

BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2024 – WEEK 9

Job 6-7, 9-10,12-14, 16-17, 19, 21: Wrong-Sounding Words Rightly Spoken

“You must defend my innocence, O God, since no one else will stand up for me. You have closed their minds to understanding, but do not let them triumph.”

– Job 17:3-4 NLT

• **Remember what God said:**

“My anger burns against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.” – Job 42:7 ESV

*“you have not spoken **the truth** about me”* – NIV

*“you have not spoken about Me **accurately**”* – BSB

*“you have not spoken of Me **what is trustworthy**”* – NASB

- But Job has!

○ The one they said was...

...a fool	...ignorant	...unrepentant
...a windbag	...a mocker	...impure
...wicked	...self-righteous	...and heretical

○ But Job said some questionable things

▪ To two different audiences

1. His friends
2. God

▪ In three different styles: Self-defense, lamentation, and prayer

1. Self-defense

“One should be kind to a fainting friend, but you accuse me without any fear of the Almighty. My brothers, you have proved as unreliable as a seasonal brook that overflows its banks in the spring when it is swollen with ice and melting snow.” – Job 6:14-16 NLT

“Honest words can be painful, but what do your criticisms amount to? Do you think your words are convincing when you disregard my cry of desperation?” – Job 6:25-26 NLT

“Stop assuming my guilt, for I have done no wrong. Do you think I am lying? Don’t I know the difference between right and wrong?” – Job 6:29-30 NLT

“I am a just and blameless man...” – Job 12:4 NLT

“As for you, you smear me with lies.” – Job 13:4 NLT

“Your platitudes are as valuable as ashes.” – Job 13:12 NLT

“I am not godless. If I were, I could not stand before him.” – Job 13:16 NLT

“I have done no wrong, and my prayer is pure.” – Job 16:17 NLT

“As for all of you, come back with a better argument, though I still won’t find a wise man among you.” – Job 17:10 NLT

“I cry out, ‘Help!’ but no one answers me. I protest, but there is no justice.” – Job 19:7 NLT

“How dare you go on persecuting me, saying, ‘It’s his own fault?’” – Job 19:28 NLT

“How can your empty clichés comfort me? All your explanations are lies!” – Job 21:34 NLT

- ~ A coordinated smear campaign
 - His righteousness has been questioned
 - His testimony has been maligned
 - His reputation has been sullied
 - His pain has been minimized
 - His suffering has been weaponized
 - His hope in God has been trivialized

- ~ Job is justifiably angry
 - His **“friends”** have become his **foes**
 - His **advocates** have become his **adversaries**

“As Job listens to them, he becomes increasingly upset with them. By this point in the book, Job regards his friends as hostile mockers by what they say. He finds no hope in them. When even his friends have failed him, Job more and more has to turn to God.” – Daniel J. Estes, *Job, Teach the Text Commentary Series*

2. Lamentation

~ When job isn't defending, he's **lamenting**

He is sad, hurting, and confused
His world no longer makes sense
His theology has been shaken
His concept of God has taken a hit

lament – a prayer expressing sorrow, pain, or confusion

bākâ – to weep, bemoan, mourn, complain, or grieve

*“For all these things I weep [bākâ];
tears flow down my cheeks.
No one is here to comfort me;
any who might encourage me are far away.”* – Lamentations 1:16 NLT

~ Laments don't always sound like prayers

*I am bent over and racked with pain.
All day long I walk around filled with grief.
A raging fever burns within me,
and my health is broken.
I am exhausted and completely crushed.
My groans come from an anguished heart.* – Psalm 38:6-8 NLT

*Day and night I have only tears for food,
while my enemies continually taunt me...* – Psalm 42:3 NLT

*My heart is breaking
as I remember how it used to be...* – Psalm 42:4 NLT

~ Job laments over his difficult circumstances

*“I don't have the strength to endure.
I have nothing to live for.”* – Job 6:11 NLT

*“I am innocent, but it makes no difference to me — **I despise my life.**”* – Job 9:21 NLT

*“Whatever happens, I will be found guilty. So **what’s the use of trying?**” – Job 9:29 NLT*

*“I wish you would **hide me in the grave** [Sheol] and forget me there until your anger has passed.” – Job 14:13 NLT*

*“**My spirit is crushed**, and my life is nearly snuffed out. The grave is ready to receive me.” – Job 17:1 NLT*

“Where then is my hope?” – Job 17:15 NLT

“Darkness is all around me; thick, impenetrable darkness is everywhere.” – Job 23:17 NLT

- ~ When darkness comes
- Where did Job turn?
- What did he say?
- How does it reflect his theology?

