Help from on High
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I. Introduction. Text: Job 13-19.

II. Job's case before God.

    A. Conditions he asks before God.

        1. To argue with God is to argue with the very power that gives you the ability to argue at all.

        2. Job knows this, and he comes to God to lift the pain and hide His presence so that he would not be terrified—Job never forsakes his consciousness at the character of God.

    B. Job wants to know what he has done wrong.

    C. Job protests against the silence of God and His apparent anger against him.

III. The helplessness and hopelessness of man before God.

    A. He is helpless to control his affairs.

    B. Man is hopeless because he cannot go back and do it all over again.

        1. Job describes what a joy it would be to be free from guilt, but not because he thinks it is possible.

        2. Man dies and disappears from the hopeless perspective.

        3. Many people just think if they could leave and start all over everything would be better, but this is a lie.

IV. Eliphaz charges Job with pretentious words and pretentious claims.

    A. Their theology is right concerning the general depravity of man.

    B. However, they fail to point out specifically to Job the wrong that he did.

V. God is patient with Job despite his response.

    A. Job is not the best model of faith in the Bible.

    B. He is an example of the natural self that needs to be broken through to grasp spiritual matters.

VI. God must provide the answer.

VII. Job is going through the slowly growing light.

A. There comes the dawning realization of the Incarnation—God Himself would come and vindicate all that He does.

B. Job calls God His redeemer.

C. God is trying to get Job to trust Him where he is.

D. God knows what He is doing with us even if we do not know at the time.

Application questions:

1. What is ironic about arguing with God? Is there a place for it according to the Scripture? Defend your answer.
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2. What does it mean that the natural self must be broken? How does Job illustrate this?
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3. How does God lead Job to express faith in God's salvation? When have you found it important to do the same in your life?
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