showing no fear or respect for God in his prayer. The words that Job was speaking showed that he was guilty of great evil. Eliphaz said that Job was condemned by his own words. Then, Eliphaz went on to point out that he and the other two friends were all older than Job so they must certainly have more wisdom than Job. Job showed that he was guilty of sin because he thought that he understood more than his friends.

1. Read Job 15:1-35 and write how old Eliphaz said that he and the other two friends of Job were.
2. Explain why Eliphaz thought that because he and the other two friends were all older than Job that they certainly had more wisdom than Job.
3. Explain why you think that Eliphaz accused Job of being full of hot air and full of the east wind.

Eliphaz said that the three of them were much older than the father of Job. Eliphaz showed that he thought that old age meant that he had great wisdom. However, old age and great wisdom are not the same thing. Wisdom only comes from allowing the Lord to teach us. Eliphaz apparently thought that he knew so much that he did not need to have the Lord teach him. Eliphaz said that Job had turned his spirit against God. As a result, Eliphaz said that the words and ways of Job must be very evil in the sight of God. He accused Job of drinking in evil like a man drinks water. Then, Eliphaz said that he would tell what he had learned about man.

4. Read Job 15:1-35 and write what Eliphaz said happened to the wicked man.
5. Explain what Scripture teaches about the real source of wisdom instead of wisdom being gained through great age.
6. Explain why you think that many people cannot understand why they do not have wisdom when they refuse to let the Lord teach them.

Job had said that evil people as well as those that do good become rich. Eliphaz tried to destroy that argument by stating that the wicked man always suffers pain. It was only the imagination of Job that made him think that the wicked are blessed. All that those who are wicked can expect is a day of darkness. Eliphaz said that Job was guilty of stretching out his hand against God. In fact Job was strengthening himself in his rebellion against God. As a result, Job could only expect the judgment of God. Here, we see that since Eliphaz and his friends felt that they

were speaking for God that he had concluded that anything that Job said was actually speaking against God instead of just answering his three friends.

7. Read Job 15:1-35 and write what Eliphaz then said about the riches of Job.

8. Explain why Eliphaz accused Job of speaking against God when he tried to answer the accusations of his friends.

9. Explain why you think that God does allow many evil people to become very rich in this life.

Eliphaz said that there would be a terrible end to everything in which Job was involved. He would not become rich. Everything that he had would soon be lost. He would not escape darkness and judgment. Because Job was deceived, he would trust in the wrong thoughts and ideas. He would trust in the wrong things. Eliphaz said that because Job was so evil that everything that he tried would end up the wrong way. All this would happen to Job because he was a hypocrite. He had planned mischief and evil. Now, all he could expect was an evil reward as a result of his evil plans.

10. Read Job 15:1-35 and write what Eliphaz said would happen to the congregation of the hypocrites.

11. Explain why the thoughts of Eliphaz were false.

12. Explain why you think that Eliphaz had come to the conclusion that Job was the one that was deceived.

As Job began his answer to Eliphaz, he told his friends that they were all miserable comforters. He wanted to know when their empty words would come to an end. Job told his friends that he could speak as they were speaking if he chose to do so. However, Job said that he would strengthen and encourage his friends if they were in sorrow. That was the thing that the friends of Job had failed to do for him. This reminds us that we also have a choice. We can encourage others during their times of suffering and sorrow or we can be like those who depend on their own wisdom and condemn others. It seemed to Job that both God and his friends were against him.

13. Read Job 16:1-22 and write with what Job said his friends had filled him by their words to him.

14. Explain why it is important to encourage others in their suffering and sorrow rather than judging them.

15. Explain why you think that Job felt like both God and his friends were against him during this time of suffering.

Job said that the words of his friends were causing him to become like an old man. Here, we see that Job described the way that he felt because of the words of his friends. It seemed like everyone was trying to tear him apart. His friends were tearing him apart with their words. In fact Job said that their words had become so bad that Job felt like he had been turned over to ungodly and wicked men. He felt like he had been picked up by his neck and then had received a severe shaking. Here, we see how a person feels when we choose to judge that person and accuse him or her of sin when we do not know if the person has sinned. For Job it seemed to him like one thing after another had happened to him. He was experiencing constant suffering.

16. Read Job 16:1-22 and write what Job said he had sewed on his skin.

17. Explain why Job felt that his friends were trying to tear him apart by the words that they were speaking to him.

18. Explain what you learn for your own life about the way that a person feels when you judge or condemn them.

Sackcloth was what people used to cover themselves when they were in sorrow or mourning. Job had also spent much time crying in his sorrow. However, this was not a result of his evil actions. Suddenly, we see another step forward in the faith of Job as he overcomes his

discouragement. He said that he would cry to the Lord when his friends mocked or scorned him. Again he said that he wished that there was one to plead for a man before God. In the book of I John we read that Christ is the One that is our advocate that speaks for us to the Father. As a result, we can know that there is always One that is speaking for us.

19. Read Job 16:1-22 and write to whom Job felt that God had delivered him by allowing his three friends to come to comfort him.

20. Explain what this chapter teaches about the reason why Job wanted to plead his case before God rather than men.

21. Explain why you think that Job said that he wished that there was a man that would plead for him before God.

Job realized that his days might be short in his present condition. His friends were mocking him in his sorrowful condition. As a result, Job asked God to make a covenant with him to proclaim the integrity of Job. Job realized that his friends had a complete lack of understanding of the purposes and plans of God. This was the reason why Job wanted God to speak to his friends about his integrity. Job had become a person that had people everywhere talking about his terrible condition. In fact he felt like he had become like one at whom men spit.

22. Read Job 17:1-16 and write why the eye of Job had become dim.

23. Explain why Job wanted God to speak to his friends about the integrity of Job.

24. Explain why you think that Job realized that his friends had a complete lack of understanding of the purposes and plans of God.

Job was so filled with sorrow that he could hardly see with his eyes. The other parts of his body had also become like a shadow. Godly men would be amazed if they could see the terrible condition of Job. In fact the innocent man would be led to speak up against the hypocrite. The man that had clean hands would become stronger and stronger. Here, we see that Job had come to the point where he realized that since he was in the hand of God that he did not need to be afraid of anything including what other people said about him. Job knew that this would be true whether he lived or died. That will also be the result when our trust is in the Lord instead of ourselves.

25. Read Job 17:1-16 and write what Job said he could not find among his three friends.

26. Explain why Job had come to the point where he realized that he did not need to be afraid because he was in the hand of God.

27. Explain why it is important for you to understand in your own life that the person with clean hands will become stronger and stronger.

The friends of Job had come to comfort him. However they were not able to provide comfort because they lacked wisdom. As a result, Job said that his source of hope now was the hope of death. Job hoped for death because he was looking past death to the resurrection. Job was not afraid as he thought of going to the grave. The fear of death is always one of the greatest fears of people that do not have their trust and confidence in the power of God. Job realized that death would bring the rotting and destruction of his physical body. However, even the destruction of his physical body did not bother Job because of the hope that he had in the Lord and the fact of the resurrection.

28. Read Job 17:1-16 and write how many wise men Job said that he found among his friends.

29. Explain why Job was not fearful as he faced the thought of death.

30. Explain why you think that Job did not have any fear of death as he realized that death might soon come to his life.

Bildad was not happy with the answers of Job because those answers were showing the lack of wisdom of the friends of Job. Of course none of the three friends wanted to recognize their own lack of wisdom. As a result, most of the rest of the speeches of the friends of Job will speak about the judgment of the wicked. They had decided that Job was suffering because of his

hidden wickedness. As a result, the rest of the speeches will continue to tell Job what they thought would happen to him. Bildad asked Job when he was going to stop speaking so that his friends could speak to him. Bildad wanted to know why Job was talking to them as if they were wild animals.

31. Read Job 18:1-21 and write what Bildad said Job was doing in his anger.

32. Explain why the fact that the three friends had already decided that Job was guilty of sin caused them to speak about the judgment of the wicked.

33. Explain why you think that many people feel that it is all right for them to judge and condemn others.

Bildad began to give a series of proverbs to show what happens to the wicked. He said that the light of the wicked would be cut off and that the lives of the wicked would be destroyed. Their tents would become dark. There would be a loss of strength. Bildad said that a wicked man would be destroyed by his own ideas. He would walk into a noose that would snare and trap him. Even the robber would have victory over the evil man. Snares and traps would be placed on the ground to catch him. Here, we see that Bildad thought that he could prove that Job would be judged for his sin by quoting a series of proverbs about the judgment of evil men.

34. Read Job 18:1-21 and write what Bildad said would make evil men afraid.

35. Explain why Bildad chose to try and condemn Job by quoting proverbs that people believed that did not know God.

36. Explain why you think that many people base their beliefs on the proverbs and ideas that they hear others speak.

Bildad said that the wicked man would be filled with fear regardless of what direction he turned. He would lack strength. Destruction would be waiting for him. Any strength that remained would be destroyed. His confidence would be destroyed and his life would be filled with terror. Bildad even said that brimstone would be scattered upon the home of the wicked. Brimstone is a picture of the final judgment of God. Bildad was implying that Job would be destroyed in the final judgment. Here, we see that Bildad had now assumed that Job had no relationship with God.

