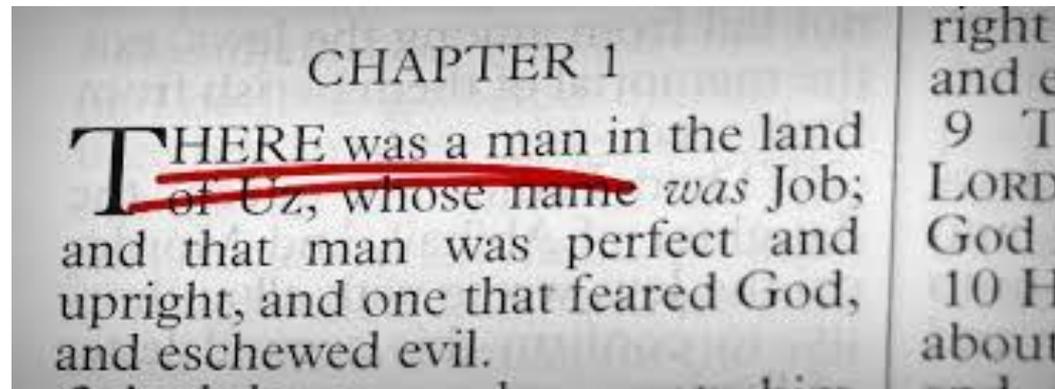
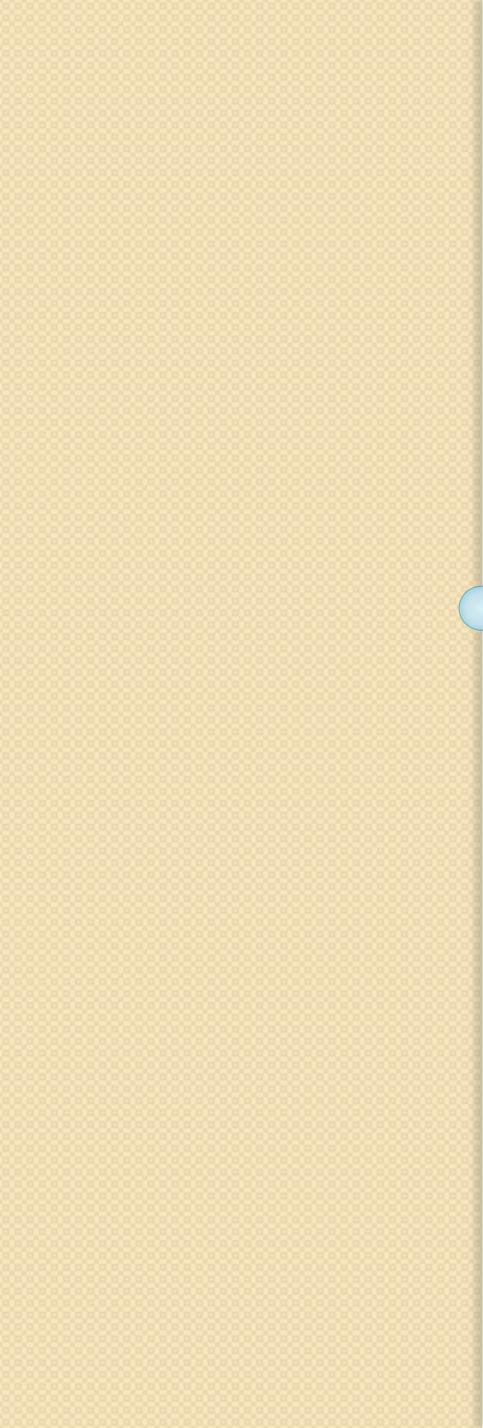


Lesson 7



Job 26–31



This is Job's eighth and FINAL response ("the words of Job are ended"—31:40).

EXCEPT for his responses to the LORD, which will be VERY brief (40:3–5; 42:1–6).

Job's Eighth Response

- **Note:** The “you” in 26:1–4 is singular (KJV—thou). It would seem, then, that Job is directing these remarks to Bildad in particular (review his points in 25:1–6).
- What a big help you are to the weak! What great insight you have provided! To whom do you speak these words, and from whom did you get them? (26:1–4).

Job's Eighth Response

- Even the dead tremble before God, in that this realm is open to His eyes. He stretches out the north over empty space, and hangs the earth on nothing. He wraps up water in the clouds, yet they do not burst under the weight. He hides the face of the **moon** (ESV, NASV) with a cloud. He has marked out the horizon as the boundary between day and night. The pillars of heaven tremble before Him. And these are just the fringes of His ways, a mere whisper. Who can understand the thunder of His power? (26:5–14).

Job's Eighth Response

- As God lives, who has taken away my **right** (ASV, NASV, ESV), and the Almighty, who has made me bitter, as long as I live, I will not speak unjustly, nor deceitfully. Therefore, I will not admit **you** (plural) are right; I will continue to maintain my integrity till the day I die. I will hold fast to my righteousness; my conscience will not reproach me (27:1–6).

To better understand Job's comments about the wicked in the rest of chapter 27...

