

BIRTHDAY BLUES

Job 3

**There is much for us to learn about living
as we examine Job's wish for dying.**

I. JOB'S PASSION (1-10)

- Cursing his birthday

A. HIS CONDITION

1. Fed up (1-2)

- a. Brooding over his losses
- b. Bothered by the silence
- c. Beleaguered by his pain

2. Bluntly transparent (3-10)

- a. The thought that Job is some sort of super-saint quickly disappears
- b. There is value in getting this out in the open.

3. Miserable (10)

B. HIS CURSE

1. The Outburst

- To curse something is to declare it an insignificant and worthless thing

2. The Order

- Darkness should overcome light

3. The Obsession

- He requests that God obliterate the date of his birth from existence

4. The Outrageous

- History has no rewind. Pining over the past is illogical! [Lawton Talbert, "Beyond Suffering," p. 86]

II. JOB'S PLEA (11-19)

- Why did I live?

A. HE'S DISTURBED ABOUT LIVING (11-12, 16)

- 1. He expresses a preference for stillbirth (11)
- 2. He regrets his parent's care (12)

B. HE'S DELIGHTED WITH DEATH (14-15)

- 1. He indicates a glamorized and idealized view of the dead
- 2. Feeling that he would be in good company in the grave

C. HE'S DETERMINED TO REST (13, 17-19)

- 1. Personally seeking a peaceful repose (13)
- 2. Illustratively seeing the oppressed as set free (17-19)

Over please >

III. JOB'S PREDICAMENT (20-26) - Why can't I die?

A. DEPLORING LIFE (20-23)

1. Wondering why he cannot leave suffering and bitterness behind (20)
2. Longing for the grave (21-22)
3. Frustrated (23a)
4. Fenced in (23b)

B. DESPISING TURMOIL (24-26)

1. He's miserable at every mealtime (24)
2. He's anxious about what's next (25)
3. He's gloomy about the outlook (26)

IV. SOME OBSERVATIONS

A. Like all of us, Job's problems and pain made him impatient.

B. Job's questions were misguided

1. He consistently asks "Why?" (vs. 11-12, 20, 23)
2. "Who?" questions are God-centered > Who has allowed these things to befall me?
3. "How?" questions are helpful in seeking to develop a proper response to adversity
4. "What?" questions should follow "who" and "how" inquiries > What should I do next?

C. Job's feelings were raw but his theology remained right

1. He did not curse God
2. He does not complain of injustice
3. He did not abandon his faith
4. He does not regret his integrity

D. Job's thoughts were dark but not his actions

1. He did not commit suicide or seek medicide (euthanasia)
2. He wrestled with this death-wish but life won out

CONCLUSION:

When we hurt we can find help by observing other's encounters with God.

For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. - Romans 15:4

Though we hurt, God gives hope!