37. Read Job 18:1-21 and write what Bildad said would happen to the remembrance of the evil man.

38. Explain what lessons you learn from the proverbs of Bildad in this chapter.

39. Explain why you think that Bildad had convinced himself that Job had no relationship with God.

Bildad went on to say that the life of the wicked would be totally destroyed. This destruction would be so complete that men would not even remember the name of the wicked man. People would no longer talk of him in the streets. The wicked man would be chased out of the world. He would not have any sons or nephews to carry on his name after his death. Bildad said that people would be amazed as they saw the judgment of the wicked man. However, that is the judgment of the wicked.

40. Read Job 18:1-21 and write why Bildad said that people could reach this terrible condition.

41. Explain why Bildad felt that the destruction of the evil person would be very complete.

42. Explain why you think that Bildad implied that Job would not even be remembered in the future.

Now, reread Job 15:1-18:21 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Job
Lesson #6
Job 19:1-22:30

In our last lesson, we saw that Bildad used a series of proverbs to show what happens to the wicked. This showed that in his mind he was convinced that Job was wicked. As we begin our lesson today, we will be studying the answer of Job. As we go farther through the book of Job, we see a very interesting thing happening in the life of Job. The harder the friends of Job try to destroy his faith, the stronger his faith becomes. True faith cannot be destroyed. Instead, true faith becomes stronger as people try to destroy that faith. This is the reason that we do not need to worry about losing our faith when evil men condemn us.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why Job says that he knows his Redeemer lives.
- Explain what Zophar says will happen to the wicked.
- Explain how Job shows that God will deal with the wicked.
- Explain what Eliphaz says in his final speech.

Job began his answer to Bildad by speaking of his sad condition. His friends were still trying to destroy him and break him in pieces. They were lifting themselves up and looking down on Job as they condemned him. It seemed that God had also turned against him. When Job cried for help, it seemed that no one heard him. Job felt as though a fence had been built around him so that he could not move. His former greatness had been completely removed from him. He said that the same thing had happened to his hope. In fact Job felt that he had been experiencing the wrath and anger of God as a result of his suffering.

1. Read Job 19:1-29 and write what Job said had happened to his brethren.
2. Explain why Job felt that no one listened to him or heard him when he cried out for help.
3. Explain why you think that Job felt like his friends were trying to destroy him and break him in pieces.

Job went on to describe the lonely feeling that he was experiencing. The acquaintances that he knew now acted like Job was a stranger. His relatives and close friends had forgotten Job. Even the servants in his own house viewed Job as a stranger. When Job called to his servant, the servant did not even bother to answer him. In fact Job had almost become like a stranger to his own wife. Even young children spoke evil of Job. Finally, the closest friends that Job knew had turned against him. He said that he was barely alive by the skin of his teeth. Then, Job begged his friends to show him mercy and have pity on him.

4. Read Job 19:1-29 and write what Job wished would happen to his words.
5. Explain how it is possible for even a strong follower of the Lord to feel like everyone has turned against him.
6. Explain why you think that the relatives and close friends of Job had forgotten him and did not minister to him in his time of need.

Job wished that his words could be written down. In fact he even wished that they would be written in a book so that they would not be destroyed. Job did not realize how completely his wish would be fulfilled. Job went on to give us one of the most beautiful pictures of Christ in the Old Testament. Job said that he knew that his Redeemer lives. A redeemer was one that had bought back the land and possessions of a close relative so that the good name of the close relative can be reestablished. Boaz in the book of Ruth is an example of a redeemer. However, Job looked for a heavenly redeemer. Of course Christ is the One that came as the Redeemer to pay the penalty for our sins and the sins of others.

7. Read Job 19:1-29 and write what Job said his Redeemer would do in the latter days.
8. Explain why it was so important for Job to know that his Redeemer lives even though he was going through this time of great suffering.
9. Explain why you think that it is very important for every Christian to really understand what it means that Christ is their Redeemer.

Job realized that the day would come when Christ would come to this earth. Job knew that even though he died and his body was eaten by worms that the day would come when he would see God in his flesh. Here, we see that Job had a clear understanding of the fact that there would be a future resurrection. Job realized that he would personally see God. This would happen even though his physical body would be destroyed for a time first. Job knew that God would put his body back together again so that he would have a body when he saw God. These verses show that Job had a clear understanding of the resurrection even though he lived 2000 or more years before the first coming of Christ to this earth.

10. Read Job 19:1-29 and write who Job was confident that he would see with his own eyes.
11. Explain what you learn about the resurrection from these verses.
12. Explain why you think that Job could have such a great hope about the future even though he was experiencing great suffering and rejection in the present.

Zophar was not happy when he heard the answer of Job. As a result, he was in a hurry to share his thoughts with Job. Zophar acted as if he did not even hear the words that Job had spoken about the resurrection. Many people are like Zophar and seldom listen when others are talking because they are waiting to continue to speak their own opinions. Instead, Zophar continued the argument of the other friends by speaking of the judgment of the wicked. Zophar said that wicked men only enjoy their happiness and success for a short time. Regardless of how great and proud the wicked become, they day will soon come when they will be destroyed forever. They will be gone like a dream in the night and men will see them no more.

13. Read Job 20:1-29 and write what the bones of a wicked man are like.
14. Explain why the friends of Job continued to share their own opinions and charge Job with great wickedness even though they could not find any sin in him.
15. Explain why you think that Zophar was so eager to share his own opinions that he had not even really listened to what Job had said.

Zophar said that the entire body of a wicked man is filled with sin. However, Zophar said that even though evil is sweet to the wicked man, the final result will be the loss of everything. That wicked man will be forced to repay everything that he has taken away from others. Suddenly, Zophar had an idea in his mind about the reason why Job might be suffering. Zophar accused Job of becoming rich by taking away the possessions of the poor and putting them with his own possessions. Here, we see that Zophar was actually accusing Job of being a violent criminal that stole from the poor.

16. Read Job 20:1-29 and write what Zophar said that Job would not feel as a result of his actions.
17. Explain why Zophar had become so bold that he would even accuse Job of carrying out criminal activities.
18. Explain why you think that Zophar suddenly got this idea in his mind that Job had become rich by taking the possessions of the poor.

Zophar was here warning Job that he could not have peace in his life as long as he continued to practice evil. Instead, Zophar said that the evil man will begin to feel evil coming to him as God laid a hand of judgment upon him. He would try to escape judgment but it would be impossible for him to escape. As Zophar came to the end of his speech, he said that heaven would reveal the evil that the wicked man had done. This is the punishment of the wicked man by God. Since Zophar could not discover the reason for the suffering of Job, he said that God

would reveal the evil that Job had done.

19. Read Job 20:1-29 and write what Zophar said would reveal the iniquity of Job.

20. Explain what Zophar had said about the judgment of Job.

21. Explain why you think that Zophar said that it would be impossible for Job to escape the judgment of God because of the evil that he had done.

The friends of Job repeatedly told him that he was suffering as a result of the evil in his life. In his answer Job began to show that the wicked do not always suffer here on this earth for their evil actions. Job began by asking his friends to listen to his speech. He told them that if they chose that they could continue their mocking after he had answered their words. Job pointed out the fact that many of those who are very wicked live to an old age and become very powerful. Such men see their children grow and produce children. While they are on this earth they live in their houses in safety and do not experience judgment on this earth.

22. Read Job 21:1-34 and write what happened to the cattle of the wicked.

23. Explain why Job said that many evil people live to an old age and do not experience judgment on this earth.

24. Explain why you think that God often allows very evil people to experience a long life.

Job pointed out to his friends that the animals of the wicked produced young just like the animals of the people that were not wicked. The wicked also produced large families. In fact many wicked men spent their entire lives living in wealth and luxury. Such men had no desire at all to know the ways of God. Job also said that he had no desire to follow the ways of the rich even though it might mean a life of ease and luxury. In fact Job challenged his friends to show that the wicked were judged on this earth as his friends had claimed with their words.

25. Read Job 21:1-34 and write when the friends were saying that God distributed sorrows.

26. Explain why Job challenged his friends to prove their statement that the wicked are judged on the earth.

27. Explain why you think that those who live wicked and sinful lives often have no desire to know the ways of God.

If the argument of the friends of Job was true, it would mean that God was like a child that did evil to get even with someone that had done evil to Him. By saying such things, the friends of Job were actually placing themselves in the place of God and accusing God of doing evil. However, no one could teach God because the ways of God are much higher than the ways of man. Some men die at the time when they are young and strong while others die at different ages. However, regardless of when men may die, they will all return to the dust.

28. Read Job 21:1-34 and write when Job said that the wicked would be judged.

29. Explain why God does not judge the wicked man immediately.

30. Explain why you think that the friends of Job continued to act like they thought that they had the mind of God.

Since all men will return to the dust sooner or later, Job said that it was wrong for his friends to accuse him of great evil just because it looked like he would return to the dust sooner than his friends. These friends were actually showing that they did not fully understand the ways of God. The thing that the friends of Job had forgotten was the fact that the wicked will face their day of judgment after their death on this earth. Actually many of the wicked lived an easy life and even died with little or no suffering before their death because their judgment was still future.

