

Devotional Questions – Job 11:1-20

1. *What according to Zophar is Job's problem (Job 11:2-3)?*
2. *What did he say Job believed about himself (Job 11:4)?*
3. *Was he right – did Job say that?*
4. *What was Zophar accusing Job of (Job 11:11)?*
5. *What was Zophar saying he believes (Job 11:12)?*
6. *What is his remedy for Job (Job 11:13-14)?*
7. *What are the encouragements and rewards of repentance (Job 11:15-19)?*
8. *What is the end of those who refuse to repent (Job 11:20)?*
9. *What was wrong with his advice to Job?*
10. *What lessons can we learn from this speech of Zophar?*
11. *How can we respond to Zophar's comment today (Job 11:5)?*

Devotional Questions – Job 11:1-20, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Job* pp 1-2, 30, 132-142, 533-535 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 729, 739-740, 1497 for detailed comments.

1. What according to Zophar is Job's problem (Job 11:2-3)?

Note first that Zophar's name "**Zophar the Naamathite**" Job 2:11, 11:1 indicates that he is from the area of "**Naamah**" Joshua 15:41 "**toward the coast of Edom southward**" Joshua 15:21 and Edom is "**the land of Uz**" Job 1:1, Lamentations 4:21. "**Naamah**" is unknown today so that is a reminder of men that "**Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names. Nevertheless man being in honour abideth not; he is like the beasts that perish**" Psalm 49:11-12.

John therefore reminds today's believer that only one kind of man can abide.

"And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" 1 John 2:17.

According to Zophar:

- *Job is a fool* Job 11:2 because "**a fool's voice is know by multitude of words**" Ecclesiastes 5:3 though it is understandable that Job should say "**Therefore I will not refrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul**" Job 7:11.

Note, however, that preachers are therefore fools because "**it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe**" 1 Corinthians 1:21. Faithful preachers should therefore be "**fools for Christ's sake**" 1 Corinthians 4:10.

- *Job is a liar* Job 11:3 because Zophar accuses Job of telling God that "**My doctrine is pure, and I am clean in thine eyes**" Job 11:4 but Job himself had earlier admitted "**If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me: if I say, I am perfect, it shall also prove me perverse**" Job 9:20. However, Job did not actually speak the words of which Zophar accuses him in Job 11:4.

Today's believer should therefore keep in mind Paul's admission in Romans 13:9 "**Thou shalt not bear false witness.**"

- *Job is a mocker* Job 11:3 because Job has mocked his friends in accusing them of not speaking aright of him when he said "**How forcible are right words! but what doth your arguing reprove?**" Job 6:25. However, Job had also said "**To him that is afflicted pity should be shewed from his friend...**" Job 6:14 but although Job's three friends had purposed "**to come to mourn with him and to comfort him**" Job 2:11, they had not done so because Job later urges them "**Have pity upon me, have pity upon me, O ye my friends; for the hand of God hath touched me**" Job 19:21.

Today's believer should therefore always pray for "**right words**" as David did in speaking, writing and responding. "**Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer**" Psalm 19:14.

In sum it appears that Zophar has been presumptuous in rebuking Job unreasonably in Job 11:2-3 and has not spoken "**right words**" of him in Job 11:4.

Today's believer should therefore always aim to fulfil Paul's admonition in Ephesians 4:29 "**Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.**"

2. What did he say Job believed about himself (Job 11:4)?

See *Question 1*, second bullet point.

3. Was he right – did Job say that?

Zophar was not right. See *Question 1*, second bullet point. Today's believer should always aim to fulfil Paul's admonition in Romans 12:17 **"Provide things honest in the sight of all men"**

4. What was Zophar accusing Job of (Job 11:11)?

Job 11:11 states **"For he knoweth vain men: he seeth wickedness also; will he not then consider it?"** Job 11:11 implies that Zophar is accusing Job of vanity and **"wickedness"** because a vain and wicked man *would* say to God **"My doctrine is pure, and I am clean in thine eyes"** Job 11:4. One such vain and wicked man *did*. In that sense, Job 11:4, 11 are prophetic.

