

# Job

Why Me?



**I WISH I WASN'T  
BORN**

<sup>1</sup> After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. <sup>2</sup> He said:  
<sup>3</sup> “May the day of my birth perish, and the night that said, ‘A boy is conceived!’  
<sup>4</sup> That day—may it turn to darkness; may God above not care about it; may no light shine on it.

**Job 3:1-26**

<sup>5</sup> May gloom and utter darkness claim it once more; may a cloud settle over it; may blackness overwhelm it. <sup>6</sup> That night—may thick darkness seize it; may it not be included among the days of the year nor be entered in any of the months. <sup>7</sup> May that night be barren; may no shout of joy be heard in it.

**Job 3:1-26**

<sup>8</sup> May those who curse days curse that day,  
those who are ready to rouse Leviathan. <sup>9</sup> May  
its morning stars become dark; may  
it wait for daylight in vain and not see the first  
rays of dawn, <sup>10</sup> for it did not shut the doors of  
the womb on me to hide trouble from my eyes.

**Job 3:1-26**

<sup>11</sup> “Why did I not perish at birth, and die  
as I came from the womb? <sup>12</sup> Why were there  
knees to receive me and breasts that  
I might be nursed? <sup>13</sup> For now I would be lying  
down in peace; I would be asleep and at rest  
<sup>14</sup> with kings and rulers of the earth, who built  
for themselves places now lying  
in ruins,

**Job 3:1-26**

<sup>15</sup> with princes who had gold, who filled their houses with silver. <sup>16</sup> Or why was I not hidden away in the ground like a stillborn child, like an infant who never saw the light of day? <sup>17</sup> There the wicked cease from turmoil, and there the weary are at rest. <sup>18</sup> Captives also enjoy their ease; they no longer hear the slave driver's shout.

**Job 3:1-26**

<sup>19</sup> The small and the great are there, and the slaves are freed from their owners.

<sup>20</sup> “Why is light given to those in misery, and life to the bitter of soul, <sup>21</sup> to those who long for death that does not come, who search for it more than for hidden treasure, <sup>22</sup> who are filled with gladness and rejoice when they reach the grave?

**Job 3:1-26**

<sup>23</sup> Why is life given to a man whose way is hidden, whom God has hedged in? <sup>24</sup> For sighing has become my daily food; my groans pour out like water. <sup>25</sup> What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me. <sup>26</sup> I have no peace, no quietness; I have no rest, but only turmoil.”

**Job 3:1-26**

<sup>21</sup> Rejoice and be glad, Daughter Edom, you who  
live in the land of Uz.

**Lamentations 4:21**

<sup>9</sup> This is the account of the family line of Esau the father of the Edomites in the hill country of Seir.

**Genesis 36:9**

That positions Job somewhere East of  
Israel/Edom and somewhere west of  
Seba (modern-day Saudi Arabia) and  
Chaldea (modern-day Iraq)

It is likely that Job lived between the time of Peleg (209), Reu (207), Serug (200), Nahor (119), Terah (205) and Abram (175) who are mentioned in the Shem-Abraham genealogy in Genesis 11:18-26

Satan is the source of all evil, but God is  
the source of all goodness

The suffering of the saints is not always a  
signal for sin

God remains sovereign even  
when we do not understand  
what He's doing

“Job is forty two chapters long. We may consider that rather an obvious observation, but the point is this: in his wisdom God has given us a very long book, and he has done so for a reason. It is easy just to read or preach the beginning and the end and to skip rather quickly over the endless arguments in between as if it wouldn't much matter if they weren't there.

Far from saying the message of Job can be summarized on a postcard or in a tweet, God says, 'Come with me on a journey, a journey that will take time. Job cannot be distilled. It is a narrative with a very slow pace (after a frenetic beginning) and long delays. Why? Because there is no instant working through grief, no quick fix to pain, no message of Job in a nutshell.

God has given us a forty-two-chapter journey. We need to read it, read it all, read it slowly.”

**- Christopher Ash -**  
***(Job: The Wisdom of the Cross)***

# **I) THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD**

<sup>3</sup> “May the day of my birth perish, and the night  
that said, ‘A boy is conceived!’

<sup>4</sup> That day—may it turn to darkness; may God  
above not care about it; may no light shine on it.

<sup>5</sup> May gloom and utter darkness claim it once  
more; may a cloud settle over it; may blackness  
overwhelm it.

**Job 3:3-10**

<sup>6</sup> That night—may thick darkness seize it; may it not be included among the days of the year nor be entered in any of the months. <sup>7</sup> May that night be barren; may no shout of joy be heard in it. <sup>8</sup> May those who curse days curse that day, those who are ready to rouse Leviathan.

**Job 3:3-10**

<sup>9</sup> May its morning stars become dark; may it wait for daylight in vain and not see the first rays of dawn,<sup>10</sup> for it did not shut the doors of the womb on me to hide trouble from my eyes.”

**Job 3:3-10**

If only Job could turn back time and  
rewrite history, he would erase not only  
the day of his birth, but also the moment  
of his conception

Job goes so far as to suggest that the reoccurrence and memory of that day ought to be written off the calendar

Job 3 is meant to be a reversal of the imagery of Genesis 1. Job wished that God would un-create him.

<sup>14</sup> Cursed be the day I was born! May the day my mother bore me not be blessed! <sup>15</sup> Cursed be the man who brought my father the news, who made him very glad, saying, “A child is born to you—a son!” <sup>16</sup> May that man be like the towns the LORD overthrew without pity.

