

- I) V1-2 My spirit is broken, my days are extinguished, the grave is ready for me
- II) Job has been defending himself against his friends  
They are all convinced that he has been reaping the results of some hidden sin
- III) Eliphaz just told him that he had cast off the fear of God  
He told Job that his speech was unprofitable, speaks out of carnality and pride
- IV) In response to this Job called them miserable comforters  
Instead of comforting him, he said that his friends were attacking him  
They were miserable comforters because instead of comfort, they brought more misery
- V) He told them that they were not telling him anything that he did not already know  
They were acting as if they were wise but in fact, they were simply shallow men
- VI) He was frustrated with them, and tired of all the hot air they were spouting  
He wanted them to stop pouring out such useless words
- VII) They needed to put themselves in his place for a moment  
He lost his children, possessions, admiration of his wife and respect of the people  
He also lost his health, and was suffering terribly
- VIII) His question to them was simple: What have you lost that qualifies you to instruct me  
It's easy to offer advice when you are healthy and free of pain and concerns
- IX) If our situation was reversed, I could easily speak as you do, to you  
It is easy to hurt those who are down, and criticize those in pain and affliction
- X) But that is simply something I would not do to you  
Job 16:5 I would strengthen you with my mouth, and the comfort of my lips would relieve your grief
- XI) As we saw, after saying this Job began to number his complaints  
He began to speak of how God has treated him, and the pain that he has been suffering
- XII) He closed the chapter wishing that he had someone who could mediate for him  
Since he didn't, all he could do is wait for his impending death

He was going to the place of no return, which speaks of the land of death

XIII) His only wish was they would speak well of him and make it clear he was innocent

His reason for arguing with them was for them to know he was not punished by God

I) V1 My spirit is broken my days are extinguished the grave is ready for me

II) Job now continues responding to their charges

I am ready for death: I am mocked continually, with no one offering any help to me

III) The result is that I have been worn down and I am ready to die

IV) When Job says my spirit is broken, he is literally saying *My breath is corrupt* (KJV)

The thought is that his disease has made his breath offensive to those around him

This is true of the disease elephantiasis: it is a picture of the stench of death

V) This may be describing his distress over all that he is suffering

I am suffering so greatly that I can hardly breathe, and my lamp is about to go out

VI) V2 Are not mockers with me And does not my eye dwell on their provocation?

My friends, instead of bringing comfort have actually brought more pain

You are accusing me of being a hypocrite, using religion to hide my evil

VII) This kind of hypocrisy is something that Jesus condemned the Pharisees for

Mt 23:5-7 Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; they love the place of honour at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; they love to be greeted in the market-places and to have men call them 'Rabbi'.

VIII) What does he mean when he says does not my eye dwell on the provocation

Their accusations not only are with me during the day, but even at night I dwell on them

I think of the things they are saying constantly and I can't get them out of my mind

IX) V3 Now put down a pledge for me with Yourself. Who is he who will shake hands with me

He asks God to give him an assurance that He is actually on His side, listening to him

He wants God to show him that He is on his side, and will be there for him

X) Who will shake hands with me

Shaking hands was how the contract or agreement would be ratified

Since his friends were accusing him of sin, he knew that none of them would do so

XI) V4 For You have hidden their heart from understanding therefore You will not exalt them

God, You have kept them from understanding what is taking place

XII) What was occurring was spiritual, and Job is saying that God withheld their eyes

Spiritual truth is revealed by God, but God had withheld them from seeing

I) Truth is something that is revealed, and God can actually keep people from seeing

Jn 12:40 He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn and I would heal them

II) Job is saying that God has kept them from seeing what is actually taking place

God has withheld understanding from them, which is why they are saying these things

III) V5 He who speaks flattery to his friends even the eyes of his children will fail

He is still speaking to God as he says this

IV) It seems that he is saying that his friends are promising him blessings if he repents

OBSCURE: Those who make such promises actually harm their children

This is because the children are taught to believe the wrong things, and the children are taught to look for the wrong things

V) V6 He has made me a byword of the people and I have become one in whom men spit

Job had at one time been the most respected man

VI) People everywhere gave him great respect and listened to his counsel

Job 29:7-8 When I went out to the gate by the city, when I took my seat in the open square, the young men saw me and hid and the aged arose and stood

VII) Though once greatly respected, he has now become an object of gossip and derision

Now, even the lowest of men openly showed him great disrespect

Job 30:9-10 And now I am their taunting song; yes, I am their byword. They abhor me, they keep far from me; they do not hesitate to spit in my face

VIII) V7 My eye has also grown dim because of sorrow and all my members are like shadows

I am constantly in pain, and cry my heart out constantly: I am worn out from sobbing

I am thin, and my color has left me so that I look like a ghost, or simply a shadow

IX) V8 Upright men are astonished at this and the innocent stirs himself up against the

They ask themselves: How could one as I go through such a trial  
How could I suffer so terribly, being innocent?

