Explore the Bible Lesson Preview
June 16, 2013
“Who Said Life Would Be Fair?”
Background: Job 15:1 – 21:34
Lesson: Job 15:5-6, 9-10, 20; 16:19-21; 19:5-6, 25-27

Motivation: Why do good things happen to bad people? This is the flip side of the question we’ve been asking. In response to the critics, Job shares his testimony.

Examination:

I. An Appeal to Justice, Part 2 (15:1-17:16)

Basically ignoring everything Job said, Eliphaz continued with the party line: unrighteousness brings suffering. “Your iniquity teaches you what to say, and you choose the language of the crafty. Your own mouth condemns you, not I; your own lips testify against you.” (15:5-6) HCSB

Eliphaz believed that Job’s stance against his friends counsel was dictated by an underlying iniquity. In defending himself Job used cunning terms to cover his guilt. Yet Job’s words condemned him (9:20).” Eliphaz rejected Job’s defense, arguing that Job had no “corner on the market” concerning God’s counsel.

“What do you know that we don’t? What do you understand that is not clear to us? Both the gray-haired and the elderly are with us, men older than your father.” (9-10) HCSB

15:7-10

“Eliphaz wanted Job to realize that he had no claim to superior wisdom (12:1-3; 13:1-2). In words bordering on sarcasm, Eliphaz stated that Job had neither priority of birth nor privileged access to the heavenly council (1:6; 2:1). Job should understand that time-tested wisdom
Job Lesson 3: “Who Said Life Would Be Fair?”

Written by David Self
Monday, 10 June 2013 00:00

, which had been handed down long before Job’s father, was on the side of his friends.” Although probably ill-timed and judgmental, Eliphaz’s speech does make three very important points:

A. Man is incapable of being righteous. “What is man, that he should be pure?” (15:14, cf. 15-16) Romans 3:23

B. God will punish unrighteousness. “A wicked man writhes in pain all his days” (15:20, cf. 17-26) Romans 1:18; Jude 15

C. Unrighteousness is ultimately not profitable. “Let him not put trust in worthless things, being led astray, for what he gets in exchange will prove worthless” (15:31, cf. 27-35) Prov. 3:5-10, 12:8; 1 Tim. 6:17

Job’s Response:

1. No Comfort (16:1-6) Job’s friends are “miserable comforters” (2); Job suggested that if the roles were reversed, he would at least try to offer some words of relief (5).

2. No Justice (16:7-22) Job’s words are based on incomplete knowledge. He is reacting to circumstances rather than trusting God. God has chosen not to reveal Himself at this time; therefore, Job feels that he has been turned over to wicked men (11) and has been punished by God (12). Gen. 3:2

3. No Hope (17:1-16) “Where then is my hope?” (17:15) Job sees the only alternative left to him is death. Rom. 15:4-13; Titus 2:13

II. An Appeal to Tradition, Part 2 (Job 18:1-19:29)
A. Listen (18:1-4) Bildad reprimands Job for not listening to his friends’ wisdom. It is human nature to defend oneself against reproof.

B. Look (18:5-15) Observe the wicked and see their end. Unrighteousness does create a snare (8) for the offender.

C. Learn (18:16-21) Results of disobedience include spiritual dryness (16), a poor name (17), dark living (18), and no inheritance to grant (19). Prov. 10:28, 22:1

Job’s Response: (Chapter 19)

1. The Plight of Railings “How long will you torment me and crust me with words? If you really want to appear superior to me and would use my disgrace as evidence against me, then understand that it is God who has wronged me and caught me in His net.” (1-6) We must be very careful as parents, spouses and friends to respect the power of the words we say. James says that the “tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity” (James 3:6) “…an unruly evil, full of deadly poison” (3:8). Ecc. 5:2; Eph. 4:29, 5:6

