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## Job 26

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



**Learn the Bible at Home**

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Job 26.

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### Topics.

- How have you helped him who has no power and no strength?
- The dead under waters and Sheol and Abaddon is naked before God.
- God inscribed a circle on the waters between light and darkness.
- By his understanding God shattered Rahab.
- God pierced the fleeing serpent; these are the outskirts of his ways.

**FOR INFORMATION:** concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

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**INTRODUCTION:** the book of Job is considered both a theological and a literary masterpiece it is an honest discussion of why God allows good people to suffer. The test of Job's faith, allowed by God in response to a challenge from Satan, reveals God's sovereignty and the supremacy of divine wisdom over human wisdom (personified by Job's four friends). Believing that God is good despite the apparent evidence to the contrary, Job rested in faith alone. In the depths of agony, he could still proclaim, "I know that my Redeemer lives" (Job 19:25). In the end God silenced all discussion against the truth that He alone is wise (Job chpts. 38-41). Yet he vindicated Job's trust in him (chpt. 42), proving that genuine faith cannot be destroyed. The unknown author was probably an Israelite writing sometime between 2000 and 500 B.C.

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**HELPFUL FACTS:** before reading Job, it is helpful to understand when Job, Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar and Elihu are speaking they are not speaking, "thus sayeth the LORD", they are simply giving their opinions on how they personally perceive things to be. Amongst their conversations there is truth and wisdom, but it must be kept in mind not everything they are saying is true or even wise, in fact God rebukes Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar and tells them they have spoken foolishness, but Job has spoken what is right (Job 42:7-9). The book of Job is not about doctrinal truth, but human suffering and the questions regarding God that arise during a person's calamity and pain.

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### JOB SPEAKS

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#### JOB 26:1-4

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#### How have You Helped Him who has No Power and No Strength?

- **Job 26:1-4:** Then Job answered (Bildad) and said: <sup>2</sup>"How you have helped him who has no power! How you have saved the arm that has no strength! <sup>3</sup>How you have counseled him who has no wisdom, and plentifully declared sound knowledge! <sup>4</sup>With whose help have you uttered words, and whose breath has come out from you?"

Chapter twenty-four ended with Job boldly issuing a challenge to Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar and anyone else to show him to be a liar by proving that he was wrong in claiming that he had been unjustly accused and wrongly condemned and that what he had said was in error. Job was willing to have what he had said tried by whoever was willing to take up his invitation to prove that his theology that innocent and good people are

afflicted in this life and the wicked do prosper was wrong. Though Bildad in the previous chapter didn't say anything that was wrong, he never took up Job's challenge, nor did he give any answers that would prove Job right or wrong, but instead basically laid out more questions concerning the Holiness of God and mankind's lack of it. Job is now responding (perhaps sarcastically) to what Bildad's said in the previous chapter. Job is basically asking Bildad, how has anything he has said helped Job who is weak, and according to Bildad, Eliphaz and Zophar has no knowledge and has spoken what is false. Job has lost his family and all that he had established has been brought to ruin and he is in extreme pain and depression and so far in all Bildad, Eliphaz and Zophar speeches they have not uttered one word of compassion or comfort toward Job.

They are more interested in their own theology and their own arguments than they are in comforting a man who is in the depths of depression, despair and deep grief and sorrow (who needs friends like Bildad, Eliphaz and Zophar?)

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## JOB 26:5-6

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### The Dead under Sheol and Abaddon is Naked Before God.

- **Job 26:5-6:** The dead tremble under the waters and their inhabitants. <sup>6</sup>Sheol (the grave) (hell in KJV) is naked before God, and Abaddon (destruction in KJV) has no covering.

**Sheol:** (hell in KJV) comes from the Hebrew word (*sh<sup>e</sup>'owl*) and refers to Hades which is the grave the place of the dead.

**Abaddon:** comes from the Hebrew word (*'abaddown*) and means perishing; Hades (i.e., the grave) and utter destruction.

**Covering:** comes from the Hebrew word (*k<sup>e</sup>cuwth*) it means to cover as a veiling (i.e., clothing) to conceal and hide a thing (i.e., for secrecy).

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**Job is saying:** that God sees even the dead in the graves nothing is hidden from the eyes of God it matters not whether a body is laying at the bottom of an ocean, totally destroyed (i.e., by war, decay in the grave, fire or eaten by wild beasts) God knows. David expressed the same thought in the following verses:

- Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? <sup>8</sup>If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! <sup>9</sup>If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, <sup>10</sup>even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. <sup>11</sup>If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," <sup>12</sup>even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you. (Psalm 139:7-12).

