

# Job 06 - Discourses by 3 Friends; Job's Reply to each; Job's Prayer

## II. Dialogue (Job 3:1—42:6)

### (2) First dialogue cycle (Job 4:1—14:22)

#### (A) Job's exchange with Eliphaz (Job 4:1—7:21)

##### (b) Job's reply (Job 6:1—7:21)

(i) Job emphasizes his suffering (6:1-7)

(ii) While claiming that he has not denied God's words, Job yearns for death (6:8-13)

(iii) Job's disappointment with his friends' wrong assessment and resulting lack of kindness toward him (6:14-23)

(iv) Job challenges his friends to prove him wrong by enumerating his sins (6:24-30)

## Job 6

### (b) Job's reply (Job 6:1—7:21)

(i) Job emphasizes his suffering (6:1-7)

1 Then Job responded,

1 Then Job answered,

1 In rebuttal, Job replied:

1 But Job answered and said,

2 "Oh if only my grief were actually weighed And laid in the balances together with my disaster!

2 "Oh that my grief were actually weighed And laid in the balances together with my calamity!

2 "If only my grief could be weighed; or my calamity piled together on a balance scale!

2 Oh that my grief were thoroughly weighed, and my calamity laid in the balances together!

3 "For then it would be heavier than the sand of the seas; For that reason my words have been rash.

3 "For then it would be heavier than the sand of the seas; Therefore my words have been rash.

3 It would weigh more than the sand on the seashore! Here's why I've talked so rashly:  
3 For now it would be heavier than the sand of the sea: therefore my words are swallowed up.

4 "For the arrows of the Almighty are within me, My spirit drinks their poison; The terrors of God line up against me.

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

4 "The arrows of the Almighty have pierced me; my spirit absorbs their poison; God's terrors have been arranged just for me!

4 For the arrows of the Almighty are within me, the poison whereof drinketh up my spirit: the terrors of God do set themselves in array against me.

5 "Does the wild donkey bray over *his* grass, Or does the ox low over his feed?

5 "Does the wild donkey bray over *his* grass, Or does the ox low over his fodder?

5 "Will the wild donkey bray from hunger if fresh grass is beside him? Will the ox low from distress if it is near its feed?

5 Doth the wild ass bray when he hath grass? or loweth the ox over his fodder?

6 "Can something tasteless be eaten without salt, Or is there any taste in the juice of an alkanet *plant*?

6 "Can something tasteless be eaten without salt, Or is there any taste in the white of an egg?

6 Tasteless food isn't eaten without salt, is it? Is there any taste in an egg white?

6 Can that which is unsavoury 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.

7 "My soul refuses to touch *them*; They are like loathsome food to me.

7 I cannot bring myself to touch them; food like this makes me sick."

7 The things that my soul refused to touch are as my sorrowful meat.

(ii) While claiming that he has not denied God's words, Job yearns for death (6:8-13)

8 "Oh, that my request might come to pass, And that God would grant my hope!

8 "Oh that my request might come to pass, And that God would grant my longing!

8 "Who will grant my wish? I wish God would grant what I'm hoping for:

8 Oh that I might have my request; and that God would grant me the thing that I long for!

9 "Oh, that God would decide to crush me, That He would let loose His hand and cut me off!

9 "Would that God were willing to crush me, That He would loose His hand and cut me off!

9 that God would just be willing to crush me; that he would let loose and eliminate me!

9 Even that it would please God to destroy me; that he would let loose his hand, and cut me off!

10 "But it is still my comfort, And I rejoice in unsparing pain, That I have not denied the words of the Holy One.

10 "But it is still my consolation, And I rejoice in unsparing pain, That I have not denied the words of the Holy One.

10 At least I could still take comfort and rejoice in unceasing anguish, for I didn't conceal what the Holy One has to say.

10 Then should I yet have comfort; yea, I would harden myself in sorrow: let him not spare; for I have not concealed the words of the Holy One.

11 "What is my strength, that I should wait? And what is my end, that I should endure?

11 "What is my strength, that I should wait? And what is my end, that I should endure?

11 "Do I have the strength to wait? And why should I be patient?

11 What is my strength, that I should hope? and what is mine end, that I should prolong my life?

12 "Is my strength the strength of stones, Or is my flesh bronze?

12 "Is my strength the strength of stones, Or is my flesh bronze?

12 Am I as strong as a rock? Am I some kind of iron man?

12 Is my strength the strength of stones? or is my flesh of brass?

13 **"Is it that my help is not within me,** And that a good outcome is driven away from me?

13 "Is it that my help is not within me, And that deliverance is driven from me?

13 There is no help within me, is there? My resources have been driven away from me, haven't they?

13 Is not my help in me? and is wisdom driven quite from me?

- "...Is it that my help is not within me" - "I have no strength to handle all this." But God knows us better than we know ourselves. So Job's cry goes unanswered so far.

- He then rebukes his friends, irritated at their lack of understanding

(iii) Job's disappointment with his friends' wrong assessment and resulting lack of kindness toward him (6:14-23)

**14** "For the despairing man *there should be* kindness from his friend; So that he does not abandon the fear of the Almighty.

**14** "For the despairing man *there should be* kindness from his friend; So that he does not forsake the fear of the Almighty.

