

“Miserable”

Job 16-17

The friends of Job are described here as being miserable. That word means troublesome, and is dealing with the hardships of life, and how they are faced. In this chapter in the life of Job, his friends, his enemy (or enemies) and his trial are seen as causing him grief and misery because of the sorrow they produced.

I. MISERABLE COMFORTERS – 16:1-6

A. They offered no help – vs. 1-3

B. They offered no hope – vs. 4-6

II. MISERABLE ENEMIES – 16:7-14

A. There is no consensus on to whom the pronouns in these verses is referencing. Most consider verses 7-8 to be referring to God, but that seems to be inconsistent with the remainder of the text. Whether God is referred to directly or indirectly (which is my view), it is clearly God that allowed this trial to happen.

B. This is speaking (in a dynamic way) of Satan – apparently, God allowed Job to see Satan as his enemy and attacker, and, equally apparent is the fact that Job understood that God allowed Satan to attack him – vs. 11. To this point it seems that perhaps Job didn't really understand Satan's role in the trial he was going through.

- C. He seems to be a bit overwhelmed, for he interchanges the use of the pronoun "he" and "thou" in relation to Satan (especially in verses 7-9).**
- D. According to verse 10 it wasn't just Satan alone that attacked him, but there must have been his demonic forces at work – seen in the word "they."**
- E. Verses 12-14 further describe the attack, and what it felt like to Job (there are similar words and phrases used here that were used in the book of Psalms to describe what Jesus went through on the cross – further illustration that it was Satan and not God that Job was speaking of, and to).**

Psalm 22:13

¹³ They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion.

Psalm 35:21

²¹ Yea, they opened their mouth wide against me, and said, Aha, aha, our eye hath seen it.

III. MISERABLE TRIAL – 16:15-17:16

- A. The greater portion of these two chapters is given over to the miserable trial he was facing.**
- B. He first points out, again, how miserable he is – vs. 15-16.**
- C. He refers to his suffering in respect to those that were accusing him of**

harboring sin and asks that all may know he is righteous – vs. 17-18.

D. He then points out some positive things about the Lord, and about the little bit of hope he clings to – vs. 19-21.

E. 16:21-17:1 are another reference to death, and how Job felt he was basically a walking dead man.

F. 17:2 – Job was fully aware of those that were with him, and how they were mocking him, and he was not about to forget it.

G. 17:3-4 – Job is addressing God and asking Him to stand in His defense against his accusers and pointing out that God was still in control and that they (Job's friends) would not go without recompense.

H. 17:5 speaks to the wrong advice that was given to Job by his friends, and what would happen to them because of it.

1. "He that speaketh flattery to his friends" – As Job's friends did to him when they promised great outward prosperity, and a restoration to his former state, and to a greater affluence upon his repentance and reformation; or when they spoke deceitfully for God, pretending great regard to the honour of his justice and holiness, and therefore insisted on it that he must be a wicked man and an hypocrite, that was afflicted by him, as Job was:

2. "Even the eyes of his children shall fail" – so hateful are some sins to God, and particularly deceitful tongues, and flattering lips, that he will punish them in their posterity; the eyes of their children shall fail for want of sustenance, and while they are looking in vain for salvation and deliverance out of trouble (John Gill)

I. 17:6-9 speak again to the trial he was going through, and how God had allowed his life to become so miserable that he was no longer the man of influence he used to be, but rather was looked on with amazement and wonder at how far he had fallen.

J. 17:10-16 – we find Job again referring to death and how it relates to his situation, and how we all will end up that way eventually.

Conclusion: Again, we find Job in anguish of heart and mind, yet still wise enough to understand what was going on and accepting that God was still in control. He still had the peace of knowing he had not sinned and that was, at least for now, getting him through.