

Lesson 4
Poetic Part Of Book
3:1-42:6
Job's Complaint
3:1-26

Job Curses His Birth - Not God
Job's Curse
3:1-10

- The tone of this chapter really surprises those who have read chapters 1 and 2 of Job.
- This chapter reveals the depression and discouragement of Job.
- In pain he shocks many by uttering some foolish, rash and sinful things.

JOB 3:1 Afterward Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth.

1. This verse relates to Job 2:13

JOB 2:13 Then they sat down on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights with no one speaking a word to him, for they saw that his pain was very great.

2. Job is suffering immense pain and humiliation, and wishes he had never been born.
3. He had become very depressed, and utters some shameful things.

JOB 3:2 And Job said,

JOB 3:3 "Let the day perish on which I was to be born, And the night which said, 'A boy is conceived.'

1. The day of his birth was likely very exciting to his parents.
2. He wishes that day had never occurred.
3. He had experienced many years of blessings, but this is now all forgotten because of his terrible pain.
4. Being human we often forget the many blessings of God when pain and suffering and tragedy occur.
5. Job was not the first nor the last to wish he were dead or had never been born.

JOB 3:4 "May that day be [shrouded in] darkness; Let not God above care for it, Nor light shine on it.

JOB 3:5 "Let darkness and black gloom claim it; Let a cloud settle on it; Let the blackness of the day terrify it.

What A Cursed Day Was The Of His Advent Into The World

JOB 3:6 "As for that night, let darkness seize it; Let it not rejoice among the days of the year; Let it not come into the number of the months.

1. Job speaks of the night he was born.
2. He wants no party to celebrate his birthday, but he desires his birthday be ripped from the calendar.
3. This man who had enjoyed many years of happiness and prosperity has forgotten them all.

JOB 3:7 "Behold, let that night [of my birth] be barren; Let no joyful shout enter it.

JOB 3:8 "Let those curse it who curse the day, Who are prepared to rouse Leviathan.

1. **"Leviathan" is used 5 times in the O.T.** (Job 3:8; 41:1; Psa. 74:14; 104:26; Isa. 27:1).

JOB 41:1 "Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook? Or press down his tongue with a cord?"

PSA 74:14 Thou didst crush the heads of Leviathan; Thou didst give him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.

PSA 104:26 There the ships move along, And Leviathan, which Thou hast formed to sport in it.

ISA 27:1 In that day the Lord will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, With His fierce and great and mighty sword, Even Leviathan the twisted serpent; And He will kill the dragon who lives in the sea.

2. **It seems to refer some large, aquatic animal or animals.** (the word may be generic).
 - a. Some modern scholars seek to identify "Leviathan" as a crocodile, but there are some serious objections that can be raised in regard to that theory.
 - b. It seems it was an untamable, ferocious creature.
 - c. Some hold it was a dinosaur-like, water-living reptile.
 - 1) The Bible teaches that man and all animal life existed at the same time.
 - 2) Animal life was created on the 5th and 6th days of creation.

Fifth Day

GEN 1:20 Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens."

GEN 1:21 And God created the great sea monsters, and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

GEN 1:22 And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

GEN 1:23 And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

- 3) Land animals and man were created on the 6th day of creation. (Gen. 1:24-31).

Land Animals

GEN 1:24 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind"; and it was so.

GEN 1:25 And God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

Man

GEN 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

GEN 1:27 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

GEN 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

GEN 1:29 Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you;

GEN 1:30 and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food ";and it was so.

GEN 1:31 And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

d. Leviathan will be studied in more detail when Job 41 is studied.

JOB 3:9 "Let the stars [morning stars] of its twilight be darkened; Let it wait for light but have none, Neither let it see the breaking dawn;

JOB 3:10 Because it did not shut the opening of my mother's womb, Or hide trouble from my eyes.

1. It is clear Job was hurt, angry and perplexed.
2. His pain and losses had led to utter discouragement and depression.
3. Discouragement and depression come to all, but it is most dangerous to linger in that state.

Job's Probing Questions

3:11-19

Why did I not die from the womb?

JOB 3:11 "Why did I not die at birth [when I left the womb], Come forth from the womb and expire?"

1. This is synonymous parallelism.
2. He says the same thing in two different ways.

JOB 3:12 "Why did the knees receive me, And why the breasts, that I should suck?"

1. Why was he placed on his father's or mother's knees? Gen. 48:12; 50:23; Isa. 66:12).
2. Why did the midwife let him live?
3. Why was he nourished from his mother's breasts?

