

Job – Part 7

Retributive Punishment

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a thought-provoking series of studies on the book of Job. Our topic today: Retributive Punishment

Scripture Song: I would have lost heart (Ps. 27:13-14)

- 1) Job's story
 - a) What was Job's life like prior the heavenly council described in Job 1:6-12?
 - b) Give a brief description of the events that are recorded in Job 1:13-2:7.
 - c) How did Job's wife handle this series of calamities? Job 2:9
 - d) How did the counsel of Eliphaz in Job 4-5 show a lack of awareness and sensitivity?
- 2) More accusations from Bildad, another "comforter"
 - a) Job 8:1-4
 - i) How would the harsh words of Bildad recorded in Job 8:4 impact you if you had just lost a child?
 - ii) Is Bildad speaking the truth here? Does God cast people away when they sin? Give examples from Scripture to illustrate your answer.
 - b) Job 8:5-22
 - i) What is Bildad implying in Job 8:11-13, 20? Why is it so unkind to accuse people of getting what

- they deserve, even if they have brought trouble upon themselves by their careless actions?
 - ii) Bildad spoke words of truth recorded in Job 8:21-22. However, he does not understand how God will accomplish His plan for Job. What does Bildad think Job needs to do in order to create a better future for himself?
 - c) How can we avoid such a harsh and uncaring spirit?
- 3) The counsel of Zophar – truth mixed with hurtful insinuations
 - a) What truth does Zophar share in Job 11:7-9? See also Romans 11:33-36.
 - b) While this testimony is true, what is unhelpful and hurtful about the words that precede it? Job 11:1-6?
 - c) Zophar assures Job that the wicked will face certain judgment for their sin. Job 11:20. What other passages of Scripture reinforce this idea?
 - i) Genesis 6:5-7
 - ii) Genesis 13:13, 18:20-32, 19:24-25
 - iii) Romans 6:23a
 - iv) 2 Peter 3:5-7
 - v) Revelation 20:14-15; 21:7-8.
 - vi) Lesson: rebellion against God is a fatal mistake.
 - d) What essential aspect of the character of God is sadly missing from the counsel of Zophar?
 - i) Give texts and examples of Scripture of God's love and mercy in action.
 - ii) When have you seen the mercy of God in action in your own life?