

MOUNT SINAI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

8500 Cameron Road

Austin, Texas 78754

512-451-0808

BIBLE STUDY

JOB

Bible Study Strategies: Prayer of Preparation

1. **Reading** the Scripture accurately
2. **Interpreting** the Scripture which is read
3. **Obeying** the Scripture as it is understood

Aims of Bible Study:

1. Increased Bible knowledge
2. Improvement as a student of the
Scripture
3. Spiritual growth as a believer in Christ

THE DEBATE BETWEEN JOB AND HIS FRIENDS (Chaps. 3 – 31)

The Third Round of Speeches (Chaps. 22 - 31)

In the second round of speeches Job's "comforters," no longer appealing for repentance, become more condemning and vehement. Job, meanwhile, becomes more stubborn.

Job's Response to Eliphaz's Third Speech (Chaps. 23, 24)

Chapters 23 and 24 are all one speech, merely divided for convenience by the ancient Bible scholars. Job develops three main themes in chapter 23: his longing to present his case at God's throne (vv. 1-9); his defense of his own righteous lifestyle (vv. 10-12); and his fear of God as if He were his adversary (vv. 13-17).

23:1-9 Job's complaint is bitter. If only he could come to God's throne and find Him! Job is confident that if he could approach the Lord he would have to admit that Job was righteous and so he would be delivered forever from his Judge.

23:10-12 Verse 10 is often quoted to prove the sanctifying effects of trials, but in context it is really Job's confidence in a "not-guilty" verdict. In the meantime God acts in an arbitrary manner, and His fearful judgments leave Job terrified. In spite of this, Job believes that if his case were to ever come to trial at God's judgment seat, he would be found to be as pure as gold and to have been always obedient to God's words, which he treasured . . . more than his necessary food. The lovely words of verse 10 are well worth learning by heart for our own lives:

But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold..

23:13-17 Meanwhile the unique and apparently arbitrary God does whatever His soul desires and Job is afraid of Him, and even terrified, because God has made Job's heart weak.

24:1-12 Since nothing is hidden from the Almighty, Job can't understand why He doesn't give the solution to the problem of the wicked's prosperity to those who know Him. He enumerates in detail the horrible injustice in this world – the crimes of the oppressors and the sufferings of the oppressed.

Job complains of the apparent failure of God's governing of the world (v. 12)

The dying groan in the city, And the souls of the wounded cry out; Yet God does not charge them with wrong.

24:13-17 Next Job describes the rebellious murderer, adulterer, and burglar. All three favor the night for their activities; the morning is the same to them as the shadow of death.

24:18-25 In spite of the fact that these wicked sinners should be cursed in the earth and they should be remembered no more, God apparently gives them security. Job maintains that the wicked don't die any more violently than anyone else. He defies anyone to disprove this.