**Job 21-24**- May 19th

Job

**21**Then Job replied:

**2**“Listen carefully to my words; let this be the consolation you give me.
**3**Bear with me while I speak, and after I have spoken, mock on. *(Hahaha! I love Job so much)*

**4**“Is my complaint directed to a human being? Why should I not be impatient?
**5**Look at me and be appalled; clap your hand over your mouth.
**6**When I think about this, I am terrified;  trembling seizes my body.
**7**Why do the wicked live on, growing old and increasing in power?
**8**They see their children established around them, their offspring before their eyes.
**9**Their homes are safe and free from fear; the rod of God is not on them.
**10**Their bulls never fail to breed; their cows calve and do not miscarry.
**11**They send forth their children as a flock; their little ones dance about.
**12**They sing to the music of timbrel and lyre; they make merry to the sound of the pipe.
**13**They spend their years in prosperity and go down to the grave in peace.
**14**Yet they say to God, ‘Leave us alone!  We have no desire to know your ways.
**15**Who is the Almighty, that we should serve him? What would we gain by praying to him?’
**16**But their prosperity is not in their own hands, so I stand aloof from the plans of the wicked.

**17**“Yet how often is the lamp of the wicked snuffed out? How often does calamity come upon them, the fate God allots in his anger?
**18**How often are they like straw before the wind, like chaff swept away by a gale?
**19**It is said, ‘God stores up the punishment of the wicked for their children.’ Let him repay the wicked, so that they themselves will experience it!
**20**Let their own eyes see their destruction; let them drink the cup of the wrath of the Almighty.
**21**For what do they care about the families they leave behind when their allotted months come to an end?

**22**“Can anyone teach knowledge to God, since he judges even the highest?
**23**One person dies in full vigor, completely secure and at ease,
**24**well nourished in body, bones rich with marrow.
**25**Another dies in bitterness of soul, never having enjoyed anything good.
**26**Side by side they lie in the dust, and worms cover them both.

**27**“I know full well what you are thinking, the schemes by which you would wrong me.
**28**You say, ‘Where now is the house of the great, the tents where the wicked lived?’
**29**Have you never questioned those who travel? Have you paid no regard to their accounts - **30**that the wicked are spared from the day of calamity, that they are delivered from the day of wrath?
**31**Who denounces their conduct to their face? Who repays them for what they have done?
**32**They are carried to the grave, and watch is kept over their tombs.
**33**The soil in the valley is sweet to them;  everyone follows after them, and a countless throng goes before them.

**34**“So how can you console me with your nonsense? Nothing is left of your answers but falsehood!”

Eliphaz

**22**Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied:

**2**“Can a man be of benefit to God? Can even a wise person benefit him?
**3**What pleasure would it give the Almighty if you were righteous? What would he gain if your ways were blameless?

**4**“Is it for your piety that he rebukes you and brings charges against you?
**5**Is not your wickedness great? Are not your sins endless?
**6**You demanded security from your relatives for no reason; you stripped people of their clothing, leaving them naked.
**7**You gave no water to the weary and you withheld food from the hungry, **8**though you were a powerful man, owning land - an honored man, living on it.
**9**And you sent widows away empty-handed and broke the strength of the fatherless.
**10**That is why snares are all around you, why sudden peril terrifies you,
**11**why it is so dark you cannot see, and why a flood of water covers you.

**12**“Is not God in the heights of heaven? And see how lofty are the highest stars!
**13**Yet you say, ‘What does God know? Does he judge through such darkness?
**14**Thick clouds veil him, so he does not see us as he goes about in the vaulted heavens.’
**15**Will you keep to the old path that the wicked have trod?
**16**They were carried off before their time, their foundations washed away by a flood.
**17**They said to God, ‘Leave us alone! What can the Almighty do to us?’
**18**Yet it was he who filled their houses with good things, so I stand aloof from the plans of the wicked.
**19**The righteous see their ruin and rejoice; the innocent mock them, saying,
**20**‘Surely our foes are destroyed, and fire devours their wealth.’

