

JOB BEMOANS HIS BIRTH. JOB 3. 9/28/25. #07.

3 After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. 2 And Job ³said, and said: 3 "May the day perish on which I was born, and the night in which it was said, 'A male child is conceived.' 4 May that day be darkness; May God above not seek it, nor the light shine upon it. 5 May darkness and the shadow of death claim it; may a cloud settle on it; may the blackness of the day terrify it. 6 As for that night, may darkness seize it; may it not rejoice among the days of the year, may it not come into the number of the months. 7 Oh, may that night be barren! May no joyful shout come into it! 8 May those curse it who curse the day, those who are ready to arouse Leviathan. 9 May the stars of its morning be dark; may it look for light, but have none, and not see the dawning of the day; 10 because it did not shut up the doors of my mother's womb, nor hide sorrow from my eyes. 11 "Why did I not die at birth? Why did I not perish when I came from the womb? 12 Why did the knees receive me? Or why the breasts, that I should nurse? 13 For now I would have lain still and been quiet, I would have been asleep; Then I would have been at rest 14 With kings and counselors of the earth, Who built ruins for themselves, 15 Or with princes who had gold, who filled their houses with silver; 16 Or why was I not hidden like a stillborn child, like infants who never saw light? 17 There the wicked cease from troubling, and there the weary are at rest. 18 There the prisoners rest together; they do not hear the voice of the oppressor. 19 The small and great are there, and the servant is free from his master. 20 "Why is light given to him who is in misery, and life to the bitter of soul, 21 Who long for death, but it does not come, and search for it more than hidden treasures; 22 who rejoice exceedingly, and are glad when they can find the grave? 23 Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden, and whom God has hedged in? 24 For my sighing comes before I eat, and my groanings pour out like water. 25 For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, and what I dreaded has happened to me. 26 I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest, for trouble comes."

1. From faith to frustration

- a. After the testimony of God & triumph of faith, we are shocked to hear Job's speech of despair
 - a1. After 7 days of silence, Job enters a long cry of despair & anguish
 - a2. We tend to believe that great men of faith never complain, but take hardship with stoic resolve
- b. Job's anguish is an honest expression of how he felt
 - a1. He did not curse God or lose his faith
 - a2. As Jesus crying out in anguish in Gethsemane & David expressing anguish in the Psalms, Job gives vent to his tortuous state
- c. Job asks the same questions many have asked
 - a1. Why was I born when I suffer so much?
 - a2. What is the point of giving life to people who are made to suffer?
 - a3. If I have sought to please God, why does he fill my life with agony?
- d. Job understood that man is a fallen creature, but he had

done all he could to please God

e. Job could not see the good he had done, the purpose of his trial, or the reward of his faith at this point

- a1. Job was hurting & he cries out in his pain
- a2. Job does not pretend that he is not in agony nor does he pretend that he agrees with his suffering

f. Job makes 4 points in his speech:

- a1. Why was I ever born or why did I not die at birth?
- a2. To die is better than to live since the misery ends
- a3. The grave makes the king & slave equal where the 1st loses his wealth & the 2nd gains his freedom
- a4. Job's greatest fear, losing his relationship with God, had come upon him

2. Job curses the day of his birth

- a. Job curses both the night of his conception & his birthday
 - b1. Jeremiah did the same thing (Jer. 20:14-18)
 - b2. Job at this point takes no comfort in the Lord
- b. Job uses 5 terms for the day of his birth: night, shadow, blackness, eclipse, darkness
- c. He wished that his mother had been barren (lit., *stony* as an infertile ground that would bear no crops) & that he had never sat on her knees to nurse
- d. Job curses the dawn when his father rejoiced that a son had been born
- e. Job saw death as a treasure to be longed for
- f. Job uses emotive terms to express his agony: misery, bitter, suffering, agony
- g. He groaned (loud bellowing like the sea) & sighed
- h. His birth was as rousing Leviathan (sea dragon)

3. Job's ponderings

- a. Job tries to figure out what was happening to him
 - a1. He was hedged in by God, but now he is hedged in by suffering away from God
 - a2. He longs for death but it alludes him
- b. His greatest fear has come: he had peace with God & now God had turned his back on him (Ps. 22 – the cross)
- c. Job sees no purpose in a life of misery
 - a1. Job does not know the great spiritual test here
 - a2. All Job can see is the torture he is experiencing
- d. Considering Job:
 - a1. Job honestly gives vent to his agony
 - a2. Faith demands trusting in purposes unknown
 - a3. Job was spiritually great, but he was human