3. Prayer

- ~ Job alone talks to God
- ~ He is blunt and honest
- ~ He pulls no punches
- ~ He seeks **answers** and **acquittal**

*“O God, remember that my life is but a breath, and **I will never again feel happiness.**” – Job 7:7 NLT*

*“**Why won’t you leave me alone,** at least long enough for me to swallow!” – Job 7:19 NLT*

*“You formed me with your hands; you made me, yet **now you completely destroy me.**” – Job 10:8 NLT*

*“Again and again **you witness against me.** **You pour out your growing anger on me** and bring fresh armies against me.” – Job 10:17 NLT*

- ~ Two things can be true at once
 - Job is struggling with **unbelief**
 - His **difficulties** defy his **doctrine**
 - They contradict his conception of God
 - Yet he still **believes in God**
 - He’s **down** but hasn’t fully **given up**

- **Show me!**

“Only grant me two things,

*then I will not hide myself from your face:
withdraw your hand far from me,
and let not dread of you terrify me.” – Job 13:20-21 ESV*

“I believe; help my unbelief!” – Mark 9:24 ESV

- Job is wrestling with doubts
 - His “good God” is **assaulting** him
 - His “great God” is **terrorizing** him

“Then call, and I will answer;

*or let me speak, and you reply to me.
How many are my iniquities and my sins?
Make me know my transgression and my sin.
Why do you hide your face
and count me as your enemy?” – Job 13:22-24 ESV*

- Job was looking for answers
 - What did I do to offend you?
 - How can I confess what I don’t know?
 - When are you going to clue me in?
 - Why are you so angry and silent?

- **Be my advocate**

*“Lay down a pledge for me with you;
who is there who will put up security for me? Job 17:3 ESV*

- “God, would you post my bond?”
- He needs God to come to his aid
- He is all alone and on his own

*“You must defend my innocence, O God,
since no one else will stand up for me.” – Job 17:3 NLT*

*“Since you have closed their hearts to understanding,
therefore you will not let them triumph. – Job 17:4 ESV*

- God is the only hope Job has left
 - God is the only hope Job has left
...but has not given up on God
 - He feels he is under God’s curse
...but he refuses to curse God
 - His only other option is unacceptable

- **A simple question in need of a simple answer**

*"If I hope for Sheol as my house,
if I make my bed in darkness,
if I say to the pit, 'You are my father,'
and to the worm, 'My mother,' or 'My sister,'*

where then is my hope?

Who will see my hope?

Will it go down to the bars of Sheol?

Shall we descend together into the dust?" – Job 17:13-16 ESV

- Where then is my hope?

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the Lord his God,

who made heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is in them,

who keeps faith forever;

who executes justice for the oppressed,

who gives food to the hungry. – Psalm 146:5-7 ESV

O Lord, you alone are my hope.

I've trusted you, O Lord, from childhood.

Yes, you have been with me from birth;

from my mother's womb you have cared for me.