See www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/kampf.html for a transcript of *Mein Kampf*.

"Hence today I believe that I am acting in accordance with the will of the Almighty Creator: by defending myself against the Jew, I am fighting for the work of the Lord" – Adolph Hitler.

See www.spirituallysmart.com/nazi.html#Adolf%20Hitler that shows Hitler was a *Catholic*.

Adolph Hitler was enrolled in the Lambach monastery school in 1897 and confirmed as a Catholic on May 22nd 1904 in Linz Cathedral at the age of 15. See ahquotes.tripod.com/ that shows Hitler was a *life-long Catholic*.

"I am now as before a Catholic and will always remain so" - Adolf Hitler.

See www.nowtheendbegins.com/blog/?p=11589 that shows Hitler's ID card - 555. Hitler 555 was the penultimate successor to Caesar 111, Constantine 222, Charlemagne 333, Napoleon 444. See *The Corrupt Catholic Cult* by Dr Peter S. Ruckman p vii. The extract follows.

[Hitler's] ID card from the Nazi party was 555...We believe that this signifies that Hitler is the last world tyrant to show up before the appearance of the Antichrist himself.

"Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six" Revelation 13:18.

The above is relevant because Hitler's successor 666 will go *beyond* perceiving himself clean in God's eyes. He will perceive himself *as God*.

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God" 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4.

Today's believer should therefore take comfort from the certainty of the Second Advent.

"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming" 2 Thessalonians 2:8.

5. What was Zophar saying he believes (Job 11:12)?

Job 11:12 states **"For vain man would be wise, though man be born like a wild ass's colt."**

What Zophar says is correct. A **"vain man"** is **"a wicked man"** Job 20:29, 27:13, Psalm 109:6, Proverbs 6:12, 9:7, 11:7, 13:5, 17:23, 21:29, Ecclesiastes 7:15 of whom David says **"The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes"** Psalm 36:1. A **"vain man"** or **"a wicked man"** is therefore **"a scorner"** of whom Solomon says **"A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth"** Proverbs 14:6. The scorner no doubt has light but prefers darkness, John 1:9, 3:19.

That knowledge is **"the knowledge of God"** Proverbs 2:5, Hosea 6:6, 1 Corinthians 15:35, 2 Corinthians 10:5, Colossians 1:10, 2 Peter 1:2 and along with **"wisdom and understanding"** Exodus 36:1, 1 Kings 4:29, 1 Chronicles 22:12, Isaiah 11:2, Daniel 1:20 it stems from **"the fear of the LORD."** The **"vain man"** can't find wisdom because he spurns **"the fear of the LORD."**

“And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding” Job 28:28. Nebuchadnezzar had to learn the hard way, Daniel 4.

Many years, circa 1961, as an unsaved secondary school pupil, this writer agreed – reluctantly – to read out part of Job 28 at a school church service conducted at a local Methodist Church. The experience was never forgotten and neither was Job 28:28 in particular. The reading out of that passage of scripture, in particular Job 28:28, no doubt helped with this writer’s conversion 6 years later on July 19th 1967. Particular blessings of **“the fear of the LORD”** include:

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever” Psalm 111:10.

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding” Proverbs 9:10.

“And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD” Isaiah 11:2.

“And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure” Isaiah 33:6.

Speaking practically **“the fear of the LORD”** is one of the greatest safeguards against wrongdoing, especially concerning avoidance of abuse of privilege and/or authority as a parent, pastor, professional person, prominent personality or political leader.

“But the former governors that had been before me were chargeable unto the people, and had taken of them bread and wine, beside forty shekels of silver; yea, even their servants bare rule over the people: but so did not I, because of the fear of God” Nehemiah 5:15.

Concerning **“man...born like a wild ass’s colt”** this is also true because **“a wild ass’s colt”** pictures an unsaved man as Moses states in the Book of Exodus and as Solomon observed in the Book of Ecclesiastes. The context in Exodus is that which **“shall be the LORD’S”** Exodus 13:12, which is God’s preferred will for every individual **“Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth”** 1 Timothy 2:4.

