

# Job – Study 5

## Job regrets being born

### Chapter 3 v 2—12

After this, opened Job his mouth and cursed his day. And Job spake and said let the day perish wherein I was born and the night in which it was said there is a man child conceived.

Depression was beginning to set in this can be a part of the process when we are afflicted for any length of time and we do not understand where God is in the situation. It is an emotional response from the soul. But it can be overcome however when our Spirit Man is built up so that even in the trial we continue to look ahead at what God is trying to teach us in it and how He will use us when we overcome.

Paul and Silas praised God after they had been savagely beaten for doing God's will in preaching the gospel and their prison doors were blown open. Hope must rise from our spirit in the midst of all trials and sickness

Hebrews 6: 19..

Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul both sure and steadfast and which enters into that within the Veil.

After this, after the arrival of his three friends and seven days and nights sitting speechless and staring at each other it was Job who first opened his mouth to speak. Not his friends, no word of comfort from them, no asking what they could do for him, no prayers for him just silence.

Job's first words were a curse that he was ever born. There are 17 curses about his birthday I will list them but suggest you look them up and read them they are in chapter 3:

1. Let the day perish in which I was born.
2. Let the night perish in which it was said there is a man child born.
3. Let that day be darkness.
4. Let God not regard it from above.
5. Let no light shine upon it.
6. Let darkness and the shadow of death stain it.
7. Let a cloud dwell upon it.
8. Let blackness of the day terrify it.
9. Let darkness seize upon that night.
10. Let it not be joined to the days of the year.
11. Let it not come into the number of the months.
12. Let that night be solitary.
13. Let no joyful voice come therein
14. Let them curse it that curse the day who are ready to raise up their mourning.
15. Let the stars of the twilight of that night be dark.
16. Let it look for the light but have none.
17. Let it not see the dawning of the day.

There is no doubt that Job was beginning to weaken. Try and put yourself in his place, his whole body from head to foot filled with boils oozing blood and puss making his clothes stick to his body and in the hot Middle East sun made him stink. His so called friends were so shocked and astonished to see Job in this condition they didn't speak to him for a whole week and when they did it was to criticise,

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blame, and condemn. It is very true those who have lost their wealth are not to expect visits from their friends.

We know this story well because we have read it in our Bibles; we know how it ends but try and imagine that you have not heard of Job at all, imagine you didn't know that Satan had asked permission from God to dismantle Job's faith in his God bit by bit, even that there was a dialogue between God and Satan for the life of Job. In other words put yourself in Job's place, you had boils all over your body, you were scraping blood and puss from those boils and your 'friends' were with you and they didn't know what to say to you. Let me ask you a question don't you think you may have cursed the day you were born...or worse! Don't you think you may question God and ask 'why'?

In any language in any country the word 'Why' is the biggest question ever, and the Holy Spirit allows the 'why's' because it teaches us to trust and have faith in God.

Being a child of God the need to ask "why" very often has a reason, God will answer our "why" with a call to better faith, more trust, a closer walk with Him, greater sanctification, more prayer, more study of His word and so on. In Job's reasoning the question WHY loomed vary large at this moment in his life.

### **Eliphaz rebukes Job for his sin.**

#### Verse 2

**If we assay to commune with you will you be grieved? But who can withhold himself from speaking?**

After hearing Job unload his feelings, his heartache and his wonderment at his terrible condition you can see that Eliphaz had made up his mind as to what was wrong in Job's life to warrant such affliction. He felt that regardless of Job's past his outward appearance of helping the poor, being a good employer, an excellent husband and father, a very good businessman, being a rich man honest and true to his God he must have committed many secret sins to end up in dust and ashes as he was now and he was reaping what he had sown.

We must be very careful when we try and council someone not to simply quote scripture to them as if it were a magic formula of some kind.

#### Verse 3

**Behold you have instructed many, and you have strengthened the weak hands. Your words have upholden him that was falling and you have strengthened the feeble knees. But now it is come upon you and you faint; it touches you and you are troubled.**

This 'friend' argued that all the good work Job had done in the past was for show and now he has lost his confidence knowing all he had done was only a cover-up for his wickedness done in secret. He said:

#### Verse7

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Remember I pray you who ever perished being innocent? Or where were the righteous cut off?

Unfortunately Eliphaz heard enough of Job's ranting about his birth and his cursing the day he was born, to let that feed his carnal mind resulting in his belief that Job was reaping what he had sown. Isn't it sad that people are so quick to jump to conclusions, quick to criticise and offer their opinion based on the past experience of themselves and others and not seek the face of the Lord for His words to pass on? Even common courtesy demands some sympathy, encouragement and prayer which we can all give, to lift the spirits of those suffering. Eliphaz shows his own heart in verse 8:

### Verse 8

Even as I have seen, they who plough iniquity and sow wickedness reap the same.

This much is true but there are many who suffer who have not sown wickedness or iniquity, we remind ourselves of Paul again who possibly suffered more than most of us and God told Ananias God would show Paul he must suffer great things for Jesus sake. Do we understand what God is up to? Did Paul understand what Ananias said; well he did not give us a clue in his writings if he did he just trusted his God.

### Verse 9

By the blast of God they perish and by the breath of His nostrils are they consumed.

This statement again is true God will not tolerate sin and sin will be punished but God knows who He will punish and who He will save. He has given us the Bible to tell us how we can be saved from eternal death. Eliphaz was a humanist and looked at things from a logical faithless standpoint, what he did not know from personal experience was that God is longsuffering as Peter says:

### 2 Peter.3 v 9

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise as some men count slackness but is longsuffering to us-ward not willing that any should perish but that all should come to Repentance.

