

Job's Reply – "I am a sinner, but I am righteous and upright. I have not grievously sinned!"

(Chapters 6, 7)

Bildad's First Speech – "God gives men what they deserve. He blesses the righteous, and punishes the wicked. If you were really righteous, God would be blessing you. Perhaps (!) you are a hypocrite."

(Chapter 8)

Job's Reply – "God destroys both the righteous and the wicked. I am not wicked, but righteous."

(Chapters 9, 10)

Zophar's First Speech – "Job, you lie when you say, 'I am righteous.' God's punishment for your sins is less than you deserve! Repent, and God will surely bless you."

(Chapter 11)

Job's Reply – "I am fully aware that God has sent this suffering, for He is sovereign. But it is not because of sin, for I am righteous, and not a hypocrite! I am trusting in Him."

(Chapters 12-14)

Second Cycle

Eliphaz's Second Speech – "Job, your own words reveal your iniquity and condemn you! All men are wicked and deserve to suffer in this life."

(Chapter 15)

Job's Reply – "I am suffering under God's hand, but not because of any sin of mine; I am pure."

(Chapters 16-17)

Bildad's Second Speech – "It is the wicked man whom God punishes, whose possessions, whose children, and whose skin, God destroys! Such a man does not know God!"

(Chapter 18)

Job's Reply – "Why do you persecute me? It is God who has brought all this suffering upon me, and yet I do not know why."

(Chapter 19)

Zophar's Second Speech – "Even secret iniquity will sooner or later come out; and the wicked man's sins will be punished in this life! Be sure, Job, your sins have found you out!"

(Chapter 20)

Job's Reply – "Some wicked men are not punished in this life, others are; some die in ease and prosperity, others die in bitterness and want. You imagine me as being wicked. But you forget that the real punishment of the wicked is reserved for the day of God's wrath and destruction!"

(Chapter 21)

Third Cycle