

**Considering Job**  
**(Week 8)**  
**Job 25-31**  
**“Our God is an Awesome God”**

**Introduction**

By the time we get to the **Twenty-fifth Chapter of Job**, his three “comforting friends” have pretty much run out of steam. They have tried everything they can think of to humiliate Job in an effort to force him to plead guilty to crimes that he has not committed. They have accused him of everything from neglecting the poor to pure evil, and yet, Job has maintained his innocence throughout. Bildad is the last one to speak to Job, and his final message to the poor man is in regard to the incredible majesty of God, juxtaposed with the depravity of man. Most of us would agree wholeheartedly with Bildad’s words, but just as his previous declarations, they are little comfort to Job during his time of suffering. Bildad reminds Job of the high and loftiness of The Almighty.

**“Dominion and dread belong to Him, The One Who establishes harmony in His heights. Can His troops be numbered? Does His light not shine on everyone? How can a human be justified before God? How can one born of woman be pure? If even the moon does not shine and the stars are not pure in His sight, how much less a human, who is a maggot, a son of man who is a worm!”**  
**Job 25:2-6**

Clearly, we all can agree that our God is greater than anything else in the universe. Like Bildad so adequately describes for us, even the moon and stars pale in comparison to His great light. We sing songs to this effect every Sunday, when we gather for worship. Our God truly is an awesome God. And when we are compared to Him in our sinfulness, we are completely depraved. This is why we are so desperately in need of His mercy and grace. These are two of God’s most wonderful attributes, but sadly, neither Bildad, nor his two companions, ever mention either of them. Job knows that compared to God he is not a righteous man, but he also knows that he has tried his very human best to live in such a way as to be pleasing to God. A fact that his friends refuse to accept.

While Bildad is correct about the holiness of God, he is, however, woefully mistaken in how God sees us. I like to call it “worm-ology”; the doctrine that so overstates man’s depravity that we actually come to believe that humanity in and of itself has no value. Listen how Bildad describes mankind:

**“...how much less a human, who is a maggot, a son of man who is a worm”**

Now, don’t forget to place that in context. Job was covered with worms that were eating away at the infectious sores all over his body. And here is good old Bildad telling him that he is no better in God’s sight than those disgusting worms! While it is true that we humans, because of our penchant for sin and the wickedness of our hearts, are in fact filthy creatures, we are most certainly not “worms” in God’s sight. He created humanity in His own image (**Genesis 1:26**). This means that even though we have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory, He still values us. If He did not, then He would not have died to redeem us from our fallen nature. Christ himself reminded His disciples that they were of great worth to Him.

**“Aren’t two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them fall to the ground without your Father’s consent. But even the hairs of your head have all been counted. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”**  
**Matthew 10: 29-31**

You see, even while we were still sinners, Christ died for the us (**Romans 5:8**). God values humanity. Do not let anyone tell you that you are a worm! God Himself created you, and you, just as a snowflake, are like no other. He values you and longs to forgive your sin. While none of us deserve such marvelous grace, we are to God... worth saving.

Bildad was right about how awesome God is, but his “worm-ology” was way off. And Job reminded him of just how “comforting” that he had been.

**"How you have helped the powerless and delivered the arm that is weak! How you have counseled the unwise and abundantly provided insight! With whom did you speak these words? Whose breath came out of your mouth?"** **Job 26:2-4**

Now, just in case you missed it, Job was being sarcastic. Bildad had given him no comfort whatsoever. He had called Job a liar and a sinful worm of no value in God's sight. Job goes so far as to question exactly which "Spirit" led him to speak to him the way that he had. You see, our speech can be influenced by either The Holy Spirit, or the unholy one. Some folks actually can't seem to tell the difference. Satan is identified as "The Accuser" in scripture, while The Holy Spirit is called "The Comforter". How we treat others will identify whose Spirit is speaking through us! In Job's response to Bildad, he offers far more insight into just Who God is than Bildad can even begin to imagine. He explains to his three friends that God is Worthy, God is Wisdom, and God is his Witness.

### **God is Worthy (Chapter 26-27)**

Job begins to describe the power and majesty of God. Even though he truly feels that God has treated him unfairly, Job is still in awe of God's mighty power. He proclaims God's power over all, reminding us that even death and the grave are subject to His will (**26:6-7**). Then Job describes that God is LORD over all creation.

