

## VEXATIONS OF JOB - Part 2

*Scripture Reading: Job 14:14-16*

*14 If a man dies, will he live again?*

*All the days of my struggle I will wait  
Until my change comes.*

*15 You will call, and I will answer You.*

*You will long for the work of Your hands.*

*16 For now You number my steps,*

*You do not observe my sin.*

### **Introduction:**

Today I am condensing two chapters into one cohesive argument and present Job's argument. He becomes very aggressive now. He tries to do something very strange which no human being had ever attempted to do under the sun. He wanted God to come for the trial and answer his questions. Now Job is not worried about his death or life. He just wants to prove that he is innocent. When we come across Job's argument, our feelings will be very mixed. We are not sure if we should become angry, or cry, or laugh, or call Job a man who has lost his mind. I have deliberately skipped some passages that are repetitive so that we may focus on the main thread of Job's thoughts. Let us start with Job chapter 13.

*Job 13:17-19*

*17 Listen carefully to my speech, and let my declaration fill your ears.*

*18 Behold now, I have prepared my case; I know that I will be vindicated.*

*19 Who will contend with me? For then I would be silent and die.*

Job was very keen on clearing his name and he wanted to be vindicated. He not only wanted them to listen to him but understand what he was trying to tell them! If they heard him carefully, they would realize that he was indeed innocent! Job lost hope about being healed. He expected his death anytime. But before that, he wanted to prove that he was not punished because of his sins, and he was indeed innocent of any crimes!

Job claims that he has built a case, a case against God for punishing an innocent person. This is the first time we hear a human being filing a case against God! If you remember, Job already requested for an umpire! He boldly summons God and wants Him to appear before him and talk. He needed witnesses, but his own friends turned against him. As Job's life nears the end, he becomes very bold in challenging God about His justice! I guess, Job had nothing to lose now. The only thing he sought was to straighten out his record.

*Job 13:20,21.*

*20 Only two things do not do to me, Then I will not hide from Your face:  
21 Remove Your hand from me and let not the dread of You terrify me.  
22 Then call, and I will answer; Or let me speak, then reply to me.*

Once Job felt that he had nothing to lose anymore, he became too bold and started demanding! He laid out two demands for God:

- \* remove your hand of terror from me.
- \* Stop terrifying me any longer!

If you do these two things, then I'll talk to you!

Only with God, we can talk like this because He is so loving and merciful. He understands that we are nothing but clay! Can we say this to our rulers of this world?

*Job 13:23-25*

*23 How many are my iniquities and sins? Make known to me my rebellion and my sin.  
24 Why do You hide Your face and consider me Your enemy?  
25 Will You cause a driven leaf to tremble? Or will You pursue the dry chaff?*

Again, Job presses God for His charge. Spell out my charge clearly o God!

- What are my iniquities and sins?
- Why are you not talking to me?
- Why are you rejecting me as your enemy? Why do you still pursue me? I am already like a dry leaf. I am already trembling in fear.
- Why do you terrorize me even more?

Ferocious words spoken without fear. Just imagine, how his friends might have felt! They must have been stunned to hear these caustic remarks!

*Job. 13:26-28.*

*26 For You write bitter things against me and make me to inherit the iniquities of my youth.  
27 You put my feet in the stock, and watch all my paths; You set a limit for the soles of my feet,  
28 While I am decaying like a rotten thing, like a garment that is moth-eaten.*

Job complained that God wrote and kept records of his wrongdoing since his childhood. In the criminal justice system, they call it a rap sheet, and when we do background check of any criminal, it will tell us all the bad things he has done in his life! Revelation talks about such a book of life. But 1 Cor. 13 says that love does not keep record of wrongdoing. Let us keep record of good things about people, and not the bad things. Those who are washed in the blood of the lamb are forgiven by our Lord Jesus. We must also do the same with others. Job felt that perhaps, God was punishing him

because of his sins when he was young. He felt that his feet were chained and controlled like a prisoner, and was being monitored? We can understand it better when we compare our prisoners who are under home detention. They will be wearing a gps handcuff or leg cuff, and they are supposed to be inside the house always. The only time they can get out is when they must go for work. If they stop by some liquor store or some out of the way drug corner, they will be arrested again and brought back to prison! Job lamented that he was rotting like an old garment that was being eaten away by moth! It does match the description of his skin disease that has spores all over his body, which may resemble a moth-eaten wooden log that is riddled with holes everywhere!