**NOTE:** contrary to Job's belief that death is a place of rest and peace (Job 3:11-19) many worldwide believe in the teaching of hell as a place not of rest and peace, but of torture and extreme suffering and pain, but consider the following verses concerning death:

- What happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity. <sup>20</sup>All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return. (Eccles. 3:19-20).
- For he sees that even the wise die; the fool and the stupid alike must perish and leave their wealth to others. <sup>11</sup>Their graves are their homes forever, their dwelling places to all generations, though they called lands by their own names. (Psalm 49:10-11).
- Man in his pomp will not remain; he is like the beasts that perish. <sup>13</sup>This is the path of those who have foolish confidence; yet after them people approve of their boasts. *Selah* (Psalm 49:12-13).

Their graves are their homes forever (Psalm 49:11) is the true teaching of the Bible, those who are judged unworthy of eternal life do not go to a place of fiery flames called hell where they are cruelly and brutally tortured by evil eternal creatures called demons and their bodies burned by fiery flames so that they suffer the worst of all agonies for all eternity. This age old traditional doctrine is not only a gross misunderstanding of Scripture, but is also a gross misrepresentation of God's character, since it portrays Him as an extremely sadistic God, especially when it is considered that even those in the secular world would not inflict such brutal and cruel torture on a human for their entire life let alone for all eternity.

Added to this John tells us that God is love (1 John 4:8) (1 John 4:16). This horrific doctrine of hell was no-doubt perpetuated in the early years of the church by religious leaders to scare the naïve into the church and has been adopted and perpetuated by their followers from generation to generation through tradition and religious institutions and organisations. Eternal life or eternal death (i.e., utter and total extinction) is the only two choices the Bible teaches from Genesis to Revelation. For further information see the titles:

- 2 Hell or the Grave (Final destination of Humans).
- 3 Lake of Fire.
- 4 Both titles are in, Death (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## **JOB 26:7-11**

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### **God Inscribed a Circle on the Waters Between Light and Darkness.**

- **Job 26:7-11:** He (God) stretches out the north over the void and hangs the earth on nothing. <sup>8</sup>He binds up the waters in his thick clouds, and the cloud is not split open under them. <sup>9</sup>He covers the face of the full moon and spreads over it his cloud. <sup>10</sup>He has inscribed a circle on the face of the waters at the boundary between light and darkness (compassed the waters with bounds, until the day and night come to an end, in KJV) <sup>11</sup>The pillars of heaven tremble and are astounded at his rebuke.

Here Job gives many striking instances of the wisdom and power of God in His creation and preservation of the world. If we look around us and observe the creation of the earth and the waters and oceans and look above us to the heavens, we see displays of God's almighty power that were created by His eternal Spirit which moved upon the face of the waters and the breath of His mouth.

- By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. (Psalm 33:6).

God has not only made the heavens, but glorified them, by His redemption in Christ, all other wonderful works of God are eclipsed, by the eternal plan He set in motion before time began to save mankind from sin and death. All born of a woman may draw near to God and know His love and grace and walk with delight and joy in His ways and after death has taken them be raised from the darkness of the grave to eternal life and everlasting happiness because of the eternal plan of salvation God established before the world began.

**Verse ten:** because of its obscurity this verse has caused much speculation as to what Job had in mind. The English Standard Bible translates it in the following way, "He has inscribed a circle on the face of the waters at the boundary between light and darkness," while the King James Bible says, "He has compassed the waters with bounds." The word compassed and circle comes from the same Hebrew word (*chuwg*) and means to describe a circle as with a compass and to move in a circle. With this in mind and the obscurity of the verse it can be seen to embrace the following two things:

1. To the form of the horizon at sea which appears as a circle, and which seems to be marked out with a compass and gives an indication of the form of the earth being in a globular form and which is the limit apparently of light and beyond which is darkness in the sense that all is invisible.
  - When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep (Proverbs 8:27).
- 2 The boundaries of sand, rocks, and cliffs God has set up so that the waves of the ocean that toss and roar cannot return and cover earth as they once did.
  - I establish my covenant with you, never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth. (Gen. 9:11-15).
  - The mountains rose (above the waters of the flood), the valleys sank down to the place that you appointed for them. <sup>9</sup>You set a boundary that they (the waters) may not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth. (Psalm 104:8-9).
  - The LORD shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, <sup>9</sup>when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, <sup>10</sup>and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, <sup>11</sup>and said, "Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed?" (Job 38:8-11).
  - Do you not fear me? declares the LORD; Do you not tremble before me? I placed the sand as the boundary for the sea, a perpetual barrier that it cannot pass; though the waves toss, they cannot prevail; though they roar, they cannot pass over it. (Jeremiah 5:22).

