



The Second Sunday after The Epiphany.

The Collect.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth; Mercifully hear the supplications of thy people, and grant us thy peace all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Devotion on Job (Chap 22) 24 January 2013 Anno Domini

I am constantly amazed at the depths to which those of little faith will sink to condemn those who live righteous lives without any citation of specific sins. A favorite here in Alabama of the Baptist and other non-liturgical churches is to accuse our little Church of St Andrews Anglican as being heretical in its teaching. Noteworthy in their charges is the fact that they have never heard a sermon at St Andrews, nor have they cited any specific reason for considering us to be heretical. For example, do we preach false doctrine or unbiblical worship? On these points, they are silent but are satisfied with the simple charge of 'heresy' simply because we are different in our form of worship. We observe a strict reverence before God, and we worship Him in the dignity due His station yet, because we are different, we must be heretical! Yes, best gather the wood and faggots for the fire which all heretics deserve!

Mr. Eliphaz now takes the floor in this chapter to further accuse Job of sundry sins o which Job has never given a single thought. Perhaps the hypocrite is relieved in his conscience by leveling charges against others at their most vulnerable moment – very much like a General Sherman making war on defenseless women and children. The presumptions of Eliphaz are preposterous in both enormity and nature. Please note that Eliphaz, in his prideful arrogance, presumes to be able to read – not only the mind of Job in knowing his sins – but the Mind of God as well in bringing terrible judgment against his righteous soul! Perhaps Eliphaz is born out of time. He would make a great deceiver for our day in rendering "new and more accurate" versions of the Bible which bear little resemblance to the genuine article!

Job 22

King James Version (KJV)

22 Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said,

2 Can a man be profitable unto God, as he that is wise may be profitable unto himself?

- 3** Is it any pleasure to the Almighty, that thou art righteous? or is it gain to him, that thou makest thy ways perfect?
- 4** Will he reprove thee for fear of thee? will he enter with thee into judgment?
- 5** Is not thy wickedness great? and thine iniquities infinite?
- 6** For thou hast taken a pledge from thy brother for nought, and stripped the naked of their clothing.
- 7** Thou hast not given water to the weary to drink, and thou hast withholden bread from the hungry.
- 8** But as for the mighty man, he had the earth; and the honourable man dwelt in it.
- 9** Thou hast sent widows away empty, and the arms of the fatherless have been broken.
- 10** Therefore snares are round about thee, and sudden fear troubleth thee;
- 11** Or darkness, that thou canst not see; and abundance of waters cover thee.
- 12** Is not God in the height of heaven? and behold the height of the stars, how high they are!
- 13** And thou sayest, How doth God know? can he judge through the dark cloud?
- 14** Thick clouds are a covering to him, that he seeth not; and he walketh in the circuit of heaven.
- 15** Hast thou marked the old way which wicked men have trodden?
- 16** Which were cut down out of time, whose foundation was overflown with a flood:
- 17** Which said unto God, Depart from us: and what can the Almighty do for them?
- 18** Yet he filled their houses with good things: but the counsel of the wicked is far from me.
- 19** The righteous see it, and are glad: and the innocent laugh them to scorn.
- 20** Whereas our substance is not cut down, but the remnant of them the fire consumeth.
- 21** Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.
- 22** Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart.
- 23** If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up, thou shalt put away iniquity far from thy tabernacles.
- 24** Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust, and the gold of Ophir as the stones

of the brooks.

25 Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defence, and thou shalt have plenty of silver.

26 For then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty, and shalt lift up thy face unto God.

27 Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee, and thou shalt pay thy vows.

28 Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.

29 When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, There is lifting up; and he shall save the humble person.

30 He shall deliver the island of the innocent: and it is delivered by the pureness of thine hands.

We could consider this chapter to consist mainly in four different divisions:

1. **Verses 1-5:** The completely exhaustive numbers of sins of Job of which Eliphaz seems proudly aware.
2. **Verses 6-11:** Eliphaz list specific sins of which Job "must" be guilty in order that God will judge him so.
3. **Verses 12-20:** Job is charged with complacency in his sins believing God will not see them.
4. **Verses 21-30:** Job encouraged to repent and be restored.

1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said, 2 Can a man be profitable unto God, as he that is wise may be profitable unto himself? 3 Is it any pleasure to the Almighty, that thou art righteous? or is it gain to him, that thou makest thy ways perfect? 4 Will he reprove thee for fear of thee? will he enter with thee into judgment? 5 Is not thy wickedness great? and thine iniquities infinite? The premise of Eliphaz is not only wrong, but so is his logic. While it is true that God is not profited by any works we do, He does take pleasure in our righteous faith. "...he taketh not pleasure in the legs (where he goes or what his works are) of a man. The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy. (Psalms 147:10-11) Furthermore, man cannot "make himself perfect" – that is the role of the Holy Ghost in sanctifying more and more the righteous man whose righteousness is not his own, but the imputed righteousness of Christ. I must remind Eliphaz that his sins are also infinite for even the smallest violation of the law is a violation of all. The difference in Job and Eliphaz might be that Job is accepted of God.