**21**“Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you.
**22**Accept instruction from his mouth and lay up his words in your heart.
**23**If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored: If you remove wickedness far from your tent
**24**and assign your nuggets to the dust, your gold of Ophir to the rocks in the ravines,
**25**then the Almighty will be your gold, the choicest silver for you.
**26**Surely then you will find delight in the Almighty and will lift up your face to God.
**27**You will pray to him, and he will hear you, and you will fulfill your vows.
**28**What you decide on will be done, and light will shine on your ways.
**29**When people are brought low and you say, ‘Lift them up!’  then he will save the downcast.
**30**He will deliver even one who is not innocent, who will be delivered through the cleanness of your hands.”

Job

**23**Then Job replied:

**2**“Even today my complaint is bitter; his hand is heavy in spite of my groaning.
**3**If only I knew where to find him; if only I could go to his dwelling!
**4**I would state my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments.
**5**I would find out what he would answer me, and consider what he would say to me.
**6**Would he vigorously oppose me? No, he would not press charges against me.
**7**There the upright can establish their innocence before him,  and there I would be delivered forever from my judge.

**8**“But if I go to the east, he is not there; if I go to the west, I do not find him.
**9**When he is at work in the north, I do not see him; when he turns to the south, I catch no glimpse of him.
**10**But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.
**11**My feet have closely followed his steps; I have kept to his way without turning aside.
**12**I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread.

**13**“But he stands alone, and who can oppose him? He does whatever he pleases.
**14**He carries out his decree against me, and many such plans he still has in store.
**15**That is why I am terrified before him; when I think of all this, I fear him.
**16**God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me.
**17**Yet I am not silenced by the darkness, by the thick darkness that covers my face.

**24**“Why does the Almighty not set times for judgment? Why must those who know him look in vain for such days?
**2**There are those who move boundary stones; they pasture flocks they have stolen.
**3**They drive away the orphan’s donkey and take the widow’s ox in pledge.
**4**They thrust the needy from the path and force all the poor of the land into hiding.
**5**Like wild donkeys in the desert, the poor go about their labor of foraging food;
    the wasteland provides food for their children.
**6**They gather fodder in the fields and glean in the vineyards of the wicked.
**7**Lacking clothes, they spend the night naked; they have nothing to cover themselves in the cold.
**8**They are drenched by mountain rains and hug the rocks for lack of shelter.
**9**The fatherless child is snatched from the breast; the infant of the poor is seized for a debt.
**10**Lacking clothes, they go about naked; they carry the sheaves, but still go hungry.
**11**They crush olives among the terraces; they tread the winepresses, yet suffer thirst.
**12**The groans of the dying rise from the city, and the souls of the wounded cry out for help. But God charges no one with wrongdoing.

**13**“There are those who rebel against the light, who do not know its ways or stay in its paths.
**14**When daylight is gone, the murderer rises up, kills the poor and needy, and in the night steals forth like a thief.
**15**The eye of the adulterer watches for dusk; he thinks, ‘No eye will see me,’ and he keeps his face concealed.
**16**In the dark, thieves break into houses, but by day they shut themselves in; they want nothing to do with the light.
**17**For all of them, midnight is their morning; they make friends with the terrors of darkness.

**18**“Yet they are foam on the surface of the water; their portion of the land is cursed,
    so that no one goes to the vineyards.
**19**As heat and drought snatch away the melted snow, so the grave snatches away those who have sinned.
**20**The womb forgets them, the worm feasts on them; the wicked are no longer remembered but are broken like a tree.
**21**They prey on the barren and childless woman, and to the widow they show no kindness.
**22**But God drags away the mighty by his power; though they become established, they have no assurance of life.
**23**He may let them rest in a feeling of security, but his eyes are on their ways.
**24**For a little while they are exalted, and then they are gone; they are brought low and gathered up like all others; they are cut off like heads of grain.

**25**“If this is not so, who can prove me false and reduce my words to nothing?”