

Job Responds to Zophar

Job 21

Contents

- [The Wicked Don't Always Suffer, But Often Prosper in This Life \(21:1-16\)](#)
- [The Wicked Often Die in Comfort \(21:17-26\)](#)
- [He Rejects Their Answers as False \(21:27-34\)](#)

The Wicked Don't Always Suffer, But Often Prosper in This Life (21:1-16)

CHAPTER 21

1 And Job answered and said, **2** Hear attentively my speech, and let this replace your consolations. **3** Suffer me and I will speak; and after I have spoken, mock on! **4** As for me, is my complaint to a man? or wherefore should not my spirit be impatient? **5** Mark me, and be astonished, and lay the hand upon the mouth. **6** Even when I think *thereon*, I am affrighted, and trembling taketh hold of my flesh. **7** Wherefore do the wicked live, grow old, yea, become mighty in power? **8** Their seed is established with them in their sight, and their offspring before their eyes. **9** Their houses are safe from fear, neither is the rod of +God upon them. **10** Their bull gendereth, and faileth not; their cow calveth, and casteth not her calf. **11** They send forth their little ones like a flock, and their children dance. **12** They shout to the tambour and harp, and rejoice at the sound of the pipe. **13** They spend their days in prosperity, and in a moment go down to Sheol. **14** And they say unto GOD, Depart from us, for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways! **15** What is the Almighty that we should serve him? and what are we profited if we pray unto him? **16** Behold, their prosperity is not in their hand. The counsel of the wicked be far from me!

The Wicked Often Die in Comfort (21:17-26)

17 How often is the lamp of the wicked put out, and cometh their calamity upon them? Doth he distribute sorrows *to them* in his anger? **18** Do they become as stubble before the wind, and as chaff that the storm carrieth away? **19** +God layeth up *the punishment of* his iniquity for his children; he rewardeth him, and he shall know *it*: **20** His eyes shall see his destruction, and he shall drink of the fury of the Almighty. **21** For what pleasure should he have in his house after him, when the number of his months is cut off? **22** Can any teach GOD knowledge? And he it is that judgeth those that are high. **23** One dieth in his full strength, being wholly at ease and quiet; **24** His sides are full of fat, and the marrow of his bones is moistened; **25** And another dieth in bitterness of soul, and hath not tasted good: **26** Together they lie down in the dust, and the worms cover them.

He Rejects Their Answers as False (21:27-34)

27 Lo, I know your thoughts, and the devices ye wrongfully imagine against me. **28** For ye say, Where is the house of the noble? and where the tent of the dwellings of the wicked? **29** Have ye not asked the wayfarers? and do ye not regard their tokens: **30** That the wicked is reserved for the day of calamity? They are led forth to the day of wrath. **31** Who shall declare his way to his face? and who shall repay him what he hath done? **32** Yet is he carried to the graves, and watch is kept over the tomb. **33** The clods of the valley are sweet unto him; and every man followeth suit after him, as there were innumerable before him. **34** How then comfort ye me in vain? Your answers remain perfidious.