

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 84 – Job’s Complaints Continue Through Job Warning His Friends (Job 17-19)

1. As we begin chapter seventeen, does Job appear to be wore out?

Yes: “*My breath [SPIRIT] is corrupt, my days are extinct, the graves are ready for me*” (**Job 17:1**).

2. Does Job see himself as being mocked by his friends?

Yes: “*Are there not mockers with me? and doth not mine eye continue in their provocation*” (**Job 17:2**)?

3. Why did Job feel like no one would strike [shake] hands with him?

“(3) *Lay down now, put me in a surety with thee; who is he that will strike hands with me?* (4) *For thou hast hid their heart from understanding: therefore shalt thou not exalt them*” (**Job 17:3-4**).

4. What is Job’s thoughts towards those who speak flattery to their friends?

Since Job considered his friends to be traitors, he says: “*He that speaketh flattery to his friends, even the eyes of his children shall fail*” (**Job 17:5**).

See: **Psalms 5:8-9, Psalms 12:2-3, Proverbs 26:28**, and **I Thessalonians 2:5**.

True correction needs to be clear, not subtle or deceptive (**Proverbs 27:1, Ecclesiastes 7:5, Luke 17:3-4, and Revelation 3:19**).

5. Job 17:6 says the following:

“*He hath made me also a byword of the people; and aforetime I was as a tabret*” (KJV).

“*But He has made me a byword of the people, And I have become one in whose face men spit*” (NKJV).

“*But he hath made me a byword of the people; And they spit in my face*” (ASV 1901).

Strong’s defines “tabret” [8611] as: “a smiting that is (figuratively) contempt”.

BDB defines “tabret” [8611] as: “spittle; that which is spit upon”.

To the question: In light of the information above, what is Job saying in Job 17:6?

He is saying that he has been made him to be as one who is spit on.

6. What will cause upright men to be astonished [astonished]?

Job’s continual weeping and his becoming basically skin and bones [a mere skeleton]: “(7) *Mine eye also is dim by reason of sorrow, and all my members are as a shadow. (8) Upright men shall be astonished at this, and the innocent shall stir up himself against the hypocrite*” (**Job 17:7-8**).

7. Does Job think he is losing hope because his friends aren’t wise?

Yes: “(10) *But as for you all, do ye return, and come now: for I cannot find one wise man among you. (11) My days are past, my purposes are broken off, even the thoughts of my heart. (12) They change the night into day: the light is short because of darkness. (13) If I wait, the grave is mine house: I have made my bed in the darkness. (14) I have said to corruption, Thou art my*

father: to the worm, Thou art my mother, and my sister. (15) And where is now my hope? as for my hope, who shall see it? (16) They shall go down to the bars of the pit, when our rest together is in the dust” (Job 17:10-16).

8. Does Bildad try to calm Job down or does he feel Job has gone too far?

He certainly thinks Job has gone too far with his complaints: “(1) Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said, (2) How long will it be ere ye make an end of words? mark, and afterwards we will speak. (3) Wherefore are we counted as beasts, and reputed vile in your sight” (Job 18:1-3)?

9. Does Bildad think that Job has been levelheaded?

No: “*He teareth himself in his anger: shall the earth be forsaken for thee? and shall the rock be removed out of his place” (Job 18:4)?*

10. In reading Bildad’s description of what happens to the wicked (Job 18:5-21), if you were Job would you feel that you are suffering because you’re wicked?

Yes: We need to remember that Job’s suffering was caused by Satan’s desire to tempt him. Job was just, not sinful at the time when his suffering began (Job 1-2). Yet, as you read Bildad’s words, they would certainly make you blame God’s judgment against yourself if you were suffering what Job is for these reasons:

Verses (5-7; 12-15): Job feels his life is near an end and he feels weak (Job 17:1; 11).

Verses (8-10): Job has been told that his mouth has become his snare (Job 15:5-6).

Verse (11): Job is afraid (Job 9:28).