31. Read Job 21:1-34 and write what Job said remained in the answers of his friends.

32. Explain why the friends of Job could not know the ways of God as long as they depended on their own opinions.

33. Explain why you think that Job understood that the real judgment of the wicked will come after their physical death.

Eliphaz had listened to the words of Job as he had answered the words of Zophar. Since Zophar could find no wrong in Job, Eliphaz decided to accuse Job of being a hypocrite that was trying to hide great evil. Eliphaz decided that Job must have become a rich man by cheating others. Notice the things that Eliphaz accused Job of doing. Eliphaz said that Job had taken everything from the poor including their clothes so that they were left naked. He had refused to give water or food to those who were hungry or thirsty. He had refused to give any help to those who were widows. Instead of helping the orphans, he had hurt them instead.

34. Read Job 22:1-30 and write what Eliphaz said was around Job to catch him in his evil.

35. Explain why Eliphaz decided to accuse Job of being a great hypocrite that had often taken advantage of the poor, the widows and the orphans.

36. Explain why you think that Eliphaz could make all of these charges against Job when he did not know of any evil that Job had done.

Eliphaz said that Job had been caught in his sin. He should not have thought that he could escape the all seeing eye of God. Eliphaz said that Job thought that God was so far away that He would not see the sins of Job as he sinned. The thick clouds that surround the earth would be a perfect covering for Job because God would not be able to see through them. Eliphaz told Job that he should remember that God had judged evil men in an earlier day with a flood. Job was being judged just as the men of that earlier day had been judged. God was showing that Job was guilty even though he claimed to be innocent.

37. Read Job 22:1-30 and write with whom Eliphaz said that Job needed to get acquainted.

38. Explain why people always want to point at someone else and accuse the other person of sin.

39. Explain why you think that Eliphaz finally began to accuse Job of trying to hide his sins from God as well as from people.

Since Eliphaz now thought that he had shown that Job was guilty, he now encouraged Job to return to the Lord so that good could come to his life. If Job would return to the Lord, Eliphaz said that Job would certainly be strengthened. God would again provide him with riches. God would again become his defense and his protection. God would again listen and hear when Job prayed to the Lord. Instead of the suffering and darkness that surrounded his present condition, God would again cause the light to shine on his ways and be able to bless him.

40. Read Job 22:1-30 and write who Eliphaz said God would save.

41. Explain why Eliphaz said that if Job would repent of his sin that good would return to his life and the Lord would again bless him with riches.

42. Explain why you think that Eliphaz could suddenly be so religious that he encouraged Job to return to God after he had so strongly condemned Job of unknown sin.

Now, reread Job 19:1-22:30 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Job
Lesson #7
Job 23:1-27:23

In our last lesson, we studied the final speech of Eliphaz. In that speech Eliphaz accused Job of thinking that he could hide his evil from God because God was so far away. Today, we will study the answer of Job. Through the charges of his friends, Job had learned to take his problems to the Lord instead of trying to share them with men. This is why Job directed his answer to God rather than having an argument of words with Eliphaz. In our lesson today we will study the final speech of Bildad. Our lesson also includes the first part of the answer of Job to Bildad.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what Job said about the way that he followed God.
- Explain what Job said about the wicked.
- Explain what Job said about the greatness of God.
- Explain what Job said about his own righteousness.

As Job began his speech, we see that he did not actually try to answer the charges of Eliphaz. Instead, he continued where he left off at the end of chapter twenty-one. The desire of Job was that he might find God so that he could plead his case before God. The desire of Job was to know from God the reason for his great suffering. Job knew that God was the One that could give a true answer. Job knew that God would not continue to condemn him as his three friends continued to do. Instead, the Lord would strengthen and encourage him. This is a reminder of the fact that God will encourage all of His children that come to Him for encouragement when they are discouraged.

1. Read Job 23:1-17 and write from whom Job expected to be delivered.
2. Explain why it is important for Christians to turn to the Lord in their trouble instead of trying to depend on their friends.
3. Explain why you think that Job had grown to the point where he was now talking to God instead of trying to answer his friends.

Job looked forward to the deliverance that would one day come from the Lord. He realized that the suffering that he was experiencing as that moment was for the purpose of cleansing and purifying his life. Job said that when God had completed that testing that Job would be like gold that had been cleansed by fire. Here, we see one of the purposes why God allows testing to happen in our lives. Job knew that cleansing must be the reason for his suffering because he knew that he had faithfully walked in the way of the Lord. He had not turned away from the commandments of the Lord or tried to follow his own ways.

4. Read Job 23:1-17 and write what Job said was more necessary to him than food.
5. Explain why Job now realized that the purpose of the suffering that he was experiencing was to cleanse and purify his life.
6. Explain why you think that God also allows suffering to come into our lives to cleanse and purify us.

Here, we see the place that the Word of God should have in each of our lives. The Word of God is more important for our spiritual lives than physical food is for our physical lives. That was why Job said that the Word of God was more important to him than food. Job also pointed out the fact that the mind of God is unchangeable. He does exactly as He has planned. God had a plan for the life of Job and God was now carrying out that plan. This was the reason why Job felt troubled as he stood in the presence of God. He knew that he was completing the

purpose of God even though he could not understand that purpose.

7. Read Job 23:1-17 and write what Job said that God was performing in his life.

8. Explain why it is also important for each of us to have a great desire for the Word of God in our lives.

9. Explain why you think that Job knew that he was completing the purpose of God even though he could not understand that purpose.

God knows all of the ways of every person. This caused Job to wonder at times why others had not been judged. Job went on to describe some of the ways of these evil men that were not experiencing judgment on the earth. They moved the markers that marked the corners of their property. In this way that gained part of the property of those who were unable to defend themselves. They stole the flocks of other men. Instead of helping the needy, they took the small amount that the needy did have. These stole from the fatherless and they stole from the widows. They would even get up early so that they would have plenty of time to carry out their evil actions. At the same time they also gathered the harvests of their own fields.

10. Read Job 24:1-25 and write what these evil men would do to the naked.

11. Explain why Job wondered at times why God did not judge the wicked when he saw the evilness of their actions.

12. Explain why you understand that God does not always judge the wicked while they are here on the earth.

Job knew of evil men that were so evil that they would even take the clothes of the poor and leave the poor without any covering to protect the poor from the cold. These poor people became wet from the rain because they had no protection to protect them from the rain. Such people as the evil men that Job was describing did not even show any concern for those who were very young. In fact the young just provided them with another opportunity to gain more for themselves. Evil men even took away the food of those who were hungry. Those who suffered at the hands of evil men would cry out in their suffering. However, God did not bring an immediate end to their suffering by destroying those who were doing evil.

13. Read Job 24:1-25 and write what these men rebelled against.

14. Explain why evil men do not have any concern for those that they hurt and destroy even when those that they hurt are young children.

15. Explain why you think that God does not bring an immediate end to the suffering of the righteous by judging those who are doing evil to them.

Here, we come to the real reason why evil people do the evil that they do. They are in rebellion against the Lord and they hate the light because their actions are evil. They refuse to walk in the light. Such people are murderers that kill to satisfy their evil desires. Those who commit adultery think that their evil actions will be hidden by the darkness. They disguise their faces so that no one will recognize them. Those who do not walk in the light look at the houses of others during the day so that they can rob those houses at night. Here, we see that evil people are so evil that they plan their evil actions in advance. These people hate the light of day because they are afraid that they will be recognized if they do their evil actions during the day.

16. Read Job 24:1-25 and write how swift these evil people are.

17. Explain why those who are in rebellion against God love the darkness and hate the light.

18. Explain why you think that evil people are continually looking at ways they can take the things of others.

Evil people are often able to get away with their sins for their entire lives. However, even though they are exalted for a little while, the time of their judgment will come. Then, they will be brought low. They will not be able to escape death to continue their evil. They will die just as all others die. They will be cut off by God just as the harvesters cut off the heads of grain when they harvest of grain. Then, Job issued a challenge to his friends. He challenged them to

show him where he was wrong if he was wrong in his speech about the wicked.

19. Read Job 24:1-25 and write how long the evil will be exalted.

20. Explain what this chapter teaches about the wicked.

21. Explain why you think that God allows the wicked to get away with their evil for many years.

As we come to the final speech of Bildad, we see that it is a very short speech. In this speech we see that Bildad repeats some of the things that had been said earlier by Eliphaz. He could not find any evidence for any new charges so he just repeated what had already been said. We also see that Zophar did not even bother to give a third speech. The three friends of Job were finally realizing that their words were worth nothing. Bildad began his speech by pointing to the greatness of the universe. He said that God is the One that controls all things. He is the One that men are to fear. He is also the One that is able to make peace.

22. Read Job 25:1-14 and write what cannot be numbered.

23. Explain why the friends of Job were finally beginning to realize that their words were worth nothing.

24. Explain why you think that those who depend on their own opinions are not able to really help those who are suffering or discouraged.

We see that the stars cannot even be numbered by man. Since God is so great, Bildad said that it is impossible for any man to think that he could be just as he stood before God. Of course this was long before anyone fully understood that the only way a person can be just before God is to stand in the righteousness of Christ and not his own righteousness. Bildad also said that God is so great that even the moon and the stars are not pure in His sight. Job was nothing compared to the brightness of the stars. In fact he was just like a worm in the dust. Here, we see that Bildad had no encouragement to offer in his final speech just as he and the other friends had not offered any encouragement in their earlier speeches.

25. Read Job 26:1-14 and write the first question that Job asked Bildad as he began to answer.

26. Explain why Bildad did show that he had some understanding of the greatness of God even though he did not depend on the Lord to give him wisdom.

