

## LAMENTATIONS OF JOB! Part 2 (Scripture. Job. 7:9-11)

**Introduction:** The story of Job is all about human emotions. We will come across explosive, volatile human emotion. People who just try to follow the story line alone will miss out the real richness of this drama. That is like eating and swallowing a delicious dish without chewing and enjoying its taste. Please follow carefully all the emotions of various people, especially Job's!

Job views his life as an illusion in these passages!

*Job. 7:1,2. 1 Is not man forced to labor on earth,  
And are not his days like the days of a hired man?  
2 As a slave who pants for the shade,  
And as a hired man who eagerly waits for his wages,*

These passages are more like the book of Ecclesiastes. Life is more like an illusion. Job eagerly waits for his death, but it just keeps evading. Here Job brings three examples!

Any man is forced to labor for his survival, even a homeless person must work hard for his food and shelter, holding a sign. Nothing comes easy for us! We are forced to labor for our perishing food.

Our life is more like a contractual worker. When the term ends, our life expires. But Job waits for his death eagerly, like a slave longing for a little rest under the shade of a tree, or as the hired man eagerly waiting for his wages!

*Job. 7:3-5. 3 So am I allotted months of vanity,  
And nights of trouble are appointed me.  
4 When I lie down, I say,  
When shall I arise?  
But the night continues,  
And I am continually tossing until dawn.  
5 My flesh is clothed with worms and a crust of dirt,  
My skin hardens and runs.*

Sleeplessness due to stress, pain, anguish, and sorrow. It is true, the Lord gives sleep to His beloved. I am blessed in this area. Anytime, anywhere, I could take a nap and get up!! Sleeplessness is a curse. If we are suffering from it, we must examine ourselves. Is it due to some stress or anxiety? But Job is an exception! He could not sleep at all due to pain. But if we do not have pain, what is causing this problem? Majority of us, suffer from sleeplessness because of worry, and severe anxiety disorder. We must learn to trust in Jesus and take it to the Lord in prayer.

We are not sure, what kind of skin disease Job had. People ran away from him as though he had leprosy. There is vivid Description of Job's skin disease in this passage: "my flesh is clothed with worms and a crust of dirt, My skin hardens and runs." He had scabs, and the pus

was oozing out. The worms were crawling all over him. Even to hear of such suffering, it brings goose bumps! Just imagine, how it must have been to go through such a nasty disease!

*Job. 7:6-8. 6 My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle,  
And come to an end without hope.  
7 Remember that my life is but breath.  
My eye will not again see good.  
8 The eye of him who sees me will behold me no longer.  
Your eyes will be on me, but I will not be.*

Here Job compares his fast-moving days of his life toward death through a weaver's shuttle. Perhaps, that was the fast-moving part, he could think of! We can compare it to a fast-moving motorbike or plane! I do not know about you. The days are flying so fast for me! Before we blink, it will be Christmas time!

Job felt that he would never recover from this sickness, and he would vanish someday like a vapor from the land of the living. He assumed that God will never see him again. He never knew the awesome power of God which Psalm 139 talks about:

*Psalm 139:7-10 7Where can I go from Your Spirit?  
Or where can I flee from Your presence?  
8If I ascend to heaven, you are there.  
If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.  
9If I take the wings of the dawn,  
If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,  
10Even there Your hand will lead me,  
And Your right hand will lay hold of me.*

*We never disappear from the watchful eyes of God, in this life as well as life beyond death! He will never leave us nor forsake us.*

*Job. 7:9,10. 9 When a cloud vanishes, it is gone,  
So he who goes down to Sheol does not come up.  
10 He will not return again to his house,  
Nor will his place know him anymore.*

Sheol is an underground place just like Hades in New Testament. Job believed that there is no exit to life ever again. But in chapter 19, he seems to give the promise of resurrection. These two speeches of Job are totally opposite, and it may be hard to put it together.

*Job 19:25-27. 25 As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,  
And at the last He will take His stand on the earth.  
26 Even after my skin is destroyed,  
Yet from my flesh I shall see God.  
27Whom I shall behold,  
And whom my eyes will see and not another. My heart faints within me!*

Job 19:25-27 does point to resurrection beyond death, and Sheol, and we will try to understand it when we come to that chapter.

*Job:7:11,12. 11 Therefore I will not restrain my mouth;  
I will speak in the anguish of my spirit,  
I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.*

*12 Am I the sea, or the sea monster,  
That You set a guard over me?*

So far, Job was talking to himself, and his 3 friends. Now he decides to take up his case to his Creator and begins his argument against God! He clearly gives a warning shot here! He will not restrain his mouth any longer. He will bring out his true feelings, and his anguish from the depth of his soul. He was not going to sugar coat, or gloss over his pain and suffering anymore! He will speak as he feels!

I am blessed with 2 sisters, and they both are totally opposite. The eldest sister will say exactly as she feels, without any frills, without smoothening the words, but my other sister will paint everything very positive and give it to you. It is very hard to hear anything negative from her. If you did, the situation must be very, very bad!

Now Job begins speaking his very first sentence to God. Verse 12. Am I the sea, or sea monster that you set a guard over me? We came across leviathan, the cause of random chaos and tragedies, running loose in Job's life. The sea, which was viewed as sea of destruction and death, was banked by God that they may not cause any harm in the world. Likewise, Job is asking, am I that bad like the sea, and the sea monster, that you have guarded me and imprisoned me so that I will not affect the world with my actions? Have I been that bad that I have to be secured and imprisoned? Job takes it very personal and puts the blame on God for all his sufferings.

