

Devotional Questions – Job 26:1-28:28

1. *What does Job ask Bildad – what is his point (Job 26:2-3)*? *Job’s 6 questions extend over Job 26:2-4. The NIVs wrongly cut Job’s questions from 6 to 2.*
2. *How did Job describe God’s power in Job 26:11-13?*
3. *What does Job know (Job 26:7, 8, 10)?*
4. *What application did Job make of his examples of God’s greatness (Job 26:14)?*
5. *What is Job’s complaint about God (Job 27:1)*? *The actual reference is Job 27:2 “**As God liveth, who hath taken away my judgment; and the Almighty, who hath vexed my soul.**”*
6. *What does Job refuse to give up on (Job 27:5-6)?*
7. *What hope do the wicked/godless* have (Job 27:8-10)? *The actual word is “**hypocrite.**” The NIV translators no doubt “**being convicted by their own conscience**” John 8:9 changed the word so that they could go on “**handling the word of God deceitfully**” 2 Corinthians 4:2.*
8. *What does Job describe to his three friends (Job 27:13-23)?*
9. *What subject did Job introduce (Job 28:1-4)?*
10. *What did Job contrast to the gems and metals men seek (Job 28:12-13)?*
11. *What has less value than wisdom (Job 28:16-19)?*
12. *Where is true wisdom found (Job 28:23)?*
13. *What conclusions can man learn from God regarding wisdom (Job 28:27-28)?*

Devotional Questions – Job 26:1-28:28, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Job* pp 337-388 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 752-755, 764-765, 818, 1205 for detailed comment.

1. *What does Job ask Bildad – what is his point (Job 26:2-3)*? *Job's 6 questions extend over Job 26:2-4. The NIVs wrongly cut Job's questions from 6 to 2.*

Job's 6 questions to Bildad would simultaneously have been addressed to Eliphaz and Zophar. This is important because Job's 6 questions introduce "*his parable*" Job 27:1 that extends over Job 26-28 and the believer should "*Know for a certainty*" Joshua 23:13 that the 6 questions of Job 26:2-4 will be those to be answered at "*the judgment seat of Christ*" Romans 14:10, 2 Corinthians 5:10 when as believers "*every one of us shall give account of himself to God*" Romans 14:12.

Job's point is simply that neither Bildad nor the others has "*the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary*" Isaiah 50:4. None of them is as Isaiah says of God "*He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength*" Isaiah 40:29. None of them can enable "*him that hath no wisdom*" Job 26:3 "*To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding*" Proverbs 1:2 and none of them even knows whether he has "*the spirit of truth*" or "*the spirit of error*" 1 John 4:6. That is why Job has said of the others "*miserable comforters are ye all*" Job 16:2.

Job's 6 questions and their significance for today's believer are as follows:

- "*How hast thou helped him that is without power? how savest thou the arm that hath no strength?*" Job 26:2. Solomon says that "*There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death*" Ecclesiastes 8:8.

However "*the gospel of Christ, the power of God unto salvation*" Romans 1:16 enables individuals to be transformed into "*the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God*" 1 Corinthians 6:19 that is "*the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption*" Ephesians 4:30 such that the believer spiritually is as "*Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him*" Romans 6:9.

- "*How hast thou counselled him that hath no wisdom? and how hast thou plentifully declared the thing as it is?*" Job 26:3.

As indicated above Solomon wrote the Book of Proverbs for men "*To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding*" Proverbs 1:2. That is why Paul ministered as he did "*that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting*" 1 Timothy 1:16 and as he described to the Ephesian church, Acts 20:17.

“Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons...And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” Acts 20:18, 20-21.

- "*To whom hast thou uttered words? and whose spirit came from thee?*" Job 26:4.

Paul testifies in response again "*for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting*" with respect to "*Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily*" Colossians 1:27-28.

Paul is here as always in his letters "*speaking by the Spirit of God*" 1 Corinthians 12:3. However, any one of three spirits may come from a man's mouth:

- **“the spirit of man”** 1 Corinthians 2:11 whereby **“the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned”** 1 Corinthians 2:14.
- **“the Spirit of God”** 1 Corinthians 2:14 whereby **“Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual”** 1 Corinthians 2:13.
- **“a spirit of an unclean devil”** Luke 4:33 by which the fundamentals can be preached with respect to **“Jesus of Nazareth...the Holy One of God”** Luke 4:34. Every unclean spirit in the New Testament is a Bible-believing fundamentalist as shown when **“a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination...followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation”** Acts 16:16-17. Though compelled to speak the truth when confronted by **“Jesus of Nazareth...the Holy One of God”** Luke 4:34 and **“the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ”** Jude 17, each unclean spirit is **“a lying spirit in the mouth”** 1 Kings 22:22, 23, 2 Chronicles 18:21, 22 that will impart **“doctrines of devils”** via **“seducing spirits”** 1 Timothy 4:1.