27. Explain why you think that many people can even believe in Christ and understand some of His greatness but then do not depend on Him for wisdom.

Job gave a very strong answer to Bildad. Bildad had not tried to help or encourage Job by his words. Instead, he had just repeated the words of Eliphaz. As a result, Job asked Bildad to consider for whom he was actually speaking. Job also implied that the words of Bildad came from the devil instead of the Lord. After rebuking Bildad, Job went on to speak about the greatness of God. First, Job spoke about the control that God has over Sheol. This is followed by a reference to the empty place in the north. Today, there is still a place in the north that the telescopes of man cannot penetrate. God is also the One that hung the earth on nothing.

28. Read Job 26:1-14 and write how God adorned the heavens.

29. Explain what Job taught his friends in these verses as he taught about the greatness of God.

30. Explain why you think that those who just give their own opinions can actually speak for Satan instead of speaking for the Lord.

God is also the One that controls the waters in the universe. He causes the clouds to hold the water. He has also set a boundary for the waters in the oceans. The waters of the oceans cannot pass the boundaries that God has set. God also controls the mountains (pillars of heaven) just as He controls the water. God is the One that divides the seas by His power. God has complete control of both the heavens and the earth. He exercises this power through the Holy Spirit. In fact Job had just described a tiny part of the power of God as there were many other things that he could have described.

31. Read Job 26:1-14 and write what else man cannot understand.

32. Explain why God chooses to exercise His power through the Holy Spirit.
33. Explain why you realize that it is important for you to yield your life to the Holy Spirit if you want Him to work through your life.

Following the question of Job, the friends made no answer. As a result, Job realized that his friends had been silenced and he then began to teach them. Job began his teaching by pointing out again that he was righteous. God was the One that was dwelling in his life. He had not been speaking evil with his lips. He said that he would be committing sin if he agreed with his friends when they said that he was being punished for his great wickedness. He was right with God so there was no way that his conscience could bother him. The real truth was that those who accused Job of great evil were not right with God themselves.

34. Read Job 27:1-23 and write what group of people lacks hope.
35. Explain why Job said that he would be committing sin if he agreed with his friends that he was being punished for great wickedness in his life.
36. Explain why you think that the Lord will cause you to have a clear conscience when your ways are pleasing to the Lord.

Then, Job began to point out the final end of the wicked. They may gain riches that will last for a little while. However, they will not be able to take those riches with them when they die. Men who do evil will one day experience the judgment of God. The evil person may have a large family but that family will not continue. When an evil man dies, not even his widow weeps for him because of his great evil. The evil man may gather great amounts of riches. However, those riches will not remain with his family. Instead, God will cause those riches to be distributed among the innocent.

37. Read Job 27:1-23 and write how other people will react when they hear that the evil man has died.
38. Explain what you learn about the final judgment that will come on evil men from these verses.
39. Explain why you think that God will actually be the One that determines how the riches of the evil man are distributed.

The rich man cannot be satisfied by his riches. Instead, the rich man is actually filled with terror. Rich men are filled with fear for several reasons if they are not trusting the Lord. However, the thing that they fear the most is death. When rich men lie down at night, they are afraid that they will not wake up in the morning. They do have a good reason to fear because the day of their death will come very suddenly. God will bring judgment upon them and there will be no way that they can escape the judgment of God in that day.

40. Read Job 27:1-23 and write what men do when they see the judgment of the wicked man.
41. Explain why the fear of death is really the greatest fear of people that continue to reject God.
42. Explain what you think that this fear of death actually means since the book of Hebrews points out the fact that fear of death produces bondage.

Now, reread Job 23:2-27:23 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Job
Lesson #8
Job 28:1-31:40

In our last lesson, we learned that the three friends of Job finished their speeches to Job because they finally realized that they could not answer him. They realized that they could not prove their charges when they accused Job of being a very evil man. Now that the friends of Job had finished trying to accuse him, Job was able to begin teaching them. In our lesson today we will be studying the things that Job taught his friends. We will see that Job spoke of both his past condition and his present condition before concluding that he was right with God.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what Job said about wisdom and understanding.
- Explain what Job said about his past.
- Explain what Job said about his present condition.
- Explain why Job said that he was just.

Job began to talk about the ways that people search for wisdom. One of these ways is through scientific advances. Men have learned to find and refine veins of silver and gold. They have also taken iron and bronze from the earth. Men have even learned ways to control the floods in their search for wisdom. Men are willing to try ways that are completely unknown in their search for wisdom. They will try paths and ways that even the birds and the animals have not yet discovered as they search to find ways to gain wisdom. Through such efforts people find great riches but they do not find wisdom. They also bring the things that are hidden to the light.

1. Read Job 28:1-28 and write the question that people still ask after all of this searching for wisdom.
2. Explain why people can gain much knowledge about many different things and yet not find wisdom.
3. Explain why you think that many people get confused and think that they have gained wisdom by learning a lot of knowledge.

People have tried in every way to find wisdom and understanding. They have explored the entire earth and searched the depths of the seas in their search for wisdom. People have found that no amount of silver or gold would purchase wisdom for them. The same can be said for all forms of jewels and other riches. None of those things can be used to purchase wisdom and understanding. That was a very true statement in the time of Job. It is just as true today. People are still trying to use all of these things in order to gain wisdom. However, the people of today fail just as people failed in the time of Job. They cannot discover wisdom through their own efforts.

4. Read Job 28:1-28 and write from whom wisdom is hidden.
5. Explain why people cannot gain wisdom and understanding through their search since the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
6. Explain why you think that God told us that if we lack wisdom we need to ask Him to give us wisdom and He will give it to us generously.

Here, we see that it is impossible for any people living in any time in history to receive wisdom and understanding through their own efforts. God is the only One that understands all wisdom. That is why the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. This is due to the fact that God sees and knows all things. He is the One that even knows the weight of the wind and of the water. He is the One that determines when it rains. He also is the One that causes the thunder and the lightning. God is able to do all of these things because of the fact that He is God. He is

the One that prepared these things and searched them out. He is the One that knows all things.

7. Read Job 28:1-28 and write what wisdom is.

8. Explain why people have tried throughout history to gain wisdom and understanding through their own efforts.

9. Explain why you realize that every Christian can have godly wisdom if he or she will ask God to give His wisdom.

Throughout the ages people have tried to gain wisdom. However, their efforts have always failed. Here, we see why the efforts of people have always failed. The only way to receive wisdom is through the fear and trust of the Lord. This is due to the fact that the Lord is the source of all wisdom. God must give us wisdom because our efforts to gain wisdom will always fail. The only way that we can gain understanding is to depart from evil because our trust is in the Lord. Today, we have many people that have spent many years attending various colleges and universities to gain knowledge. Some of these people have gained great knowledge but they have failed to gain wisdom and understanding.

10. Read Job 28:1-28 and write what understanding is.

11. Explain what you learn about the source of all wisdom and understanding.

12. Explain why you realize from these verses why people may fail to gain understanding as well as failing to gain wisdom.

After explaining to his friends the source of wisdom and understanding, Job gave a summary of his life in the past. Job remembered how the Lord had protected and preserved him in the days of his youth. In those days he had been guided through the darkness of the world by the light that the Lord had given to him. In those days the Lord had blessed Job with children. He had been blessed in everything that he did. He had been one of the leaders of his city and sat at the gate of the city. Men showed respect to him as he went to the gate of the city to take his place of leadership there with the other leaders of the city.

13. Read Job 29:1-25 and write what the aged did when Job walked by them.

14. Explain why Job explained to his friends what his life had been like in the past before everything had been taken away from him and he had lost his health.

15. Explain why you think that the Lord had blessed Job so abundantly before He had let Satan take everything away that Job had.

The older people showed their respect for Job when he walked by them in the street. This was something that usually only happened when people walked by an older person that they greatly respected. Here, we see that the older people chose to show their respect to Job by standing when he walked by them. When Job began to speak, the princes and the nobles would become quiet and listen to the words of Job because of their respect for him. As we read on in this chapter, we see why the people showed such great respect for Job. He had helped the poor and the fatherless when they cried because there was no one to protect them. He filled the hearts of the widows with joy by providing them with protection. He was a living example of righteousness and justice.

16. Read Job 29:1-25 and write what Job was to the poor.

17. Explain why Job had been so highly respected and listened to by all of the people for many years.

18. Explain why you think that we have to earn respect before many people will really listen to what we say.

Job had been concerned about the problems of the poor and needy. At the same time he was ready to punish those who were guilty of evil. This was the reason why the people had shown great respect for Job. People knew that they could depend on the advice and wisdom of Job for guidance. When Job gave counsel, people accepted his God given wisdom and did not answer back. Job also encouraged those who had a lack of confidence so that they were encouraged to

- move forward. He guided them in their development. He encouraged those in sorrow.
19. Read Job 29:1-25 and write what the people did after they had listened to Job speak.
 20. Explain what this chapter teaches about the fact of why God had told Satan that Job was a perfect and an upright man.
 21. Explain why you think that people were very quick to turn to Job when they needed advice or counsel.

However, the attitude of others toward Job had changed very suddenly. Now, the sons whose fathers were worthless were even making fun of Job. We go on to read a description of these worthless people that were making fun of Job in his misery and suffering. These were people that were so evil that they were not even allowed to live among other people. Instead, they were forced to live in the caves and the bushes. These people were fools that thought only of evil. Now, these men were making fun of Job and saying that he was even lower than they were. These men were taking every opportunity to make fun of Job and his terrible condition.