*Job. 7:13-16. 13 If I say, My bed will comfort me,  
My couch will ease my complaint,  
14Then You frighten me with dreams  
And terrify me by visions.  
15So that my soul would choose suffocation,  
Death rather than my pains.  
16 I waste away; I will not live forever.  
Leave me alone, for my days are but a breath.*

Job tries to forget about all his pain and suffering by sleeping on his couch or bed, but he is rudely awakened by horrible dreams and visions! Job felt suffocation of death when he slept, as well as when he was awake. He could not go on like that. He preferred death over the pain and suffering. Since Job felt that he may not live any longer, he wanted God to leave him alone, so that he could sleep peacefully without any horrible visions and dreams?

What a terrible wish? We may never want to say, leave me alone God! That would be the biggest mistake of our life. We cannot take a single step without His help. In Him, we live, move, and have our being. We must trust Him even in our adversity. In His time, He will intervene, and remove our pain and sufferings. Until then, we must be patient, and be still. But Job loses his mind due to his excruciating pain, and he wanted to be left alone to die. He lost hope in his only hope, God. What a tragedy!

We are not sure if this was a permanent wish or Job wanted just to be left alone for a moment. If it was a temporary request to be left alone, the following passage will tie up nicely!

*Job. 7: 17-20. 17 What is man that You magnify him,  
And that You are concerned about him,  
18 That You examine him every morning  
And try him every moment?  
19 Will You never turn Your gaze away from me,  
Nor let me alone until I swallow my spittle?  
20 Have I sinned? What have I done to You,  
O watcher of men?  
Why have You set me as Your target?  
So that I am a burden to myself?*

Verse 17 reminds us of the psalm 8:4

*Psalm.8:4 4What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You are mindful of him?*

In verse 17, Job wonders, why God is so concerned about man. In the Old Testament period, they would have never answered this question. Jesus Christ, our Lord gave us this answer. God is so concerned about us because, He is our ABBA, Daddy, the Heavenly Father, and we are part of His family and His children! The only Father who will never die, and He is our eternal Father! Unfortunately, Job did not realize God's fatherly love. But David realized it. That's why David begged, take not thy Holy Spirit away from me!

But Job felt just like some of our children, and he complained that God is monitoring him constantly, and testing him every moment of his life. Then he uses an old proverbial expression!

"Will You never turn Your gaze away from me,  
Nor let me alone until I swallow my spittle?"

We must take it as, "Can I be alone to swallow my spit or saliva for a moment?" Let me paraphrase it in such a way, so we may all understand this passage:

Job seems to be saying: "Stop watching me Lord, always. Stop looking over my shoulders or breathing over me all the time. Give me some space and some moment for myself. Leave me alone o God for a while.

Our children seem to say the same thing when we try to monitor them too much. They may become resentful and may think that we do not trust them. We must trust them but verify their works. Give them space when they want it. Don't breathe over their shoulders always! It is true with our spouses too. Don't breathe over them all the time. Give them some space.

Job confronts God boldly! Have I sinned? What have I done to you, O watcher of men? Very bold statement indeed. I guess, Job felt that there is nothing to lose. Nothing is coming from God anymore. Even death! But still Job wanted to know if he provoked God in any manner? Or sinned against Him in any manner? He used the phrase, 'watcher of men' to emphasize God's constant monitoring and discipline. Here we see a very narrow view of God. God as the

watcher of every action, and His enforcement of His law! But Jesus showed us His Father as loving, merciful, compassionate, forgiving, and He is the provider of our food, and eternal life. Praise the Lord!

Many people who read just the Old Testament come to conclusion like Job. But people who understand the New Testament covenant see a loving, merciful Father. Make sure you present God as the God of love, compassion, and justice.

*Job. 7:21. 21 Why then do You not pardon my transgression  
And take away my iniquity?  
For now, I will lie down in the dust.  
And You will seek me, but I will not be.”*

Good question! Why don't you pardon me, or take away my iniquity, or even better, stop me from sinning? God did just that through His precious Son Jesus Christ! He pardoned my sin, He purged my iniquity through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, and He has given me His Holy Spirit so that I may not sin against them. What a loving, marvelous Savior! Had Job known these things he would not have spoken such harsh words. Perhaps, that is why Jesus prayed for people who were ignorantly accusing God! Father forgive them! They know not what they do!

Job speaks a very touching word here.  
Yes, I will eventually die and lie down in the dust. You will seek me but I will not be there anymore!

God does not need us for our works, for our praise, or for our entertaining life. But He needs us really bad for our love for Him. Yes, God will long for our loving heart, if we stop loving Him!

## **Conclusion:**

1. We cannot escape from God's presence. He is everywhere.
2. There is hope beyond Sheol. Thanks be to Jesus Christ, our Lord who gave us eternal life freely!
3. Never say to God, leave me alone. He is watching over us like a mother would, all the time for our own safety, welfare, and peace.
4. God does not infringe on your personal space all the time. He wants you to spend time with others. He wants you to be alone to search your heart to see if you are tempted to go in any wicked path. He wants you to spend time with Him as you go about doing your daily tasks. (The parable of the laborer who goes to the field and works, and then comes back and serves his master, and then feeds himself). Luke 17:7

Which of you having a slave plowing or tending sheep will say to him when he has come in from the field come immediately and sit down to eat.?

5. Stop blaming God for all your woes. There may be other reasons for your sorrows.
6. Know the God of Justice as well as the God of mercy. Know the God of love as your Father!

7. Trust God's promise through His unfailing Word. He will always come through! He will never leave us nor forsake us.

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