14 The friend shows gracious love for his friend, even if he has forsaken the fear of the Almighty.

14 To him that is afflicted pity should be shewed from his friend; but he forsaketh the fear of the Almighty.

15 "My brothers have acted deceitfully like a wadi, Like the torrents of wadis which drain away,

15 "My brothers have acted deceitfully like a wadi, Like the torrents of wadis which vanish,

15 But my brothers have acted treacherously like a cascading river, like torrential rivers that overflow.

15 My brethren have dealt deceitfully as a brook, and as the stream of brooks they pass away;

16 Which are darkened because of ice, *And* into which the snow melts.

16 Which are turbid because of ice *And* into which the snow melts.

16 Filled with waters made cold by ice, they are where the snow goes to hide.

16 Which are blackish by reason of the ice, and wherein the snow is hid:

17 "When they dry up, they vanish; When it is hot, they disappear from their place.

17 "When they become waterless, they are silent, When it is hot, they vanish from their place.

17 But then the snow melts, and they disappear; when warmed, they evaporate from their stream beds.

17 What time they wax warm, they vanish: when it is hot, they are consumed out of their place.

18 "The paths of their course wind along, They go up into wasteland and perish.

18 "The paths of their course wind along, They go up into nothing and perish.

18 Travelers divert in their route; they go into a wasteland and die.

18 The paths of their way are turned aside; they go to nothing, and perish.

19 "The caravans of Tema looked, The travelers of Sheba hoped for them.

19 "The caravans of Tema looked, The travelers of Sheba hoped for them.  
19 Travelers from Tema search intently; caravans from Sheba hope to find them.  
19 The troops of Tema looked, the companies of Sheba waited for them.

20 "They were put to shame, for they had trusted, They came there and were humiliated.  
20 "They were disappointed for they had trusted, They came there and were confounded.  
20 For all their expectations, they are doomed to disappointment; even though they have come and searched this far.  
20 They were confounded because they had hoped; they came thither, and were ashamed.

21 "Indeed, you have now become such, You see terrors and are afraid.  
21 "Indeed, you have now become such, You see a terror and are afraid.  
21 "And now you're all just like them, aren't you? You see my terror and are terrified.  
21 For now ye are nothing; ye see my casting down, and are afraid.

22 "Have I said, 'Give me *something*,' Or, 'Offer a bribe for me from your wealth,'  
22 "Have I said, 'Give me *something*,' Or, 'Offer a bribe for me from your wealth,'  
22 When did I ever ask you for anything, say 'Offer a bribe for me from your wealth?'  
22 Did I say, Bring unto me? or, Give a reward for me of your substance?

23 Or, 'Save me from the hand of the enemy,' Or, 'Redeem me from the hand of the tyrants'?  
23 Or, 'Deliver me from the hand of the adversary,' Or, 'Redeem me from the hand of the tyrants'?  
23 or say 'Deliver me from my enemy's control,' or 'Redeem me from the domination of ruthless people'?"  
23 Or, Deliver me from the enemy's hand? or, Redeem me from the hand of the mighty?

(iv) Job challenges his friends to prove him wrong by enumerating his sins (6:24-30)

**24** "Teach me, and I will be silent; And show me how I have done wrong.  
**24** "Teach me, and I will be silent; And show me how I have erred.  
24 "Instruct me, and I'll remain silent. Help me understand where I've gone astray.  
24 Teach me, and I will hold my tongue: and cause me to understand wherein I have erred.  
  
25 "How painful are honest words! But what does your argument prove?  
25 "How painful are honest words! But what does your argument prove?

25 The truth can be painful, but what has your argument proven?

25 How forcible are right words! but what doth your arguing reprove?

26 "Do you intend to rebuke *my* words, When the words of one in despair belong to the wind?

26 "Do you intend to reprove *my* words, When the words of one in despair belong to the wind?

26 Did you intend your words to reprove, even though the speech of a desperate person is just wind?

26 Do ye imagine to reprove words, and the speeches of one that is desperate, which are as wind?

27 "You would even cast *lots* for the orphans, And barter over your friend.

27 "You would even cast *lots* for the orphans And barter over your friend.

27 Indeed, you would gamble to buy an orphan; and barter to buy your friend!

27 Yea, ye overwhelm the fatherless, and ye dig a pit for your friend.

28 "Now please look at me, And see if I am lying to your face.

28 "Now please look at me, And see if I lie to your face.

28 Now be willing to face me, and I won't lie to your face.

28 Now therefore be content, look upon me; for it is evident unto you if I lie.

29 "Please turn away, let there be no injustice; Turn away, my righteousness is still in it.

29 "Desist now, let there be no injustice; Even desist, my righteousness is yet in it.

29 Repent! Let there be no injustice; Change your ways! My vindication is at stake.

29 Return, I pray you, let it not be iniquity; yea, return again, my righteousness is in it.

30 "Is there injustice on my tongue? Does my palate not discern disasters?

30 "Is there injustice on my tongue? Cannot my palate discern calamities?

30 Have I said anything that's unjust? I can discern evil, can't I?"

30 Is there iniquity in my tongue? cannot my taste discern perverse things?

- Job now turns to God, and complains about the hardness of his present experience