

JOB'S RESPONSE TO MISERY

Dialogue, Part 3, Chapters 16-24

References

1. *Job, A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*, Marvin H. Pope, Professor of Northwest Semitic Languages, Yale University, 1965
2. *Job, A New Translation*, Edward L. Greenstein, Professor Emeritus of Bible, Bar-Ilan University, Israel, 2019

Job's Response (16:1-17:16)

1. Job regards the words of his friends as meaningless rote responses (16:1-5)
2. In Job's view he is a victim of divine violence (16:6-17:2)
3. Job calls his friends to explain how there could be hope in this (17:3-16)

Bildad's Second Discourse (18:1-21)

1. Job's anger is hurting only himself (18:1-4)
2. The dismal fate of the wicked (18:5-21)

Job's Response (19:1-29)

1. Job insists that God has dealt unfairly with him (19:1-12)
2. Job has been alienated from his friends and family (19:13-22)
3. Job is certain he will see God for himself (19:23-29)

Zophar's Second Discourse (20:1-29)

1. The celebration of the wicked is short (20:1-11)
2. Wickedness is like delicious food which turns out to be poisonous (20:12-19)
3. The bellies of the wicked will be filled with God's anger (20:20-29)

Job's Response (21:1-34)

1. Job contends that the wicked do, in fact, escape unscathed (21:1-16)
2. Job challenges the notion that the wicked do not live long (21:17-26)
3. According to Job, his friends are trying to comfort him with lies (21:27-34)

Eliphaz's Third Discourse (22:1-30)

1. Eliphaz levels specific charges against Job: avarice and callousness (22:1-11)
2. Eliphaz distorts the arguments of Job (22:13-20)
3. If Job returns to God, God will restore Job's good fortune (22:21-30)

Job's Response (23:1-24:17, 24:25)

1. Job longs to lay his case before God (23:1-7)
2. But God is elusive and terrifying (23:8-17)
3. The wicked steal from the needy and mistreat the poor, yet God pays no attention (24:1-17, 24:25)

A Secondary Response to Job (24:18-24)