Verses (16-19): His family has been destroyed (Job 1:18-19).

Verse (20): Those who look on Job are astonished (Job 17:8).

This is why you’d feel like you were suffering for being wicked IF you believed what Bildad says: Verse (21) says: “*Surely such are the dwellings of the wicked, and this is the place of him that knoweth not God”.*

11. What does Job say the words of his friends are doing to him?

“*How long will ye vex my soul, and break me in pieces with words” (Job 19:2)?*

12. Does Job think his friends care about what they’re doing to him?

No: “*These ten times have ye reproached me: ye are not ashamed that ye make yourselves strange to me” (Job 19:3).*

13. Does Job think his error has any effect on anyone else?

No: “*And be it indeed that I have erred, mine error remaineth with myself” (Job 19:4).*

This makes no sense though. For Job’s family and servants suffered death. If such was because of a sin, which it is not, then others have suffered. Moreover, others always are affected by our sins (Malachi 2:3-10 and Galatians 5:9).

14. Who is Job blaming for his problems as his friends continue to plead against him?

No, he blames God for his calamity: *“(5) If indeed ye will magnify yourselves against me, and plead against me my reproach: (6) Know now that God hath overthrown me, and hath compassed me with his net” (Job 19:5-6).*

15. Job said God had overthrown him (Job 19:6), what else has Job blamed God for?

(7) Behold, I cry out of wrong, but I am not heard: I cry aloud, but there is no judgment.

(8) He hath fenced up my way that I cannot pass, and he hath set darkness in my paths.

(9) He hath stripped me of my glory, and taken the crown from my head.

(10) He hath destroyed me on every side, and I am gone: and mine hope hath he removed like a tree.

(11) He hath also kindled his wrath against me, and he counteth me unto him as one of his enemies.

(12) His troops come together, and raise up their way against me, and encamp round about my tabernacle.

(13) He hath put my brethren far from me, and mine acquaintance are verily estranged from me.

16. What is Job’s relationship with his family, close friends, and servants?

Bad: *“(14) My kinsfolk have failed, and my familiar friends have forgotten me. (15) They that dwell in mine house, and my maids, count me for a stranger: I am an alien in their sight. (16) I called my servant, and he gave me no answer; I intreated him with my mouth. (17) My breath is strange to my wife, though I intreated for the children's sake of mine own body. (18) Yea, young children despised me; I arose, and they spake against me. (19) All my inward friends abhorred me: and they whom I loved are turned against me” (Job 19:14-19).*

Just as a side point, let’s remember that family and friends aren’t always with us in bad times (**Psalms 27:10** and **Luke 21:16-17**).

17. How bad does Job’s physical condition continue to be?

“My bone cleaveth to my skin and to my flesh, and I am escaped with the skin of my teeth” (Job 19:20).

18. Who does Job seek pity from?

His friends: *“Have pity upon me, have pity upon me, O ye my friends; for the hand of God hath touched me” (Job 19:21).*

19. What does Job say his friends are doing to him just as God is doing to him?

Persecuting him: *“Why do ye persecute me as God, and are not satisfied with my flesh” (Job 19:22)?*

20. Is Job ashamed for others to hear (or read) his words?

No: *“(23) Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book! (24) That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever” (Job 19:23-24)!*

21. Though Job blames God and shows disgust at times, what does he say he knows?

“For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth” (Job 19:25).

22. Job earlier said God is not hearing him (Job 19:7). Does he now think he'll stay separated from God?

No, he thinks he'll see him: *"(26) And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: (27) Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me"* (**Job 19:26-27**).

23. Does Job think his friends will get something in return for their persecution of him?

Yes: *"(28) But ye should say, Why persecute we him, seeing the root of the matter is found in me? (29) Be ye afraid of the sword: for wrath bringeth the punishments of the sword, that ye may know there is a judgment"* (**Job 19:28-29**).

24. Would we ever blame God for our sufferings, if we proclaim to be righteous?

No: **James 1:12-17**