

Job 17 - Job Laments and Prepares for Death

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)

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

(v) Job calls on God for a guarantee since his friends do not understand his cause (17:3–5)

(vi) Job indicts his friends for not comprehending his situation (17:6–16)

Job 17

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

1 "My spirit is broken, my days are extinguished, The grave is *ready* for me.

1 "My spirit is broken, my days are extinguished, The grave is *ready* for me.

1 "My spirit is crushed, my days are over; it's the grave for me!

1 My breath is corrupt, my days are extinct, the graves are ready for me.

2 "Mockers are certainly with me, And my eye gazes on their provocation.

2 "Surely mockers are with me, And my eye gazes on their provocation.

2 Mockers surround me; I cannot stop staring at their hostility all through the night.

2 Are there not mockers with me? and doth not mine eye continue in their provocation?

(v) Job calls on God for a guarantee since his friends do not understand his cause (17:3–5)

3 "Make a pledge for me with Yourself; Who is there that will be my guarantor?

3 "Lay down, now, a pledge for me with Yourself; Who is there that will be my guarantor?

3 Offer, then, some collateral on my behalf. Is there anyone who will be my guarantor?

3 Lay down now, put me in a surety with thee; who is he that will strike hands with me?

4 "For You have kept their hearts away from understanding; Therefore You will not exalt *them*.

4 "For You have kept their heart from understanding, Therefore You will not exalt *them*.

4 "Because you're the one who closed their hearts to compassion; therefore, you won't let them triumph.

4 For thou hast hid their heart from understanding: therefore shalt thou not exalt them.

5 "He who informs against friends for a share of *the spoils*, The eyes of his children also will perish.

5 "He who informs against friends for a share of *the spoil*, The eyes of his children also will languish.

5 Now as for the one who testifies against his friends to take their property, even the eyes of his children will fail.

5 He that speaketh flattery to his friends, even the eyes of his children shall fail.

(vi) Job indicts his friends for not comprehending his situation (17:6-16)

6 "But He has made me a proverb *among* the people, And I am one at whom people spit.

6 "But He has made me a byword of the people, And I am one at whom men spit.

6 "He has made me a byword among people; I'm being spit on in the face.

6 He hath made me also a byword of the people; and aforetime I was as a tabret.

7 "My eye has also become inexpressive because of grief, And all my body parts are like a shadow.

7 "My eye has also grown dim because of grief, And all my members are as a shadow.

7 My eyes have grown weak from grief; and my whole body is as thin as a shadow.

7 Mine eye also is dim by reason of sorrow, and all my members are as a shadow.

8 "The upright will be appalled at this, And the innocent will stir himself up against the godless.

8 "The upright will be appalled at this, And the innocent will stir up himself against the godless.

8 The upright are appalled over this, and the innocent person is troubled by the godless.

8 Upright men shall be astonished at this, and the innocent shall stir up himself against the hypocrite.

9 "Nevertheless the righteous will hold to his way, And the one who has clean hands will grow stronger and stronger.

9 "Nevertheless the righteous will hold to his way, And he who has clean hands will grow stronger and stronger.

9 But the righteous person will hold to his way, and those with clean hands will grow stronger and stronger."

9 The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger.

10 "But come again all of you now, For I do not find a wise man among you.

10 "But come again all of you now, For I do not find a wise man among you.

10 "Come here now, all of you, and I won't find a wise person among you.

10 But as for you all, do ye return, and come now: for I cannot find one wise man among you.

11 "My days are past, my plans are torn apart, The wishes of my heart.

11 "My days are past, my plans are torn apart, *Even* the wishes of my heart.

11 My days are passed; my plans have been shattered; along with my heart's desires.

11 My days are past, my purposes are broken off, even the thoughts of my heart.

12 "They make night into day, *saying*, 'The light is near' in the presence of darkness.

12 "They make night into day, *saying*, 'The light is near' in the presence of darkness.

12 They have transformed night into day— 'The light,' they say, 'is about to become dark.'

12 They change the night into day: the light is short because of darkness.

13 "If I hope for Sheol as my home, I make my bed in the darkness;

13 "If I look for Sheol as my home, I make my bed in the darkness;

13 "If my hope were that my house is the afterlife⁴ itself, if I were to make my bed in darkness,

13 If I wait, the grave is mine house: I have made my bed in the darkness.

14 *If* I call to the grave, 'You are my father'; To the maggot, 'my mother and my sister';

14 If I call to the pit, 'You are my father'; To the worm, 'my mother and my sister';

14 if I call out to the Pit, 'You're my father!' or say to the worm, 'My mother!' or 'My sister!'

14 I have said to corruption, Thou art my father: to the worm, Thou art my mother, and my sister.

15 Where then is my hope? And who looks at my hope?

15 Where now is my hope? And who regards my hope?

15 where would my hope be? "And speaking of my hope, who would notice it?

15 And where is now my hope? as for my hope, who shall see it?

16 "Will it go down with me to Sheol? Shall we together go down into the dust?"

16 "Will it go down with me to Sheol? Shall we together go down into the dust?"

16 Will it go down to the bars that lock the doors of the afterlife? Will we descend together into the dust?"

16 They shall go down to the bars of the pit, when our rest together is in the dust.