A modern example of **“doctrines of devils”** via **“seducing spirits”** 1 Timothy 4:1 from **“a lying spirit in the mouth”** 1 Kings 22:22, 23, 2 Chronicles 18:21, 22 is the fixation of many preachers with expressions such as **“in the Greek”** Revelation 9:11, which only occurs *once* in scripture and in association with **“Apollyon...the angel of the bottomless pit.”** That preacher then becomes as **“Lucifer”** Isaiah 14:12 who said **“I will be like the most High”** Isaiah 14:14.

Therefore **“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God”** 1 Peter 4:11 and **“...speak thou the things which become sound doctrine”** Titus 2:1 according to the prayer of David.

“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.

2. How did Job describe God’s power in Job 26:11-13?

- **Universal.** **“The pillars of heaven tremble and are astonished at his reproof”** Job 26:11.

This is the Lord’s power over His creation in that **“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth”** Psalm 33:6.

- **Irresistible.** **“He divideth the sea with his power, and by his understanding he smiteth through the proud”** Job 26:12.

This is the Lord’s power in judgement at the Second Advent **“For God is my King of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth. Thou didst divide the sea by thy strength: thou brakest the heads of the dragons in the waters. Thou brakest the heads of leviathan in pieces, and gavest him to be meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness”** Psalm 74:12-14.

See also Habakkuk 3:13, 15 **“Thou wentest forth for the salvation of thy people, even for salvation with thine anointed; thou woundedst the head out of the house of the wicked, by discovering the foundation unto the neck. Selah...Thou didst walk through the sea with thine horses, through the heap of great waters”** and Psalm 110:6 **“He shall judge among the heathen, he shall fill the places with the dead bodies; he shall wound the heads over many countries.”**

God says of **“leviathan”** that **“he is a king over all the children of pride”** Job 41:1, 34 and he is **“the great dragon...that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan”** Revelation 12:9 of whom Isaiah states for the Second Advent **“In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea”** Isaiah 27:1.

“the sea...the heap of great waters” are *“the waters...above the firmament”* Genesis 1:7 down through which from *“the third heaven”* 2 Corinthians 12:2 the Lord descends at the Second Advent as John testifies. **“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war”** Revelation 19:11.

For *“Selah”* and its association with the Second Advent see www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php *Job 1 - Summary Thoughts*.

- *Inimitable. “By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent”* Job 26:13.

See remarks above on Job 26:11, 12 with respect to *“the heavens”* and *“the crooked serpent”* of whom God says **“Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee”** Ezekiel 28:15.

No-one else can or could do what God does and has done *“By his spirit”* and *“his hand.”* Job has therefore already testified of God **“Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number”** Job 9:10.

Today’s believer should therefore be able to testify with Paul **“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!”** Romans 11:33.

3. What does Job know (Job 26:7, 8, 10)?

- Job 26:7 states ***“He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.”***

Job knows therefore that God’s direction is *north* as every compass needle shows and as other writers of scripture reveal.

Elihu

“Out of the south cometh the whirlwind: and cold out of the north. By the breath of God frost is given: and the breadth of the waters is straitened...Fair weather cometh out of the north: with God is terrible majesty” Job 37:9-10, 22.

David

“Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King” Psalm 48:2.

“For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another” Psalm 75:6-7.

Isaiah

“For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north” Isaiah 14:13.

Ezekiel

“Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire” Ezekiel 1:1, 4.

Job also knows of the Lord having hung *“the earth upon nothing”* according as Paul would later write of the Lord Jesus Christ **“Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express**

image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high Hebrews 1:3.

- Job 26:8 states ***“He bindeth up the waters in his thick clouds; and the cloud is not rent under them.”***

Job knows therefore about *“ye waters that be above the heavens”* Psalm 148:4 with Genesis 1:7, see *Question 2*. NASA has confirmed the existence of *“ye waters that be above the heavens.”* See www.nasa.gov/topics/universe/features/universe20110722.html *Astronomers Find Largest, Most Distant Reservoir of Water* and this extract.

Two teams of astronomers have discovered the largest and farthest reservoir of water ever detected in the universe. The water, equivalent to 140 trillion times all the water in the world’s ocean, surrounds a huge, feeding black hole, called a quasar, more than 12 billion light-years away.



Artist’s Concept of a Qasar or Feeding Black Hole

“his thick clouds” are those that Eliphaz spoke of in Job 22:14 ***“Thick clouds are a covering to him, that he seeth not; and he walketh in the circuit of heaven”*** that are also part of *“the firmament of heaven”* Genesis 1:14, 15, 17 i.e. outer space *not “the open firmament of heaven”* Genesis 1:20

where birds fly. See www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php *Job 22* and **Appendix - Geocentric Circuit of Heaven**. Massive dust clouds have been identified in outer space. See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dust#Dust_in_outer_space and this extract.

