

## Job 24

**Read Job 24:1-12** : Job is wondering why God does not show up and address evil and human need more directly. Today people say how could God allow this? Job saw the same things in his day. Why is he invisible and undetectable? The violent and greedy are freely stealing land and livestock. They take life-sustaining pledges from the poor. There are also kidnappers and those who steal from the poor.

Without knowing it; Job is begging for the Ten Commandments about 500 years before it came. Mankind always has gone from bad to worse. Left without accountability man will drop to an animalistic level.

the law is not made for a righteous person, but for *the* lawless and insubordinate, for *the* ungodly and for sinners, for *the* unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine (1 Timothy 1:9-10)

It's ironic that today godless people want to get away from any Biblical morals and ethical standards. People are like children who want an orderly and safe environment without carrying our own weight, or submitting to any standard themselves. There is an increasing number of godless people trying to shed the 10 Commandments from our laws. They have no idea what mayhem they are inviting. This pattern of desperation for justice and subsequent rejection of God's protections since the Garden of Eden.

Before the flood; the world was almost not sustainable for man, because of godlessness.

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. (Genesis 6:5)

Even Israel has forgotten the history of their violent ways. The children of Israel had become completely godless and corrupt and wicked. They were brutal to the poor and helpless. The answer to their prayers for justice and change was an invasion from a foreign land.

O LORD, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? Even cry out to You, "Violence!" And You will not save. -Why do You show me iniquity, And cause *me* to see trouble? For plundering and violence *are* before me; There is

strife, and contention arises. -Therefore the law is powerless, And justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore perverse judgment proceeds. -“Look among the nations and watch— Be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days Which you would not believe, though it were told you. -For indeed I am raising up the Chaldeans, A bitter and hasty nation Which marches through the breadth of the earth, To possess dwelling places that are not theirs. -They are terrible and dreadful; Their judgment and their dignity proceed from themselves. (Habakkuk 1:1-7)

Jesus described how man can never be pleased. If God gives grace; people establish a hierarchy over each other that is not called for. If God brings times of retribution for bad behavior; it is because he is mean??

“But to what shall I liken this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their companions, and saying: ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not lament.’ -For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ -The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ But wisdom is justified by her children.” (Matthew 11:16-18)

The Bible traverses times of absolute freedom in the Garden of Eden and the millennium. Man ultimately rebelled. God brought in the hard punishments to a loveless people with the Law and foreign invasion. The people repented and cried out for relief. The book of Judges is the most-compact diary of freedoms and justice. The children of Israel were getting established in the land of Canaan. They fully rejected God; and a foreign invasion ensued. They repented, and God sent a deliverer. After the deliverance they would become godless again. This happened over and over and over. We are so fortunate that God does not flush us all down the toilet.

Job is not only wondering about injustice. He is also wondering about unmet human need. We have an issue today with homeless and transient people who wander in search of sustenance. In Job’s day they had the same problem; without any relief agencies. The street people of Job’s day were frequently naked, and trying to live off of the land.

For you have the poor with you always, (Matthew 26:11)

“Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break



every yoke? -Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh? -Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. (Isaiah 58:6-8)

God has chosen his people to be the solution. The government is not supposed to be in the business of performing church functions. We are to feed the poor and take care of the helpless. The church is how God has chosen to carry out his will. This provides a mutual benefit to the recipient and the giver.

And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' (Acts 20:35)

-Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. -And God has appointed these in the church (1 Corinthians 12:27)

The question becomes how to administrate this. God does not want us to create a bunch of freeloaders and dependents and a perpetual welfare generation. We all have to work; and provide for ourselves. We are to help those who stumble, until they can stand again.

If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. -For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. -Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread. -But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good. -And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. -Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother. (2 Thessalonians 3:10-15)

The more complicated aspect involves helping those who have self-defeating behavior. Never give money to a drug addict or alcoholic. You can provide temporary sustenance. It is O.K. if temporary shelter and provision are bland and Spartan; so that there is a motivation to become productive enough to acquire their own creature comforts. Those who squander money on non-essentials or live beyond their means should not be enabled to perpetuate those habits. Even missionaries are kept on an extremely short financial leash. Experience tells us that when missionaries experience too much luxury they stop becoming missionaries.

- **Read Job 24:13-21:** It is interesting to see how sinners are drawn into darkness and obscurity. They are not trying to gain understanding. They are looking for easy targets; and escape routes. The thief, fornicator, drug addict, murderer and others are cowards. They spring from cover on the unsuspecting. They come into your house when everyone is gone. They live in the opposite hours.

Drug addicts can stay awake for days at a time. Their sleeping habits are disrupted. Drug addicts eventually become unemployed; allowing them to sleep during normal work hours.

For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light." (Ephesians 5:8-14)

But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, (1 Thessalonians 5:4-9)

**Read Job 24:22-25:** Job says that God gives the wicked a sense of security and victory. He says that he draws them. Is this true? No.

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. (James 1:13-15)

Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires for* pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be



a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"? But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." (James 4:1-6)