“And every firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb; and if thou wilt not redeem it, then thou shalt break his neck: and all the firstborn of man among thy children shalt thou redeem” Exodus 13:13 with John 1:29 **“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”**

“This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead” Ecclesiastes 9:3. That is why Solomon said **“A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool’s back”** Proverbs 26:3. See Dr Ruckman’s commentary *The Book of Matthew* pp 413-414 on Matthew 21:1-5 and his conversation with an old farmer in South Alabama. The farmer said **“...a wild ass is the most stubborn creature they is in this here world...A wild ass cannot be broke in unless you done rode him...”** Dr Ruckman asked **“Can’t you whip him?”** The farmer said **“No sir, Brother Pete, he don’t understand no whippin’ till he’s broke in! You gotta ride them to break them in and they ain’t broke in till they’s done been rid!”** (The older you are, the harder the breaking in, 1 Kings 13:13, 30.)

You’re a **“vain man”** until you’re a **rid ass** - apologies, ladies – but **“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise”** Psalm 51:17:

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass” Zechariah 9:9 **“whereon never man sat”** Mark 11:2 *like a wild ass.*

“Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass” Matthew 21:5 *a rid, broke in, redeemed ass, John 1:29.*

6. What is his remedy for Job (Job 11:13-14)?

It is the same remedy as that prescribed by Eliphaz and Bildad.

“I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause” Job 5:8.

“...seek unto God betimes, and make thy supplication to the Almighty” Job 8:5.

“...prepare thine heart, and stretch out thine hands toward him” Job 11:13.

The remedy for Job, however, is not seeking, preparing for or stretching out to God. It is simply waiting, often the hardest remedy to take. David’s, Isaiah’s and Paul’s exhortations should be followed.

“I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope” Psalm 130:5.

“And I will wait upon the LORD, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him” Isaiah 8:17.

“And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ”
2 Thessalonians 3:5.

7. What are the encouragements and rewards of repentance (Job 11:15-19)?

- Purity, stability, security Job 11:15, 18, 19. See Question 5 and Isaiah 33:6.
- Comfort Job 11:16. **“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised”** Luke 4:18 with Isaiah 61:1.
- Longevity and “times of refreshing” Acts 3:19 Job 11:17. **“Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s”** Psalm 103:1-5.
- Honour and sought-after service to others Job 11:19 **“When I went out to the gate through the city, when I prepared my seat in the street!...Unto me men gave ear, and waited, and kept silence at my counsel. After my words they spake not again; and my speech dropped upon them. And they waited for me as for the rain; and they opened their mouth wide as for the latter rain”** Job 29:7, 21-23 and context. Job received that blessing back double. Note that **“the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before”** Job 42:10.

In sum, the lesson for today’s believer is as Paul expressed it **“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of...”** 2 Corinthians 7:10.

8. What is the end of those who refuse to repent (Job 11:20)?

Job 11:20 states **“But the eyes of the wicked shall fail, and they shall not escape, and their hope shall be as the giving up of the ghost.”**

Paul expressed it as follows for today’s disbeliever.

“But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil...” Romans 2:8-9 **“Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power”** 2 Thessalonians 1:9.

Therefore **“...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...”** Acts 16:31.

9. *What was wrong with his advice to Job?*

See *Question 6* with respect to the remedy of waiting upon the Lord.

“Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD” Psalm 27:14.

10. *What lessons can we learn from this speech of Zophar?*

See *Question 1* with respect to Zophar’s presumption and note David’s exhortation.

“Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression” Psalm 19:13.

11. *How can we respond to Zophar’s comment today (Job 11:5)?*

Job 11:5 states **“But oh that God would speak, and open his lips against thee;”**

In answer **“the Lord GOD hath spoken”** Amos 3:8 and **“God hath spoken by the mouth of his holy prophets”** Acts 3:21 with **“the oracles of God”** Romans 3:2 that are now **“the scripture of truth”** Daniel 10:21.

