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Job 17

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Job 17.

Topics.

- They will not triumph; their hearts are closed to understanding.
- Plans of men who inform against friends to get property will fail.
- The righteous holds his way; he who is clean grows stronger.
- The desires of my heart, my plans are broken off and my days are past.
- Where is hope if I say, the pit my father, the worm, my mother.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION: the book of Job is considered both a theological and a literary masterpiece it is an honest discussion of why God allows good people to suffer. The test of Job's faith, allowed by God in response to a challenge from Satan, reveals God's sovereignty and the supremacy of divine wisdom over human wisdom (personified by Job's four friends). Believing that God is good despite the apparent evidence to the contrary, Job rested in faith alone. In the depths of agony, he could still proclaim, "I know that my Redeemer lives" (Job 19:25). In the end God silenced all discussion against the truth that He alone is wise (Job chpts. 38-41). Yet he vindicated Job's trust in him (chpt. 42), proving that genuine faith cannot be destroyed. The unknown author was probably an Israelite writing sometime between 2000 and 500 B.C.

HELPFUL FACTS: before reading Job it is helpful to understand when Job, Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar and Elihu are speaking they are not speaking, "thus sayeth the LORD", they are simply giving their opinions on how they personally perceive things to be. Amongst their conversations there is truth and wisdom, but it must be kept in mind not everything they are saying is true or even wise, in fact God rebukes Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar and tells them they have spoken foolishness, but Job has spoken what is right (Job 42:7-9). The book of Job is not about doctrinal truth, but human suffering and the questions regarding God that arise during a person's calamity and pain.

JOB SPEAKS

JOB 17:1-4

They will Not Triumph, their Hearts are Closed to Understanding.

- **Job 17:1-4:** My (Job) spirit is broken; my days are extinct; the graveyard is ready for me.
²Surely there are mockers about me (Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar), and my eye dwells on their provocation. ³Lay down a pledge for me with yourself; who is there who will put up security for me? ⁴Since you (God) have closed their hearts to understanding, therefore you will not let them triumph.

Job is in the depth of despair and expects to be soon taken to the grave and from this awareness and the fact Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar's have an aggressive attitude against him wonders who is going to defend him especially since he credits God for blinding their hearts to understanding and believing that he is innocent. Despite Job feeling alone and he has no

one to defend his case he is confident that Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar's will not triumph over him, because he knows they are wrong and that he is innocent. It is interesting to notice that Job credits God for Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar ignorance to wisdom and reality.

JOB 17:5

Plans of Men who inform against Friends to get Property will Fail.

- **Job 17:5:** He who informs against his friends to get a share of their property—the eyes of his children will fail.

The King James Bible says:

- He that speaketh flattery to his friends, even the eyes of his children shall fail.

Flattery: comes from the Hebrew word (*cheleq*) and means smoothness (of the tongue) and by implication (as smooth stones were used for lots) to apportion or separate an allotment or inheritance.

He that speaks flattery to his friends most likely carries the idea that the children of those who speak words of flattery to their friends for the sole purpose of deceiving them into writing into their will that they will inherit a share of their property and land will not prosper and ultimately come to ruin. They would come to ruin for two reasons, firstly, when the deceased man's family discovered the deception they would go after those who are prospering from it and secondly God would bring them to ruin. The expression also highlights how people are often disappointed that depend and trust on the loyalty of human friendships. This is very appropriate to Job's situation since his three friends Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar's instead of treating him as a friend are speaking to him as one would speak to an enemy.

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JOB 17:6-9

The Righteous Holds His way; He who is Clean Grows Stronger.

- **Job 17:6-9:** "He (God) has made me a byword of the peoples, and I am one before whom men spit. ⁷My eye has grown dim from vexation, and all my members are like a shadow. ⁸The upright are appalled at this, and the innocent stirs himself up against the godless. ⁹Yet the righteous holds to his way, and he who has clean hands grows stronger and stronger.

Once again, we see that Job sees all events in his life as being under the control of God's hand. Here he states that God has made him extremely feeble and a man that people spit on and that the self-righteous (referring to Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar) are ashamed of him. In contrast to the self-righteous are those that are truly faithful and innocent before God they are appalled that people would be mocking and spiting on Job and at the way Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar are treating him. Job's statement, "the righteous holds to his way, and he who has clean hands grows stronger and stronger," (v9) no doubt refer to Job himself, but by extension embraces all the faithful. Though Job is physically feeble and feels his life is at the foot of the grave, spiritually he is strong because he knows he is innocent of all the charges Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar accuse him of and he trusts in his Redeemer for his salvation and not his own righteousness.

- I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. ²⁶And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God. (Job 19:25-26).

A personal note: I believe I am standing on solid ground in saying that the testimony of any Christian man or woman who has remained faithful to God as Job has would be that they have grown spiritually stronger and stronger through their trials and troubles and hardships.

Desires of My Heart, My Plans are Broken Off and My Days are Past.

- **Job 17:10-12:** But you (Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar) come on again, all of you, and I (Job) shall not find a wise man among you. ¹¹My days are past; my plans are broken off, the desires of my heart. ¹²They make night into day; 'The light,' they say, 'is near to the darkness.'

Job is expecting to die, all his hope of being healed is gone, on top of this he knows there is not a wise man amongst his three so called friends Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar, because they make darkness light, meaning that their reasoning's and arguments are distorted and full of error, yet they speak them with authority and as though they are truth.

Where is Hope if I say, the Pit My Father, the Worm, My Mother.

- **Job 17:13-16:** If I (Job) hope for Sheol (the grave) as my house, if I make my bed in darkness, ¹⁴if I say to the pit, 'You are my father,' and to the worm, 'My mother,' or 'My sister,' ¹⁵where then is my hope? Who will see my hope? ¹⁶Will it go down to the bars of Sheol? Shall we descend together into the dust?"

Job says if he gives up his hope to live and instead sets his hope upon going down to the grave and make it his home and darkness his bed and the pit his father and the worm his mother, who then amongst the living will see his hope for salvation and the hope he has in his Redeemer to be raised from the grave. (Job 19:25-26). To a healthy person it may seem strange that Job would say that he could hope for the grave and make it his home, but if a person is suffering crippling illness and in extreme agony day after day death is seen as a friend to be welcome since it brings freedom from the pain and eternal rest. The desire for death is not unique to Job, in my forty-five years of faith I have seen faithful mothers and fathers suffering horrific sicknesses and disabling illness's that slowly crippled their bodies and took their minds and memories desire that death would take them.

FOOTNOTE

Always keep in mind that Job is not speaking, "thus saith the LORD," but giving his own personal opinion concerning suffering and because it is his own viewpoint it should be remembered that even though much of what he says maybe true it does not always mean that his reasoning and suppositions are always according to the word of the LORD.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
