

“Yet Trouble Came”

Job 3:1-26

How we react to trouble is what will show us, and show to the world, how anchored we are in “The Rock.” When Job finally does speak, he speaks to anyone who would hear – not just to his friends. He is responding the same way any of us would to the tragic calamities that have taken hold of him. It is here that we see the humanity of Job – the real person beneath the stout exterior. God gives us a glimpse of what was going through his mind. Don’t be too quick to judge Job here. God does not condemn him yet. Whether or not Job was right in what he said, we can see from this chapter that Job’s reaction to what had happened, after these days, was one of deep contemplation. He had not lost faith in God – he seems to have lost faith in himself, and, I believe, because his pain was so bad and his life was gone, as he knew it, he just wanted to die so that he didn’t do anything that would bring reproach on his God.

There is no despair so absolute as that which comes with the first moments of our first great sorrow, when we have not yet known what it is to have suffered and be healed, to have despaired and recovered hope. -- George Eliot

I. TROUBLE CAUSES DEPRESSION – VS. 1-12

A. The depression Job was experiencing was so severe that he was lamenting the fact he was ever born

B. It was not an uncommon reaction when depression hit in the Old Testament era

of time – the people of that part of the world and that time period were prone to expressing their dismay at their life circumstances this way

Jeremiah 20:14–15

¹⁴ Cursed be the day wherein I was born: let not the day wherein my mother bare me be blessed.

¹⁵ Cursed be the man who brought tidings to my father, saying, A man child is born unto thee; making him very glad.

C. One thing to remember when depression hits – make sure we don't blame God for our trial. Job was only wishing he had never been born – no where do we find he blamed God (yet).

II. TROUBLE CAUSES US TO LOOK FOR RELIEF – VS. 13-19

A. Job describes what he feels death would bring him – he is looking for relief from the physical and mental pain he is enduring.

Psalm 55:5–8

⁵ Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me.

⁶ And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest.

⁷ Lo, then would I wander far off, and remain in the wilderness. Selah.

⁸ I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest.

B. We know, from verses later in the book of Job, that he knew that he would be

with the Lord when he died, so he was expressing that here – death would bring an end.

Job 19:25–27

²⁵ For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

²⁶ And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

²⁷ Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.

C. He points out that the place of rest in death is the same for all – kings (vs. 14), the rich (vs. 15), even those that died at birth (or before – vs. 16).

Hebrews 4:9–10

⁹ There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

¹⁰ For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

Revelation 14:13

¹³ And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

D. Vs. 17-19 are great verses to describe what happens after death

1. There is no more enemy to harass – vs. 17

Luke 12:4

⁴ **And I say unto you my friends, Be not**

afraid of them that kill the body, and
after that have no more that they can do.

2. The weary are at rest – vs. 17b
3. The prisoners rest from their oppression – vs. 18

Isaiah 14:3–4

³ And it shall come to pass in the day that the LORD shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve,

⁴ That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!

4. The servant is free – vs. 19

III. TROUBLE CAUSES US TO ASK WHY – VS. 20-23

A. Job, like many of us during times of trouble, will ask why

B. Again, the problem is not in the asking, the problem is in the attitude of the heart as to why we are asking the question

C. In verses 20-22, Job asks the question (to no one in particular – he's not addressing God at this point) as to why "light" (the ability to be alive, and is oft times referring to happiness) and life were given to someone who doesn't want to be alive

D. In verse 23, he asks why that same light and life would be given to someone who has no idea as to what is happening (nor why) and has no foreseeable way out nor end in site

Lamentations 3:7-9

⁷ He hath hedged me about, that I cannot get out: he hath made my chain heavy.

⁸ Also when I cry and shout, he shutteth out my prayer.

⁹ He hath inclosed my ways with hewn stone, he hath made my paths crooked.

E. When we get to that point in our lives, the only thing we can do is trust the Lord.

IV. TROUBLE COMES, AT TIMES, FOR NO APPARENT REASON – VS. 24-26

A. Verse 24 is a poetic way of saying that trouble came out of nowhere and he didn't know why

B. Verse 25 is a heart-wrenching verse – one that many of us know something about

C. Verse 26 describes the completeness of Job's despair and depression.

1. He was "not in safety" – no matter who he was nor what he had done, he was not exempt from trouble
2. He had no "rest" – the trouble came so swiftly and completely that there was no where he could go to get away

3. His pain was so complete that he had no ability to grieve quietly

Conclusion: What about us? How will we react when trouble comes?