See *Royal Law – James 2:8* www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/ and this extract with respect to **“the oracles of God”** Romans 3:2.

The Oath is sealed with the King James Bible...presented to the monarch. The presenter at Queen Elizabeth II’s Coronation was the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, with these words [\[petersengland.blogspot.co.uk/2012/02/coronation-of-queen-elizabeth-ii.html\]](http://petersengland.blogspot.co.uk/2012/02/coronation-of-queen-elizabeth-ii.html). *“Our gracious Queen: to keep your Majesty ever mindful of the law and the Gospel of God as the Rule for the whole life and government of Christian Princes, we present you with this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is Wisdom [Revelation 13:18]; This is the royal Law [James 2:8]; These are the lively Oracles of God [Acts 7:38, Romans 3:2, Hebrews 5:12, 1 Peter 4:11].”*

Speaking practically therefore note the exhortation of the King James translators by Dr Miles Smith from *The Translators to the Reader* www.jesus-is-lord.com/pref1611.htm this writer’s emphases.

“Ye are brought unto fountains of living water which ye digged not; do not cast earth into them with the Philistines [Genesis 26:15], neither prefer broken pits before them with the wicked Jews [Jeremiah 2:13]. Others have laboured, and you may enter into their labours; O receive not so great things in vain, O despise not so great salvation!...a blessed thing it is, and will bring us to everlasting blessedness in the end, when God speaketh unto us, to hearken; when he setteth his word before us, to read it; when he stretcheth out his hand and calleth, to answer, Here am I, here we are to do thy will, O God. The Lord work a care and conscience in us to know him and serve him, that we may be acknowledged of him at the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with the holy Ghost, be all praise and thanksgiving. Amen.”

The prayer of Samuel is therefore equally applicable for today’s believers, who should *now* answer the *first* time **“that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope”** Romans 15:4.

“And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth” 1 Samuel 3:10.

Appendix 1 – Job 11:6

Job 11:6 states **“And that he would shew thee the secrets of wisdom, that they are double to that which is! Know therefore that God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth.”**

Zophar’s statement **“the secrets of wisdom...are double to that which is!”** is prophetic. **“the secrets of wisdom”** are given by **“the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him”** Ephesians 1:17 that **“the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom”** Colossians 3:16.

That word and revelation were only partial at the time of Job 11:6.

Revelation of **“the word of God”** 1 Samuel 9:27, 1 Kings 12:22, 1 Chronicles 17:3 had begun for **“the old testament”** 2 Corinthians 3:14 with the Book of Job. That was but a one-third revelation. **“the word of God”** Mark 7:13, Luke 3:2, 5:1, 8:11, 21, 11:28, John 10:35, Acts 4:31, 6:2, 7, 8:14, 11:1, 12:24, 13:5, 7, 44, 46, 17:13, 18:11, 19:20, Romans 9:6, 10:17, 1 Corinthians 14:36, 2 Corinthians 2:17, 4:2, Ephesians 6:17, Colossians 1:25, 1 Thessalonians 2:13 twice, 1 Timothy 4:5, 2 Timothy 2:9, Titus 2:5, Hebrews 4:12, 11:3, 13:7, 1 Peter 1:23, 2 Peter 3:5, 1 John 2:14, Revelation 1:2, 9, 6:9, 20:4, 42 New Testament occurrences in all, would be further revealed in **“the new testament”** 2 Corinthians 3:6. Yet a further revelation would be **“The Word of God”** Revelation 19:13 **“the Lord Jesus Christ”** Acts 11:17, 15:11, 16:31, 28:31, Romans 1:7, 13:14, 15:30, 1 Corinthians 1:3, 16:22, 2 Corinthians 1:2, 13:14, Ephesians 1:2, 6:23, Philippians 1:2, 3:20, Colossians 1:2, 1 Thessalonians 1:1 twice, 2 Thessalonians 1:1, 2, 12, 1 Timothy 5:21, 2 Timothy 4:1, 22, Titus 1:4, Philemon 3, James 1:1, 2 John 3, 28 occurrences in all, **“Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption”** 1 Corinthians 1:30.