22. Read Job 30:1-31 and write what was turned upon Job.
23. Explain how even the people that were worthless and very evil were now treating Job since everything had been taken from him.
24. Explain why you think that people will change so quickly in their thinking about others when they see them experience suffering and loss.

In addition to feeling forsaken by people, Job also felt that he had been forsaken by God. Here, we see that even a very faithful servant of the Lord can feel forsaken by God during times of intense suffering. Everything that happened seemed to bring terror to his soul. In his suffering Job felt like he had become dust and ashes. Job felt that God was not listening to him when Job called to the Lord for help. Instead, God was using His great hand to bring increased suffering to the life of Job. It looked like God was going to allow the suffering of Job to continue. It seemed to Job that death offered the only escape for him from his present suffering.

25. Read Job 30:1-31 and write what happened to Job when he looked for good.
26. Explain how Job felt because he felt that he had been forsaken by God as well as being forsaken by the people.
27. Explain why you think that a very faithful servant of the Lord could feel that the Lord has forsaken him as certain times in his life.

Job concludes this section by giving a summary of his present condition at that time. Instead of receiving good, Job said that he was receiving evil. When he looked for light, all that he could see was darkness. His heart was troubled and he could not find rest. Instead, it seemed to Job that his days were filled with suffering. When he cried out to those around him, no one even seemed to listen. In fact it seemed that the only real companions that he had were the wild animals. His skin and his bones suffered from the heat. He could not sing with joy because his life was filled with mourning.

28. Read Job 30:1-31 and write what Job found when he looked for good.
29. Explain what you learn about the condition that Job was experiencing from this chapter.
30. Explain why you think that Job said that his heart was troubled and he could not find rest.

Job began his final summary of the fact that he was just showing that he had a pure mind. Here, we see that Job had an excellent understanding of the fact that sin begins in our minds before it becomes actions of sin. Job had not allowed thoughts of lust to enter his mind. The same thing could be said for deceit. He had not even thought about ways to deceive the people that were around him. In addition, he had not desired any of the possessions of other people. Instead, Job had kept his mind pure before the Lord and had not allowed evil thoughts to fill his mind.

31. Read Job 31:1-40 and write what Job had not allowed to deceive his heart.
32. Explain why it is important to realize that sin begins in the mind before the person commits sinful actions.

33. Explain why you think that it is important to keep our minds pure if we want to have actions that are pleasing to the Lord.

Here, we see that Job pointed out the fact that he had not been guilty of adultery. In fact Job went on to point out the awfulness of adultery. He said that adultery is like a fire that brings destruction. Job had also treated all of his servants with kindness. He had never allowed the poor to remain without clothing. He had provided for the poor and needy from his own flocks. As we see from this summary, we see that the thoughts of Job toward other people were right. His actions toward others were also right. Job had lived a pure life because his desire was to please the Lord.

34. Read Job 31:1-40 and write what Job said should happen to his arm if he lifted it up against the poor.

35. Explain why Job said that adultery is like a fire that brings destruction.

36. Explain why you think that it is important for us to follow the example of Job and live a pure life and have a desire to please the Lord in all that we do.

Not only were the thoughts and actions of Job toward other people just, his actions toward God were also just. He had not placed his trust in his riches when he had been a rich man. At the same time he had been very careful to make certain that he did not worship the sun or the moon. In everything that he did, Job made certain that he did not deny God in any way. In fact Job had not even thought of cursing those who had done evil to him. There was no way that people could say that Job was trying to hide his sins as Adam had done.

37. Read Job 31:1-40 and write who Job said that he wanted to answer him

38. Explain why Job mentioned his thoughts toward other men before he mentioned his actions toward others.

39. Explain why you think that it is important in your own life to confess and forsake sin rather than try to hide that sin.

Job had not tried to cover his sin because he had not been guilty of sinning against either God or other people. Now, the desire of Job was that God would answer him and show him that he was innocent. Job said that if God would answer his request that then he would be able to show that he had not been guilty of any evil either toward God or toward other people. Job here shows the one area where he was allowing sin in his life. As a result of the debate with his friends, Job had developed a very self righteous attitude. We will see that God will deal with that particular attitude in the life of Job before we come to the end of the book.

40. Read Job 31:1-40 and write the words of Job that show this self righteous attitude as he tells of the way that he would approach God.

41. Explain why the repeated attacks of his friends had caused Job to develop a very self righteous attitude in his own life.

42. Explain why you realize that we are always in danger of developing a self righteous attitude when we try to answer the attacks of others.

Now, reread Job 28:1-31:40 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Job
Lesson #9
Job 32:1-35:16

For nearly the past thirty chapters, we have seen how the three friends of Job took turns condemning Job and accusing him of great evil. Each time Job would answer these false charges of his three friends. However, throughout this entire time there had been another man listening to the speeches of Job and his three friends. The name of this man was Elihu. He had not spoken because he was much younger than the other men. Now, we have come to the point where the three friends of Job have given up trying to answer Job. As a result, Elihu will begin to speak.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why Elihu was angry.
- Explain why Elihu said that he spoke for God.
- Explain why Elihu accused Job of rebellion.
- Tell why Elihu said that Job was speaking the wrong way.

Apparently there were several other men that had been listening to this discussion between Job and his three friends. We are now introduced to one of those other men. One of those that had listened to this discussion was a young man by the name of Elihu. The discussion had made Elihu unhappy for two reasons. First, Elihu was unhappy because Job had justified himself rather than justifying God. Second, Elihu was unhappy because the three friends had condemned Job even though they had found no reason to condemn him. The reason that Elihu had not said anything earlier was due to the fact that he was much younger than Job and his three friends.

1. Read Job 32:1-22 and write why Elihu said that he had kept quiet so long.
2. Explain why Elihu was unhappy because the three friends of Job had condemned Job even though that had found no reason to condemn him.
3. Explain why you think that Job had chosen to justify himself rather than choosing to justify God.

Elihu had been afraid to speak to a group of men that were much older in age than he was. He had felt that these three older men would be able to teach much wisdom from their many years of experience. Elihu realized that God is able to give understanding to man through the spirit of a man. However, the friends of Job had not been able to offer wisdom and understanding to Job even though they were great men and advanced in age. Here, we see that great age does not make a person wise if that person depends on his own wisdom rather than seeking the wisdom of God. Elihu had listened very closely to the words of the three men. All that he had learned from listening to their statements was the fact that none of them were able to answer the need of Job.

4. Read Job 32:1-22 and write how Elihu said that he would not answer Job.
5. Explain why Elihu was able to recognize that none of the three friends of Job had shared any wisdom with him.
6. Explain why you think that we will be able to recognize the fact when people are sharing their own opinions instead of the wisdom of God if we listen closely

Even now Elihu still waited for words of wisdom from the three friends of Job. Since the friends had given up trying to answer Job, Elihu was now ready to share some thoughts with them. His spirit was compelling him to speak. He said that he was like a wineskin that had no opening. He was ready to burst if he did not share his thoughts. Elihu said that he would be

refreshed by speaking the words that were on his heart. Today, new Christians will also be refreshed if they are given opportunities to share what the Lord has taught them from the Word of God. Elihu said that he would not try to flatter the men by giving them flattering titles. Instead, he would speak the truth as he spoke the things that he said.

7. Read Job 32:1-22 and write why Elihu said that he would speak.

8. Explain why Elihu was so eager to speak after listening to the three friends of Job try and tell him why he was suffering.

9. Explain why you think that it may become hard to keep quiet if people have done much speaking but have shared no wisdom.

Elihu began to speak directly to Job and asked Job to listen to his words as he spoke to him. Elihu said that he would speak for God since God had not yet answered him. Elihu realized that it was God that had made him and had given him life. Now, as he stood to speak for God, he said that he would be speaking to Job as a man just like Job. However, he promised that he would not try to make Job afraid as the other three friends had done. He would not spend his time trying to tell Job that he must be a very evil man. Instead, Elihu promised to answer Job according to the words that Job had spoken in his answers to his three friends.

10. Read Job 33:1-33 and write down the words that Job had used to describe himself.

11. Explain why Elihu said that he would answer Job according to the words that Job had spoken rather than give his own opinions.

12. Explain why you think that it is important to listen carefully to others so that we can answer what they really say and not answer what we think that they said.

Elihu said that Job had claimed several things in his answers to his three friends. He had said that he was innocent of any evil. He had accused God of treating him like an enemy. It was this statement of Job to his friends that Elihu was now going to address. Elihu said that Job should not choose to speak in such a way about God. In speaking that way, Job was failing to recognize that God is greater than man. Elihu said that Job was actually speaking against God when he spoke such words. Job needed to realize that man does not fully understand the words of God even after God has spoken to that person twice.

13. Read Job 33:1-33 and write why God has to open the ears of man so that man can understand the words of God.

14. Explain why Elihu said that he would address the words that Job had spoken during the discussion rather than anything that happened before the discussion.

15. Explain why you think that it is important to speak about the words that people have spoken rather than speak about the opinions that others may have.