6 For thou hast taken a pledge from thy brother for nought, and stripped the naked of their clothing. 7 Thou hast not given water to the weary to drink, and thou hast withholden bread from the hungry. 8 But as for the mighty man, he had the earth; and the honourable man dwelt in it. 9 Thou hast sent widows away empty, and the arms of the fatherless have been broken. 10 Therefore snares are round about thee, and sudden fear troubleth thee; 11 Or darkness, that thou canst not see; and abundance of

waters cover thee. Now Eliphaz, at the very least, names specific sins but omits to specify the times, dates, and occasions for such sin. He offers not an iota of material evidence. Instead of clothing the naked, Eliphaz accuses Job stripping them naked. When did Job do this? We are not told but are expected to condemn Job simply for the groundless accusation. Additionally, has Job deprived water from the weary? Could we please have a name and date here? Or has Job withheld bread from the hungry? Please let us have a specific charge and occasion. It is a moral custom of those of the Middle East to treat the stranger with hospitality and kindness (despite the evils of Islam).



When living in Iran, if I landed an aircraft on a sandbar of the river during military training, the farmers would come running with watermelons with which they would continue loading the aircraft until it became over-grossed if not prevented sooner. Somehow that kindness has survived even the imposed ignorance of Islam. The greater number of charges made against Job are the more heinous because Job was a man of wealth (not needing to take from the widow and the poor).

12 Is not God in the height of heaven? and behold the height of the stars, how high they are! 13 And thou sayest, How doth God know? can he judge through the dark cloud? 14 Thick clouds are a covering to him, that he seeth not; and he walketh in the circuit of heaven. 15 Hast thou marked the old way which wicked men have trodden? 16 Which were cut down out of time, whose foundation was overflown with a flood: 17 Which said unto God, Depart from us: and what can the Almighty do for them? 18 Yet he filled their houses with good things: but the counsel of the wicked is far from me. 19 The righteous see it, and are glad: and the innocent laugh them to scorn. 20 Whereas our substance is not cut down, but the remnant of them the fire consumeth. Eliphaz accuses Job of a lapse in faith as if he does not know that God is Almighty. Job is classed with the wicked that lived before the flood. Perhaps Eliphaz has forgotten, or never known through neglect of study, that God has promised to never destroy the earth again with the waters of the Flood, and He has established His rainbow in the heavens as witness of it? Eliphaz now launches out on the "feel-good Gospel" that supposes the righteous will always be rewarded in all walks of life, but the wicked destroyed at each offense. Is this true? Did Mao Tze Tung, Joseph Stalin, or Pol Pot die natural deaths, or no?

21 Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come

unto thee. Is the pot calling the kettle black? It is an unquestionable fact that Job is far more acquainted with the Almighty than is his oppressor. 22 Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart. 23 If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up, thou shalt put away iniquity far from thy tabernacles. 24 Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust, and the gold of Ophir as the stones of the brooks. 25 Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defence, and thou shalt have plenty of silver. 26 For then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty, and shalt lift up thy face unto God. 27 Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee, and thou shalt pay thy vows. Has Job departed from God as Eliphaz claims? I think not! Job stands on the same sure knowledge of God that he possessed BEFORE the onslaught of Satan's darts which, by the way, are presently being supplied by Eliphaz. Have you watched TV evangelism lately? Have you heard the promises of wealth and lucre that they are promising to all who will send one thousand dollars or more of "seed" money to them. Seed money, indeed! Being a child of God does not bring with it a promise of earthly wealth – it never has! True wealth is to be rich in spirit, and poor in the wealth of this world. The Church at Smyrna epitomizes this principle. *And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich)* (Rev 2:8-9)

Eliphaz next suggests that Job, when he is restored, may decree a thing and it shall be granted. Is this not like the modern evangelical scoundrels who teach that God is bound to grant whatsoever we demand in prayer? The only prayer that God will always grant is a prayer offered out of the Christian who has asked out of the Mind of Christ which he has put upon himself. 28 Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways. And see in the next verse how Eliphaz presumes man to be endowed with that power that belongs only to God. 29 When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, There is lifting up; and he shall save the humble person. None can save but God. Even our own acts of kindness and generosity are not ours but proceed from the heart of God. 30 He shall deliver the island of the innocent: and it is delivered by the pureness of thine hands. Here again, none can deliver but the LORD. You can witness all of the old heresies just as alive today as when they were first conceived in the heart of wicked men: Many of the most popular preachers of our time have reinvented these heresies by another name and are reaping great profits from the purses of the deceived. Let us pray that you, friend, are not complicit with them in granting them 'filthy lucre.'