

Study Hints for Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

Job 24:1, 9-12, 19-25

Sunday, October 19, 2014

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be the answers to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. According to these verses in the Book of Job, what are some of the bad things that can happen to people?

See Job 24:9-12, 19-21.

2. According to these verses in the Book of Job, what are some of the good things that can happen to those who do bad things to people?

See Job 24:22-23

3. Do you think Job was right about good things happening to those who do bad things? Give a reason for your answer.

No. However, based on what Job observed and concluded regarding how those who did bad things were seldom punished but prospered from doing bad things, and based on the fact that Job did not yet have the entire Bible as we do today, I can see how he misunderstood God's ways. The Book of Job shows some of the limits of what we can learn about God from observation alone and why we need God's revelation in the Bible and why we need the Holy Spirit to help believers understand His Word.

4. What did Eliphaz say happens to those who do bad things? Explain.

See verse 24. They are only exalted for a little while and then cut off.

It seems that some never suffer or are punished for their injustice in this life. Eliphaz may have argued that all those who do bad die someday, but Job would argue that does not mean that God justly punished them for what they did in this life. Again, we need the whole Bible to learn more about the justice and mercy of God and the way that God justly and mercifully condemns and forgives.

5. Who do you think is speaking in verses 24 and 25? Explain your answer.

Bible scholars have different ideas on who was speaking as they look at the Hebrew text. In some sense, who was talking may not matter because we learn from these verses about the limits of human understanding without further revelation from God (more of the Bible). Neither Job nor his friends could “prove” the other a liar without hearing from God. There was something in the limited observations of both in their discussion, but their observations were insufficient for learning the full truth.

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