When men receive their instruction from the Lord, they have no excuse for pride. God is also the One that keeps mankind from being completely destroyed. God allows pain to come upon a person in an effort to correct that person. In fact a person often will come to the point where he does not even have any desire for food because of the suffering that he is experiencing at that time. In his suffering a person may lose so much weight that his bones begin to stick out. At times like this a person is actually looking face to face at death. However, God allows this suffering for the good of that person in order to restore that person to a right relationship with God.

16. Read Job 33:1-33 and write from what God will deliver those people that are trusting in Him.

17. Explain why Elihu said that God allows suffering so that God can restore that person to a right relationship with God.

18. Explain why you think that God is always concerned to restore a right relationship with us when we are not enjoying that right relationship.

God is able to deliver a person from judgment. Today, we know and understand that God has

provided Christ to pay the penalty for our sin so that He can deliver us from eternal judgment. As a result, God offers deliverance and restoration to all those who place their trust in Him. God continues to work with mankind in His efforts to bring mankind back into a right relationship with Him. This is the work of God and not the work of man. As Elihu came to the end of his first section of his speech, he asked if Job had anything to say. Elihu said that he was speaking in an effort to show that the great suffering of Job was not a result of great evil that he had done. Since Job gave no answer, Elihu went on to share some additional wisdom with him.

19. Read Job 33:1-33 and write what God wants to do in our lives by the way that He works with us.

20. Explain why Job was guilty of evil because of his proud boasts to his friends when they had condemned him.

21. Explain why you think that it is important in your own life to restore fellowship with the Lord when you have broken that fellowship.

Elihu began the next part of his speech the same way that he had begun the first part of his speech. He asked his audience to listen to his words and test those words to see if they agreed with what is right. Next Elihu repeated some of the words of Job. Job had said that he was righteous and that God was being unfair to him. God was causing him to endure great suffering even though he had done nothing wrong. In fact Job had even come to the point where he had said that it was of no profit to trust in God. Elihu said that such a charge about God was wrong.

22. Read Job 34:1-37 and write what Elihu said that God would not do.

23. Explain why Elihu chose to quote the exact words of Job as he prepared to show the sins of Job.

24. Explain why you think that it is important to think through our words before we say them so that we do not blame God by what we say.

Elihu said that God would never do evil or commit iniquity. Instead, God will judge men according to their ways. In judging men, God will not twist justice. In fact all of those that God has chosen will certainly go to be with Him when they die. Both those who do good and those who do evil will die and their bodies will return to the dust. Elihu said that it was not even polite to call kings and princes evil. Certainly it would be even less acceptable to accuse God of doing evil in His dealing with mankind. God is the One that makes no difference between the rich and the poor.

25. Read Job 34:1-37 and write who Elihu said made all men.

26. Explain why Elihu said that it is important to realize that God does justice in all of His dealings with mankind.

27. Explain why you think that God treats all people fairly and does not make any difference between the rich and the poor.

God is the One that is the Creator that created all people. However, people come and go in a minute. Even as people come and go, God sees them and knows what they are doing. When men suffer, God will not cause them to suffer more than it is right for them to suffer. At the same time it is important to realize that the Lord is the One that is in control of all things. He can remove and destroy those who are great and powerful and set others in their places. God will judge evil men because they have turned away from him and have not followed His ways. At the same time God will hear the cry of the poor and needy when they cry to Him.

28. Read Job 34:1-37 and write what Elihu said that Job had multiplied.

29. Explain why Elihu said that men should not accuse God of evil

30. Explain why you think that God has an important purpose that He is working to complete when He allows suffering in our lives.

Elihu concluded this part of his speech by again asking Job to tell him if he was speaking wrong by the things that he had said. He said that if Job could show him that his words were wrong

that he would stop speaking. Elihu also asked Job to teach him if the words that he had spoken were wrong. Here, we see that Elihu had an attitude that we should also have. He had the attitude of a learner and was ready to listen and learn if Job would teach him. In the same way, we should have a learner's attitude and be willing to let others teach us when we are wrong. Then, Elihu pointed out the sin that Job had committed by his answers to the speeches of his friends. Elihu said that he was guilty of rebellion against God.

31. Read Job 34:1-37 and write against whom Job had multiplied his words.

32. Explain why it is important that we always have the attitude of a learner when we speak and be willing to let others teach us when we are wrong.

33. Explain why you think that Elihu shows us the importance of a learner's attitude by the words that he spoke to Job.

Elihu continued his speech by asking Job if he was right to say that he was more righteous than God. Here, we see what happens when we do not let the Lord control our thoughts at all times. We will begin to speak things that show that we are self centered at that moment and we will make statements that are full of pride. This was what had happened to Job. In answering the false charges of his friends, Job had actually begun making himself like a god. Here, we see that danger of trying to answer the false charges of others in our own strength. Elihu told Job to look at the heavens and see the clouds. Elihu said that if he would look at them, he would realize that God was much greater than he was.

34. Read Job 35:1-16 and write who Elihu said that he would now answer in addition to answering Job.

35. Explain why we are in danger of making statements that are full of pride at any moment that we are being self centered.

36. Explain why you think that we need to depend on the Lord at every moment so that we will not be self centered in our thoughts, attitudes, words or actions.

If Job and his friends were sinning, that would not make God less righteous. Instead, Elihu said that the righteousness of God is unchangeable. Since Job could not hurt God by his statements, the only person that Job could hurt was himself. This was the reason that Job should not have been as bold as he spoke against God. The only person that he hurt was himself. Instead of speaking as he had, Elihu said that Job should have been more eager to seek God. The same is also true in our own lives. If we seek God and ask him to guide us, we will be careful about making bold statements about ourselves. Instead, we will give all glory to God.

37. Read Job 35:1-16 and write what God will not hear so that it causes Him to take positive action when we speak.

38. Explain why it is also important for us in our own lives to seek the Lord rather than complaining when things do not go as we planned.

39. Explain why you think that we will actually hurt ourselves if we make bold statements about ourselves in our words to others.

When people make the choice to seek the Lord, they quickly realize that the Lord will do many things for them. God will even give them a song in the night. He will also teach and give wisdom to those who seek Him. The reason that people do not get help from the Lord is due to the fact that people allow evil to remain in their lives instead of confessing their sins to God. That is why we need to seek the Lord first. That will also give us a true picture of ourselves. Elihu said that was the reason why Job was not getting an answer from God. He was allowing his own sin to hinder the work of God in his life by his words.

40. Read Job 35:1-16 and write how Job was multiplying his words.

41. Explain why it is important to seek the will of the Lord first if we want to experience His presence working in our lives.

42. Explain why you think that many Christians miss the blessing of the Lord in their lives because they fail to put the Lord first in their lives.

Now, reread Job 32:1-35:16 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Job
Lesson #10
Job 36:1-38:41

In our last lesson, we studied the words that Elihu spoke to Job and his three friends. Today, we will continue our study of the words of Elihu. However, our study today will not end with the words of Elihu. When we come to the end of the speech of Elihu, we will see that God begins to speak to Job and his friends. As we come to the words of the Lord, we see the source of true wisdom. Throughout the book of Job, he had been saying that he wanted to speak to God face to face. In our lesson today, we will see that the Lord gives Job that opportunity.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what Elihu said about the way that God deals with men.
- Explain how the storm gave a picture of God.
- Explain what God said about His creation.
- Explain why the Lord asked Job so many questions.

Elihu began what we will study today by asking Job and his friends to listen to him a little longer as he brought his speech to a conclusion. Elihu promised that he would not finish his speech by sharing his own wisdom. Instead, he would seek his wisdom from the Lord and he would give all credit to God. Elihu knew that only as he spoke the words of God would he be sure that he was speaking the truth. God is the One that is the true source of all strength and wisdom. He is the One that has all might. The Lord will not reject anyone that comes to Him with an honest heart. Just as God judges the wicked, He will also watch over the righteous.

1. Read Job 36:1-33 and write how long God will establish those who are righteous.
2. Explain why Elihu said that he would seek his wisdom from the Lord and give all credit to God.
3. Explain why you think that it is important for us to share the wisdom of God from the Word of God instead of sharing our own opinions and ideas.

Although God is the One that establishes the righteous forever, God also finds it necessary to discipline the righteous when they sin. God warns men to trust in Him and turn from their sins so that it will not be necessary for Him to discipline them. Those who choose to obey God and serve Him will be blessed. Those who fail to obey the Lord will be judged by death. This will happen because they are hypocrites in their hearts. Such people live their lives as those who are unclean. At the same time that God disciplines those who disobey Him, He will also help those who are suffering and needy. Elihu said that God would have done this for Job if Job would have been trusting in the Lord completely instead of depending on his own strength.

4. Read Job 36:1-33 and write what kind of judgment Job was receiving instead.
5. Explain why Elihu said that God will discipline His followers when they continue to commit sin.
6. Explain why you think that there are also many people today that are hypocrites in their hearts.

Elihu said that Job was being punished with the wicked because he had chosen to say that he was righteous with God. As a result, Elihu warned Job to turn from his self righteous attitude before God found it necessary to bring greater judgment on him. He could not depend on riches for protection. Neither could he think that the night would hide him from God. Instead, Job needed to confess any sin that still remained in his heart. Job needed to magnify the work of God rather than magnifying himself. Elihu used this statement to again begin teaching about the greatness of God.