Dust in outer space

[Cosmic dust](#) is widely present in space, where gas and dust clouds are [i.e. are thought to be. See *Question 2* and Psalm 33:6] primary precursors for [planetary systems](#). The [zodiacal light](#), as seen in a dark night sky, is produced by sunlight reflected from particles of dust in orbit around the Sun. The tails of [comets](#) are produced by emissions of dust and ionized gas from the body of the comet. Dust also covers solid planetary bodies, and vast [dust storms](#) occur on Mars that cover almost the entire planet. [Interstellar dust](#) is found between the stars, and high concentrations produce [diffuse nebulae](#) and [reflection nebulae](#).



www.wall321.com/Space/Nebulae/clouds_outer_space_stars_nebulae_dust_131825

- Job 26:10 states ***“He hath compassed the waters with bounds, until the day and night come to an end.”*** Job knows therefore that the universe is finite i.e. it has *“bounds”* in that *“the waters which were under the firmament”* and *“the waters which were above the firmament”* Genesis 1:7 are bounded in that as Job 26:8 states ***“He bindeth up the waters in his thick clouds; and the cloud is not rent under them.”*** While Job 26:8 applies to dust in outer space, see above, Biblical cosmology has a far wider application than that of cosmic dust. Job 26:8, 10 establish the basis for the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics and *Entropy increase of the universe* with the universe as a bounded system consisting of many sub-systems with no transfer of heat across the boundary or *“bounds”* of the universe. See *Thermodynamics An Engineering Approach* by Y. A. Çengel and M. A. Boles McGraw-Hill 1989 p 258.

Job also has at least some knowledge of what the Lord Jesus Christ refers to as ***“the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God”*** Revelation 3:12 where *“the day and night come to an end”* because ***“the city had no need of the”***

sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof...And there shall be no night there...” Revelation 21:23, 22:5.

In sum, Job knew a great deal. Today’s believer can look forward to the Lord’s Return when as Paul states **“For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known”** 1 Corinthians 13:12.

4. *What application did Job make of his examples of God’s greatness (Job 26:14)?*

Job 26:14 states **“Lo, these are parts of his ways: but how little a portion is heard of him? but the thunder of his power who can understand?”** Job appears to making the same application that Paul would later make. See 1 Corinthians 13:12 above. *Job also appears to be looking forward to a rapture as Elihu would express it.*

“At this also my heart trembleth, and is moved out of his place. Hear attentively the noise of his voice, and the sound that goeth out of his mouth...After it a voice roareth: he thundereth with the voice of his excellency; and he will not stay them when his voice is heard” Job 37:1-2, 4. That is what today’s believer should be looking forward to as John expressed it, showing again that **“he will not stay them when his voice is heard.”**

“After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither...And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne” Revelation 4:1 with of course 1 Corinthians 15:23, 35, 51-54, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18.

5. *What is Job’s complaint about God (Job 27:1)*? *The actual reference is Job 27:2 **“As God liveth, who hath taken away my judgment; and the Almighty, who hath vexed my soul.”***

Job is reiterating what he had already said **“Behold, I cry out of wrong, but I am not heard: I cry aloud, but there is no judgment”** Job 19:7 his soul being so vexed thereby that he had then said **“Have pity upon me, have pity upon me, O ye my friends; for the hand of God hath touched me”** Job 19:21. Job is complaining that God has not given him a fair hearing and not alleviated his suffering at all. Today’s believer who may be among **“them that suffer for righteousness’ sake”** 1 Peter 3:14 should keep Jeremiah’s exhortation in mind.

“For the Lord will not cast off for ever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men” Lamentations 3:31-33.

6. *What does Job refuse to give up on (Job 27:5-6)?*

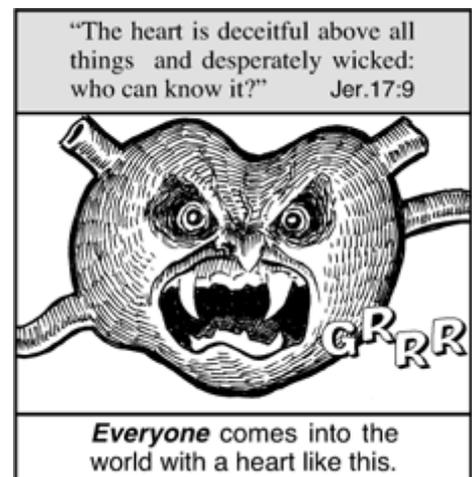
Job 27:6 encapsulates Job’s refusal. **“My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live.”**

Dr Ruckman points out that Job 27:6 is the key to the Book of Job. Job is trusting in self-righteousness to stay right with God as Job 32:1 reveals **“So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes.”** His own heart had deceived him in that respect as Jeremiah warns.

