

# LAMENTATIONS OF JOB! Part 1.

## (Scripture. Job. 6:1-3)

**Introduction:** There is an important Hebrew word we all should know: it is “*Chesed*” which means loving kindness! It is a covenantal love. The three friends displayed it when they took so much effort to come and see Job from faraway lands, and spent a week sitting near him and mourning with him. But then Eliphaz started speaking, and used strong words like ‘fool’, and started accusing and judging Job. That triggered great anger within Job, and we will see some of his response today. As you listen, please read those scripture passages to grasp the richness of the Hebrew text. You may want to keep your favorite English Bible and your language Bible and compare the drastic translation variations.

The first passage, we will read it together as our Scripture reading. Eliphaz hurt Job deeply with his words. Now it was Job’s turn to reply!

Job. 6:1-3. 1Then Job answered,  
2“Oh that my grief were actually weighed  
And laid in the balances together with my calamity!  
3“For then it would be heavier than the sand of the seas;  
Therefore, my words have been rash.

Job told his friends something bizarre. He wanted them to measure his grief scientifically. If they had captured his tears somehow, they would have probably understood. If they had captured his heavy sighs in a scientific manner, they would have seen the intensity of his grief.

Job yearned for someone to measure his grief in a balance. He felt that his grief was heavier than the sand of the sea. Just carrying one bag of sand is heavy enough for me. But Job said that his grief weighed like tons and tons of heavy wet sand of the sea. His words may have sounded rather strange, or exaggerated, but it does reflect his heavy burden of his grief!

In other words, Job was saying, take a good look at my grief, and empathize with me! Try to understand me from where I am coming from! If you know where I am standing with respect to my grief, you will not speak to me like that!

Job. 6: 4 4“For the arrows of the Almighty are within me,  
Their poison my spirit drinks;  
The terrors of God are arrayed against me.

Now, Job squarely blames the Almighty God for all his suffering. It is true, everything stems from God, and everything stops at His feet. He is the Alpha and the Omega. The author of beginning and the end. Yet, it is not a good idea to blame God for everything that goes wrong in our lives. Job complained that the poisonous arrows are within him and killing him slowly. The terrors of God, which are many, are standing in line, ready to attack him one after another. Very poetic indeed, and that is what happened in job’s life!

The following passage is an interesting passage!

Job 6:5-7    5“Does the wild donkey bray over his grass,  
Or does the ox low over his fodder?  
6“Can something tasteless be eaten without salt,  
Or is there any taste in the white of an egg?  
7“My soul refuses to touch them;  
They are like loathsome food to me.

The donkeys and ox will make a lot of noise if they are hungry, and in need of food. Likewise, Job was crying and thirsting for consoling, and comforting words! But what does he get? Real tasteless, bland words from Eliphaz, and Job compares Eliphaz's words with the taste of the white of the egg, or like eating some tasteless, bland dish without salt or seasoning!

To be honest, I love veggie egg white omelet with jalapeno. and ketchup! Job was crying out to his friends for comforting words, but what he got was just rebuke. How many of our friends are crying out for sympathy and comforting words, but what we give them seems to be tasteless words and hurting words. Let us be very cautious and prudent about what we speak!

Job became despondent and was depressed. Eliphaz hinted that Job was becoming more and more like a fool, and he might die as a fool. But Job said that he wanted just that: he wanted to die and just cease to exist. He did not want to live any longer, and as a matter of fact, this was his daily prayer, as the next Verse suggests!

Job. 6:8-10    8“Oh that my request might come to pass,  
And that God would grant my longing!  
9“Would that God were willing to crush me,  
That He would loose His hand and cut me off!  
10“But it is still my consolation,  
And I rejoice in unsparing pain,  
That I have not denied the words of the Holy One.

