

THE BOOK OF JOB
Crying out Against (God's?) Injustice
Text: Job 7:11-21

Key Word: Injustice

Key Thought: How Did Job Respond to God When He Thought God Was Treating Him Unfair?

“Why should innocent people suffer inequities, undeserved treatment, and hate crimes? It is not fair, and it is not right. I propose that injustice becomes a trauma when either the magnitude or accumulative experiences exceed the capacity to cope.”

Lori S Katz - PhD

“Injustice Trauma: Individual and Collective Distress”

Job was not the only one in the Bible to feel this way. It just doesn't make sense in our way of thinking that we should have to suffer excessive pain when we can't fathom any reason behind it. Even Jeremiah felt he was being treated unfair and wondered why was God allowing it?

*“For as often as **I speak (cry)**, whether **I cry out against injustice or proclaim devastation, the word of Jehovah is turned against me into matter of reproach and derision continually.***
9. But if I say, “I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name,” his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.”

Jeremiah 20:8,9

1769 Blayney Bible Translation

“I cried out, I cried.—The two Hebrew words are not, as in the English, alike, **the first being the cry of complaint, the second of protest:**”

Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers

“ . . . since God will not refrain his hand from me, I will not refrain my mouth from speaking concerning him; since he shows no mercy to me, I shall utter my miserable complaints, and not keep them to myself; . . . his afflictions were like the waters of Marah, bitter ones, very grievous and disagreeable to flesh and blood,”

Gill's Exposition of the Whole Bible

I. HIS COMPLAINT TOWARD GOD (Job 7:11-16)
II. HIS CONTEMPLATION TOWARD GOD (Job 7:17-21)

I. HIS COMPLAINT TOWARD GOD (Job 7:11-16)

Have you ever complained to God? Have you allowed yourself to walk into dangerous areas with what you say to Him? Job did and he felt he had every reason to do so. He knew what he had done and what he had NOT done. **Nothing was making sense to him.** This was not the way he understood God to work out His plan in Job's life.

"I cannot keep from speaking. I must express my anguish. My bitter soul must complain."

*Job 7:11
New Living Translation*

I've done this very thing OFTEN when I was much younger and I felt God had given me a sour pill to swallow. The words "**anguish**" and "**bitterness**" would have been a good way to describe my feeling toward God. This was part of my genetic code. I convinced myself I had the right to act and speak this way. Both my dad and my grandfather were known for their outbursts of anger. **But when I accepted Christ into my life my SPIRITUAL DNA began to supersede my BIOLOGICAL DNA.**

Complaining to God is not always justified. It wasn't the case in Job's life even though he could present a good defence in a court of law. **The problem was that ALL the evidence had not yet been presented.** There was so much more to learn in his intrepid journey of life. The same is true for all of us today. That is why this saying still holds true today.

"It is better to remain silent at the risk of being thought a fool, than to talk and remove all doubt of it."

*Maurice Switzer
"Mrs. Goose. Her Book"
Published 1907*

"A wicked person listens to deceitful lips; a liar pays attention to a destructive tongue."

Proverbs 17:4

"Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent, and discerning if they hold their tongues."

Proverbs 17:28

I. HIS COMPLAINT TOWARD GOD (Job 7:11-16)(Contd.)

“Therefore, as such is my hard lot, I will at least have the melancholy satisfaction of venting my sorrow in words.”

“*Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary*”
Job 7:11

Job thought God was treating him like “**Yam**” thought of as the **chaotic sea god** or even “**Tannin**” as a **sea monster** that needs to be muzzled. He couldn’t find rest when he tried to sleep. His dreams terrified him. They came as horrible nightmares. Job’s thoughts and words brought him to a place that he preferred death over life.

“I despise my life; I would not live forever. Let me alone; my days have no meaning.”

Job 7:16

If this was how God was treating him, he would rather be left to his own so he could just die and get it over with. Our world leaders are speeding up our time of death through policies like th Canadian **Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)**. I always associated the word “maid” with someone who cleans up our place NOT someone who helps me to die. **This goes against the Hippocratic Oath.** The same is true of abortion. **When we lose the value of life we have little to hold on to especially when it is put in the hands of secular humanists.**

“THINGS WHICH THE EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND THE EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM [who hold Him in affectionate reverence, who obey Him, and who gratefully recognize the benefits that He has bestowed].”