The word and revelation of the New Testament **“word of God”** and the Lord Jesus Christ **“The Word of God”** are *double* that which existed at the time of Job 11:6 as the *partial* Old Testament **“word of God”** i.e. Zophar’s statement **“the secrets of wisdom...are double to that which is!”** is prophetic.

Zophar’s statement **“God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth”** is not **“righteous judgment”** John 7:24 when applied to Job’s particular ordeal but it is true *in principle* as David reveals in Psalm 130:3-4 **“If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared”** insofar as without forgiveness **“fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell”** Matthew 10:28.

The NIVs state **“and disclose to you the secrets of wisdom, for true wisdom has two sides. Know this: God has even forgotten some of your sin.”**

The NIV reading for Job 11:6 is wrong in two respects.

- True wisdom does *not* have “two sides.” The scripture reveals two *types* of wisdom neither of which has “two sides” but they are *diametrically opposed* to each other.

“This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish” James 3:15.

“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy” James 3:17.

- God did *not* forget sin in the Old Testament. God forbore sin as Paul explains with respect to **“the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe”** Romans 3:22, believers then **“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God”** Romans 3:24-25. God put up with sin until **“his own blood”** Acts 20:28 paid for it. **“faith in his blood”** ensures that the individual is justified i.e. made just before God and sin is forgotten.

Zophar’s statement in the NIV appears to hinge on the fact of Job not being dead though he expected to be, Job 10:21, 22 but how could Zophar know what God had or had not forgotten about Job without God’s direct revelation, which had not happened as Zophar himself shows in Job 11:5? Zophar’s statement in the NIV in Job 11:6 therefore contradicts what he said in Job 11:5.

Appendix 2 – Job 11:8

Job 11:8 states ***“It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know?”*** and therefore gives a vivid comparison of extremes.

The 1984 NIV changes ***“hell”*** to ***“the depths of the grave”*** which is an obviously unrealistic reading and makes the comparison in Job 11:8 unbalanced. The 2011 NIV says ***“the depths below”*** which is a slight improvement but unclear and the comparison is still unbalanced, whereas the AV1611, where necessary, explicitly refers to ***“the depths of hell”*** Proverbs 9:18.

The word ***“hell”*** occurs 31 times in the Old Testament; Deuteronomy 32:22, 2 Samuel 22:6, Job 11:8, 26:6, Psalm 9:17, 16:10, 18:5, 55:15, 86:13, 116:3, 139:8, Proverbs 5:5, 7:27, 9:18, 15:11, 24, 23:14, 27:20, Isaiah 5:14, 14:9, 15, 28:15, 18, 57:9, Ezekiel 31:16, 17, 32:21, 27, Amos 9:2, Jonah 2:2, Habakkuk 2:5.

The NIVs eliminate ***“hell”*** each time and substitute inferior and indeed incorrect terms such as ***“death,” “grave”*** or ***“depths.”*** The NIVs are therefore no different from NWT New World Translation that substitutes the imprecise transliteration ***“sheol”*** for ***“hell”*** in the Old Testament.

See *New Age Bible Versions* by Gail Riplinger, Chapter 18 *Judgement or Interment?*

The NIVs have thereby united in ecumenical oneness with the Watchtower heresy in the Old Testament in rejecting the Biblical doctrine of ***“hell.”***

This is End Times apostasy in ***“the body of Christ”*** 1 Corinthians 12:27 in these increasingly ***“perilous times”*** 2 Timothy 3:1 as Paul warned for the closing days of the Church Age when the Lord Himself said of the church according to *His* perception that ***“thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked”* Revelation 3:17.**

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils” 1 Timothy 4:1.

In sum, therefore, ***“come, Lord Jesus”*** Revelation 22:20.