**"He stretches the northern skies over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing. He wraps up the water in the clouds, yet the clouds do not burst beneath its weight. He obscures the view of His throne, spreading a cloud over it. He laid out the horizon on the surface of the waters at the boundary between light and darkness. The pillars that hold up the sky tremble, astounded at His rebuke. By His power He stirred the sea, and by His understanding He crushed Rahab. By His breath the heavens gained their beauty; His hand pierced the fleeing serpent. These are but fringes of His ways; how faint is the word we hear of Him! Who can understand His mighty thunder?"** **Job 26:7-14**

What an amazing passage of Scripture! Again, we need to remember that this is the oldest book in *The Old Testament* and just look at the things that we learn of creation in this passage. Of course, we understand that God created the heavens and the earth, but here Job, under the inspiration of The Holy Spirit, reveals some amazing things that it took scientists years to discover. First, Job explains to us that God hung the earth in empty space (**vs. 7**). Then he describes how God designed the clouds to hold evaporated water and still float in the sky carrying the immense weight of it (**vs. 8**).

Job then goes on to say that although we can plainly see the results of His handiwork, God obscures Himself from our view (**vs. 9**). The next verse is one that I find to be particularly astounding. Job speaks of God laying out the horizon on the surface of the waters at the boundary between light and darkness (**vs. 10**). The word that Job uses here that is translated "horizon" (*Chuwg* in Hebrew) actually means a circle or sphere. Now don't miss this: *The Book of Job* declares that the earth is **round** thousands of years before man's science actually figured that out! You see, our God truly is the maker of the heavens and the earth. Who says that science contradicts The Word of God? ...Only those who lack understanding.

Job, who is criticized by his three friends for not having much wisdom concerning The Almighty, proves that he knows a lot more than they do. Perhaps this is why they do not speak anymore after Job's final speech to proclaim his integrity!

He tells us in **verse 14** that even if we can completely grasp the wonders of creation, they are merely but a fringe of God's ways. What a great verse! Here are Job's three friends going on and on about what they know, and Job reminds them that their vast knowledge of the ways of God are woefully inadequate.

He goes on then to say, that He knows that God is a punisher of the wicked, but that would not be the case for Job. He would maintain his innocence until death.

**"I will never affirm that you are right. I will maintain my integrity till I die. I will cling to my righteousness and never let it go. My conscience will not accuse me as long as I live! May my enemy be like the wicked and my opponent like the unjust for what**

**hope does the godless person have when he is cut off. When God takes away his life?"** **Job 27:5-8**

Not only does Job say that he will not plead guilty to their baseless accusations, but he also invokes a curse upon those who have so brutally accused him, saying it is they who will be subjected to God's judgement when Job is vindicated by God. This probably had a very chilling effect upon his accusers, as well as the other bystanders, who were deciding which side that they were on. Job would place himself in the hands of The Almighty, the Creator, Who had made the heavens and the earth and The One Who had created him as well. He alone was worthy to be praised.

### **God is Wisdom (Chapter 28)**

In the middle of his answer to Bildad, Job gives a soliloquy, a hymn of sorts concerning the source of all wisdom. He speaks of those who mine the earth for precious treasure, and the great lengths that men will go to in order to find it. Then Job asks the question, but where can wisdom, the greatest treasure, be found?

**"But where can wisdom be found, and where is understanding located? No one can know its value, since it cannot be found in the land of the living. The ocean depths say, 'It's not in me,' while the sea declares 'I don't have it.'"** **Job 28:12-14**

The only type of wisdom that can be found in this world my friends is "worldly wisdom"! That is not the kind of wisdom that Job is searching for here. *The Book of James* tells us that worldly wisdom leads us to have bitter envy and selfish ambition in our hearts.

**"But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your heart, don't deny the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there is disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace loving, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without pretense. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who cultivate peace."** **James 3:14-18**

Now remember the questions that Job asked of Bildad, **"With whom did you speak those words? Whose breath came out of your mouth?"** (Job 26:3-4). Bildad and his friends had been using worldly wisdom to try and explain to Job the things of God. But that wisdom is rooted in selfishness and jealousy. This is why that they were no comfort to Job.

Job goes on in his "ode to wisdom" and tells them that not only can wisdom *not* be mined, but it cannot be bought.

**"Gold and glass do not compare with it, and articles of fine gold cannot be exchanged for it. Coral and quartz are not worth mentioning. The price of wisdom is beyond pearls."** **Job 28:17-18**

So if wisdom cannot be mined, nor purchased, upon this earth, where can wisdom be found? Answer: It can only be found from above. God is the source of all wisdom.