7. Read Job 36:1-33 and write the first things that Elihu mentioned that are an example of the greatness of God.
8. Explain why it is important for every follower of the Lord to learn to magnify the Lord instead of magnifying self.
9. Explain why you think that many Christians today like to talk about what they have done instead of talking about what the Lord is doing.

Elihu pictured the greatness of God by the cycle of water. First, the water falls to the earth as small drops. Then, it turns into a vapor and returns to the clouds. Elihu said that there are also many other things about the clouds that show the greatness of God. One of the things that he mentioned was the noise of thunder. He said that God caused the thunder and sent out the lightning. Even after the lightning was sent out, God still controlled it. At the same time God caused the rain from the clouds to provide plenty of food. God also used the clouds to block the light of the sun and the moon.

10. Read Job 36:1-33 and write what man cannot know about God.
11. Explain why the way that the creation works provides one way for God to show all people the greatness of God.
12. Explain why you think that many people choose to ignore and deny the greatness of God as they look at the creation around them.

Elihu went on to describe how a storm also gave a picture of the greatness of God. God is in complete control of all of the storms that happen throughout the entire universe. He is the One that guides the lightning as it goes to the ends of the earth. In the same way the thunder is like the voice of God. In fact Elihu said that the things that God does are so great that we cannot understand them. God is the One that makes the choice whether to send snow, the small rain or the great rain. God is also the One that causes the animals to know when they should go down into their dens so that they are protected from the storms of winter.

13. Read Job 37:1-24 and write from what direction Elihu said that the whirlwind comes.
14. Explain why God gives the animals wisdom so that they know how to protect themselves from the storms.
15. Explain why you think that God uses the storms both to reveal His glory and also to judge those who are in rebellion against Him.

Elihu said that God causes the whirlwind to come out of the south. He causes the cold to come from the north. God is also the source of the frost. In addition, God is the One that brings the clouds together and then scatters them. The clouds move in whatever direction God tells them to move. Elihu said that everything that we see in the creation is under the control of the hand of God. Elihu encouraged Job to stand still and consider the fact that God is in control of all things. Elihu knew that Job would realize that he had been boasting unwisely if he would consider the wondrous works of the Lord. Elihu asked if Job understood how God controls the storm.

16. Read Job 37:1-24 and write what kind of works and knowledge God has.
17. Explain why every person that really studies the creation of the Lord will realize that they are unwise to boast.
18. Explain why you think that many people choose to boast about what they can do instead of considering the wondrous works of the Lord.

Elihu said that the works of God are very wonderful. It is possible for God to do these wonderful works because He has perfect knowledge of all things. Job had not been there when God had spread out the sky. Instead of boasting about the way to talk to God as Job had done, we need to learn how we should both listen and talk to God. God is so great that we cannot understand His ways because His ways are beyond human understanding. He is the source of all power, justice and righteousness. This is the reason why we need to fear God rather than

boasting against Him.

19. Read Job 37:1-24 and write what kind of majesty God has.

20. Explain what you learn from the speech of Elihu about the greatness of God.

21. Explain why you think that it is important for every Christian to learn to listen to the Lord as well as to talk to God in prayer.

Elihu had finished his words of wisdom for Job. As a result, God now began to speak to Job. Many times Job had said that he wanted to speak directly to God. Now, God honored that request by beginning to speak to Job. God spoke to Job out of a whirlwind so it is probable that the coming of the whirlwind was what had caused Elihu to speak about the whirlwind. God told Job to stand like a man because God was going to demand an answer of him. God wanted Job to face up to the fact that he was truly guilty of pride in his challenge to God.

22. Read Job 38:1-21 and write what God asked Job about himself at the time that God had created the earth.

23. Explain why Job had said many times that he wanted to speak directly to God instead of just his friends.

24. Explain why you think that it is important for us to allow God to speak to us and reveal the sins that need to be confessed in our own lives.

God began by showing Job that his understanding of the wisdom of God displayed on the earth was very limited. Job had not been present when God had laid the foundation of the earth. Job had no idea of the size of the earth. Job did not know how the foundations of the earth were held together. Job had no understanding of the fact that the stars can sing. In addition, God showed by His questions that Job did not know how the oceans are controlled. God has placed limits on the sea so that the waves can only come to a certain place and no further. We also see that Job had not commanded the time that the sun rises in the morning.

25. Read Job 38:1-21 and write what God asked Job about the sea.

26. Explain why God told Job that his understanding was very limited and so as a result did not even know how the foundations of the earth were held together.

27. Explain why you think that even though people continue to learn many new things about the earth that their understanding is still very limited.

Job had not explored the depths of the sea so that he knew how things operate at the bottom of the sea. Job also lacked understanding about death. Again that was beyond his understanding. God also asked Job if he knew the size of the earth. God knew that Job could not really explain the source of light and darkness. This was true because Job did not know the paths of the sun, moon and stars. God asked Job if he had been born when all of these things were created.

28. Read Job 38:1-21 and write what God asked Job if he had entered into in the sea.

29. Explain why God wanted to show Job how little he really understood about the creation and the way that it works.

30. Explain why you realize that your understanding of the creation of the Lord is also very limited.

After showing Job his limited understanding about the earth, God went on to show Job his limited understanding about the heavens. Job did not have an understanding at all about the way that God formed the snow and the hail. Even today people still have no idea how God can make each one of the snowflakes so that each one is different. Job also lacked understanding about the way that light is divided. Then, God reminded Job that man does not know the path that the lightning takes. In the same way God controls the rain so that it rains where God wants it to rain even though it may be out in the middle of the desert.

31. Read Job 38:22-41 and write why God causes it to rain on the desolate and waste ground.

32. Explain why even the people with the greatest of knowledge cannot explain why God makes each snowflake different.

33. Explain why you think that God reminded Job that he did not know the path that the lightning would take.

Here, we see that the ways of man and the ways of God are very different. Man is concerned to water the part of the earth that affects him while God is concerned about the entire earth. Man looks at his own needs but God is concerned about the needs of the entire earth and even the entire creation. Job also did not understand how God caused the frost and the ice. Then, God asked Job if he could guide the various formations of stars that he could see in the sky. Of course God knew that these formations of stars were beyond the control of any person. However, God wanted to remind Job that He was in control of all things.

34. Read Job 38:22-41 and write what God asked Job about wisdom.

35. Explain why people choose to look at their own needs instead of learning to look at the needs throughout the entire earth.

36. Explain why you think that it is important to ask God to give you His wisdom so that you will begin to look at the earth and the people as God looks at the earth and people.

Although mankind may be lacking in his knowledge of many things, his greatest lack is a lack of wisdom. Man can gain knowledge by studying the things that other people have learned. However, man can never gain wisdom through his own efforts. Wisdom comes from God and is given to men by God. Wisdom is the ability to think the thoughts of God in the way that God thinks them. That is why the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Mankind always looks at things from the point of view of man. It is the work of God that makes it possible for man to understand things in the way that God understands those things.

37. Read Job 38:22-41 and write what God provides for the ravens.

38. Explain why God wanted to show Job that he lacked true wisdom and understanding.

39. Explain why you think that many people fail to understand the difference between knowledge, understanding and wisdom.

As we have been studying the words of God to Job, you have probably noticed a very interesting thing. The words of God are all questions. God had a purpose by asking Job so many questions. Questions are one of the most effective ways of teaching. Questions cause a person to think and look at information from a different viewpoint. This forces a person to consider his own condition. When we ask a person questions and give that person time to think, this allows the Holy Spirit to work to bring either conviction or understanding. This is also the time when God will often prepare the heart of a person so that the person is prepared to receive the instruction that God wants to give that person through the Holy Spirit.

40. Read Job 38:22-41 and write what part of man receives understanding when that understanding is given by God.

41. Explain why God chose to talk to Job by asking him questions instead of giving him answers to his earlier questions.

42. Explain why you think that it is important to learn how to ask effective questions if you want to help people really begin to think.

Now, reread Job 36:1-38:41 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Job
Lesson #11
Job 39:1-42:17

In our last lesson, we learned that God began to speak to Job after his three friends and Elihu had finished speaking to him. As we begin our lesson today, we see that God is still speaking to Job. By the time that God had finished his questioning of Job, Job realized that he was a sinner as he stood before God. He realized that there were many things of which he had no understanding because God was so much greater than he was. Then, God began His questioning of Job again. As a result of the questioning of God, we see that Job developed a real attitude of repentance. Finally, we will finish the book by learning about the way that the Lord blessed Job again.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what God told Job about His omnipotence.
- Explain how Job answered God the first time.
- Explain what God was teaching Job through His final series of questions.
- Explain how God blessed Job when this testing was finished.

As we studied our last lesson, we saw that God was asking Job questions about the earth and the heavens. These questions were the way that God chose to show Job the danger of being so bold in his challenges of God. Today, we begin our lesson with another series of questions. These questions were to show Job that he had very little understanding about the different ways that God works with the animals. As God asked these questions of Job, we grow in our understanding about the fact that God knows all things and that He has all power. God knows the exact moment that the wild animals will give birth to their young. He knows when the young will leave their parents. God is also the One that has given the animals the places where they live.

1. Read Job 39:1-30 and write where the wild donkey lives.
2. Explain why it was important for God to show Job the danger of being so bold in his challenges to God.
3. Explain why you think that it is important in our own lives to realize that the Lord even knows the exact moment that each of the wild animals will give birth to their young.

