



Title: [The Dialogue *cont'd.*] Zophar's First Speech (Ch. 11) and Job's Reply to Zophar's First Speech (Chs. 12 - 14)

Text: Job 11 – 14

Introduction:

1. Eliphaz (experience) and Bildad (tradition) lift up God's justice BUT Zophar (common sense or intuition) lift up God's wisdom.
2. Zophar maybe the youngest of the three friends – he spoke last of the three. He is proud, and knows for sure that Job is guilty.
3. Zophar rebukes Job for justifying himself,

I. Zophar Rebukes Job's Words (11:1-6)

- A. Zophar annoyed and accused Job (vv.1-3)
- B. "Job you are a talkative scoffer who justify yourself but you are ignorant of God.
- C. V.4 – "Job you refuse to acknowledge your secret sin."
- D. God is letting you off easy – you, Job, deserve more than what God is giving you.

II. Zophar Raises God's Wisdom (11:7-12)

- A. God's wisdom or counsel is unsearchable.
- B. Zophar's problem: if God's wisdom is unsearchable – how would Zophar know about it?
- C. Creation declares man's sinfulness.

III. Zophar Require Job's Repentance (11:13-20)

- A. "Job, you need to repent if you will recover from your loss."
- B. Prepare thine heart.
- C. Stretch out thine hands.
- D. Put far away your wickedness.
- E. "Job you lack wisdom."

IV. Job Repudiated His Friends (12:1-13:19)

- A. (12:2) – Job sarcastically acknowledged their alleged wisdom.
- B. V.6 – Wicked men prosper, even under God.
- C. V.13 – Job acknowledges God's wisdom and omnipotence.
- D. Job is not a liar. He understands his limitations and sinfulness.

V. Job Reaches for God (13:20-28)

- A. Job rebukes his friends of false reasoning and partiality.
- B. Job may not be able to account for his afflictions but his confidence remains in God (v.14).
- C. He asks God to reveal to himself his sins, and the cause of his affliction (v.23).

VI. Job's Rank Hopelessness (14)

- A. Job entreats God's forbearance in respect of the shortness and troubles of life.
- B. (v.5) The certainty of death cuts short man's hope.
- C. (v.13) He is seeking a place to shelter as he awaits his end.
- D. (v.18) All created beings are subject to corruption.

Conclusion:

1. Eliphaz treats Job as a slight sinner (4:6-7); Bildad treats Job as a serious sinner (8:4-6) BUT Zophar scolds Job for being a secret sinner (11:4).
2. Zophar was putting words in Job's mouth (11:4) – Job never said that. He never claimed sinless perfection.
3. Since Zophar was offensive, he was attacking Job's character instead of pointing out Job's error or God's divine wisdom in testing His children (11:12).
4. Zophar is correct – God judges sin – sometimes immediately.
5. Zophar's error – God judges sin always immediately.
6. Job develops further in Christlikeness – they both trusted in Redeemer God (13:15; Ps. 22:8; 1 Pet. 2:23); and they both believed in resurrection (14:14; also Job 19:26; Matt. 16:21; Jn. 11:25).