I Corinthians 2:9
Amplified Bible

II. HIS CONTEMPLATION TOWARD GOD (Job 7:17-21)

“. . . as the knowledge of God that is impregnated with love. He referred to contemplation as “*resting in God.*” In this “resting,” **the mind and heart are NOT SO MUCH SEEKING GOD, AS BEGINNING TO EXPERIENCE WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN SEEKING.**”

Gregory the Great
6th century

II. HIS CONTEMPLATION TOWARD GOD (Job 7:17-21)(Contd.)

Job was being perplexed at Whom he thought God was because it was no longer lining up with his recent experiences. **He would safely say that his life was at rest with God before his life was upended. This is very important for us to understand in our lives as we live in an entire world (not just our personal life) filled with chaos and confusion.**

It is a good exercise to contemplate (ponder, reflect, meditate) upon God. It is described as **“the action of looking thoughtfully at something for a long time.”** It reminds me of someone sitting on a bench in an art museum trying to figure out what the artist was trying to portray. Now think for a moment about a tapestry. If we look at it from an underneath view it doesn't seem to have any correlation to the upper view if we were looking down upon it. One is just a mismatch of coloured strings while the other is a masterpiece.

Job was seeing his life as a mess with no way of comprehending what God was up to. While God looking from above clearly knew what each strand was accomplishing toward the finished piece of artwork of Job's life. **Perhaps we all would benefit by asking God what He see's in our life instead of guessing and wrongly concluding by what we see.**

*“What is mankind that you make so much of them,
that you give them so much attention,
18. that you examine them every morning and test
them every moment?”*

Job 7:17-18

It reminds me of the words of king David in Psalm 8 and repeated in Hebrews 2:6-8. **The more we get to know God, the less we become convinced that HE should think about us at all. The more we truly evaluate who WE really are, the more we should realize that we need to know more about Whom God really is. Only then can we understand his ways.**

It's only God who could contain such a vast knowledge and be in charge of everything He created. And at the same time to even be concerned about knowing the very hairs on our head. We've got to keep our focus upon God and not upon ourselves. That is why I believe Job was misunderstanding what was taking place.

*“If I have sinned, what have I done to you, you who
see everything we do? Why have you made me your
target? Have I become a burden to you?”*

Job 7:20

Asking the wrong question normally leads to a wrong answer!

II. HIS CONTEMPLATION TOWARD GOD (Job 7:17-21)(Contd.)

Job began to believe that his sickness was stemming from the fact that he was a sinner. That is why he couldn't understand that God wouldn't forgive him and restore him back to a healthy life. Just think what people WOULD be carrying as an excessive burden if we had to carry the weight of our sins. We should be thankful every day that God bore our sins when He died upon the cross.

“Why do you not pardon my offenses and forgive my sins?”

Job 7:21a

We have the opportunity to understand the will of God much more which should make us very thankful in our generation. Job was NOT suffering because of his sin. He was suffering because Satan is evil and he even comes to kill, steal and destroy those who serve him unknowingly of his horrible deeds. He incites those that follow him to obey his wicked schemes and then turns on them and destroys them. God is SO different! We have to read chapter 42 to come to a right conclusion about WHO God is and HOW God THINKS and ACTS.

There will never come day when we will understand everything God has hidden from us. We will understand MORE THINGS once we get to heaven but we'll never understand ALL THINGS. The fullest extent of our knowledge of God will come when we see Him face to face in heaven (I Corinthians 13:12).

For now the best we can do is to keep our complaints against God to a minimum and increase in our contemplation of God that is still very limited with our finite minds.

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Date: April 30/23

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Open the Eyes of My Heart - E or G

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II. HIS CONTEMPLATION TOWARD GOD (Job 7:17-21)

Job 7:17-18; Psalm 8 and repeated in Hebrews 2:6-8; Job 7:20

Asking the wrong question normally leads to a wrong answer!

Job 7:21a; I Corinthians 13:12