In the verses up to verse 12 Eliphaz continued to tell Job that if he had lived a good life he would not have been afflicted with this terrible illness. He was convinced Job had sinned and now was reaping what he had sown. Who needs friends like Eliphaz? And isn't it amazing that Satan knew the people he could call on to help him fulfil his purposes.

In verse 12 to 21 it would appear that Eliphaz making good his criticism of Job, vouched he had a 'word' from God. I believe we can take it that this was a visit of an evil spirit because in

Verse 14 to 21

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Fear came upon me and trembling which made my bones shake. Then a spirit passed before my face the hair of my flesh stood up. It stood still but I could not discern the form thereof: an image was before my eyes there was silence and I heard a voice saying. Shall mortal man be more just than God? Shall a man be more pure than his Maker? Behold He put no trust in His servants and His angels He charged with folly. How much less in them who dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, which are crushed before the moth? They are destroyed from morning to evening they perish for ever without any regarding it. Does not their Excellency which is in them go away? They die even without wisdom.

He dramatised this 'word from God' to impress Job that it cost him to get this word so Job should listen, but we do not read of any witness in Job's heart that Eliphaz was speaking the truth from God.

A Spirit filled person will recognise the Spirit of God and welcome Him. Before we 'give a word' to anyone we must make sure it is from God and not from our own thinking. Get it checked by the Pastor or an Elder but get it checked. So much damage has been done by well meaning people who wish to be the one to 'hear God's voice' and pass on stuff that causes confusion and heartache because that poor soul has taken notice of your 'word' and Pastors and Leaders have the job to undo, rectify and heal what you have spoken in error over them.

### Verse 15/16

...the hair of my flesh stood up. It stood still but I could not discern the form thereof an image was before my eyes, there was silence and I heard a voice saying shall mortal man be more just than God shall a man be more pure than his Maker?

We need to check and recheck that the 'voice' we hear is the voice of God because Satan and his agents are quite capable of telling truth only to make a bigger lie. God will not mind you making sure it is the voice of God speaking and not Satan's. He let Gideon turn the fleece over twice to make sure in the mind of Gideon that God would be with him: Judges 6.v 36-40.

## **Chapter 5**

### **Eliphaz believes Job to be wicked.**

1. Call now if there be any who will answer you, and to which Saint will you turn?
2. For wrath kills the foolish man and envy slays the silly one.
3. I have seen the foolish taking root but suddenly I cursed his habitation.
4. His children are far from safety, and they are crushed in the gate neither is there any to deliver them.
5. Whose harvest the hungry eats up, and takes it even out of the thorns and the robber swallows up their substance.
6. Although affliction comes not forth of the dust neither does trouble spring out of the ground.

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Eliphaz taunts Job severely with spiteful words and reminders of his loss telling him to call now and see which of the saints will come to his aid. Firstly we should not pray to angels or saints and secondly it is God and God alone who will answer prayer. It is the Roman Catholic religion who will 'make' saints out of human beings and encourage Catholics to pray to them, this is unscriptural. Job is being told to pray to the saints or angels to see if he can get an answer to his prayer. This shows the ignorance and the lack of any spiritual knowledge of Eliphaz about the God Job served. He said that affliction does not come out of the dust or trouble out of the ground.

He is still convinced that Job must have sinned greatly to reap such devastation; he is saying the trouble Job finds himself in is his own fault.

In the modern phrase Verse 8 starts "If I were you I would seek God and commit my sorry state to Him" then goes into a long preaching session and tells Job things about God which in the main are true, but lots of stuff that does not apply to Job at all in this situation.

In verse 12 onwards he judges Job to be crafty, he talks about the poor, but Job was a great benefactor to the poor, he talks about darkness day and night. Job only experienced darkness since Satan interfered in his life, he talks about God's correction but Job was not being corrected by God at this time, Job is the innocent party in all this. Eliphaz says God makes sore and then binds them up, God wounds then His hands make whole, none of this is true. If we believe what we are studying it is Satan that brings destruction in our lives but it is God who is the healer. God will deliver you from troubles, here Eliphaz tells the truth. God will deliver us from troubles if we walk in righteousness but Job is judged by Eliphaz to be unrighteous that's why Job is sick and has troubles, he says that no evil will touch you and in famine He shall redeem you from death, keep you from the sword and the scourge of the tongue.

Notice how Eliphaz mixes truth and lies together in his sermon to Job, Satan is good at that, part of what Job is told is the truth and Job takes it to heart and then Eliphaz slips in something that is not true and does not apply to Job and Job begins to fear. Eliphaz is totally out of order when we consider what God has said to Satan at least twice: This is almost a replica of Satan in the Garden of Eden putting doubt in the mind of Eve with the words "Hath God said?" Satan tries to magnify our faults often through the words of others and get us to think we have something too horrendous to ask forgiveness for. But God's word to us is:

Isaiah 54: 17

**No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper and ever tongue that shall rise against you in judgement you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their righteousness is of Me.**

We condemn false words by speaking out God's truth from the Bible and renounce the lie.

Chapter 1 v 8

**Have you considered my servant Job that there is none like him in all the Earth a perfect and upright man one who fears God and hates evil?**

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We can see that Eliphaz is advising Job entirely from his head and not his heart. There is no spirit of love and understanding in any of what he says. Job sacrificed offerings to God *continually* and we can see that Eliphaz did not even know God. It is not long before Eliphaz has got Job in such a state of negativity, disbelief and uncertainty when he, being his friend should hold up those weak and feeble arms and feed him love and encouragement. We have looked earlier at verses that show how important it is to guard the tongue.

We must be very careful if we think we should counsel any who are sick or depressed in Spirit. We may think we know what to say but unless we hear from the Lord it is best to say nothing rather than fill the persons mind with doubt, fear and confusion as Eliphaz did to Job.

**See next Study 6.**