Remember what Job said previously about the wicked (e.g., 24:1–12), all the evil they do and yet God does not charge them with wrong. 27:7–23 would seem to correct any misunderstanding that may have come from these statements.

Job's Eighth Response

- May my enemy be treated like the wicked and the unrighteous. For what hope does a godless man have when he dies? Will God hear his cry in times of trouble? Will he delight in the Almighty; will he always call upon Him? Let me teach you about the ways of the Almighty. You've seen it yourself, so why do you argue so vainly? (27:7-12).

Job's Eighth Response

- This is what God assigns to the wicked man: though he has many sons, they will die by the sword; his survivors will die from the plague. Though he piles up silver and clothes, the just will wear the clothes, the innocent will divide the silver. Uncertainty and instability mark his life. Terrors overtake him like a flood; the east wind carries him away, and he is gone (27:13–23).

Job's Eighth Response

- Surely there is a mine for silver, and a place where gold is refined. Iron comes from dirt; copper from rocks; food from the earth; and sapphires from stones. Man searches diligently for all these things, no matter how remote the location may be; and uses great ingenuity to uncover them (28:1–11). *Examples of that ingenuity?*

Job's Eighth Response

- But where can wisdom and understanding be found? Both the deep and the sea say, “It is not with me.” It’s too valuable to be bought with gold or silver—too valuable to be measured by any other precious article. From where then does wisdom and understanding come? The living don’t know, and death and destruction have only heard a report about it (28:12–22).

Job's Eighth Response

- Only God knows its way and its place. He sees everything under heaven, and regulates it all by His wisdom—the wind, the waters, the rain, the thunder and lightning. He alone has declared it, prepared it, searched it out. To man He says, “To fear the Lord is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding” (28:23–28).

Job's Eighth Response

- How I long for the way things once were—when God watched over me, when by the light of His lamp I walked through darkness. Back to the days of my prime—when God was a friend to me, when my children were around me, when prosperity surrounded me, when young men stepped aside and old men stood in my presence, when princes stopped talking to hear my words (29:1–11).

Job's Eighth Response

- Men approved me because I delivered the poor, because I helped the orphan, because I made the widows rejoice. I adorned myself with righteousness and justice. I was eyes to the blind, feet to the lame, father to the needy, deliverer to the oppressed. I thought I would die in my own home after a long life—that my root would spread out to the waters, and that dew would be on my branches all night (29:12–20).

Job's Eighth Response

- Men waited for my words, comforting words, like they wait for the spring rain, and when they heard my words, they did not speak again. I chose the way for them, and so I was their chief, like a king in the army (29:21–25).

Job's Eighth Response

- **But now**, young men mock me—even the sons of those who roamed the wastelands in search of food. I have become their taunting song, their byword. They abhor me; they stand aloof from me; they even spit in my face—because God has loosed His bowstring and afflicted me. They seek my destruction and no one stops them. Terrors turn upon me; they pursue my honor as the wind; my prosperity passes like a cloud (30:1–15).

Job's Eighth Response

- My soul is poured out; days of affliction seize me; my gnawing pains have no rest. God has cast me into the mire; I have become like dust and ashes. O God, I cry to you for help, but you do not listen. You have become cruel to me; You use your strength to persecute (NAS, ESV) me. I know You will bring me to death (30:16–23).

Job's Eighth Response

- Doesn't one in a heap of ruins stretch out his hand for help? Have I not wept for one in trouble, and grieved for one in need? I looked for good, but evil came; I waited for light, but only darkness came. **I am seething within and cannot relax (NAS)**. I stand in the assembly and cry for help, but I'm regarded as a brother of jackals. My skin turns black; my bones burn with fever. My harp is turned to mourning, my flute to the sound of weeping (30:24–31).

Job's Eighth Response

- I made a covenant with my eyes, a covenant that I would not look lustfully at a young virgin (1–4).
- I have not walked with falsehood or deceit (5–8).
- My heart has not been enticed to commit adultery, for that would be a **heinous crime** (ASV) (9–12).

Job's Eighth Response

- I have treated my servants very well, because the same One who made me made them (13–15).
- Poor people, widows, orphans—I have been kind and benevolent toward them (16–23).
- I have not put my confidence in gold, nor have I directed my worship toward the sun and moon, because if I did, I would have denied God who is above (24–28).

Job's Eighth Response

- I have not rejoiced at hard times for my enemy, nor have I asked for his life in a curse (29–30).
- I have been hospitable—toward both the men of my tent and sojourners (31–32).
- I have not tried to hide my sins because I feared the contempt of others (33–34).

Job's Eighth Response

- Oh, that someone would hear me! Here is the signature on my defense. Let the Almighty answer me; let Him bring His indictment against me. I would wear it like a crown. I would declare to Him my ways; I would approach Him like a prince (31:35–37).

Job's Eighth Response

- **Note:** To better understand the following, look at Eliphaz's charges in 22:6–9, especially v. 8.
- If my land cries out against me, if I have eaten its fruit without payment, or if I caused its owners to lose their lives, then let thistles grow instead of wheat, and weeds instead of barley (31:38–40).