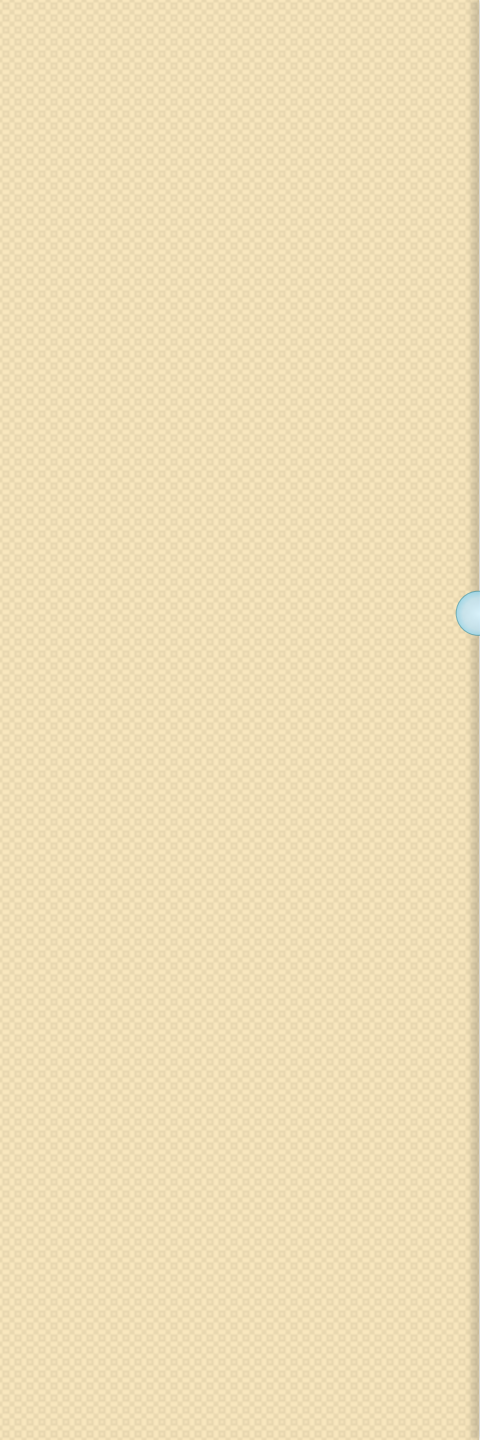




Lesson 4

Job 12–15



Chapters 12–14 conclude the first cycle of speeches.

Chapter 15 begins the second cycle of speeches (start over with Eliphaz).

Key Points in Coming Chapters

- How Job is becoming increasingly fed up with his friends (for their lack of pity, for considering him among the wicked, for their false statements about the wicked).
- How Job, then, provides **counterpoints** to their **points** about the wicked.
- How Job clarifies his case before God.
- How at times Job **despairs** of hope, and how at other times he **clings** to hope.

Job's Third Response

- You guys are the bomb; when you die, that'll be the end to wisdom! I'm just as smart as you are, and I'm not the only one, because what you know is common knowledge (12:1–3).
- Here I am, a man who has relied on God, a just and blameless man, being mocked and ridiculed by his friends. It just goes to show that “he who is at ease holds calamity in contempt” (NASV) (12:4–5).

Job's Third Response

- If you “would not let wickedness dwell in your tents...you would be secure” (11:13, 18)—that’s what you said, but what I see is that the “tents of robbers prosper, and those who provoke God are secure” (12:6).
- As to the wisdom and power of God, speak to the earth, the beasts, the fish of the sea, the birds of the air—these all speak to the wisdom of their Creator and His power to govern them (12:7–10).

Job's Third Response

- Do wisdom and understanding come with old age? Yes, but only to those who “test” and “taste”—those who carefully weigh every conclusion against the facts (12:11–12).
- God is the source of all wisdom and strength, counsel and understanding. Watch Him work. What He tears down can't be rebuilt; what He does can't be undone. He exercises control over all the great and mighty, and in His wisdom determines their destiny (12:13–25).

Job's Third Response

- Again, I'm not inferior to you. I've seen and heard these things for myself; I know what you know (13:1–2).
- I want to speak to God, to argue my point. All YOU do is smear me with lies, you worthless physicians. The wisest thing you could do is be silent. Aren't you afraid to speak for God? Aren't you afraid you will speak deceitfully, and aren't you afraid He will see that? “Your memorable sayings are proverbs of ashes, your defenses are defenses of clay” (NAS) (13:3–12).

Job's Third Response

- Be silent and let me speak to God; I know I'm putting my life in my hands, but I'm prepared to face the consequences. Though He slay me, I will still trust in Him. A godless man cannot approach Him, but I can. Listen carefully while I present my case to Him; I've prepared it carefully; I know I will be vindicated (13:13–19).

Job's Third Response

- God, please do two things for me: (1) Remove your hand from me and the fear that comes with it, so I can call on you and know you will answer; and, (2) tell me what I've done wrong so I can know why you're hiding Your face from me. You've got me so hemmed up; you're making me suffer for every iniquity I've committed from my youth till now (13:20–27).

Job's Third Response

- Man's life is short and full of trouble, so why set Your eyes on him and bring him into judgment? You've determined his days, appointed his limits, so why not let him have a day of rest? (14:1–6).
- At least there's hope for a tree when it's cut down. A stump becomes old and dry, but give it a little moisture and it sprouts again. But man—when he dies, he never returns, like water evaporating into the air (14:7–12).

Job's Third Response

- If You could just hide me in the grave till your wrath is past, and then remember me. If a man dies, shall he live again? I will wait till my change comes, and when You call, I will answer You. **You will desire the work of Your hands.** But for now, You watch my every step; You seal my transgressions up in a bag (14:13–17).

Job's Third Response

- You destroy man's hope—like a crumbling mountain, like water that wears away stone, like torrents of rain that wash away soil. You overpower him, change his countenance (in death?), and then send him away. Whether his sons come to honor, or are brought low, he knows nothing of it. “He feels only the pain of his own body, and he mourns only for himself” (ESV) (14:18–22).

Eliphaz's Second Speech

- Your mouth is like the east wind—blowing hot air. You do no good with your speeches; in fact, your mouth is full of deceit and iniquity. You show no fear of God, and therefore cannot pray to Him. Your own mouth condemns you, not I (15:1–6).
- Were you the first man born? Does God tell you His secrets? What do you know that we don't? There are men here much older than you—do their words not console you? Why do you speak such words and turn away from God? (15:7–13).

Eliphaz's Second Speech

- Who is man that he can be pure before God? If God puts no trust in His holy ones (angels?), and even the heavens are not pure in His sight, how much less man, abominable and filthy as he is, and who drinks iniquity like water! (15:14–16).

Eliphaz's Second Speech

- Listen to what wise men have been told by their fathers. Wicked men have pain all their days. They wander around looking for food. Trouble, anguish, and fear accompany them. They get nothing accomplished. They live in shacks. God will consume them (15:17–35).