

A Study of the Book of Job: When Bad Things Happen to God's People

Lesson 4: Job's Complaint (Chapter 3)

Chapter 3 can be divided into three sections: 1-10, 11-19, 2-26. As we read, let's find a theme for each.

Ch. 3:1-10

1.) v. 1: *after this* – How much time do you think has passed since Job was first physically afflicted? (cf. 2:13, 7:3) How might this color our understanding of what follows?

2.) What is the relationship between the body and soul (cf. as needed Gen. 2:7; Eccl. 12:7; Ps. 38:8; 2 Corinthians 1:8-9)? When does that union begin (cf. Psalm 51:5)? How does this understanding help us better empathize with brothers and sisters who are enduring (constant and/or prolonged) suffering?

3.) What repeat phrase or idea marks this section? What theme could we apply to these verses?

4.) v. 8: *Leviathan* – a huge and ferocious sea creature that we will meet again in Job 42, an example of chiasmic (a balanced “X-shaped”) structure in the book.

5.) In these verses Job curses the day of his birth. Is that the same as cursing God who had given him his life and brought him thus far?

Ch. 3:11-19

1.) What repeat word or idea marks this section? What theme could we apply to these verses?

2.) v. 12: *knees to receive me* – In ancient times it was customary for a father to place a newborn on his knees to show that he had accepted the child as his own.

3.) Do verses 13-19 teach that there is spiritual peace for the wicked after death? If not, what are these words expressing?

Ch. 3:20-26

1.) What repeat word or idea marks this section? What theme could we apply to these verses?

2.) v. 25 – “What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me.” Explain these desperate words.

3.) What would you say to a suffering Christian who is expressing thoughts similar to Job in this chapter?

4.) Despite his despair and lamenting, what hadn't Job yet succumbed to that Satan said he would?