

JOB'S TRIAL, ROUND 3: THE FIRST DEBATE WITH ZOPHAR  
(Job 11 - 14)

- I. Zophar Confronted Job as SIMPLEMENTED (Job 11)
  - A. Believed Job's BLANTANT SINFULNESS had provoked his SUFFERING (11:1-5)
  - B. Said Job's suffering was probably FAR LESS than DESERVED (11:6)
  - C. Based his view on HIS OWN OPINION: DOGMATISM
  - D. Accused Job of lacking UNDERSTANDING and INSIGHT (11:7-11)
  - E. Implied Job was as LIKELY to attain WISDOM as a DONKEY to give birth to a MAN (11:12)
  - F. Called on Job to REPENT (11:13-14)
    - 1. If he did, he would know JOY (11:15-19)
    - 2. If he did not, he was DOOMED (15:20)
- II. Job's RESPONSE (Job 12 - 14)
  - A. "You three must believe ALL WISDOM will DEPART when you DIE" (12:1-3)
  - B. "You've treated me as a JOKE, even though I've maintained my INTEGRITY" (12:4-6)
  - C. "You could learn much from the ANIMALS; even they know CALAMITY sometimes falls on EVERYONE" (12:7-12)

- D. "God can do WHATEVER He PLEASES" (12:13-16)
- E. "EVERYONE is subject to God's SOVEREIGN RULE" (12:17-25)
- F. "Please LISTEN to what I'm TRYING to tell you" (13:1-13)
  - 1. "You are not WISER than I" (v. 2)
  - 2. "I want a HEARING with GOD" (v. 3)
  - 3. "You are FOOLS for whom SILENCE would be wisdom" (vv. 5, 12)
- G. "I would like GOD to LISTEN to me, also" (13:14-28)
  - 1. "I will TRUST Him, even if He KILLS me" (vv. 15, 18)
  - 2. "I don't know WHY He does not RESPOND" (vv. 22-24)
- H. "My life is BRIEF ENOUGH as it is" (14:1-6)
  - 1. "God CONTROLS the LENGTH and CIRCUMSTANCES of my life" (v. 5)
  - 2. "Why must it be so HARD?" (v. 6)
- I. "DEATH is UNAVOIDABLE" (14:7-16)
- J. "I feel as if all HOPE is GONE" (14:17-22)

### III. Summary

- A. Job's trials were not CHASTISEMENT for SIN
- B. Job's trials REVEALED some latent PRIDE
- C. Job's trials functioned as a REFINING FIRE
- D. Job NEVER lost his spiritual INTEGRITY or CURSED God