Job prayed daily for his death so that he does not have to go through this ordeal every day. He wanted God to grant his longing, which is to be cut off from the land of the living forever. He wished that God would cut him to pieces, (not crushed, as NASB suggests) but God would not! He wanted God to let him go, and cut him loose from life itself, but that one thing was not happening for some mysterious reason. God was indeed guarding Job's life as His pupil of His eyes! Satan was given permission to do anything to Job, but he was forbidden from taking Job's life.

If death indeed visits him, Job will rejoice or exult over the excruciating pain before his death. The Hebrew word “*saw-led*” means to spring up out of joy, or to exult. The Arabic meaning applies to a horse when it means to beat the earth with its feet, and then to leap, to exult, to spring up. It does it before the battle when it sees the spears, swords, and torches. It just cannot wait to charge to the enemy's side. It has no fear absolutely. It springs up and neighs, and seems to say, what are you waiting for? Let us charge! Job rejoices over death, and seems to say, come on, bring it on. He was ready to charge after his death with joy and get this suffering over with. Very poetic description indeed!

(do not read the Tamil version or KJV for this verse. It is off little bit)  
There is a real message for us Christians! How are we going to face death?

Do we have strong enough faith to say, o death where is your strength?

Do we have strong enough faith to see the glory of Christ beyond the dark tunnel of death, and we charge like those brave horses joyfully?

If God calls us home today, are we ready to go joyfully to be with the LORD, or we will say, hold on LORD! I have too many unfinished works here on earth? Examine yourself? Set your house in order now itself. Do not worry about the family members who will be left behind, and how they will take care of themselves without you. My father died leaving 7 children and leaving my mother with just 3000 rupees which was equivalent to about 150 US dollars. God did not forsake that widow and her 7 children. He took care of them miraculously! When death comes, you charge with gladness, leaving all our loved ones in His loving hands. He can take care of our loved ones better than we do!

Job boasts here that there is another reason for his joy! He had not denied the words of God. In other words, he did not renounce his faith in God nor cursed Him. It was a big deal in his situation!

Job. 6:11-13 11“What is my strength, that I should wait?

And what is my end, that I should endure?

12“Is my strength the strength of stones,

Or is my flesh bronze?

13“Is it that my help is not within me,

And that deliverance is driven from me?

Job seems to say, what is the endgame of my life here? Why do I go on living? Will there be an end to my story, and I die peacefully, or I go on living like this forever? If I go on suffering, and living like this, I may lose my faith one day, and I might curse and die! Do not expect me to have the strength of a stone that I can face any suffering? Do not expect me to have a flesh of bronze which may never feel the pain? I have nothing within me that can help me out, and there is no sign of deliverance from anywhere?

Here Job forgets something important. He forgets about faith, hope, grace, and love. Everything may be taken away. But do not let anyone take your faith, hope, love, and grace away from you! Faith in God until the end is our main forte of strength. Faith in God is that stone or rock of our salvation always. It is that bronze of our faith. Do not let anything separate our love from God. Job became rattled because he felt that all his troubles came from God. He failed to see that Satan was the source of all his problems, and God was preserving his life. Job was just baffled that there is no end game in his life. He could not die, he could not live, and he could not understand that kind of suffering!

Please note carefully! Suicide is not an option in this story. No matter what situation we are in, we must never be hasty to take our life away ourselves. When God intends to preserve your life, why must you try to cut it short? May His will be done always in our lives. For us to live is for Christ, and to die is to gain! In everything, we are more than conquerors in Christ!

Job blamed God for his suffering, but now he starts attacking his friends!

Job. 6:14-18 14“For the despairing man there should be kindness from his friend;

So that he does not forsake the fear of the Almighty.

15“My brothers have acted deceitfully like a wadi,

Like the torrents of wadis which vanish,

16 Which are turbid because of ice  
And into which the snow melts.  
17 "When they become waterless, they are silent,  
When it is hot, they vanish from their place.  
18 "The paths of their course wind along,  
They go up into nothing and perish.

Job is right to demand kindness from his friends. We must bring kindness, not rebuke to a despairing man. But the second part of verse 14 differ greatly from translation to translation.