**"But God understands the way to wisdom, and He knows its location."** **Job 28:23**

The wisdom "from above" to which James and Job are both referring can only be obtained by having a reverent awe of God and seeking His counsel in all things. This is what is meant in *The Old Testament* to "Fear The LORD".

**"He has said to mankind, 'The fear of The LORD — that is wisdom. And to turn from evil is understanding.'"** **Job 28:28**

Now, let me explain. God doesn't want us to be quaking in fear of Him to the point that we are paralyzed with terror. He wants us to have enough reverence for Him to obey what He commands us. Why? Because His commands come from His great wisdom. He alone knows what is best for us. He is a holy God, but He is also a loving God, who cares about His children. To have a reverent fear of Him is to walk in His ways and be blessed. This is the only way we can truly know the wisdom from above. He IS our only source of Wisdom. By prayer and spending time in His Word, we gain insight for living in this

fallen world. We will respond to every circumstance with wisdom from above, rather than worldly wisdom. If Job's three friends had known this, they would have been a great source of encouragement to Job, rather than a stumbling block to him. Our God is wisdom.

### **God is My Witness (Chapters 29-31)**

**"Does He not see my ways and number all my steps? If I have walked in falsehood or my foot has rushed to deceit, let God weigh me on accurate scales, and He will recognize my integrity."** **Job 31:4-6**

In **Chapters 29-31**, Job makes one final appeal to prove his innocence. He swears, with multiple oaths, that Bildad, Zophar, and Eliphaz have accused him falsely on all charges. He calls on God to be his witness. Job asserts that he has never abandoned the poor or those in need of any assistance (**29:14-17**). He has been faithful to his wife and has never even looked at another woman with lustful desires (**31:1**). In fact, Job longed for the days to return, when he was well respected and honored for his fairness and righteousness. Those who had once looked up to him, now mocked and accused him. It seems that everyone on the face of the earth had turned against him. The crushing weight of it all was more than he could bear.

Job had become desperate and bitter, and he blamed God for it all. He feels that he had been singled out unfairly by God to endure such severe testing, and he longed to stand before God to declare his innocence. Why wouldn't God come to his defense? He needed for God to be his witness against those who were viciously attacking his character. Why wouldn't He silence those who were falsely accusing Him? It was as if Job were declaring:

**"My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"**

Have you ever felt that God has abandoned you? Job did. And if we were being completely honest, most of us could claim that there have been times that God seemed far away, when we needed Him. But nothing is further from the truth, God has never abandoned us, and He never will. Job in his despair had completely lost sight of how good God had been to him. He longs for the "good old days", but if it were not for the goodness of God, those good old days would have never happened. Never doubt in the dark, what God has shown you in the light. Job most definitely needed to be corrected for some of the thoughts he was thinking, as well as, the things he was saying. But, what he did not need was to be rebuked by men who lacked wisdom. He needed to be lovingly reprovved by someone, who could testify accurately in God's court. That Someone would ultimately be God Himself, but before He appears to Job, He would first send someone, who had been watching this whole horrible debate and would bide his time seeking wise counsel from God before opening his mouth. His name is Elihu. He was a young man that had been watching patiently and praying the whole time that Job and his friends were arguing.

Job had asked for a mediator, and he was about to find one from a most unlikely source. Job had grown weary of defending himself against the brutal accusations of his friends. He had heard the voice of "the accuser", but where was the voice of the Comforter? Would anyone speak for Him? Job needed someone who would be his witness, one who would proclaim in his defense that he was not the man that his friends claimed that he was. Not only that, Job also needed someone who would tell him where he **had** been wrong. He needed to hear from God. God knew exactly what Job had done right and where he had made mistakes. This is exactly what each of us need in order to walk before The Lord faithfully and be blameless (**Genesis 17:1**). You see, we all need to have our lives examined and corrected by The LORD. This is why we seek His wisdom. Only a wise man will obey the counsel of God. What we need is for God to be our witness, we need His watchful eyes upon our every step, so that we may bring Him glory and honor in all that we do.

As believers we need God. We need Him to be high and lifted up, but we need Him to be approachable as well. We need His wisdom to guide us, or our lives will be ruined before Him. And, We need Him to be our witness; One Who will defend and vindicate us, when we need it, and One who will correct us with gracious counsel, when we need that as well. We need Him to be our God, Who is Worthy of our worship. We need Him to be our Source of Wisdom. And, we need Him to be our God, Who is our Witness. We trust in Him, for apart from Him we can do nothing (**John 15:5**). Teach us O LORD.

And ALL of God's people said... TRUTH!!!