

Job 14 - Human Beings Live and Die

II. Dialogue (Job 3:1–42:6)

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

(C) Job's exchange with Zophar (Job 11:1–14:22)

(b) Job's reply (Job 12:1–14:22)

(iii) Job 's and man's weak condition causes his lament (14:1-22)

(a) Brevity of life (14:1-6)

(b) Man lives only once unlike plant life (14:7-12)

(c) Job longs for the afterlife when his suffering will cease (14:13-17)

(d) Man's invariable pain and death (14:18-22)

Job 14

(iii) Job 's and man's weak condition causes his lament (14:1-22)

(a) Brevity of life (14:1-6)

1 "Man, who is born of woman, Is short-lived and full of turmoil.

1 "Man, who is born of woman, Is short-lived and full of turmoil.

1 Human beings born by women are short-lived and full of trouble.

1 Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.

2 "Like a flower he comes out and withers. He also flees like a shadow and does not remain.

2 "Like a flower he comes forth and withers. He also flees like a shadow and does not remain.

2 He springs up like a flower and then withers. Like a shadow, he disappears and doesn't last.

2 He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

3 "You also open Your eyes on him And bring him into judgment with Yourself.

3 "You also open Your eyes on him And bring him into judgment with Yourself.

3 Indeed, have you opened your eyes on one like this— to bring me into a legal fight with you?

3 And dost thou open thine eyes upon such an one, and bringest me into judgment with thee?

4 "Who can make the clean out of the unclean? No one!
4 "Who can make the clean out of the unclean? No one!
4 Who can produce a clean thing from an unclean thing? No one!
4 Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.

5 "Since his days are determined, The number of his months is with You; And You have set his limits so that he cannot pass.
5 "Since his days are determined, The number of his months is with You; And his limits You have set so that he cannot pass.
5 Since his days have been determined, the number of his months is known to you. You've set his limit and he cannot exceed it.
5 Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;

6 "Look away from him so that he may rest, Until he fulfills his day like a hired worker.
6 "Turn Your gaze from him that he may rest, Until he fulfills his day like a hired man.
6 Look away from him and leave him alone, so he can enjoy his time, like a hired worker."
6 Turn from him, that he may rest, till he shall accomplish, as an hireling, his day.

(b) Man lives only once unlike plant life (14:7-12)

7 "For there is hope for a tree, When it is cut down, that it will sprout again, And its shoots will not fail.
7 "For there is hope for a tree, When it is cut down, that it will sprout again, And its shoots will not fail.
7 "There is hope for the tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots won't stop growing.
7 For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease.

8 "Though its roots grow old in the ground, And its stump dies in the dry soil,
8 "Though its roots grow old in the ground And its stump dies in the dry soil,
8 Even if its roots have grown ancient in the earth, and its stump begins to rot in the ground,
8 Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground;

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

9 the presence of water will make it to bud so that it sprouts new branches like a young plant.

9 Yet through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant.

10 "But a man dies and lies prostrate. A person passes away, and where is he?

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

10 "But when a person dies and wastes away, when a person breathes his last, where will he be?

10 But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?

11 "As water evaporates from the sea, And a river becomes parched and dried up,

11 "As water evaporates from the sea, And a river becomes parched and dried up,

11 As water disappears from the sea, or water evaporates from a river,

11 As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up:

12 So a man lies down and does not rise. Until the heavens no longer exist, He will not awake nor be woken from his sleep.

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.

12 so also a person lies down and does not get up; they won't awaken until the heavens are no more, nor will they arise from their sleep."

12 So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.

(c) Job longs for the afterlife when his suffering will cease (14:13-17)

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!

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!

13 "Won't you keep me safe in the afterlife? Conceal me until your anger subsides. Set an appointment for me, then remember me.

13 O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me!

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

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

14 If a human being dies, will he live again? I will endure the entire time of my assigned service, until I am changed.

14 If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

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

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

15 You'll call and I'll answer you; you'll long for your creatures that your hands have made.

15 Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.

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

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

16 Then you'll certainly count every step I took, but you won't keep an inventory of my sin.

16 For now thou numberest my steps: dost thou not watch over my sin?

17 "My wrongdoing is sealed up in a bag, And You cover over my guilt.

17 "My transgression is sealed up in a bag, And You wrap up my iniquity.

17 My transgressions would be sealed up in a bag; you would cover over my sins.

17 My transgression is sealed up in a bag, and thou sewest up mine iniquity.

(d) Man's invariable pain and death (14:18-22)

18 "But the falling mountain crumbles away, And the rock moves from its place;

18 "But the falling mountain crumbles away, And the rock moves from its place;

18 "Mountains fall and crumble; rocks are dislodged from their places.

18 And surely the mountain falling cometh to nought, and the rock is removed out of his place.

19 Water wears away stones, Its torrents wash away the dust of the earth; So You destroy a man's hope.

19 Water wears away stones, Its torrents wash away the dust of the earth; So You destroy man's hope.

19 Water wears away stones; floods wash away topsoil from the land— but you destroy the hope of human beings just like that!

19 The waters wear the stones: thou washest away the things which grow out of the dust of the earth; and thou destroyest the hope of man.

20 "You forever overpower him and he departs; You change his appearance and send him away.

20 "You forever overpower him and he departs; You change his appearance and send him away.

20 You overpower him once and for all, and then he departs; you change his appearance and then send him away.

20 Thou prevalest for ever against him, and he passeth: thou changest his countenance, and sendest him away.

21 "His sons achieve honor, but he does not know *it*; Or they become insignificant, and he does not perceive it.

21 "His sons achieve honor, but he does not know *it*; Or they become insignificant, but he does not perceive it.

21 "If his children are honored, he doesn't know it; if they become insignificant, he never perceives it.

21 His sons come to honour, and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them.

22 "However, his body pains him, And his soul mourns for himself."

22 "But his body pains him, And he mourns only for himself."

22 He feels only his own pain, and grieves only for himself."

22 But his flesh upon him shall have pain, and his soul within him shall mourn.