

# Why Does God Not Intervene?

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## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Job 20-26.
- B. Pharisee-ism is orthodoxy without godliness.
- C. Job's friends reflect this and show us that our attitudes are often like this.
- D. Pharisee-ism is one of the most deadly things today.

## II. Zophar is insulted that Job resists his claim that sin is always a sign of God's judgment.

### A. His claims.

1. The joy of the godless is but for a moment.
2. God will certainly bring judgment to the ungodly.
3. The fate of the wicked is terrible.

### B. Job's reply.

1. The wicked are often untroubled.
2. The wicked even defy God openly and are untroubled.
3. God's judgments are infrequent.
4. God's judgments are delayed.
5. God's judgments are uneven.
6. Job's companions offer false friendship.
7. Job's friends have a theology that does not square with experience.

## III. Eliphaz accuses Job of imaginary motives, invents false charges against him, assumes insulting concepts that Job holds and ends with inappropriate exhortations for Job.

### A. His claims.

1. He suggests that Job thinks God is not holy, but this is nowhere evident.
2. He suggests that Job is accusing God, but this does not happen.
3. He invents unsupported charges in response to Job's resistance.

4. He charges Job for having a limited view of God, but Job has already demonstrated that he has a consciousness of God's greatness.

B. Job's expression of his deepest problem.

1. Job expresses his longing for God.

2. Job believes that given the chance to explain himself, God would give him justice.

3. Why God delays judgment: He delays because of His patience, although this question remains for Job.

IV. Bildad makes no appeal to emotion and is pithy.

A. His claims.

1. God is all-powerful and there is no way to combat His decrees, which is true.

2. Man is not righteous in God's sight, which is also true.

3. Man is in deep trouble.

B. Job responds with sarcastic praise suggesting that his friends have been of no help to him.

V. Even when we understand much of God, we still do not know much of His ways.

**Application questions:**

1. Was there any truth to any of the claims of Job's friends? If so, why was this still not appropriate?

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2. In what ways does God judge believers in the present? Can you think of any New Testament examples?

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3. Have you ever had an experience when you learned that God was much bigger than you had previously thought? What brought you to this place?

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