

Job 03 - Job Laments the Day He Was Born

II. Dialogue (Job 3:1–42:6)

- (1) Job's introductory lamentation where he indicates that he does not want to live (3:1-26)
 - (A) Job's desire not to have been born (3:1-10)
 - (B) Job's desire to have died at birth (3:11-19)
 - (C) Job's desire to die (3:20-26)

Job 3

II. Dialogue (Job 3:1–42:6)

- (1) Job's introductory lamentation where he indicates that he does not want to live (3:1-26)
 - (A) Job's desire not to have been born (3:1-10)

1 Afterward Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his *birth*.

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1 After this, Job spoke up solemnly, cursing¹ the day he was born.

1 After this opened Job his mouth, and cursed his day.

2 And Job **said**,

2 And Job said,

2 This is what Job said:

2 And Job spake, and said

- "...said" - Hebrew means "answered"

3 "May the day on which I was to be born perish, As well as the night *which* said, 'A boy is conceived!'

3 "Let the day perish on which I was to be born, And the night *which* said, 'A boy is conceived!'

3 "Let the day when I was born be annihilated, along with the night when it was announced, 'It's a boy!'

3 Let the day perish wherein I was born, and the night in which it was said, There is a man child conceived.

4 "May that day be darkness; May God above not care for it, Nor light shine on it.
4 "May that day be darkness; Let not God above care for it, Nor light shine on it.
4 Let that day be dark; let God above not care about it; let no light shine over it.
4 Let that day be darkness; let not God regard it from above, neither let the light shine upon it.

5 "May darkness and black gloom claim it; May a cloud settle on it; May the blackness of the day terrify it.
5 "Let darkness and black gloom claim it; Let a cloud settle on it; Let the blackness of the day terrify it.
5 Let darkness and deep gloom reclaim it; let clouds settle down on it; let blackness in mid-day terrify it.
5 Let darkness and the shadow of death stain it; let a cloud dwell upon it; let the blackness of the day terrify it.

6 "As for that night, may darkness seize it; May it not rejoice among the days of the year; May it not come into the number of the months.
6 "As for that night, let darkness seize it; Let it not rejoice among the days of the year; Let it not come into the number of the months.
6 Let darkness carry that night away; let it not take its place joyfully among the days of the year; let it not be entered into the calendar.
6 As for that night, let darkness seize upon it; let it not be joined unto the days of the year, let it not come into the number of the months.

7 "Behold, may that night be barren; May no joyful shout enter it.
7 "Behold, let that night be barren; Let no joyful shout enter it.
7 "Yes, let that night be barren; let it not appear with its joyful shout.
7 Lo, let that night be solitary, let no joyful voice come therein.

8 "May those curse it who curse the day, Who are prepared to disturb **Leviathan**.
8 "Let those curse it who curse the day, Who are prepared to rouse Leviathan.
8 Let whoever curses days curse it— those who are ready to awaken monsters.
8 Let them curse it that curse the day, who are ready to raise up their mourning.
- "...Leviathan" - mentioned in five passages: here; 41:1; Ps 74:14; 104:26; Is 27:1
-- Job is probably simply referring to a custom of sorcerers or enchanters, who claimed to have the power to make a day unfortunate by rousing the dragon asleep in the sea; poetic license on a common idiom

9 "May the stars of its twilight be darkened; May it wait for light but have none, And may it not see the breaking dawn;

9 "Let the stars of its twilight be darkened; Let it wait for light but have none, And let it not see the breaking dawn;

9 Let the stars of its evening twilight be dark; let it hope for light but let there be none; let it not see the breaking rays of the dawn.

9 Let the stars of the twilight thereof be dark; let it look for light, but have none; neither let it see the dawning of the day.

10 Because it did not shut the opening of my *mother's* womb, Or hide trouble from my eyes.

10 Because it did not shut the opening of my *mother's* womb, Or hide trouble from my eyes.

10 "Because that night refused to shut the doors of my mother's womb; it failed to keep me from seeing this trouble.

10 Because it shut not up the doors of my mother's womb, nor hid sorrow from mine eyes.

(B) Job's desire to have died at birth (3:11-19)

11 "Why did I not die at birth, Come out of the womb and pass away?

11 "Why did I not die at birth, Come forth from the womb and expire?

