

# Job – Study 6

## Eliphaz researches Jobs life... from a distance.

### Job 5.Verse 27

Lo this, we have searched it, so it is, hear it and know you it for your good.

At the beginning of chapter 4 Eliphaz at the start of his discourse says to Job:

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

It would appear that Eliphaz already had in mind what he wanted to say to Job and even thought that Job would not like it. Now at the end of his discourse he reminds Job that he had researched it and finished up by saying; so it is, hear it, and know it.

Eliphaz lived many miles from Job probably three days journey how could he have “researched” Jobs life, his honour, his uprightness, and his perfect ways before God and come up with all the bad and wicked accusations he laid at Job’s door? Then he claims his word is law and from God, it was anything but.

## Chapter 6

### Job’s reply to Eliphaz

#### Job 6 verse 1.

But Job answered and said, Oh that my grief were thoroughly weighed, and my calamity laid in the balances together! For now it would be heavier than the sand of the sea, therefore my words are swallowed up.

Job thought that if his suffering and pain were to be placed in a balance and compared to the sands of the sea he felt his sickness would be considerably heavier. There is now the beginning of a question in the mind of Job meaning he had not and was not complaining unjustly but he had lost everything, his “friends” his children, and his wife was of no help, they only accused him of secret sins and found fault with him. He struggles to find words to express his sorrow, he feels utterly alone. He has no understanding of the situation and just now God has chosen not to enlighten him.

#### Job 6 Verse 4

For the arrows of the almighty are within me the poison whereof drinketh up my spirit the terrors of God do set themselves in array against me.

We can see that Job’s resolve is beginning to weaken and in his speeches to his “friends” lays his condition at the door of God and tries to justify doing so.

#### Job 6 Verse 5

Doth the wild ass bray when he hath grass? Or loweth the ox over his fodder? Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt? Or is there any taste in the white of an egg?

Job tries to justify his complaints with true common everyday examples. When an ass is in a field of grass will he bray, call out, or attract attention for food? No! he is satisfied to eat and eat at his hearts content. If the ox has food in his trough will he bellow and draw attention to himself ? No he too will go on eating. If these animals

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do not have food they will bellow and bray until someone is drawn to their plight. The suffering of Job was as sickening to him as unsavoury food and he was in the greatest of need requiring relief and he felt that there was a good reason for his complaints.

### Job 6 Verse 8. 9.

Oh that I might have my request; and that God would grant me the thing that I long for! Even if it would please God to destroy me that He would let loose His hand and cut me off.

We noticed in chapter 3 that Job cursed the day of his birth, now he is asking God to take his life.

### Job 6 Verse 10

Then should I yet have comfort yea I would harden myself in sorrow let Him not spare for I have not concealed the words of the Holy One.

I think it would be good to remind ourselves again how great Job's suffering was for someone to contemplate death to find relief from sickness and pain, that one must be in a very low state indeed, Job was right there at that point. But both of these requests are foolish. In the first place God does not answer prayers like that He is not the destroyer of the people He loves. Satan is the thief, the destroyer and killer.

### John 10 v 10

The thief comes not but to steal and to kill and to destroy; but I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly.

Death is an enemy and according to 1 Corinthians 15 verse 26 death is the last enemy, but even that will be put under the feet of the Lord in time. It was not in God's plan to allow Satan to take Job's life, God said "Behold he is in your hands but save his life" and here Satan was on the verge of total disobedience by putting on Job such that he could hardly bear it and wished for death.

Now verse 10 is a very interesting verse: For I have not concealed the words of the Holy One. I will borrow this verse from the Amplified Bible which says: Then should I still have consolation yes, I should leap for joy amid unsparing pain that I have not concealed or denied the words of the Holy One. Job was saying I have publicly maintained my faith in God, offered sacrifices and have not worshipped the Holy One in secret. It is believed that Moses wrote the beginning of the Bible and he may well have been alive at this time so Job knew His God and may well have had some of the writings of the early Bible. In any event the great stories of God and the Children of Israel were passed down by word of mouth, at meal times and evening times they were recalled and told to the children in the family Israel's history was told and retold to the family every day. Job was explaining that as far as possible he had kept the faith; this was true because God explained to Satan that Job was an upright man who feared God. Believers who suffer will understand that Job was wondering why after years of loving and worshipping the true God he was in such a condition?

Before I studied the book of Job I wondered the same thing I have had prayer and been touched by God and have testified to our church and others that I was a lot better and able to walk further with little pain and so on only to find that touch from

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God was not total and pain returned. (Should you feel the need to write to “explain” that it was not a touch from the Lord in the first place, or I was in sin or didn’t believe or any other “words of knowledge” you may think up, I believe you may well have missed the whole meaning of this study).

Remember God said to Satan that Job was a righteous and upright man who feared God and hated evil, so please do not just look at his condition from the outside, sometimes we simply do not know what God is doing in the lives of others. The more important work is often hidden on the inside. Satan, the accuser of the brethren is all too keen to get involved in this process he is the father of all lies so we need to realise that sin may not be an issue at all. Satan’s goal is to go on accusing and discrediting God’s people in an attempt to bring them to a place of hopelessness. But God can turn these evil devices on their head and use them to bring His Children back to Himself. It is often only in extreme circumstances that people will cry out to God for mercy and God can even use dire circumstances to bring salvation to the lost soul. So overall I can fully understand the thoughts of Job when he says he has not concealed the words of the Holy One. Maybe he was trying to protect the reputation of God from the criticism of his religious friends and the world around him.

### Job 6 Verse 12

**Is my strength the strength of stones or is my flesh the flesh of brass? Is not my help in me? And is wisdom driven quite from me?**

At this point not only was Job’s body in a mess he was coming to the end of his human resources and was at a total loss to understand what was happening in his life. It was at that place, at the end of all human understanding, strength, and knowledge that was necessary in order to bring Job to the end of himself and nearer to God. Satan’s plan was to destroy Job but God had other plans and through Job’s experience we can learn more about God’s ways above our own.

In verse 12 Job begins to reason with God although he is talking to his friends. **Is my strength the strength of stones or is my flesh of brass?** He is saying there is only so much a body can stand. What is the reason for all this? Satan had only the destruction of Job in mind and God had Job’s preparation for eternal life in His.

### Job 6 Verse 14

**To him who is afflicted pity should be shown from his friend; but he forsakes the fear of the Almighty.**

Job looked for pity from his friend but found none. Job puts his friend in his place by believing he has gone too far with his attitude and condemnation, but more importantly his lack of fear or reverence of the Almighty. It is sad that most Christians think little of accusing and condemning that which they have little understanding or knowledge of because they have very little fear of God in the first place.

### Job 6 Verse 15-21

**My brethren have dealt deceitfully as a brook and as the stream of brooks they pass away. Which are blackish by reason of the ice and were in the snow is hid. What time they wax warm they vanish: when it is hot they are**

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consumed out of their place. The paths of their way are turned aside they go to nothing and perish. The troops of Tema looked the companies of Sheba waited for them. They were confounded because they had hoped; they came thither and were ashamed. For now you are nothing you see my casting down and are afraid.

Here Job used a local brook as an example, that became a stream of brooks from the ice covered hills and mountains around that became a muddy and foul torrent changing from the white of the snow that soon passed away and was gone. The Tema troops and companies of Sheba came to use the brooks for their water supply only to be 'ashamed' or disappointed because of the melting snow and ice that made the water undrinkable.

Job was telling his 'friends' that they were like these brooks, full of potential to pray, encourage, lift the spirits of those that needed comfort but he says to them you are nothing, you see my troubles, pain and sickness and are afraid.

### Next study 7