

Job Chapters 15-31

The Futility of Inappropriate Counselling (continued)

- Some Lessons**
- * The friends' addresses continue without adding anything new; Eliphaz does best, but Bildad and Zophar fade out; we often withdraw when the perplexities of Christian situations defeat us
 - * Neither our Lord nor the friends convince Job of sin; Job admits sinfulness, but acquits himself of specific wrongs
 - * Since Jehovah will not answer him, and Job is not suffering because of sin, what he pleads for is care and sympathy
 - * Job finds some comfort in counting past blessings, but becomes bitter and closes down
- Key Themes and Representative Verses**
- * Eliphaz II (Ch 15) - more of the same: Job is a hypocrite (15: 5), everyone is a sinner (15: 15), sin brings suffering (15: 34)
 - * Job V (Chs 16-17) - bad counselling generates hostility (16: 1), his conscience is clear (16: 19-20), and he expects only Sheol for them all (17: 16)
 - * Bildad II (Ch. 18) - sin brings punishment (18: 5)
 - * Job VI (Ch. 19) - thinks everybody has failed him: friends, relatives, servants, for all he wants from them is sympathy (19: 21); however, God will vindicate him in the end (19: 25)
 - * Zophar II (Ch. 20) - reiterates in detail and unsympathetically many possible punishments for sin (20: 29)
 - * Job VII (Ch. 21) - the prosperity of the wicked disproves the friends' arguments (21: 7)
 - * Eliphaz III (Ch. 22) - renews the evangelistic appeal (22: 21-23)
 - * Job VIII (Chs. 23-24) - pleads for divine fellowship (23: 3), reiterates his faith (23: 10), and points out afresh that sin does not always bring retribution in this life (24: 19)
 - * Bildad III (Ch. 25) - all have sinned (25: 5-6)
 - * Job IX (Chs. 27-31) - restates his righteousness and refuses hypocrisy (27: 8), becomes poetical and affirms his abiding trust in Jehovah come what may (28: 28), rejoices in the the glories of his past (29: 14), laments his humiliation (30: 19-20), accuses himself of everything he can think of and acquits himself, and, if our Lord will not answer him leaves things at that (31: 35)