

“I Will Complain”

Job 7:1-21

We see here that Job was human after all. He seems to go a little off course in this discourse with Eliphaz, and addresses God instead of Eliphaz. What he says here is partly right and partly wrong. It’s right in that what he says about what was happening to him was true, and it was from the Lord, but, at the same time, he’s wrong in complaining that God didn’t seem to care for him, and that He didn’t really want to see Job’s suffering end. Job was once again being simply human and shows us what happens when we get away from what the Lord is doing in our lives and start looking on the trial rather than on the Lord.

I. HE COMPLAINED ABOUT THE LENGTH OF HIS TRIAL – VS. 1-4

A. Verse one is a principle found in

B. other places of Scripture and just refers to the fact that man will not live forever as a man.

Job 14:5

⁵ Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;

Job 14:14

¹⁴ If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

Psalm 39:4

⁴ LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know

how frail I am.

Psalm 90:10

¹⁰ The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

C. Verse 2-3 are a metaphor showing that even though Job wanted this to end, in the same way a slave looks for a break from his labor or a worker looks to get paid and does not (at least not what he was supposed to be paid), so also Job's trial didn't seem to have an end.

II. HE COMPLAINED ABOUT HIS PHYSICAL CONDITION – VS. 5-6

A. This complaint was real – not just imagined.

B. In verse 5 he describes his physical condition – and based on that, it's no wonder he was complaining. That should make us ashamed when we complain about our little problems.

C. In verse 6 he shows, again, the perceived hopelessness of his situation by comparing what he felt was the length (or shortness) of his life to a "weaver's shuttle" – a device that moved very rapidly as the weaver pumped the peddle and would weave thread almost faster than the eye could see.

Video of weaver's shuttle



III. HE COMPLAINED THAT HIS LIFE WAS OVER EVEN IF HE WASN'T DEAD – VS. 7-11

A. This is seen in verse 7 where Job is lamenting the fact (as he saw it anyway) that he would "no more see good" and that his life was as good as over (played out for us in the following verses).

B. He makes the same points here that Solomon did in the book of Ecclesiastes – once a man is dead, he is soon forgotten, never to be seen again.

Ecclesiastes 2:15-16

¹⁵ Then said I in my heart, As it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth even to me; and why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart, that this also is vanity.

¹⁶ For there is no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now is in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise man? as the fool.

Exodus 1:6

⁶ And Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation.

Psalms 103:15-16

¹⁵ As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

¹⁶ For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

C. Job decided he couldn't hold it in any longer and simply let out what he was feeling inside – not an all-bad idea, but he seems to have gone a bit too far.

IV. HE COMPLAINED THAT HE COULDN'T SLEEP – vs. 12-16

A. Verse 12 is probably the most puzzling in this chapter.

1. There is much speculation as to what it means but taking it within the context of the next few verses, it is referring to Job's inability to get any sleep.
2. He compares the "watch" that God has set over the sea and the whale within the sea to his situation, and in regards to sleep, just as there are certain courses that the sea takes (the tides, the storms, etc.) and that the whale takes (having to surface to breath, having to migrate regularly, etc.) that can't be altered so this trial that Job faced was such as even sleep was altered because of it.

B. In the next two verses he describes what it's like when he tries to sleep – scary things happen.

C. Verse 15-16 show again how he wished he were dead, and how much he was "loathing" his plight. We need to be

careful that we don't get to this point in life and begin to blame God for it (as Job appeared to do here).

V. HE COMPLAINED THAT HE WAS A MAN – VS. 17-19

A. Verses 17-18 – His question to God was, "Why are we so important to you that you will put us above all others, and put these kinds of burdens upon us?"

Psalm 8:4

⁴ What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Psalm 144:3

³ LORD, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! or the son of man, that thou makest account of him!

Hebrews 2:6

⁶ But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?

B. He asked God how long it would be before the trial ended and he could catch his breath. Again, be careful we don't get to the point where we view what's happening to us as being something God has done wrong.

VI. HE COMPLAINED THAT GOD HADN'T FORGIVEN HIS SIN AND HEALED HIM – VS. 20-21

A. Eliphaz had said that the problems Job was having was because of sin, so Job

addresses that here, and he confesses his sin (for he knew he was a sinner) in the event that that was, in fact, why this had happened.

B. Job was here questioning what he believed about himself and his trial.

C. Job ends the complaint here by asking God, as Job saw it, why He hadn't forgiven his sin and healed him from this tragedy. This was for Eliphaz's benefit – again, pointing out that if it was sin, and all Job had to do was confess it, then why was he still in pain?

Conclusion: Have we complained to God for what He's allowed us to go through? God knows that we are but dust, that we are frail, and He accepts that we will complain about things to Him – and He allows that. What He won't allow is for us to get to the point where we bring reproach on His name because of our complaining. Make sure we do our complaining to Him and leave it there.