

O GOD, STAND BY ME

Job 15-17

Let us learn from Job 15-17 the positions of those around Job and the pain or peace that they brought.

I. JOB REVEALS: MANY STAND AGAINST ME

A. ADVERSARIES (16:9-10 and 17:6)

- These are filled with disgust and derision

B. SCOFFERS (16:20 with 15:7-16)

- These are those who ridicule or make fun of others

1. The friend's intimidating questions
2. The friend's implied conclusions

- Job is arrogant (15:7-10), discontent (15:11), unstable (12-13) and crazy (14-16)

C. MOCKERS (17:2 with 15:1-6, 17-35)

- These are those who say false and deceitful things

1. Attacking Job's answers (15:1-6)
 - You belch wind! (2-3), blaspheme God (4), bespeak deceit (5) and betray yourself (6)
2. Explaining Job's affliction (15:17-35)
 - a. His pain is due to wickedness (20)
 - b. His peril is because of his actions against God (25)
 - c. His punishment is the loss of family and things (34)

II. JOB ACKNOWLEDGES: THE PIOUS STAND WITH ME (17:8-9)

A. THE RECORD

1. The upright sympathize with Job's condition (8a)
2. The innocent become invigorated by Job's mistreatment (8b)
3. The righteous endure because of Job's example (9a)
4. The pure grow stronger because of Job's boldness (9b)

B. THE REALITY

1. We learn that Job was aware of other pious people
2. Job could sense a beneficial and positive affect that his suffering was having on others
3. By noting something good and not everything ugly, we see an encouraging perspective from Job

III. JOB COMPLAINS: GOD STANDS OVER ME (16:7-17)

- Sensing God as Judge

A. GOD'S JUDGMENT (16:7-16)

1. God exhausts me ... destroying my family (7)
2. God shrivels me ... disfiguring my body (8)
3. God shatters me disturbing my peace (9-12a)
4. God targets me ... devising my ruin (12b-14)

B. JOB'S RESPONSE (15-17)

1. Acknowledging his mourning (15-16)
2. Maintaining his innocence (17)

IV. JOB KNOWS: GOD STANDS BY ME (16:18-17:3)

- Seeing God as Helper

A. A DILEMMA

1. How can the God who judges also be the God who encourages?
2. What follows here is then a statement of daring faith from Job [Hartley]

B. A DEFENDER (16:18-22)

- Job's confidence

1. I have a witness in heaven (19a)
 - God sees my hands and knows my prayer (17) and will testify to the truth that is in me
2. I have an advocate on high (19b)
 - One who knows how to handle the Accuser and his accusations.

C. A DELIVERER (17:1-3)

- Job's plea

1. A Pledge (3a)
 - a. The meaning: One who will step in and give security on behalf of another
 - b. The ministry: Providing bail while the accused awaits his day in court
2. A Guarantor (3b)
 - One ready to strike hands and ratify an agreement

D. A DISCOVERY

- Job's transformation

1. His need: I need help, I can't do this myself
2. His plea: Not a request that God take away the affliction but to come alongside and help him bear or endure it.
3. His focus: Here Job relies on the character of God (who he is) and quits questioning the conduct of God (what He does).

CONCLUSION: What is your relationship with God? - Consider Romans 6:23

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