

Job 16 - Job Reasons with Eliphaz

II. Dialogue (Job 3:1–42:6)

(3) Second dialogue cycle (Job 15:1–21:34)

- (A) Job's exchange with Eliphaz (Job 15:1–17:16)
 - (b) Job's reply (Job 16:1–17:16)
 - (i) Job says his friend should be comforting rather than tormenting him (16:1–5)
 - (ii) Job blames God for his troubles (16:6–14)
 - (iii) Job restates his innocence (16:15–17)
 - (iv) Job's desire for a heavenly intercessor (16:18–17:2)

Job 16

(b) Job's reply (Job 16:1–17:16)

- (i) Job says his friend should be comforting rather than tormenting him (16:1–5)

1 Then Job responded,

1 Then Job answered,

1 In response, Job said:

1 Then Job answered and said,

2 "I have heard many things like these; Miserable comforters are you all!

2 "I have heard many such things; Sorry comforters are you all.

2 "I've heard many things like this. What miserable comforters you all are!

2 I have heard many such things: miserable comforters are ye all.

3 "Is there *no* end to windy words? Or what provokes you that you answer?

3 "Is there *no* limit to windy words? Or what plagues you that you answer?

3 Will windy words like yours never end? What is upsetting you that you keep on arguing?

3 Shall vain words have an end? or what emboldeneth thee that thou answerest?

4 "I too could speak like you, If only I were in your place. I could compose words against you And shake my head at you.

4 "I too could speak like you, If I were in your place. I could compose words against you And shake my head at you.

4 "I could also talk like you if only you were in my place! Then I would put together an argument against you. I would shake my head at you

4 I also could speak as ye do: if your soul were in my soul's stead, I could heap up words against you, and shake mine head at you.

5 "Or I could strengthen you with my mouth, And the condolence of my lips could lessen your pain.

5 "I could strengthen you with my mouth, And the solace of my lips could lessen your pain.

5 and encourage you with what I have to say; my words of comfort would lessen your pain.

5 But I would strengthen you with my mouth, and the moving of my lips should assuage your grief.

(ii) Job blames God for his troubles (16:6-14)

6 "If I speak, my pain is not lessened, And if I refrain, what *pain* leaves me?

6 "If I speak, my pain is not lessened, And if I hold back, what has left me?

6 "But if I speak, my pain isn't assuaged; if I refrain from speaking, what do I have to lose?"

6 Though I speak, my grief is not assuaged: and though I forbear, what am I eased?

7 "But now He has exhausted me; You have laid waste all my group of *loved ones*.

7 "But now He has exhausted me; You have laid waste all my company.

7 "God has certainly worn me out; you devastated my entire world.

7 But now he hath made me weary: thou hast made desolate all my company.

8 "And you have shriveled me up, It has become a witness; And my infirmity rises up against me, It testifies to my face.

8 "You have shriveled me up, It has become a witness; And my leanness rises up against me, It testifies to my face.

8 You've arrested me, making me testify against myself! My leanness rises up to attack me, accusing me to my face.

8 And thou hast filled me with wrinkles, which is a witness against me: and my leanness rising up in me beareth witness to my face.

9 "His anger has torn me and hunted me down, He has gnashed at me with His teeth; My enemy glares at me.

9 "His anger has torn me and hunted me down, He has gnashed at me with His teeth; My adversary glares at me.

9 His anger tears me in his persistent resentment against me; he gnashes his teeth at me. My adversary glares at me.

9 He teareth me in his wrath, who hateth me: he gnasheth upon me with his teeth; mine enemy sharpeneth his eyes upon me.

10 "They have gaped at me with their mouths, They have slapped me on the cheek with contempt; They have massed themselves against me.

10 "They have gaped at me with their mouth, They have slapped me on the cheek with contempt; They have massed themselves against me.

