

# 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)

#### Job's Closing Monologue (Chaps. 27 - 31)

Job's "comforters" have not proved their cases – but then neither has Job solved His problem! He is, however, on the right road, and seems to be growing in faith.

Job's monologue has three main themes: Job contrasts his integrity with the *doom of the wicked* (chap. 27); he lauds *the priceless quality of wisdom* (chap. 28); and finally he dwells on *himself* (chaps. 29-31).

#### The doom of the wicked (Chaps. 27)

**27:1-5** The opening words of this chapter, "Moreover Job continued his discourse, and said," suggests a major break. No longer is he merely answering Bildad (26:1); he is addressing all, and he is getting many things "off his chest," as he would say. Job continues to insist on his own honesty, integrity, and righteousness. He refuses to admit that his critics might conceivably be right in accusing him of suffering as a result of secret sin.

**27:6-23** Job does not defend the wicked, the unrighteous, and the hypocrite; their calamity is deserved. He will teach his three friends about God's dealings with the unrighteous man – truths that they themselves have observed. Disaster will often (but not always) strike his family, his possessions, his house, and himself. He will perish while good people rejoice.

### The Priceless Quality of Wisdom (chap. 28)

**28:1-11** This lovely chapter is built around the question voiced in both verses 12 and 20:

**But where can wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?**

Man shows great skill and perseverance in digging for precious metals and jewels. Here in the first section of the chapter human cleverness (seen in mining) has been unable to find wisdom. In verses 13-19 human riches are incapable of buying wisdom, and in verses 21-28 God alone is seen as the giver of wisdom.

The description of mining in ancient times is very fascinating, but contains some difficulties for translators. Verse 4 is especially hard: nearly every English version has a different understanding of the text here. Andersen comments that "it is hard to believe that they all had the same Hebrew text in front of them."

Unlike Bildad, who calls man "a maggot," Job admits man's cleverness in mining:

Man's remarkable success as a miner shows how clever and intelligent he is; but, for all that, he has failed completely to unearth wisdom.

**28:12-19** The path of wisdom is not found so easily. It cannot be discovered in the land or sea, it cannot be purchased, not can an adequate price be placed on it, because its price . . . is above rubies and topaz, and cannot be valued in pure gold.

**28:20-28** Wisdom and understanding are hidden from the eyes of all living creatures. Destruction and Death have only heard . . . about them. The same God who designed the patterns of nature is the source of wisdom, because He . . . declared and prepared it. To fear Him is wisdom and to depart from evil is understanding.

The chapter seems to imply that we should submit to God's providential dealings even if we don't always understand them.

## Job Dwells on Himself (chap. 29)

**29:1-17** Job now gives a masterful and nostalgic account of the good old days of his prosperity and honor, and yearns for their return. He enjoyed God's favor and guidance. His children were with him. He lived in luxury and was respected in the city by young and old, by princes and nobles, because of his deeds of charity, his righteousness, and justice.

**29:18-25** He anticipated long life and a peaceful death "in his nest," as he enjoyed prosperity, vigor, and strength, pictured by the dew . . . all night on his branch, his glory . . . fresh within him, and his renewed . . . bow. Others welcomed his advice as a farmer welcomes the spring rain. His smiling countenance renewed their confidence. His leadership made him like a chief, or as a king in the army, as one who comforts mourners. It is hard to understand why God would punish such a man as this!