In **NASB** For the despairing man there should be kindness from his friend; so that he (that is Job) does not forsake the fear of the Almighty.

**NKJV**.14 "To him who is [a]afflicted, kindness should be shown by his friend, Even though he forsakes the fear of the Almighty.

**NIV & Tamil**. Anyone who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty.

**KJV** is ambiguous.

**KJV**.14 To him that is afflicted pity should be shewed from his friend; but he (who is this he?) forsaketh the fear of the Almighty.

**Hebrew.literal translation**. To him who is afflicted by his friend (kindness should be shown) Even though the fear of the almighty he forsakes.

**NKJV** comes close to the Hebrew language. Even though Job forsakes the fear of the Lord, his friends must show kindness.

It is a tough call! We can take it as Three different interpretations.

**NASB**. be kind to the person who suffers so that he (the sufferer) does not forsake the fear of the Lord.

**NKJ**. We must show kindnesses even though he (the sufferer) forsakes the fear of Almighty.

**NIV and Tamil**. Anyone who withholds kindness from a friend, forsakes the fear of the Almighty.

The Hebrew Word for kindness is "Chesed". It is loving kindness which stands for eternal covenantal love.

But it appears as though his friends lost that kind of love!

He compares his friends to a brook in the desert! In wintertime, snow and ice accumulates on higher altitude, then when it starts melting, the water runs down forming many streams for some time. But after excessive spring and summer heat they all disappear. You can identify these

stream fingerprints all over Judean chiseled mountains. Very poetic description in the book of Job. But it illustrates the depth of Job's friends. They came like streams to comfort Job. But they dried out completely. Instead of providing refreshing kind words, they blew hot wind and swept Job away. There were no kind words, instead, full of harsh, wounding words.

Job:6:21-23 21"Indeed, you have now become such,  
You see a terror and are afraid.  
22"Have I said, 'Give me something,'  
Or, 'Offer a bribe for me from your wealth,'  
23Or, 'Deliver me from the hand of the adversary,'  
Or, 'Redeem me from the hand of the tyrants'?"

Basically, Job says that his friends were just too terrified to respond correctly. Then he scolds them and reminds them that he never asked for any favor from any of them!

Job. 6:24-26 24"Teach me, and I will be silent;  
And show me how I have erred.  
25"How painful are honest words!  
But what does your argument prove?  
26"Do you intend to reprove my words,  
When the words of one in despair belong to the wind?"

Job explains what was wrong with their counseling. They were supposed to listen to him, and then teach the appropriate words of comfort and lift him up! But instead, they started throwing hot lead on his face.

Job asks a valid question! What good is to speak harsh words to the one who is in despair.

Job. 6:27-30 27"You would even cast lots for the orphans  
And barter over your friend.  
28"Now please look at me,  
And see if I lie to your face.  
29"Desist now, let there be no injustice.  
Even desist, my righteousness is yet in it.  
30"Is there injustice on my tongue?  
Cannot my palate discern calamities?"

We can feel the vexed spirit of Job in this last passage. Now he takes offense with his accusations. He challenges them to tell him if he went wrong anywhere. He begs them to teach him if he erred. He challenges them to point out any injustice in his life. As you can see, tension mounts up, and only God could intervene and stop this madness!

In conclusion, what can we learn from this chapter?

## Conclusion:

Our counseling can become sour if we accuse each other and become very defensive.

There is always evil in many words!

We must never decide how long we should live. Only God decides! Suicide is never an option.

Friends should always be kind! Friends should not be like the streams in the desert. Flowing abundance during winter months, and absolutely nothing in summer when people really need it! Friends should be able to correct one another in a loving manner, and not through anger and frustration. Job's speech is more like slamming the door in their faces.

Speak the truth in love.

2 Tim. 2:24-26. **24**And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, **25**in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, **26**and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

In Christ we can come out of death victoriously! He defeated sin, death, and hades.

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