10 People gaped at me with mouths wide open; they slap me in their scorn and gather together against me.

10 They have gaped upon me with their mouth; they have smitten me upon the cheek reproachfully; they have gathered themselves together against me.

11 "God hands me over to criminals, And tosses me into the hands of the wicked.

11 "God hands me over to ruffians And tosses me into the hands of the wicked.

11 God has delivered me over to the ungodly, throwing me into the control of the wicked.

11 God hath delivered me to the ungodly, and turned me over into the hands of the wicked.

12 "I was at ease, but He shattered me, And He has grasped me by my neck and shaken me to pieces; He has also set me up as His target.

12 "I was at ease, but He shattered me, And He has grasped me by the neck and shaken me to pieces; He has also set me up as His target.

12 "He tore me apart when I was at ease; grabbing me by my neck, he shook me to pieces — then he really made me his target.

12 I was at ease, but he hath broken me asunder: he hath also taken me by my neck, and shaken me to pieces, and set me up for his mark.

13 "His arrows surround me. He splits my kidneys open without mercy; He pours out my bile on the ground.

13 "His arrows surround me. Without mercy He splits my kidneys open; He pours out my gall on the ground.

13 His archers surround me, slashing open my kidneys without pity; he pours out my gall on the ground.

13 His archers compass me round about, he cleaveth my reins asunder, and doth not spare; he poureth out my gall upon the ground.

14 "He breaks through me with breach after breach; He runs at me like a warrior.

14 "He breaks through me with breach after breach; He runs at me like a warrior.

14 Attack follows attack as he breaks through my defenses! He runs over me like a mighty warrior.

14 He breaketh me with breach upon breach, he runneth upon me like a giant.

(iii) Job restates his innocence (16:15-17)

15 "I have sewed sackcloth over my skin, And thrust my horn in the dust.

15 "I have sewed sackcloth over my skin And thrust my horn in the dust.

15 "I've even sewn sackcloth directly to my skin; I've buried my strength in the dust.

15 I have sewed sackcloth upon my skin, and defiled my horn in the dust.

16 "My face is flushed from weeping, And deep darkness is on my eyelids,

16 "My face is flushed from weeping, And deep darkness is on my eyelids,

16 My face is red from my tears, and dark shadows encircle my eyelids,

16 My face is foul with weeping, and on my eyelids is the shadow of death;

17 Although there is no violence in my hands, And my prayer is pure.

17 Although there is no violence in my hands, And my prayer is pure.

17 even though violence is not my intention, and my prayer is pure."

17 Not for any injustice in mine hands: also my prayer is pure.

(iv) Job's desire for a heavenly intercessor (16:18—17:2)

18 "Earth, do not cover my blood, And may there be no *resting* place for my cry.

18 "O earth, do not cover my blood, And let there be no *resting* place for my cry.

18 "Listen, earth! Don't cover my blood, for my outcry has no place to rest.

18 O earth, cover not thou my blood, and let my cry have no place.

19 "Even now, behold, my witness is in heaven, And my advocate is on high.

19 "Even now, behold, my witness is in heaven, And my advocate is on high.

19 Even now, behold! I have a witness in heaven, my Advocate is on high.

19 Also now, behold, my witness is in heaven, and my record is on high.

20 "My friends are my scoffers; My eye weeps to God,

20 "My friends are my scoffers; My eye weeps to God.

20 My friends mock me, while my eyes overflow with tears to God,

20 My friends scorn me: but mine eye poureth out tears unto God.

21 That one might plead for a man with God As a son of man with his neighbor!

21 "O that a man might plead with God As a man with his neighbor!

21 crying for him to arbitrate between this man and God; as a human being does with his fellow neighbor.

21 O that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleadeth for his neighbour!

22 "For when a few years are past, I shall go the way of no return.

22 "For when a few years are past, I shall go the way of no return.

22 For when only a few years have elapsed, I'll start down a path from which I'll never return."

22 When a few years are come, then I shall go the way whence I shall not return.