2. The Pity of Rejection (7-22) Job feels rejected by God and his friends. “Have pity on me” (21) is his cry.

3. The Power of the Redeemer (23-29) Job answers his own questions of 14:14 “When a man dies will he come back to life?” “But I know my living Redeemer, and He will stand on the dust at last. Even after my skin has been destroyed, yet I will see God in my flesh. I will see Him myself; my eyes will look at Him, and not as a stranger. My heart longs within me.” HCSB, p. 846:
19:25 “The Hebrew term Redeemer
reflects an ancient custom whereby a person’s nearest kinsman served as a guarantor of his rights and privileges (Lv 25:23-34, 47-54; Dt. 19:6-12; Jos 20:2-5; Ru 4:1-17). Although Job had repeatedly described God as his enemy and persecutor (Jb 7:17-21; 16:7-14; 19:7-12), he had also expressed his confidence in God (12:13-16; 13:15-18; 14:14-17; 16:18-20). He said that in the end God was his only hope (17:3). Job’s underlying faith ultimately surfaced, breaking through his dark doubts about God. God was Job’s redeemer who alone could serve as a guarantor of his rights and vindicate his cause. If Job were to die, he was confident that the living God would stand on the dust of his grave and testify on his behalf.”

III. An Appeal to Logic, Part 2 (Job 20:1 – 21:34)

A. Sin is Short-lived (20:1-11) The timing of God’s judgment is a major issue of contention between Job and his friends. Job argued that God’s judgment may not be as quick as they think. Heb. 9:28

B. Sin is Sweet at First (20:12-13) Hebrews 11:25 speaks of the “pleasures of sin for a season.” The word picture used here is very powerful: sin is like a sweet in the mouth (12) but turns to cobra venom in the stomach (14).

C. Sin is Surely to be Judged (20:14-29) All of the punishments described in these verses are the wicked’s “inheritance God ordained” (29).

Job’s Reply to Zophar (21:1-34) Chapter 21 begins Job’s direct refutation of the accepted theology of suffering. While the friends’ wisdom was logical, Job's reply was subjective. “Look around you”, Job says, “real life does not always fit into your narrow theological box!”

1. Ungodly People Do Prosper (1-16) Ungodly people have no time for God (15); still they are sometimes blessed materially. (Rom. 3:9-21; 1 Tim. 6:5-12)
2. **Ungodly People Are Not Always Punished Through Their Children** (17-21) This accepted wisdom was not always true.

3. **Ungodly People Eventually Die** (22-26)

4. **Ungodly People Will Be Judged** (27-34)

**Application:**

1. God is a perfect judge; eventually all accounts will be settled.

   1 Cor. 3:11-23; 2 Cor. 5:10; Heb. 10:10, 12, 14, 16-25.

2. God acts toward us in grace; His pleasure or displeasure will not be found in circumstances.

3. Theology must be based on God’s word rather than our circumstances.

**Explore the Bible Leader Pack Item 7: Worksheet: My Load of Sin;**

**Biblical Illustrator:** no article

**You may access David’s Lesson Preview in MP3 format at:** [www.hfcbiblestudy.org](http://www.hfcbiblestudy.org)
Job Lesson 3: “Who Said Life Would Be Fair?”

Written by David Self
Monday, 10 June 2013 00:00

Dates: **5/30-8/1** – MetroLIVE in worship center; **6/9-10** SBC Pastor’s Conference @ GRB; **6/11-12**

- So. Bapt. Convention@ GRB;
**6/12**
- Camp Reflection Party;
**6/16**
- Father’s Day;
**6/16**
- SPF – Father’s Day Luncheon in FSC;
**6/22**
- Men: Serve;
**6/24-28**
- VBS;
**7/4**
- Holiday, church offices closed;
**7/6**
- Men: Pray;
**7/7-11**
- Houston Project;
**7/17**
- RUSH Rally/Prayer time;
**7/15-19**
- SWOC;
**7/20-27**
- RUSH Week, Branson;
**7/22-26**
- Unique Student Ministry Conf.;
**7/26**
- Family Mission Trip;
**7/31**
- Summer Celebration, students;
**8/2-3**
- Milestone: Adolescence Welcome to 6th grade;
**8/3**
- New 6th Grade parents Milestone;
**8/3**
- Inspirational Writers Conf.;
**8/10**
- Children’s Ministry Summit;
**8/16**
- Hunt Retreat Grand Opening;
**8/18**
– BIG Sunday – Students; 
8/19
– FBA Orientation; 
8/20
– First Day of School, FBA; 
8/23
– Students Back to School Event; 
8/24
– Men: Serve; 
8/25
– Back 2 School (Promo) Sunday; 
8/28
– Next Gen Family Fun Event.