



In chapters 4-41 there is a dialogue between Job and his friends. This is written in Hebrew poetry, making it difficult to understand at times.

This Book is given by inspiration of God, but that doesn't mean that everything that is said is true. Some statements Job's friends make are not true.

The Old Testament is a progressive revelation of the truth we find in the New Testament. Pieces of the puzzle are being put together in the Old Testament and the completed picture is clearly seen in the New Testament.

Proverbs 17:17, "A friend loveth at all times . . ."

"A friend is someone who walks in when everyone else is walking out." – unknown

"A friend is someone who knows all there is to know about you and still loves you." - unknown

Positive facts about Job's friends:

- 1) They came (Job 2:11).
- 2) They sympathized (Job 2:11).
- 3) They kept silent (Job 2:13). – For seven days they didn't say a single thing.

I. JOB'S FRIENDS (JOB 2:11)

A. THE ANSWERS OF JOB'S FRIENDS

1. Eliphaz, The Voice of Philosophy: The Answer of Mysticism (Job 4)

Eliphaz tells Job about an experience he wants to share with Job (4:12-17).

The vision he sees tells Eliphaz that God is a just God and that people suffer because of their sins (Job 4:2-8).

2. Bildad, The Voice of History: The Answer of Traditionalism (Job 8)

Bildad is crueller than Eliphaz was. He's saying, "Not only are you are sinner, but you're a hypocrite." (Job 8:10-13).

3. Zophar, The Voice of Orthodoxy: The Answer of Legalism (Job 11)

Zophar is the man who has all the answers. He has a rulebook for a mind. He is the final authority. Zophar is more severe than any of them (Job 11:5-6).

B. THE PROBLEMS WITH THEIR ANSWERS

1. THEY STOPPED SYMPATHIZING AND STARTED SERMONIZING

Their simple little false formula: Sin = Suffering and Righteousness = Prosperity

2. THEY ARGUED FROM PARTIAL INFORMATION

You always get in trouble when you think you have the final answer but you don't have the full story.

Sometimes God allows suffering so that we might increase and mature our faith. At other times God allows suffering so that we might glorify God in it and be a testimony for Him.

II. JOB'S FRUSTRATION

A. SOMETIMES FRUSTRATION IS IN THE FORM OF ANGER (JOB 6:14-20)

What he is saying is that his friends are like a dried-up brook. He says, "You promised refreshment, comfort and health but I find nothing to help my soul." (13:4; 16:1-2).

B. SOMETIMES FRUSTRATION IS IN THE FORM OF ARGUMENTS (6:24-25)

As you study the replies of Job, you will find that he argues and debates point-by-point in response to their accusations.

C. SOMETIMES FRUSTRATION IS IN THE FORM OF AGONY (JOB 7:6)

A weaver's shuttle is the foot operating machine that sewers use. It moves swiftly back and forth. He is saying that he feels he is being tossed back and forth and that the thread of his life is running out.

Job, in his frustration, saw the weaver's shuttle as chaotic and quick, but the spiritual man sees it as God's sovereign control over our lives.

III. JOB'S FAITH

A. JOB'S FAITH CAUSES HIM TO SPEAK WITH GOD (JOB 7:17)

B. JOB'S FAITH CAUSES HIM TO SEARCH FOR GOD (JOB 23:3)

Job's friends didn't believe you can find God this way (Job 11:7).

Proverbs 8:17, "I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me."

C. JOB'S FAITH CAUSES HIM TO SHOUT ABOUT GOD (JOB 19:23-25)

Proverbs 18:24, "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."