

“I Will Speak in the Bitterness of My Soul”

Job 10:1-22

There is one thing that this chapter in the book of Job does, as well as several other passages not only in the book of Job, but in other parts of the Bible, is it shows us how to communicate with God. Not that Job was right or justified in his complaining here but notice how he talks to God just like he does to his three friends. We have that privilege as well – to go directly to the very throne itself and communicate with the Almighty just like we would a friend.

Although this dialogue is in response to Bildad’s first discourse with Job, Job is not actually talking to Bildad here, but to God. It’s as if Job just forgot Bildad was there and took his complaint and concerns directly to the Lord Himself.

In his dialogue with God, Job starts out with simply stating that what he was about to say was from the agony of his circumstance. It doesn’t make it wrong, necessarily, but we need to understand that he is not dealing with theology here (the doctrine of God), but rather with his own frail life. He is speaking purely out of the agony in his mind – “I am full of confusion” (vs. 15). Again, Job is trying to understand what is happening, and why – so he gets a bit upset and now begins to question God. That’s something we should be careful we don’t do – at least not to the extent that we question His sovereignty.

I. “SHEW ME” – VS. 1-7 (ESP. VS. 2)

He is asking God to show him why these things were happening?

A. Vs. 2 is a plea with God, one more time, to show him why all this was happening.

B. In verse 3 Job is not asking God if He takes some sort of pleasure in inflicting pain and misery but is rather stating in question form the truth that God doesn't do that. It isn't good to Him to do this – so Job is trying to find out why it is happening.

C. In verses 4-6 we find that Job is stating a truth found elsewhere in Scripture that God is not a man, and isn't bound by the same laws as man, and doesn't think like man.

1 Samuel 16:7

⁷ But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

Psalm 90:2-4

² Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

³ Thou turnest man to destruction; and sayest, Return, ye children of men.

⁴ For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

Psalm 102:24-27

²⁴ I said, O my God, take me not away in the midst of my days: thy years are throughout all generations.

²⁵ Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.

²⁶ They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed:

²⁷ But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.

II. "THOU HAST MADE ME" – VS. 8-13 (ESP. VS. 9)

He is saying to God, "You're the One that made me – I didn't have anything to do with it."

A. Again, we find Job confused in his anguish – he's saying to God that He was the one that made him, and now God was destroying him – why? – vs. 8

B. In verse 9 he emphasizes it even more – reminding God that he was made of clay, and what was going to happen – would God return him to that?

[Jeremiah 18:3-10](#)

³ Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels.

⁴ And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.

⁵ Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

⁶ O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.

⁷ At what instant I shall speak concerning a

nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it;

⁸ If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them.

⁹ And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it;

¹⁰ If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them.

Isaiah 45:9

⁹ Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherd of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?

Isaiah 64:8

⁸ But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.

C. Verse 10 is the puzzling verse of this chapter – there isn't much agreement on what it means, but, taken within the context of these verses, it has something to do with the growth of a baby in the womb – starts out as a fluid and then, over a period of 9 months, becomes a person. This is seen in verses 11-12.

Psalm 139:14-16

¹⁴ I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

¹⁵ My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the

lowest parts of the earth.

¹⁶ Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

D. He concludes this section in verse 13 with the fact that, although we may not know what is going on and why, God does – He has a reason for everything that happens.

III. “SEE THOU MINE AFFLICTION” – VS. 14-17 (ESP. VS. 15)

He is asking God to look at what he is going through.

A. Verse 14 and the first part of verse 15 we find Job once again stating what he knew to be true – that the wicked will not go unpunished, and that God cannot have sin in His presence.

B. The second part of verse 15 (and the first phrase of verse 16) he states again that he was confused about why, even as a righteous man, he was suffering, and he asks God to look at him again and help him understand.

C. Verses 16 and 17 finds Job just pointing out how he was feeling – what he viewed was happening from a human perspective – there is no theology involved here, just a man in agony voicing his feelings.

IV. "CEASE . . . AND LET ME ALONE" – VS. 18-22 (ESP. VS. 20)

He is asking God here to let him be so that he can die.

A. As he has done on several occasions before, Job is here, again, asking for God to let him be so he can die – vs. 18-20.

B. The chapter concludes with a view of death that man has. This is not a spiritual application of death, but purely a human perspective of death:

1. We don't return from death;
2. It's a land of darkness (because our eyes are closed in death);
3. There is no order, no arrangement, no distinction of inhabitants – nothing.

Conclusion: Again, keep in mind that much of what is said in Job by Job is from a viewpoint wrought in agony – some true some not. We need to understand Scripture to know the difference.