"The Wickedness of Slander"
Job 27:1-23
August 24, 2025

I. Zophar's 3rd Speec…wait…where is it?!

A. Strangely, there is no 3rd speech Zophar in Job.

B. The likely explanation is that he didn't give one (but see below).

II. Job's Continuing Response to All Three Friends (Job 27)

A. Job refuses to give into their false accusations and doubles down on his (true!) claim of innocence from great sin.

B. Job asks the Lord to judge his wicked and slanderous "friends".

C. Vs. 17-23:

1. Some think these verses contain Zophar's lost speech since they contain ideas that Job has already denied.

2. Rather, Job is warning his friends that God will judge them for their false accusations the way they said He always judges the wicked – i.e. immediately.

3. Job's warnings have the flair of a prophetic denunciation.

III. Slander is a sin believers must flee from today.

A. It is forbidden in passages like Ex. 20:16; Eph. 4:31; Col. 3:8, and 1 Peter 2:1, etc.

B. Slander can occur in subtle ways: like when we negatively presume another's motives or when we believe a negative report about another without verification.

C. The "old man" of slander must be put off and replaced by the "new man" who speaks positively of others and strives to believe the best. (1 Cor. 13:7)