No wonder I am always praising you! – Psalm 71:5-6 NLT

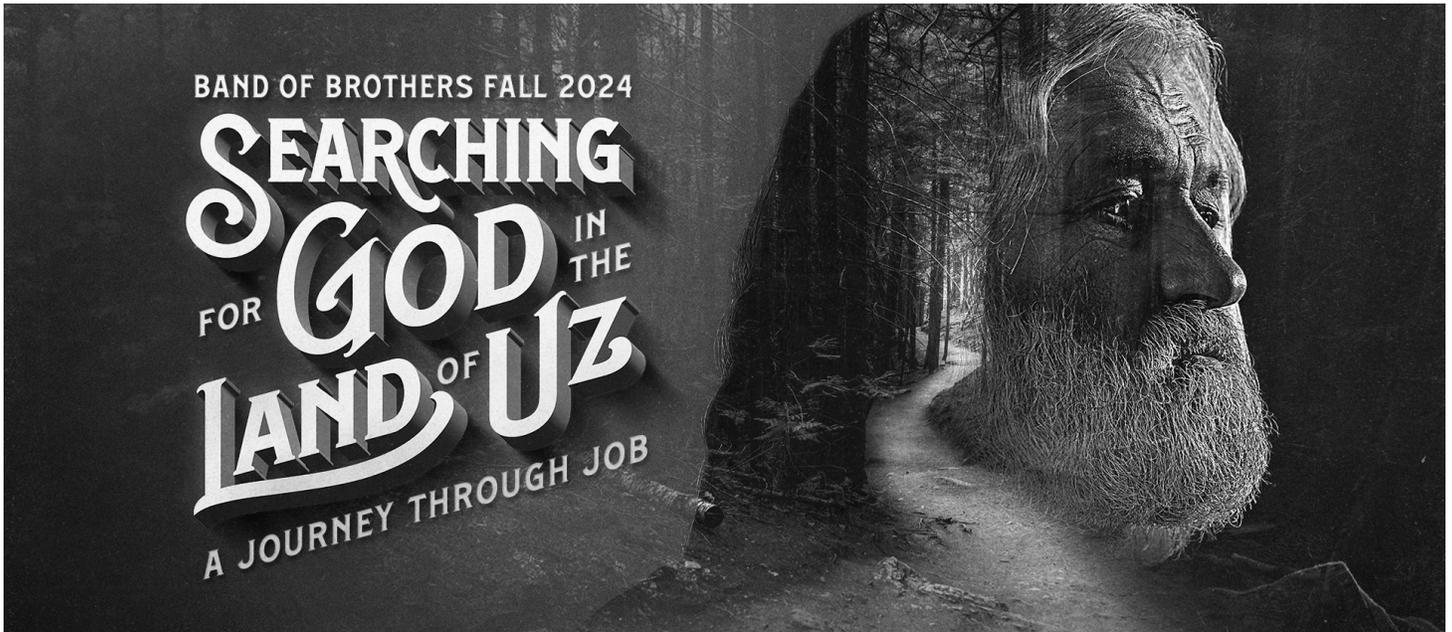
O God, our Help in ages past,
our Hope for years to come,
our Shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal Home. – Isaac Watts (1719)

- **Discussion questions**

When you're in need of hope, where do you turn other than God? Why isn't He always your first option?

How can we make Paul's advice in Romans 12:12 a regular part of our daily experience?

Job was brutally blunt with God. Why do some of us find it so hard to be honest if He loves us?



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FALL SERIES 2024 – WEEK 10 HOMEWORK

WEEK 10 – The Feint Sign of Faith in a Suffering Saint – Job 23-24, 26-31

This lesson picks up where we left off last week and provides further insight into Job’s weak but lingering faith in God. He has been battered, abused, falsely accused, and robbed of his health, prosperity, reputation, and dignity. But he refuses to give up on God. He doesn’t fully understand the ways of God, but he never stopped believing and hoping in the goodness of God. His trials have left him with questions, but he has not left God.

- This week is more of the same. A lot of reading but well worth the effort. Start by reading Job 23-24 and 26-31.
- Now, read the following pages from Ken’s Devotional™ on Job: 155-162, 166-204.
- In chapter 23, where do you see some feint glimpses of Job’s faith? Write down any phrases you saw that reflect that he still holds out hope in God.

Why do you think Job is so adamant to come before God with his circumstances? What does he hope to gain?

- Chapter 24 takes a decidedly dark turn. What do you think is the point Job is trying to make in this chapter?

- What is Job's primary focus in chapter 26?

What does he say about God that reveals a glimmer of hope?

- What does Job say chapter 27 that supports his belief that he will be restored by God?

What does he have to say about his hopes for the wicked?

- Write down some of thing Job says about wisdom in chapter 28.

What is his conclusion in verse 28?

- In chapter 29, Job reminisces about the way things used to be. What are some of his recollections about the past?

- According to chapter 30, what has Job lost as a result of all that has happened in his life?

- Chapter 31 contains Job's final appeal. How would you summarize his conclusion?

More than a dozen times, Job starts a sentence with the phrase, "If I have..." What point is he trying to make these statements?