Death Desirable Description of Death

JOB 3:13 "For now I would have lain down and been quiet; I would have slept then, I would have been at rest

[free from grief and suffering],

1. Death is pictured as a rest or sleep.
 - a. This is the appearance of a corpse.
 - b. It soon returns to the dust of the earth. (Eccles. 12:7).
2. Death is often described as sleep in scripture. (Jn. 11:11, 13; 1 Cor. 15:51; 1 Thess. 4:14).
 - a. The term “asleep” is used to describe the state of the body in death.
 - b. Only the body of man sleeps in death. (Dan. 12:2).

DAN 12:2 "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.

- c. The “soul” or “spirit” of man does not sleep in death, but remains conscious in a state of blessing or in a state of punishment. (Lk. 16:19-26; 2 Pet. 2:9).
- d. The body will be raised, but it will be immediately be changed into a glorious spiritual body. (1 Cor.15:50-53).

1CO 15:50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

1CO 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

1CO 15:52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

1CO 15:53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

- e. This transformation cannot be explained naturally, but can only be explained by faith in an Omnipotent God.

JOB 3:14 With kings and with counselors of the earth, Who rebuilt ruins for themselves;

JOB 3:15 Or with princes who had gold, Who were filling their houses with silver.

To Be Born Still Born Desirable

JOB 3:16 "Or like a miscarriage which is discarded, I would not be, As infants that never saw light.

The Grave
No Activity There

JOB 3:17 "There [in the grave] the wicked cease from raging, And there the weary are at rest.

JOB 3:18 "The prisoners are at ease together; They do not hear the voice of the taskmaster.

JOB 3:19 "The small and the great are there, And the slave is free from his master.

The Mystery of Death
3:20-26
Better If He Would Die

JOB 3:20 "Why is light given to him who suffers, And life to the bitter of soul;

1. Why does God give sufferers light, and life to men in bitter despair? - Mof.
2. Wherefore is light given to the miserable, And life to the galled soul - Sprl
3. He longs for it.

JOB 3:21 Who long for death, but there is none, And dig [hunt] for it more than for hidden [buried] treasures;

1. Why cannot men die when they are ready?
2. He longs for death with even a greater passion than one dig for buried treasures.
3. It is interesting that he is resigned to the fact he cannot die and avoid his suffering.

JOB 3:22 Who rejoice greatly, They exult [are glad] when they find the grave?

JOB 3:23 "Why is light given to a man whose way [pathway] is hidden, And whom God has hedged in [on every side with misery]?"

1. Satan said God had "made a hedge" about him. (Job 1:10).
2. Now Job complains God has hedged him in with misery and suffering.
3. This is a clear indication Job now blames God for his anguish with his lips.
4. Earlier he did not sin with the lips (Job 2:10), but this was no longer true.
5. He has not cursed God as the devil said he would and his wife encouraged him to do. (Job 2:5, 9).

JOB 3:24 "For my groaning comes at the sight of my food, And my cries pour out like water.

1. "I cannot eat for sighing" - Tay
2. "My only food is sighs" - Jerus
3. Job may be suggesting the disease has destroyed his appetite or that his pain is as regular as his meals.

JOB 3:25 "For what I fear comes upon me [has overtaken me]

JOB 3:26 "I am not at ease, nor am I quiet, And I am not at rest, but turmoil [trouble, pain, agony] comes."

Comments:

1. Job has made these statements in the depths of his immense suffering.
2. He had forgotten all the good years he had had, and had no idea how much God would bless him in the future. See Job 42
3. He could see no light at the end of the dark tunnel of pain and despair, but was in utter despair.

4. We often have similar experiences; although few, if any, have suffered to the extent Job did.
5. We may not understand why we suffer, but if we trust God He will bless and help us endure the suffering.
6. It is interesting that Job, despite his suffering, is not even considering suicide.
 - a. There is a great difference between wishing for death and deciding to commit suicide.
 - b. Later Job makes his decision to go on living because of his faith in God and because he is strong enough to endure all that Satan can heap upon him.
6. Job likely had believed, like his friends, that suffering is the result of sin.
 - a. If his theology is correct, he is the chief of sinners.
 - b. He knows he is not the chief of sinners and knows his religious doctrine is wrong.
7. Job turned toward God with accusations, but he never turned away from the Lord!
8. One should keep in mind that the author of Job was inspired and recorded exactly the utterances of Job, his friends, God and the others mentioned in this book.
 - a. We can be confident that the words of God are inspired.
 - b. There is not any proof that the words of Job, his wife, his friends were inspired.
 - c. Many of the things Job said are true, but not inspired.
 - d. Many of the words of Job were far from being inspired of God!

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