

Job 20

Chapter 20 of 42 · 29 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Zophar's Second Speech: The Triumph of the Wicked Is Short

- 1** Then answered Zophar the Naamathite, and said,
 - 2** Therefore do my thoughts cause me to answer, and for this I make haste.
 - 3** I have heard the check of my reproach, and the spirit of my understanding causeth me to answer.
 - 4** Knowest thou not this of old, since man was placed upon earth,
 - 5** That the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment?
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- 6** Though his excellency mount up to the heavens, and his head reach unto the clouds;
 - 7** Yet he shall perish for ever like his own dung: they which have seen him shall say, Where is he?
 - 8** He shall fly away as a dream, and shall not be found: yea, he shall be chased away as a vision of the night.
 - 9** The eye also which saw him shall see him no more; neither shall his place any more behold him.
 - 10** His children shall seek to please the poor, and his hands shall restore their goods.
 - 11** His bones are full of the sin of his youth, which shall lie down with him in the dust.

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- 12 Though wickedness be sweet in his mouth, though he hide it under his tongue;
- 13 Though he spare it, and forsake it not; but keep it still within his mouth:
- 14 Yet his meat in his bowels is turned, it is the gall of asps within him.
- 15 He hath swallowed down riches, and he shall vomit them up again: God shall cast them out of his belly.
- 16 He shall suck the poison of asps: the viper's tongue shall slay him.
- 17 He shall not see the rivers, the floods, the brooks of honey and butter.
- 18 That which he laboured for shall he restore, and shall not swallow it down: according to his substance shall the restitution be, and he shall not rejoice therein.
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- 19 Because he hath oppressed and hath forsaken the poor; because he hath violently taken away an house which he builded not;
- 20 Surely he shall not feel quietness in his belly, he shall not save of that which he desired.
- 21 There shall none of his meat be left; therefore shall no man look for his goods.
- 22 In the fulness of his sufficiency he shall be in straits: every hand of the wicked shall come upon him.
- 23 When he is about to fill his belly, God shall cast the fury of his wrath upon him, and shall rain it upon him while he is eating.
- 24 He shall flee from the iron weapon, and the bow of steel shall strike him through.
- 25 It is drawn, and cometh out of the body; yea, the glittering sword cometh out of his gall: terrors are upon him.

- 26** All darkness shall be hid in his secret places: a fire not blown shall consume him; it shall go ill with him that is left in his tabernacle.
- 27** The heaven shall reveal his iniquity; and the earth shall rise up against him.
- 28** The increase of his house shall depart, and his goods shall flow away in the day of his wrath.
- 29** This is the portion of a wicked man from God, and the heritage appointed unto him by God.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

God — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

Heaven — שָׁמַיִם (Shamayim)

Heaven, sky

The Hebrew **shamayim** (שָׁמַיִם) means heaven or sky—God's dwelling place and the realm above earth. 'The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's' (Psalm 115:16), yet 'the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him' (1 Kings 8:27).

Iniquity — אָוֶן (Avon)

Iniquity, guilt, punishment

The Hebrew **avon** (אָוֶן) encompasses iniquity, guilt, and its punishment—the twisted nature of sin. 'The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all' (Isaiah 53:6), Christ bearing our guilt and penalty.

Spirit — רוּחַ (Ruach)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Hebrew **ruach** (רוּחַ) means spirit, wind, or breath—invisible but powerful. It describes both the Holy Spirit and the human spirit. God's Spirit gives life and empowers His people.

Wrath — אַף (Aph)

Wrath, anger

The Hebrew **aph** (אַף) literally means 'nose' or 'nostrils,' idiomatically expressing wrath or anger—God's righteous indignation against sin. Yet God is 'slow to anger' (Exodus 34:6) and 'abundant in mercy.'

CROSS REFERENCES

Job 20:1 **Parallel theme:** Job 2:11

Job 20:2 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 31:22; Proverbs 14:29

Job 20:6 **Parallel theme:** Genesis 11:4

Job 20:7 **Parallel theme:** Job 4:20; 7:10; 8:18; 14:10; 1 Kings 14:10; 2 Kings 9:37; Psalms 83:10; Jeremiah 8:2

Job 20:8 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 73:20; 90:5

Job 20:9 **Parallel theme:** Job 7:8; 7:10; 8:18; Psalms 37:10; 37:36

Job 20:10 **Parallel theme:** Job 20:18. **Good:** Luke 19:8

Job 20:11

Parallel theme: Job 13:26; 21:26; Ezekiel 24:13; 32:27. **Sin:** Psalms 25:7; John 8:24

Job 20:12 **Parallel theme:** Job 15:16; Genesis 3:6; Psalms 10:7; Proverbs 20:17; Ecclesiastes 11:9

Job 20:14 **Parallel theme:** Romans 3:13

Job 20:15 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 23:8

Job 20:16 **Parallel theme:** Romans 3:13

Job 20:17 **Parallel theme:** Job 29:6

Job 20:18 **Parallel theme:** Job 20:5; 20:10; 20:15; 31:25; 31:29; Proverbs 1:12; Jeremiah 22:13; 22:17; 51:34; 51:44

Job 20:19 **Parallel theme:** Job 35:9; Proverbs 14:31

Job 20:23 **Judgment:** Numbers 11:33

Job 20:24 **Parallel theme:** 2 Samuel 22:35; Isaiah 24:18; Amos 5:19

Job 20:25 **Parallel theme:** Job 15:21; 16:13; 18:11. **Word:** Deuteronomy 32:41

Job 20:26

Parallel theme: Psalms 21:9; 120:4; Isaiah 30:33; Matthew 3:12. **Darkness:** Isaiah 8:22; Matthew 8:12; Jude 1:13

Job 20:27 **Sin:** Isaiah 26:21. **Parallel theme:** Job 16:18

Job 20:29 **Evil:** Job 18:21; 27:13; Lamentations 3:38. **Parallel theme:** Matthew 24:51

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