The wild donkey loves the wilderness and hates to be close to any place where there are large numbers of people. The wild donkey also hunts through the mountains for its food. God also knows the ways of all of the other wild animals such as the wild ox. In addition to knowing all of these things, God is also the One that provides all of the things that He has given to the birds. He is the One that gave the beautiful wings to the peacock. God also created the ostrich so that it would leave its eggs in the dust. The ostrich is one of the few birds that lays its eggs and then forgets about them. The ostrich never thinks about the fact that someone might step on those eggs. The ostrich also has no concern for her little ones.

4. Read Job 39:1-30 and write what the ostrich lacks that causes her to have no concern for either her eggs or her young.
5. Explain why God created the ostrich to forget its eggs and have no concern for her little ones.
6. Explain why you think that God caused some of the animals to not want to be any place that there were large numbers of people.

The ostrich is a bird that actually gives us a good example of what a man is like when he does not trust in the Lord. Such individuals think only of themselves and have no concern for others.

Such individuals lack wisdom and understanding because true wisdom and understanding always come from God. The ostrich is also a bird that is full of pride. The Lord is the One that has given strength to the horse. However, God causes the strong horse to be afraid of a little grasshopper. The horse is proud of his strength and is eager to demonstrate that strength. In addition, the horse is not discouraged by warfare.

7. Read Job 39:1-30 and write what will not cause a horse to turn back.

8. Explain why the ostrich is a bird that gives us a good example of what a person is like that does not trust in the Lord.

9. Explain why you think that the Lord would cause a large animal like a horse to be afraid of a little grasshopper.

The horse shows that he is eager to go forward into battle by stamping his feet and showing his fierceness. The horse can also smell the battle when he is still far away. The hawk and the eagle are two birds that fly with the wisdom that God has given to them. The eagle is guided by God and makes its nest in the high places where it will not be disturbed by man. The eagle also knows that the rocks of the mountains provide it with a place of safety and protection. God has also given eyes to the eagle that cause it to see for a very great distance as the eagle hunts for its food.

10. Read Job 39:1-30 and write the place where the eagle likes to be.

11. Explain how the actions of the animals all point to the fact that God controls all things.

12. Explain why you think that God has created every animal and bird so that each one functions in a different way.

Job had been listening carefully to the words of the Lord. The Lord concluded this first part of His speech with a challenge to Job. The Lord asked Job if he still thought that he could give instruction to the Lord. Then, the Lord gave Job a challenge and asked him to admit defeat. By this time Job realized that he had certainly been wrong to even think about challenging the Lord. He realized that his wisdom and understanding could not even begin to compare with the Lord. As a result, Job said that he would cover his mouth with his hand. He had spoken twice but he would not speak against the Lord any more or challenge Him.

13. Read Job 40:1-24 and write from where God spoke as He began to speak to Job a second time.

14. Explain why we also need to examine our own words instead of acting like we can give instruction to the Lord.

15. Explain why you think that the Lord gave Job a challenge and asked him to admit defeat.

The Lord told Job to get ready for the challenge that He was going to issue to Job. God asked Job if he had chosen to condemn God so that he would be justified. Here, we see that God not only wanted to show Job that he was wrong to challenge God but that He also wanted to show Job that he was guilty of sin. Job had been guilty of great pride in his boasts against God. God told Job that if men are right to have such pride that God would be the first to tell Job that he could be saved by his own efforts.

16. Read Job 40:1-24 and write who the Lord told Job to behold.

17. Explain why it is very easy for pride to take control in the life of any person when that person is trying to answer the accusations of others.

18. Explain why you think that pride is such a dangerous sin in the life of any person.

The behemoth was a large animal that was present in the time of Job. Many people in the past have thought that it talked about the hippopotamus. However, the description does not really fit the hippopotamus. The description more closely describes the dinosaur. God said that this animal was a very strong animal with great power in his muscles. His muscles were tied together to provide this protection. His bones were also very strong. He did things according to the way that God told him to do them. His food came from the mountains. He liked to lay in

the shade of the trees and ferns. These trees would provide him with shade as long as he lay in their shadow. When he went down to the river, he was able to take a large amount of water into his mouth.

19. Read Job 40:1-24 and write how large a river this animal thought that he could take into his mouth.

20. Explain what the Lord said about the pride of this very large creature.

21. Explain why you think that the description given in this passage more closely describes a dinosaur or if you think that it describes a hippopotamus.

God was showing Job that he could not even win a victory over this large creature because of the strength of this large creature. Next God mentioned the leviathan. Again there is uncertainty about what animal this is describing. Many think that it describes a dragon while others think that it describes a crocodile. Job knew that he could not pull this creature out of the water by his own strength. Neither could he put a hook in its nose. Job knew that this creature could not speak soft words to him. Neither could Job get this creature to serve him. Job knew that he could not keep this creature as a pet. In fact Job knew that he could not even kill this creature using spears.

22. Read Job 41:1-34 and write what would not go into the head of this creature.

23. Explain why Job realized that the animal that God described was not an animal that could become a pet.

24. Explain whether you think the description of this animal more closely describes a crocodile or a dragon.

This creature was such a dangerous creature that men realized that it was very unwise for them to get him angry. Then, God goes on to describe the various parts of this creature. His teeth were like great doors which no man could open. His body was covered with scales. Those scales connected to each other and were so close to each other that nothing could come between them. God had created them in such a way that they stuck together and could not be divided. His mouth, eyes and nose were also very powerful. When this creature sneezed fire came out of his mouth. This is one of the things that cause many people to think that this was a dragon. This creature also had a very strong neck.

25. Read Job 41:1-34 and write what his heart was like.

26. Explain why God said that this creature could even sneeze and cause fire to come out of his mouth.

27. Explain why you think that God would create a creature that would be able to send out fire from his mouth.

This creature was such a powerful animal that men were afraid of him when he came after them. His jaws were so powerful that they could even break certain kinds of metal. Ordinary weapons like spears and arrows did not even bother him. When he went into the water, he stirred it up so that it became like a boiling pot. We read that there was no animal on the earth that was like this creature. He was not afraid of anything. Instead, he had the greatest pride of any of the animals. God was actually using this animal to teach Job about the dangers of pride.

28. Read Job 41:1-34 and write how this animal compared in its pride to any other animal.

29. Explain what these verses teach about the dangers of pride.

30. Explain why you think that God said that He had created this creature so that it was like no other animal on the earth.

When God completed the first part of his speech, Job had said that he would not speak with pride any more. Now, Job had been shown that pride was actually a very great sin. As a result, we see that Job had a very different attitude as we come to the final chapter of the book of Job. Job now realized that God is the One that does all things. He also knew that he could not hide his thoughts from God. Job realized that he had been speaking about things that he did not even

- understand. He realized that the wisdom of God was completely beyond his understanding.
31. Read Job 42:1-17 and write how Job viewed himself after seeing the greatness of God as God talked to him.
 32. Explain why many people will talk about things that they do not understand and even try to explain them to others.
 33. Explain why you think that Job finally realized that he could not hide his thoughts from God.

Job had heard about God many times. However, as he had listened to the words of God, Job felt that he had seen God face to face. Every time in the Bible where a person that trusts in the Lord experiences even a vision of God, we see that the person immediately became aware of his own sinful condition. He immediately repented of his sin and asked the Lord to forgive him. We see this is what happened to Job in this passage. In the same way this is what we must do as Christians each day. We must confess our sins to the Lord. Then, we will see that the Lord is able to give us His wisdom and understanding and His wisdom and understanding is far greater than the wisdom and understanding that we have in ourselves.

34. Read Job 42:1-17 and write to whom the Lord spoke after Job had confessed his sin.
35. Explain why even a vision of God will cause every person to realize their own sinful condition.
36. Explain why you think that we will be able to learn much more from God when we realize our own sinful condition.

The Lord told Eliphaz that He was angry with Eliphaz and the other two friends. They had not spoken the things that were right and true as Job had done. God told the three men to go to Job and offer a burnt offering. Then, they were to ask Job to pray for them. God said that He would hear the prayer of Job. If the three friends did not offer a sacrifice, God said that it would be necessary to judge the three friends because of the foolish words that they had spoken. Then, the three friends did as God had said and offered burnt offerings. As soon as Job prayed for his three friends, the Lord answered the prayer of Job and also restored his losses.

37. Read Job 42:1-17 and write how much the Lord gave back to Job after he prayed for his friends.
38. Explain why we must have a repentant attitude if we want to receive wisdom and understanding from the Lord.
39. Explain why you think that the Lord told the three friends to offering sacrifices and to ask Job to pray for them.

As soon as Job prayed for his friends, the Lord began to bless Job so that he eventually had twice as much as he had when Satan destroyed everything that he previously had. After Job repented and prayed for his friends, God caused all of the relatives of Job to come and visit him. All of these relatives and friends offered comfort and encouragement to Job. Then, each of them gave Job a piece of money and a gold earring. In addition to making Job twice as rich as Job had been before Satan took everything from him, the Lord also gave Job seven sons and three daughters. These daughters were the most beautiful women in the entire land.

40. Read Job 42:1-17 and write how long Job lived after his time of suffering.
41. Explain why you think that the Lord began to bless Job again as soon as he had prayed for his three friends.
42. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to give Job a double blessing after the Lord had allowed everything that he had to be destroyed.

Now, reread Job 39:1-42:17 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.