

An Overview of Job

Part 2

I. Introduction

- a. In our first lesson, we learned about our main character, Job, and the situation which leads to the rest of the book
 - i. Satan challenged God that Job would curse Him if he (Satan) was allowed to take jobs possessions, family and finally his health
 1. At the end of **Chapter 2**, we found Job having lost all that he had including his health as he had boils from head to toe
 - a. Three supposed friends had shown up to comfort him
 - i. They sat silently for 7 days
 1. Today, Job breaks the silence
- b. As I mentioned last week, I plan to take this book in sections
 - i. That is, we'll take the conversations as they unfold in the most logical way possible
 1. Though the lesson will be short, **Chapter 3** seems best to be taken alone
 - a. Eliphaz' speech in **Chapters 4 & 5** seem less a response to Job and more of a declaration of what he already thought
 - i. Lord willing, we'll cover **Chapters 4-6** next week
 1. Yes...we will move quickly ☺

II. Commentary

a. **Job 3:1-10**

- i. It would do us well to remember right now that Job has had more put on him than any of us can imagine
 1. Nobody I can think of has ever had such devastating loss so quickly
- ii. Job curses the day of his birth
 1. He did not curse God
 - a. But, he did wish he had never been born (**vs. 3**)
 2. Nothing good that Job had experienced seemed worth the pain he was presently in – both soul and body

- iii. Job's desire is that his mother would never have conceived him
 - 1. In the most poetic of terms, Job's desire is that the day of his conception and birth would vanish from human history
- iv. Job desires those that issue bold curses to curse the day (**vs. 8**)
 - 1. Some would even dare curse a powerful sea monster named Leviathan
 - a. This seemingly dinosaur-like monster will be discussed in great detail in **Chapter 41**
 - b. These are called on to curse the day of Job's conception and birth

b. Job 3:11-19

- i. Job wishes he had died at birth
 - 1. Again, all of the loss and pain he was currently going through overshadowed all of the good he had previously enjoyed
 - a. In the midst of such pain, thoughts are not clear
 - i. Our heart must ever go out to Job here
- ii. Job, as a child of God, knew he would be in paradise had he already died
 - 1. This he refers to as "rest" (**vs. 13**)
- iii. Job even wishes he would have died during pregnancy and been "a stillborn child" (**vs. 16**)
 - 1. Most of us would feel this way
 - a. I mean, if we get held up on the interstate, we wish we'd have gone another way!
 - i. That's nothing compared to Job's suffering
- iv. Two points about death (**vs. 17**)
 - 1. The wicked stop making trouble at death
 - 2. The weary Christian traveler finds rest like he has never known
- v. There is no slavery in death (**vs. 19**)
 - 1. The mentioning of slavery in such a way seems to give us a glimpse into God's attitude towards slavery

c. Job 3:20-26

- i. Job now speaks of his longing for death at this present time
 - 1. But, it doesn't come
 - a. This is similar to the lost during the Tribulation (**Rev. 9:6**)

- ii. Death seems the only escape from Job's current sufferings
 - 1. We all have seen loved one's suffering and prayed that the Lord may take them out of the suffering they have here into His presence where there is no suffering
 - a. It is this that Job desired for himself
- iii. Job makes an interesting declaration in **verse 25**
 - 1. *"For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, and what I dreaded has happened to me"*
 - a. Even faithful children of God have things they worry about and hope never happens to them
 - i. This is not uncommon
 - ii. This is part of this uncertain life that we live
 - iii. This had happened to Job
 - 2. It's difficult to know if this refers to the entirety of Job's suffering or only to this last infliction of the boils
 - a. Either way, he had feared such suffering even during the years of plenty and his fears had become his reality
- iv. His final statement is simple and to the point
 - 1. He has no ease from the suffering
 - a. It is constant and terrible
 - 2. He never quiets down
 - 3. He never rests
 - a. The moment he thinks he can, his problems remind him that he cannot