X) V8 The innocent stirs himself up against the hypocrite

As they consider everything, the righteous are stirred to resist and reject hypocrisy

XI) V9 Yet the righteous will hold his way; he who has clean hands will be stronger and

The righteous will retain his integrity, and will grow stronger through the whole trial

This is because trials such as these result in greater strength

I) In this, Job gives us insight into the reality and reason of trials

II) FIRST: They come upon everybody living for the Lord

Ps. 66:10 For You, O God, have proved us: You have tried us, as silver is tried.

1 Pe 4:12-13 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as you are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, you may be glad also with exceeding joy.

III) SECOND: Trials reveal the reality, quality and value of faith by *refining it*

Spurgeon: Trials teach us what we are; they dig p the soil, and let us see what we are made of

IV) We desire God to entrust to us great things, but trials reveal our faith in small

things

1 Pe 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

V) **THIRD:** Trials reveal what is inside of us, and reveals our weakness and need

As we go through and endure trials, we are refined and strengthened

Jas 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith works patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that you may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Ps 27:14 Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord

VI) **FOURTH:** Trials make me look at my own heart to take spiritual inventory

God may be disciplining me through the trial, and I need to be aware of this

Ps 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

VII) **FIFTH:** Trials produce greater spiritual strength within us

They do so by making me depend completely on God, and not myself or others

Ro 5:3-5 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation works patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope makes not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

VIII) **SIXTH:** Trials are used by God to prepare us for what He would have us to do

Heb 10:35-36 So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. *You need to persevere* so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised."

I) **SEVENTH:** Trials direct our attention to God as we seek Him for direction and answers

Pr 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

II) **EIGHTH:** God uses trials to prove His ability to bring us through

2 Pe 2:9 the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations (trials) and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment

III) **V10** But please come back again all of you for I shall not find one wise man among you

Sarcasm: He seems to be saying come back and argue with me again. None of

you is wise enough to handle the argument but I am willing to listen to you ramble on

IV) V11 My days are past, my purposes are broken off, even the thoughts of my heart

I am dying and my plans for my life have been destroyed

Is 38:12 My life has been blown away like a shepherd's tent in a storm. It has been cut short, as when a weaver cuts cloth from a loom. Suddenly, my life was over.

V) My hopes and dreams have been extinguished and I have been left without hope

VI) V12 They change the night into day *The light is near* they say in the face of darkness

You miserable counselors are trying to change the reality of what I am experiencing

You are telling me that night is day, and that darkness is really light

VII) You are trying to say to me Cheer up, everything is getting better when *it really isn't!*

Pr 27:14 He who blesses his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it will be counted a curse to him.

VIII) V13-16 If I wait for the grave as my house if I make my bed in the darkness

As far as I can see, the only thing that I have awaiting me is the grave

The only thing waiting for me is the darkness of a tomb

IX) In ch 8:20-21, Bildad had told him Behold, God will not cast away the blameless nor will He uphold the evildoers. He will yet fill your mouth with laughing, and your lips with rejoicing

X) I don't see this: what I see is a grave and darkness

My only hope is dying and embracing it as the end of my physical suffering

XI) V14 If I say to corruption You are my father and to the worm, You are my mother and my

I look at the grave and decay as my closest relatives, waiting to embrace me

XII) This is in fact the only hope that I actually have: the hope of dying

I) You have told me that if I repent, I would be restored and would once again be blessed

Job 11:16-17 (Zophar said) You would forget your misery and remember it as waters that have passed away and your life would be brighter than noonday

- II) I would disagree with you: the only hope I have is dying and ending my misery
- III) V15 Where then is my hope? As for my hope, who can see it?  
What hope in life do I have? What hope do you offer me?  
As for any hope offered to me, it will never come to pass, it will never happen
- IV) V16 Will they go down to the gates of Sheol? Shall we have rest together in the dust?
- V) Sheol is pictured as an underground prison with bars and bolts holding the doors closed  
It is the same thing as the NT Hades, the holding cell of the dead
- VI) It would seem that Job is saying that when I die my hopes will be buried with me  
My body and my hopes shall be together in death, which is the only place I will rest
- VII) It is interesting that Job speaks of the gates of Sheol  
Gates have keys which allows for entrance as well as exit
- VIII) In Matthew Jesus gave Peter and the rest of the apostles the keys to the kingdom  
Mt 16:19 (He told Peter) I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven
- IX) This spoke of the authority to declare someone forgiven, enabling entrance into heaven  
This same authority was given to the other apostles  
Jn 20:23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained
- X) The gates of Sheol would have locks, and it is Jesus who has the key to the lock  
Rev 1:18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and hades
- XI) The hope Job would have would one day be revealed: the hope is Jesus  
Jesus is the One holding the keys, and Jesus gave the keys to His followers  
We have hope, and our souls can rest in it because of Jesus  
1 Co 15:50-57