**Until the day and night come to an end:** (v10) carries the following two ideas:

1. Day and night will not come to an end as long as changes between darkness and light continue.
  - While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease. (Gen. 8:22).
  - Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—the LORD of hosts is his name: <sup>36</sup>"If this fixed order departs from before me, declares the LORD, then shall the offspring of Israel cease from being a nation before me forever." (Jer. 31:35-36).
2. Day and night will not come to an end until the following glorious eternal and heavenly event comes to pass and darkness will be no more:
  - I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup>And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. (Rev. 21:22-23).

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## **JOB 26:12**

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### **By His Understanding God Shattered Rahab.**

- **Job 26:12:** By his power he stilled the sea; by his understanding he shattered Rahab.

Many believe Rahab to be some type of dragon or mythical monster of the deep, but it becomes clear after a careful look at the following verses that this is not so:

- God will not turn back his anger; beneath him bowed the helpers of Rahab (the proud helpers do stoop under him in KJV) (Job 9:13).

Rahab in this context refers to prideful mighty and powerful nations and those aligned to them that God has humbled and will humble.

- God divides the sea with his power, and by his understanding he smites through the proud (Rahab in Hebrew). (Job 26:12).

In this context Rahab refers to the proud.

- I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to them that know me (Zion and the city of God): behold Philistia, and Tyre, with Ethiopia; this man was born there. (Psalm 87:4).

Rahab in this context refers to powerful nation (most likely Egypt).

- God crushed Rahab like a carcass; you scattered your enemies with your mighty arm. (Psalm 89:10).

In this context Rahab refers to a powerful nation that is an enemy to God and His people.

- For the Egyptians shall help in vain, and to no purpose: therefore have I cried concerning this, Their strength (Rahab in Hebrew) is to sit still. (Isaiah 30:7).

Rahab in this context refers to the strength of Egypt

- Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in days of old, the generations of long ago. Was it not you who cut Rahab in pieces, that pierced the dragon?  
<sup>10</sup>Was it not you who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep, who made the depths of the sea a way for the redeemed to pass over? (Isaiah 51:9-10).

In this context Rahab refers to Egypt at the time of Moses and the parting of the Red Sea. These verses make it very clear that Rahab is not some dragon or mythical monster of the deep, but refers to prideful powerful nations that are opposed to God and His people (this of course would include the kings of these nations). In the Hebrew language the word (*rahab*) means proud and strength it carries the idea of prideful strength and acting proudly especially against God and His people. The message concerning Rahab is that no one no matter how powerful and mighty a king, a nation or an army maybe no one can stop God from accomplishing His purposes.

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## JOB 26:13-14

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### God's Hand Pierced the Fleeing Serpent, the Outskirts of His Ways.

- **Job 26:13-14:** By his wind the heavens were made fair; his hand pierced (formed in KJV) the fleeing serpent (crooked serpent in KJV). <sup>14</sup>Behold, these are but the outskirts of his ways, and how small a whisper do we hear of him! But the thunder of his power who can understand?"

**Crooked:** comes from the Hebrew word (*bariyach*) it carries the idea of a noble or crooked fugitive suddenly fleeing (i.e., as a serpent suddenly flees perceived enemies and danger). It also embraces the idea of chasing or driving a thing or person away and putting it or them to flight. It also embraces the constellation by that name.

**Serpent:** comes from the Hebrew word (*nachash*) it literally means a snake (from its hiss) figuratively it refers to a magic spell and generally carries the idea of enchantment (i.e., to use charm and fascination to allure and entice) or of predicting and foretelling future events (i.e., a diviner, mystic, spiritualist and medium). God's hand pierced (formed in KJV) the fleeing serpent (crooked serpent in KJV), can refer to the following two things:

- 1 God hinders and thwarts the serpent of the Garden of Eden plans and purposes to destroy God's Kingdom and His people. God of course did this through the bloodstained cross of Calvary.

- 2 God hinders and thwarts the diviner, the mystic, the spiritualist, the medium and the enchanter. He does this by only allowing them to see or feel glimpses of what maybe and never allowing them to see into the future with absolute certainty, so that much of what they do is left to clever manipulation and deduction or mysticism.

For further information regarding the serpent, see:

- Serpent in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Job in this chapter is saying that God's majesty is seen everywhere and His almighty power, is enormous, yet we only hear a small whisper when He speaks and that no-one can understand the great majesty of the LORD in the heavens, the earth and all creation or God's power. We clearly and loudly hear the LORD'S voice in the thunder of a storm, but as mortal humans we only hear (or understand) a small whisper of God Himself.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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