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” Jeremiah 17:9. See *Heart Trouble* www.chick.com/reading/tracts/1034/1034_01.asp.

That is why today’s believer should pray as David did.

“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” Psalm 139:23-24.



7. *What hope do the wicked/godless* have (Job 27:8-10)?* *The actual word is “**hypocrite.**” The NIV translators no doubt “**being convicted by their own conscience**” John 8:9 changed the word so that they could go on “**handling the word of God deceitfully**” 2 Corinthians 4:2.

Job 27:8 states “**For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul?**” The Lord Jesus Christ says none. “**For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?**” Mark 8:36. Today’s believer should therefore remember the Lord’s warning in that context with respect to “**wood, hay, stubble...for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is**” 1 Corinthians 3:12-13 e.g. the outcome of changing “**hypocrite**” to the more general expression in the context *wicked/godless* in order to go on “**handling the word of God deceitfully**” 2 Corinthians 4:2.. The Lord’s warning is as follows.

“**Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels**” Mark 8:38.

8. *What does Job describe to his three friends (Job 27:13-23)?*

Job’s description is summarised in Job 27:13 “**This is the portion of a wicked man with God, and the heritage of oppressors, which they shall receive of the Almighty.**”

Job 27:14-23 give the details of an evildoer’s portion and the oppressors’ heritage from God. These outcomes relate in particular to “**that man of sin...the son of perdition**” 2 Thessalonians 2:3 “**that Wicked...whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming**” 2 Thessalonians 2:8.

- *Loss of children* Job 27:14-15. Job suffered this, Job 1:18-19.
- *Loss of substance* Job 27:16-18. Job suffered this, Job 1:14-17.
- *Loss of eminence* Job 27:19 unlike “**the rich man**” Luke 16:22 who “**died, and was buried.**” Job suffered this, Job 2:8.
- *Loss of salvation* Job 27:20-23. Job *feared* to suffer this declaring that “**the terrors of God do set themselves in array against me**” Job 6:4 thinking it inevitable that “**I go whence I shall not return, even to the land of darkness and the shadow of death**” Job 10:21 but Job did *not* suffer *Loss of salvation*.

Moreover, Job’s *children, substance and eminence* were restored to him Job 42:11-17 when “**the Lord turned the captivity of Job**” Job 42:10, vindicating Job’s earlier statement of faith, which modern version supporters “**who hold the truth in unrighteousness**” Romans 1:18, see *Question 7*, should note carefully.

“**He also shall be my salvation: for an hypocrite shall not come before him**” Job 13:16.

Today’s believer should therefore remember Paul’s exhortation.

“**Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand**” Ephesians 6:13.

9. *What subject did Job introduce (Job 28:1-4)?*

Job introduces *three* subjects in Job 28:1-4.

- *Man’s efforts to exalt himself* Job 28:1-2 by means of “**silver...gold...iron...brass...taken out of the earth**” that depict man’s empires Daniel 2:31-33, 37-43.
- *God’s omnipotence over man’s efforts* Job 28:3 because “**He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him**” Daniel 2:22 and Daniel 2:34-35 with Daniel 44-45 “**And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left**

to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure."

- The judgement of God in former times Job 28:4 when "God...spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly" 2 Peter 2:4-5.

The subjects that Job introduces are a stark reminder of Solomon's warning.

"I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him" Ecclesiastes 3:14.

10. What did Job contrast to the gems and metals men seek (Job 28:12-13)?

Job contrasted the preciousness, scarcity and elusiveness of wisdom in Job 28:12-14. As was said to this writer many years ago "Sense is not common." It is, however, worth the search. Solomon says "The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath" Proverbs 15:24 and therefore "How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!" Proverbs 16:16.

The Lord Jesus Christ has described the kind of wise man that today's believer should be. "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock" Matthew 7:24-25 "and that Rock was Christ" 1 Corinthians 10:4.

11. What has less value than wisdom (Job 28:16-19)?

Everything has less value than wisdom that is "the wisdom that is from above" James 3:17 because only that wisdom matches "the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" 2 Timothy 3:15.

12. Where is true wisdom found (Job 28:23)?

True wisdom is from God via "the holy scriptures" 2 Timothy 3:15, see Question 11, "the scripture of truth" Daniel 10:21, "the book of the LORD" Isaiah 34:16 as David explains.

"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple" Psalm 119:130.

13. What conclusions can man learn from God regarding wisdom (Job 28:27-28)?

David has summed up these conclusions.

"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.

As those closest to the Lord when He was on earth knew, even after a rebuke from Him, John 2:4, wise men believe what the Lord says and *do it*.

"His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it" John 2:5.

"And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them" Matthew 21:6.