

## As The Wicked Live

Please turn to and read Job 21:7-15; this great man, with the greatest of patience, has a message for you. One of Job's friends, Zophar, has just spoken to Job about the wicked, how they are miserable and short-lived. But, Job knows better and replies. "Hear me" - why, then, do the wicked live? Then, he proceeds to show how wrong Zophar is. In doing so he shows somewhat of the standard of the wicked, their plans, and goals. Let's get a brief look at what he says:

V7, They become old and are mighty in power. These are the popular and influential ones, chosen for positions of power or authority. In that way they are better off than the righteous. See Rom. 9:22-23.

V8, They do well by their offspring. They have the satisfaction of observing their children grow up in their footsteps, and with the same attitude "with them." What a goal! See Hos.4:6 and Eph.6:4.

V9, They were safe from fear. They didn't fear losing what they had. The circumstances made them feel safe, and at peace. It was not that way with the righteous. They reject God's correction; no recognition of their dependence upon God, and no respect for His authority. See Eccl. 8:11; 12:13.

V10, Their wealth increases; no problems with the main source of their income. All was going well with them. Not so with the righteous!

V11, They send forth their little ones like a flock. They open the gate and let them go; nay, they send them out and to demonstrate the same attitude. Their children dance - sensual pleasure is always the delight of the carnal minded.

V12, They enjoyed the best in music; perhaps even playing while their children danced. Their entertainment broadcast their wealth. Their hearts were obviously set on material things. See Lk.12:16-21.

V13, When death came, their material wealth could not delay it one bit. See 1 Jno.2:17.

V14-15, This was the message of their chosen way of life. They knew something of God, but tell Him to "get lost"; they wanted no part of His ways. They are indolent and haughty. They ask, "what is the Almighty, that we should serve him?" And, why should we pray unto Him? See Amos 6:3; 2 Pet.3:9-10.

Job lived a long time ago; his book is thought to be the first book of the Bible to be penned. In spite of the long-ago thought, it sounds to me as if Job is describing the modern-day materialistic society in which we live and the attitude that prevails. And, just maybe, some of it fits some of God's people!

Olen