

MOUNT SINAI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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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 Second Round of Speeches (Chaps. 15-21)

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 Zophar's Second Speech (Chaps. 21)

21:1-22 Job now asks for strict attention. His complaint is not primarily against man, although his pathetic condition should awaken human sympathy. He counters their arguments with the true observation that the wicked often prosper in every area of life and die without suffering, even if they have had no place for God in their life. How often, he asks, do the wicked reap the reward of their sins in their own lifetime? How often are they driven away like chaff in the wind?

21:23-34 One person dies at peace in full strength, prosperous. Another passes away in . . . bitterness and poverty. In death all are alike. If Job's friends insist that

the wicked are always punished in this life, he will appeal to those who travel extensively to testify that although the wicked may be punished in the afterlife, he often lives quite happily here. No one condemns or punishes him, and he dies just like all others. As a parting shot Job says, “And you! You try to comfort me with nonsense. Every answer you give is a lie!” (v. 34 TEV).

With these words Job ends the second round of speeches between himself and his friends. These “comforters” have about reached the end of their attempts to “convict” Job of sin; they will attempt one more round --- minus Zophar.

The problem of the book of Job is still unsolved. Why do the righteous suffer? Job, however, has made some progress and little glimmers of light have begun to shine through the dark enigma of his suffering.