We may feel like Job sometimes, very negative about God. But is God like that? No, not. He is a God of love, and He wants the best for us. We start accusing Him falsely when we face some serious suffering. Let us not accuse without knowing God properly.

Perhaps, Job was really fed up of everything. He got tired of arguing with his friends. He was just spinning the wheels with them. He did not receive any comfort from them. God seemed to be so far away. Didn't appear to be caring for him. Life or death, it did not matter for Job anymore. Whether he was guilty or innocent mattered no more. Now he felt that there is no life after death.

*Job 14:8-12.*

*8 Though its roots grow old in the ground, and its stump dies in the dry soil,*

*9 At the scent of water it will flourish and put forth sprigs like a plant.*

*10 But man dies and lies prostrate. Man expires, and, where is he?*

*11 As water evaporates from the sea, And a river becomes parched and dried up, 12 So man lies down and does not rise. Until the heavens are no longer, He will not awake nor be aroused out of his sleep.*

Here Job compares a dead tree to a dead body of a person. He ignorantly claims that dead body will never come to life again, but a dead tree can come back to life with little water! I wish Job had known the power of resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. He has given us so much wisdom about the resurrection after death, and He Himself demonstrated by resurrecting dead people. Then later on He Himself was resurrected from the dead by God, the Father. What a great revelation given to us through His Son Jesus Christ! No wonder we are all wiser than Solomon because we know exactly what happens beyond our death!

This comparison of dead body to a dead tree is a good one! Can we incorporate that dead tree root to our soul? The root of our soul never dies! New spiritual body will come out of it when this body falls to the ground! Jesus said, I am the resurrection and life. If anyone believes, though they die, they shall live! If anyone believes and lives they shall never die! (John 11:25,26). Nothing can shake our faith if we believe like this! Neither death, nor life, nor perils, nor famine, nor plague, nor wars and rumors of war, nor pestilence, nor plague can shake our mind! All things will come out good for those who trust in Jesus! Just believe! Yes! There is abundant life beyond death! As a

matter of fact, our real super charged life begins beyond death only. We will not be cocoons with physical limitations but real butterflies enjoying God's kingdom! For us to live is for Christ, to die is to gain!

Job's perception of death is way off and it does reflect the views of people who lived during Old Testament period.

But the next passage seems to bring hope beyond death!

*Job. 14:13-16.*

*13 Oh that You would hide me in Sheol, That You would conceal me until Your wrath returns to You, That You would set a limit for me and remember me!*

*14 If a man dies, will he live again? All the days of my struggle I will wait Until my change comes.*

*15 You will call, and I will answer You; You will long for the work of Your hands.*

*16 For now You number my steps, You do not observe my sin.*

It is more like wishful thinking of Job, even though he doubted such a possibility. He wanted God to keep him in Sheol until God's anger cooled down. Then God would remember Job and bring him back again! But Job wondered, if a man dies, will he live again? This question was answered after many centuries by a person, Jesus Christ our Lord, with a resounding yes!

We can see here the hopelessness of a person who does not believe that there is life beyond the grave! But still, he had some hope that God would deal with him beyond death! We have an amazing God, who is Omnipotent, all powerful! Is anything too hard for the Lord? This portion of Scripture gives us terrific confidence about life after death! There is so much to learn from this passage. Let me summarize those nuggets:

### **Conclusion:**

1. Let us not test the Lord. Let us not challenge our Lord. We will be rebuked as Job was in the end!
2. There is abundant life beyond death for those who believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Can you trust Him now, and surrender to Him?
3. There is evil in many words! Refrain your tongue from speaking negative about our God!
4. Our God is great. He wants only good things for us, and not evil. Let us not make Him an idol, distorting His holy and righteous personality, as Job did.
5. Our life in this world is just a beginning. Prepare your life for the other side of heavenly home! It is going to be an everlasting, joyful experience! Thanks be to our Lord Jesus Christ, who made it all possible for us!

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