11 Why didn't I die while I was still in the womb, or die while I was being born?

11 Why died I not from the womb? why did I not give up the ghost when I came out of the belly?

12 "Why were the knees *there* in front of me, And why the breasts, that I would nurse?

12 "Why did the knees receive me, And why the breasts, that I should suck?

12 Why was there a lap to hold me, and why were there breasts to nurse me?

12 Why did the knees prevent me? or why the breasts that I should suck?

13 "For now I would have lain down and been quiet; I would have slept then, I would have been at rest,

13 "For now I would have lain down and been quiet; I would have slept then, I would have been at rest,

13 "If I had died, I would be lying down by now, undisturbed, asleep, and at rest,

13 For now should I have lain still and been quiet, I should have slept: then had I been at rest,

14 With kings and counselors of the earth, Who rebuilt ruins for themselves;

14 With kings and *with* counselors of the earth, Who rebuilt ruins for themselves;
14 along with kings and counselors of the earth, who used to build for themselves what are now only ruins,
14 With kings and counsellors of the earth, which built desolate places for themselves;

15 Or with rulers who had gold, Who were filling their houses *with* silver.
15 Or with princes who had gold, Who were filling their houses *with* silver.
15 or princes who amassed gold for themselves, and who kept filling their houses with silver.
15 Or with princes that had gold, who filled their houses with silver:

16 "Or like a miscarriage which is hidden, I would not exist, As infants that never saw light.
16 "Or like a miscarriage which is discarded, I would not be, As infants that never saw light.
16 "Or why was I not buried like a stillborn child, like babies who never saw the light?
16 Or as an hidden untimely birth I had not been; as infants which never saw light.

17 "There the wicked cease from raging, And there the weary are at rest.
17 "There the wicked cease from raging, And there the weary are at rest.
17 In that place, the wicked stop causing trouble, and there, those whose strength is exhausted are at rest.
17 There the wicked cease from troubling; and there the weary be at rest.

18 "The prisoners are at ease together; They do not hear the voice of the taskmaster.
18 "The prisoners are at ease together; They do not hear the voice of the taskmaster.
18 In that place, those who once were prisoners will be at ease together; they won't hear the voice of oppressors.
18 There the prisoners rest together; they hear not the voice of the oppressor.

19 "The small and the great are there, And the slave is free from his master.
19 "The small and the great are there, And the slave is free from his master.
19 The unimportant and the important are both there, and the servant is free from his master.
19 The small and great are there; and the servant is free from his master.

(C) Job's desire to die (3:20-26)

20 "Why is light given to one burdened with grief, And life to the bitter of soul,
20 "Why is light given to him who suffers, And life to the bitter of soul,
20 "Why does God give light to the sufferer or life to the bitter person:

20 Wherefore is light given to him that is in misery, and life unto the bitter in soul;

21 Who long for death, but there is none, And dig for it more than for hidden treasures;

21 Who long for death, but there is none, And dig for it more than for hidden treasures,

21 To those who are longing for death— even though it does not come? To those who search for it more than for hidden treasure?

21 Which long for death, but it cometh not; and dig for it more than for hid treasures;

22 Who are filled with jubilation, *And* rejoice when they find the grave?

22 Who rejoice greatly, *And* exult when they find the grave?

22 To those who are happy beyond measure when they reach their graves?

22 Which rejoice exceedingly, and are glad, when they can find the grave?

23 "Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden, And whom God has shut off?

23 "Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden, And whom God has hedged in?

23 To the formerly successful man who lost his way in life, and God fenced him in?

23 Why is light given to a man whose way is hid, and whom God hath hedged in?

24 "For my groaning comes at the sight of my food, And my cries pour out like water.

24 "For my groaning comes at the sight of my food, And my cries pour out like water.

24 "As far as I'm concerned, my food comes to me in the form of sighs, and my cries of anguish pour out like water.

24 For my sighing cometh before I eat, and my roarings are poured out like the waters.

25 "For what I fear comes upon me, And what I dread encounters me.

25 "For what I fear comes upon me, And what I dread befalls me.

25 For the dreaded thing that I feared has happened to me, what caused me to worry has engulfed me.

25 For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.

26 "I am not at ease, nor am I quiet, And I am not at rest, but turmoil comes."

26 "I am not at ease, nor am I quiet, And I am not at rest, but turmoil comes."

26 I will not be at ease; I will not be quiet; I will not rest; because trouble has arrived."

26 I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet; yet trouble came.