

The Book of Job

26

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God’s Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we continue studying the book of **Job** – this time reading **chapters 15-28**. In these chapters, we see an ongoing cycle of speeches, with three of Job’s “comforters” – Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar – taking it in turns to try to convince Job that the reason for his suffering lies in his own unrighteous behavior. After each speech, Job himself brings a reply, much of which is a cry of anguish.

Whenever you read the book of **Job**, you must always remember that not everything contained in this book is what God himself has to say on the matter of human suffering. Paradoxically, although **Job** is part of God’s Word, not everything contained in **Job** is God’s thinking. After all, at the very end of **Job**, in **42:7**, the Lord himself rebukes Job’s friends with these words: “I am angry with you...because you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.”

Here are some examples of statements that are *not* God’s thinking:

- **11:6** – “...Know this: God has even forgotten some of your sin.”
- **15:15** – “If God places no trust in his holy ones, if even the heavens are not pure in his eyes, how much less man...”
- **22:2-3** – “Can a man be of benefit to God? Can even a wise man benefit him? What pleasure would it give the Almighty if you were righteous? What would he gain if your ways were blameless?”

Yet despite some misguided thoughts, even the statements of Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar are packed full of solid wisdom. Much of what they have to say is valid and biblical, but their main error is that they miss the point of Job’s suffering. Although even Job is not yet aware of it, we the reader know from the first chapter that Job is not suffering because he has wronged God but because God has allowed Satan to attack and test his faith.

Let’s now read the second third of **Job** – **chapters 15-28**.

Memory Verse

So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

Romans 11:5-6

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!