



Thru the Bible in 2012

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God endures forever. Isaiah 40:8

Ladies for Jesus Tuesday Bible Study Ponderings

Readings for January 23, 2012 – January 29, 2012

Emailed: Monday, January 30, 2012

For our ponderings, consider the questions listed below in regards to what we have read during the days of Monday, January 23rd – Sunday, January 29th.

- **(Job 14)** Job's profound speech in this chapter illustrates a great truth: To have a right set of doctrines is not enough. To know what to believe is not all that is required to please God. Truth untested by life's experiences may become static and stagnant. Suffering can bring a dynamic quality to life. Just as drought drives the roots of a tree deeper to find water, so suffering can drive us beyond superficial acceptance of truth to dependence on God for hope and life. In what ways has God allowed suffering in your life? How have you grown beyond superficial acceptance of God's truth to dependence upon God?
- **(Job 19:25-27)** At the heart of the book of Job comes his ringing affirmation of confidence: *"I know that my Redeemer lives."* What tremendous faith Job had, especially in light of the fact that he was unaware of the conference between God and Satan. Think about it, Job thought that God had brought all these disasters upon him! Faced with death and decay, Job still expected to see God – and he expected to do so in his body. Although Job struggled with the idea that God was presently against him, he firmly believed that in the end God would be on his side. This belief was so strong that Job became one of the first to talk about the resurrection of the body. During suffering, how confident are you that God is on your side?
- **(Job 21:22-26)** Job's comments in these verses show us that even though he was baffled by the reasons for his suffering, he affirmed God's superior understanding by asking, "Who can teach a lesson to God?" Do you trust in this manner and affirm Him in your life during suffering? Rather than becoming angry with God, continue to trust Him, no matter what your circumstances may be. We must commit ourselves to Him so we will not resent His timing.
- **(Job 22:12-14)** Eliphaz declared that Job's view of God was too small, and he criticized Job for thinking that God was too far removed from earth to care about him. If Job knew of God's intense, personal interest in him, Eliphaz said, he wouldn't dare take his sins so lightly. Eliphaz had a point – some people take sin lightly because they think God is far away and doesn't notice all we do. But his point did not apply to Job. We see in Job 1:1, 4-5 that he took sin and purifying himself of it very seriously. Do you take sin in your life lightly?
- **(Job 26:1-4)** Job tells Bildad and his friends that they could not possibly know everything about God. Wisdom does not originate from this life or from the human mind – it comes from God (Job 28:27, 28). Job then defended his upright and honest life. He had effectively sought to follow God's way of living. While admitting that he was not perfect, Job maintained that his motives were right. Job's friends' theological explanations failed to bring any relief because they were unable to turn their knowledge into helpful counsel. When dealing with people, it is more important to love and understand them than to analyze them or give advice. How do you display compassion towards others in your life?

- **(Job 27:6)** In the midst of all the accusations, Job was able to declare that his conscience was clear. Only God's forgiveness and the determination to live right before God can bring a clear conscience. How important Job's record became as he was being accused. Like Job, we can't claim sinless lives, but we can claim forgiven lives. However, the enemy wants us to feel that this is not the case. In what ways has the enemy convinced you that you are not forgiven? When we confess our sins to God, He forgives us. Then we can live with a clear conscience. (1 John 1:9).
- **(Job 31:24-28)** Job affirmed that depending on wealth for happiness is idolatry and denies the God of heaven. We excuse our society's obsession with money and possessions as a necessary evil or "the way it works" in the modern world. But every society in every age has valued the power and prestige that money brings. True believers must purge themselves of the deep-seated desire for more power, prestige, and possessions. They must also not withhold their resources from neighbors near and far who have desperate physical needs. In what ways are you purging your life of these desires and opening up your resources to the Lord for Him to use as He sees fit?
- **(Job 31:33-34)** Job declared that he did not try to hide his sin as people often do. The fear that our sins will be discovered leads us to patterns of deception. We cover up the lies so that we will appear good to others. But we cannot hide from God. Do you try to keep people from seeing the real you? When you acknowledge your sins, you free yourself to receive forgiveness and a new life in Christ.
- **(Job 33:13)** Being informed brings a sense of security. It's natural to want to know what's happening in our lives. Job wanted to know what was going on, why he was suffering. If God were to answer all our questions, we would not be adequately tested. What if God had said, "Job, Satan's going to test you and afflict you, but in the end you'll be healed and get everything back?" Job's greatest test was not the pain but that he did not know why he was suffering. Our greatest test may be that we must trust God's goodness even though we don't understand why our lives are going a certain way. In what ways are you strengthening your relationship with God so that you can build upon your trust in Him? We must learn to trust in God, Who is good, and not in the goodness of life.



In Job 28:16, Job states that wisdom is worth more than all the gold of Ophir. Gold of Ophir was considered the finest gold available. Ophir may have been located in Africa, along the Arabian coast or in India. Wherever it was, it was a good distance from Israel, for it took Solomon's ships three years to make the voyage (1 Kings 9:28; 10:22)



Because of Job's description of his work in Job 27:7-17, many commentators believe that Job was a judge. In Job's day, a judge served as both a city councilman and a magistrate, helping to manage the community and settle disputes. In most cases, this was not a full-time position but a part-time post held on the basis of one's respect and standing in the area.