



Job 23:10-14

(10) But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. (11) My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined. (12) Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food. (13) But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? and what his soul desireth, even that he doeth. (14) For he performeth the thing that is appointed for me: and many such things are with him.

Job 24:1

(1) Why, seeing times are not hidden from the Almighty, do they that know him not see his days?

King James Version

Many times, as we go about our lives, it seems as though this powerful Sovereign is nowhere around. [Job 23:10-14](#); [24:1](#) records an interesting complaint of the perplexed Job, who represents anyone whom [God](#) has led through a trial.

On the one hand, Job perceives by [faith](#) that God is almighty and is involved in the events of his life. He is also confident that he is obedient to God. On the other hand, he cannot understand why God is being so hard on him, where He is, or how He can be persuaded to change His course of action. Job feels God is treating him unfairly. He also questions why those who know God still [sin](#) despite realizing He will judge those sins. The piper must be paid. We know that whatever a man sows, he reaps—and still we sin!

Many of us who have undergone a heavy trial have taken this course of thought. We may not use the same words, but they will have the same sense. We might say, "I am God's child, and I know I am not perfect, but I am not out there sinning a lot or terribly. Why is God so overbearing? Why does He seem so far away? Why does He not answer when I pray to Him? When am I ever going to get relief from this? Others seem to be

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Job 23:10-14 (<http://www.theberean.org>)
doing things a great deal worse than I. Why are they getting away with it?"

It is humbling to grasp that we are not completely in control of our destinies. A great, overriding Power sees life and its purpose far differently and with much greater clarity than we can even grasp. His every thought is righteous, and as our Creator He has every right to move us about as He wills. He is in charge, and nobody keeps Him from carrying out His ultimate purpose, to create a Family in His image. [Psalm 33:14-15](#) provides an interesting insight into His work among men: "From the place of His habitation He looks on all the inhabitants of the earth; He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works."

[Isaiah 10:5-19](#) is on a much larger scale—involving an entire nation and millions of people. It predicts God's intention to use Assyria to punish Israel and His response when Assyria boasts of "its" accomplishment. This yet-to-be-fulfilled prophecy is a clear example of how God intervenes in man's affairs to complete His purpose. In verse 7, He even prophesies that Assyria will not want to cooperate with Him, but He makes them. After Israel is punished (verses 12-15), Assyria takes undue credit, and God's judgment begins in verse 16. The lesson to all is that we are empowered to do only what God wills or permits. There is no room for [pride](#) when God enables us.

Like Job when he understood more fully, we as sons of God should be rightly humbled—and at the same time, greatly encouraged—by the awesome knowledge that His creative efforts focus on us ([Job 42:1-6](#)). Paul writes, "For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of [Jesus Christ](#). But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us" ([II Corinthians 4:6-7](#)). God is doing something very special in us, but all the praise and glory belong to Him.

Even though His path for us may sometimes seem very rough, and He often appears distant and deaf, who is better in directing our lives toward a glorious end? Were we or some other human to choose our way, the result would surely be ignoble and shameful. To comprehend these truths and yield ourselves to searching for His path for us are among life's greatest accomplishments. Submitting to Him produces the abundant life Jesus so graciously wants us to have ([John 10:10](#)).

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:
[The Sovereignty of God: Part Six](#)

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Job 23:10-14 (<http://www.theberean.org>)

Related Topics:

[Abundant Life](#)

[Faith](#)

[God's Chastening](#)

[God's Discipline](#)

[God's Fairness](#)

[God's Judgment](#)

[God's Sovereignty](#)

[Reaping and Sowing Principle](#)

[Trials](#)

Commentary copyright © 1992-2016 [Church of the Great God](#)