

## Job 3

Verses 1- 10

Afterward Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his *birth*. <sup>2</sup> And Job said,

“May the day on which I was to be born perish,  
As well as the night *which* said, ‘A boy is conceived.’

<sup>4</sup> May that day be darkness;

May God above not care for it,  
Nor light shine on it.

<sup>5</sup> May darkness and black gloom claim it;

May a cloud settle on it;

May the blackness of the day terrify it.

<sup>6</sup> As *for* that night, may darkness seize it;

May it not rejoice among the days of the year;

May it not come into the number of the months.

<sup>7</sup> Behold, may that night be barren;

May no joyful shout enter it.

<sup>8</sup> May those curse it who curse the day,

Who are prepared to disturb Leviathan.

<sup>9</sup> May the stars of its twilight be darkened;

May it wait for light but have none,

And may it not see the breaking dawn;

<sup>10</sup> Because it did not shut the opening of my *mother’s* womb,  
Or hide trouble from my eyes.

Afterward Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his *birth*. <sup>2</sup> And Job said,

“May the day on which I was to be born perish,  
As well as the night *which* said, ‘A boy is conceived.’

Job broke the silence of his friends who had remained quiet for 7 days.

In the depths of his misery, he wished that he had never been born and even that his mother had never gotten pregnant. Pain and suffering can make anyone rue the day they were born but we should not assume from this that Job did not have knowledge of the next life. We know that in the time when Job lived, that there was a belief in life after death. But at the moment he just wants the suffering in this life to stop.

Some scholars say that a belief in the afterlife did not come about until much later in time, perhaps during the Babylonian captivity (586 to 516 BC) but that is not what scripture says.

It is true that Job sometimes spoke as though this life was all that existed.

See Job 14:10 - 12

<sup>10</sup> But a man dies and lies prostrate.  
A person passes away, and where is he?  
<sup>11</sup> As water evaporates from the sea,  
And a river becomes parched and dried up,  
<sup>12</sup> So a man lies down and does not rise.  
Until the heavens no longer exist,  
He will not awake nor be woken from his sleep.

However, look at what Job has to say in chapter 19.

See Job 19:

<sup>23</sup> “Oh that my words were written!  
Oh that they were recorded in a book!  
<sup>24</sup> That with an iron stylus and lead  
They were engraved in the rock forever!  
<sup>25</sup> Yet as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,  
And at the last, He will take His stand on the earth.  
<sup>26</sup> Even after my skin is destroyed,  
Yet from my flesh I will see God,  
<sup>27</sup> Whom I, on my part, shall behold for myself,  
And whom my eyes will see, and not another.  
My heart faints within me!  
<sup>28</sup> If you say, ‘How shall we persecute him?’  
And ‘What pretext for a case against him can we find?’  
<sup>29</sup> Then be afraid of the sword for yourselves,  
For wrath *brings* the punishment of the sword,  
So that you may know there is judgment.”

Job was a very mature believer so it is hard to prove that this was a well-known belief among believers in 2500 BC, but we know that the content of this book was passed on verbally thru many generations before it was written down so many believers heard what Job said and viewed it as what we now call scripture.

Verses 11 – 19

<sup>11</sup> **“Why did I not die at birth,  
Come out of the womb and pass away?  
<sup>12</sup> Why were the knees *there* in front of me,  
And why the breasts, that I would nurse?  
<sup>13</sup> For now I would have lain down and been quiet;  
I would have slept then, I would have been at rest,  
<sup>14</sup> With kings and counselors of the earth,  
Who rebuilt ruins for themselves;  
<sup>15</sup> Or with rulers who had gold,  
Who were filling their houses *with* silver.  
<sup>16</sup> Or like a miscarriage which is hidden, I would not exist,  
As infants that never saw light.  
<sup>17</sup> There the wicked cease from raging,  
And there the weary are at rest.  
<sup>18</sup> The prisoners are at ease together;  
They do not hear the voice of the taskmaster.  
<sup>19</sup> The small and the great are there,  
And the slave is free from his master.**

<sup>11</sup> **“Why did I not die at birth,  
Come out of the womb and pass away?**

You can hardly blame Job for feeling this way. Has anyone you’ve known lost everything, all their wealth, all their children and their health to this degree?

<sup>13</sup> **For now I would have lain down and been quiet;  
I would have slept then, I would have been at rest,**

Job would have preferred to die at birth so he would have avoided all of the suffering he was going thru.

<sup>18</sup> **The prisoners are at ease together;  
They do not hear the voice of the taskmaster.  
<sup>19</sup> The small and the great are there,  
And the slave is free from his master.**

Job is looking for the rest that death brings to everyone.

Verses 20 - 26

<sup>20</sup> **“Why is light given to one burdened with grief,  
And life to the bitter of soul,  
<sup>21</sup> Who long for death, but there is none,  
And dig for it more than for hidden treasures;  
<sup>22</sup> Who are filled with jubilation,  
And rejoice when they find the grave?  
<sup>23</sup> Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden,  
And whom God has shut off?  
<sup>24</sup> For my groaning comes at the sight of my food,  
And my cries pour out like water.  
<sup>25</sup> For what I fear comes upon me,  
And what I dread encounters me.  
<sup>26</sup> I am not at ease, nor am I quiet,  
And I am not at rest, but turmoil comes.”**

<sup>20</sup> **“Why is light given to one burdened with grief,  
And life to the bitter of soul,  
<sup>21</sup> Who long for death, but there is none,  
And dig for it more than for hidden treasures;**

This is a continuation of the previous section. Job longed for death so his suffering would end but in this case that was not God's will for him.

<sup>25</sup> **For what I fear comes upon me,  
And what I dread encounters me.  
<sup>26</sup> I am not at ease, nor am I quiet,  
And I am not at rest, but turmoil comes.”**

Living with physical pain can cripple one's spirit. Living with the fear that the rest of our days will continue without getting better, and may even get worse is a difficult burden. We all hope that things will improve but in some cases that is not the case.