**Jeremiah 20:14-18**

May he hear wailing in the morning, a battle cry at noon. <sup>17</sup> For he did not kill me in the womb, with my mother as my grave, her womb enlarged forever. <sup>18</sup> Why did I ever come out of the womb to see trouble and sorrow and to end my days in shame?

**Jeremiah 20:14-18**

You cannot erase what God creates. You cannot change what has past.

Theodicy: Though He does not create it,  
God does permit evil so that He can  
reveal a greater good, but this greater  
good is inscrutable beforehand and only  
discovered afterward in hindsight

<sup>17</sup> The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.  
<sup>18</sup> The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. <sup>19</sup> The righteous person may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all; <sup>20</sup> he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.

**Psalm 34:17-20**

<sup>3</sup> He heals the brokenhearted and binds  
up their wounds.

**Psalm 147:3**

# **2) THE SANCTITY OF LIFE**

<sup>11</sup> “Why did I not perish at birth, and die  
as I came from the womb? <sup>12</sup> Why were there  
knees to receive me and breasts that  
I might be nursed? <sup>13</sup> For now I would be lying  
down in peace; I would be asleep and at rest

**Job 3:11-19**

<sup>14</sup> with kings and rulers of the earth, who built  
for themselves places now lying  
in ruins, <sup>15</sup> with princes who had gold, who filled  
their houses with silver. <sup>16</sup> Or why  
was I not hidden away in the ground like  
a stillborn child, like an infant who never  
saw the light of day?

**Job 3:11-19**

<sup>17</sup> There the wicked cease from turmoil, and there the weary are at rest. <sup>18</sup> Captives also enjoy their ease; they no longer hear the slave driver's shout. <sup>19</sup> The small and the great are there, and the slaves are freed from their owners.”

**Job 3:11-19**

Job questioned not only why he did not die at birth, but even why his mother did not die during delivery

Without a book like Revelation accessible, Job was discovering his eschatology; what he personally believed about life after death. What we believe about the end shapes how we interpret the present.

Job wished that he was a full-term  
stillbirth!

28 “For in him we live and move and have our  
being.”

**Acts 17:28**

<sup>6</sup> Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.  
Praise the LORD.

**Psalm 150:6**

Job teaches us that God is not  
pro-choice, God is pro-life

# **3) THE SUFFERING OF THE SOUL**

<sup>20</sup> “Why is light given to those in misery, and life to the bitter of soul, <sup>21</sup> to those who long for death that does not come, who search for it more than for hidden treasure, <sup>22</sup> who are filled with gladness and rejoice when they reach the grave?

**Job 3:20-26**

<sup>23</sup> Why is life given to a man whose way is hidden, whom God has hedged in? <sup>24</sup> For sighing has become my daily food; my groans pour out like water. <sup>25</sup> What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me. <sup>26</sup> I have no peace, no quietness; I have no rest, but only turmoil.”

**Job 3:20-26**

Job realized that life is not as predictable  
as he thought

<sup>1</sup> I am the man who has seen affliction by the rod of the LORD's wrath. <sup>2</sup> He has driven me away and made me walk in darkness rather than light; <sup>3</sup> indeed, he has turned his hand against me again and again, all day long. <sup>4</sup> He has made my skin and my flesh grow old and has broken my bones.

**Lamentation 3:1-33**

<sup>5</sup> He has besieged me and surrounded me with bitterness and hardship. <sup>6</sup> He has made me dwell in darkness like those long dead.

<sup>7</sup> He has walled me in so I cannot escape; he has weighed me down with chains. <sup>8</sup> Even when I call out or cry for help, he shuts out my prayer.

**Lamentation 3:1-33**

<sup>9</sup> He has barred my way with blocks of stone; he  
has made my paths crooked.

<sup>10</sup> Like a bear lying in wait, like a lion in hiding,  
<sup>11</sup> he dragged me from the path and mangled me  
and left me without help. <sup>12</sup> He drew his  
bow and made me the target for his  
arrows. <sup>13</sup> He pierced my heart with arrows  
from his quiver.

**Lamentation 3:1-33**

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target for his arrows.

**Lamentation 3:1-33**

<sup>13</sup> He pierced my heart with arrows from his quiver. <sup>14</sup> I became the laughingstock of all my people; they mock me in song all day long. <sup>15</sup> He has filled me with bitter herbs and given me gall to drink. <sup>16</sup> He has broken my teeth with gravel; he has trampled me in the dust.

**Lamentation 3:1-33**

<sup>17</sup> I have been deprived of peace; I have forgotten what prosperity is.<sup>18</sup> So I say, “My splendor is gone and all that I had hoped from the LORD.”<sup>19</sup> I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall.<sup>20</sup> I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me.

**Lamentation 3:1-33**

**<sup>21</sup> Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: <sup>22</sup> Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. <sup>23</sup> They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. <sup>24</sup> I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."**

**Lamentation 3:1-33**

<sup>25</sup> The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; <sup>26</sup> it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. <sup>27</sup> It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is young. <sup>28</sup> Let him sit alone in silence, for the LORD has laid it on him. <sup>29</sup> Let him bury his face in the dust—there may yet be hope.

**Lamentation 3:1-33**

<sup>30</sup> Let him offer his cheek to one who would strike him, and let him be filled with disgrace.

<sup>31</sup> For no one is cast off by the Lord forever.

<sup>32</sup> Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. <sup>33</sup> For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone.

**Lamentation 3:1-33**

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