

Job 07 - Job's Reply (Cont'd)

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)

(v) Job's brief and miserable life exemplifies all life (7:1-6)

(vi) Job to be forgotten after death exemplifying this same pattern for all people (7:7-10)

(vii) Job asks God to name his sin (7:11-21)

Job 7

(v) Job's brief and miserable life exemplifies all life (7:1-6)

1 "Is a person not forced to labor on earth, And *are* his days not like the days of a hired worker?

1 "Is not man forced to labor on earth, And *are not* his days like the days of a hired man?

1 "Men have harsh servitude on earth, do they not? His days are like those of a hired laborer, are they not?

1 Is there not an appointed time to man upon earth? are not his days also like the days of an hireling?

2 "As a slave pants for the shade, And as a hired worker who eagerly waits for his wages,

2 "As a slave who pants for the shade, And as a hired man who eagerly waits for his wages,

2 I'm like a servant who longs for the shade, like a hired laborer who is looking for his wages.

2 As a servant earnestly desireth the shadow, and as an hireling looketh for the reward of his work:

3 So I am allotted worthless months, And nights of trouble are apportioned to me.

3 So am I allotted months of vanity, And nights of trouble are appointed me.

3 Truly I've been allotted months of emptiness; nights of trouble have been appointed for me.

3 So am I made to possess months of vanity, and wearisome nights are appointed to me.

4 "When I lie down, I say, 'When shall I arise?' But the night continues, And I am continually tossing until dawn.

4 "When I lie down I say, 'When shall I arise?' But the night continues, And I am continually tossing until dawn.

4 "When I lie down I ask, 'When will I wake up?' But the night continues and I keep tossing and turning until dawn.

4 When I lie down, I say, When shall I arise, and the night be gone? and I am full of tossings to and fro unto the dawning of the day.

5 "My flesh is clothed with maggots and a crust of dirt, My skin hardens and oozes.

5 "My flesh is clothed with worms and a crust of dirt, My skin hardens and runs.

5 My skin is covered with worms and clods of dirt; my skin becomes rough and then breaks out afresh.

5 My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of dust; my skin is broken, and become loathsome.

6 "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, And they come to an end without hope.

6 "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, And come to an end without hope.

6 My days pass as swiftly as a hand-loom; they come to their conclusion without hope.

6 My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope.

(vi) Job to be forgotten after death exemplifying this same pattern for all people (7:7-10)

7 "Remember that my life is a *mere* breath; My eye will not see goodness again.

7 "Remember that my life is *but* breath; My eye will not again see good.

7 Remember that my life is a breath; my eyes won't go back to seeing good things.

7 O remember that my life is wind: mine eye shall no more see good.

8 "The eye of him who sees me will no *longer* look at me; Your eyes *will be* on me, but I will not exist.

8 "The eye of him who sees me will behold me no longer; Your eyes *will be* on me, but I will not be.

8 The eyes of the one who sees me won't see me anymore; your eyes will look for me but I won't be around!

8 The eye of him that hath seen me shall see me no more: thine eyes are upon me, and I am not.

9 "When a cloud vanishes, it is gone; In the same way one who goes down to Sheol does not come up.

9 "When a cloud vanishes, it is gone, So he who goes down to Sheol does not come up.

9 As a cloud fades away and vanishes, the one who descends to the afterlife doesn't return.

9 As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away: so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more.

10 "He will not return to his house again, Nor will his place know about him anymore.

10 "He will not return again to his house, Nor will his place know him anymore.

10 He doesn't return again to his house, and his place won't recognize him anymore."

10 He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more.

- He has given up. He thinks he will never see any relief; he cries out in honest despair.

(vii) Job asks God to name his sin (7:11-21)

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.

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.

11 "In addition, I won't keep my opinion to myself; I'll speak from my distressed spirit; I'll complain with my bitter soul.

11 Therefore I will not refrain 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?

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

12 Am I the sea, or a sea monster, that you keep watching me?

12 Am I a sea, or a whale, that thou settest a watch over me?

13 "If I say, 'My couch will comfort me, My bed will ease my complaint,'

13 "If I say, 'My bed will comfort me, My couch will ease my complaint,'

13 For I've said, 'My bed will comfort me; my couch will ease my burdens while I complain.'

13 When I say, My bed shall comfort me, my couch shall ease my complaint;

14 Then You frighten me with dreams, And terrify me by visions,

14 Then You frighten me with dreams And terrify me by visions;

14 But then you scared me with dreams; you terrified me with visions.

14 Then thou scarest me with dreams, and terrifiest me through visions:

15 So that my soul would choose suffocation, Death rather than my pains.

15 So that my soul would choose suffocation, Death rather than my pains.

15 I would rather die by strangulation than continue living.

15 So that my soul chooseth strangling, and death rather than my life.

16 "I waste away; I will not live forever. Leave me alone, for my days are *only* a breath.

16 "I waste away; I will not live forever. Leave me alone, for my days are *but* a breath.

16 I hate the thought of living forever! Leave me alone, because my days are pointless."

16 I loathe it; I would not live alway: let me alone; for my days are vanity.

17 "What is man that You exalt him, And that You are concerned about him,

17 "What is man that You magnify him, And that You are concerned about him,

17 "What is a human being, that you make so much of him; that you set your affections on him,

17 What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him?

18 That You examine him every morning And put him to the test every moment?

18 That You examine him every morning And try him every moment?

18 visit him every morning, and test him continually?

18 And that thou shouldest visit him every morning, and try him every moment?

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

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

19 Why won't you look away from me? Why don't you leave me alone so I can swallow my saliva?

19 How long wilt thou not depart from me, nor let me alone till I swallow down my spittle?

20 "Have I sinned? What have I done to You, Watcher of mankind? Why have You made me Your target, So that I am a burden to myself?

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?

20 So what if I sin? What have I done against you, you observer of humankind? Why have you made me your target? Why burden yourself with me?

20 I have sinned; what shall I do unto thee, O thou preserver of men? why hast thou set me as a mark against thee, so that I am a burden to myself?

21 "Why then do You not forgive my wrongdoing And take away my guilt? For now I will lie down in the dust; And You will search for me, but I will no *longer* exist."

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."

21 Why haven't you pardoned my transgression and taken away my iniquity? Now I'm about to lie down in the dust. You will seek me diligently, but I won't be around!"

21 And why dost thou not pardon my transgression, and take away mine iniquity? for now shall I sleep in the dust; and thou shalt seek me in the morning, but I shall not be.

- As we review these discussions, remember that in every trial there are two purposes in view:

1. Satan's: to use the pain of Job's illness to afflict his body; to use the "comfort" of his friends to irritate his soul; and to use the silence of God to assault his spirit and break his faith.
2. God's: to teach Job some truths he never knew before; to deepen his theology and help him understand God and himself much better.

God's purpose was to answer Satan before the principalities and powers of the whole universe and to prove him wrong in his philosophy of life. God's purpose was also to provide a demonstration for all sufferers in the ages to follow that God knows what He is doing! The comforters prove to be the hardest trial of all.