



Job's Lament Selected Scriptures in Job

After Job lost everything, he still had faith in God. He believed God gave and took according to his will and that God was in control of everything. While he kept his faith, he still complained about his plight. In Job's laments we hear our own cries in times of suffering. In the book, Job speaks nine times (chapters 3; 6-7; 9-10; 12-14; 16-17; 19; 21; 23-24; 26-31). Most of the time his speeches are in response to his friends "advice."

Frustrated – Why has this Happened?

Chapter 28 is a "hymn to wisdom." Job is confident God understands wisdom (28:23), but Job laments no one can find it. This chapter is Job's last words before his final claim of innocence. It indicates he had spent his time of suffering wondering why he was suffering but couldn't find it. Job never did find out why.

Depressed – Longing for the Past

Job longed for the past (29:1-11, 20-25) when he felt close to God and His blessing. When he had his children, people respected him, people listened to him, he was a help to many people, and he was sought out by those in need. Job thought those days would last forever, but they didn't and now people mocked him.

Abandoned – My Friends are No Help

Three of Job's friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar came to comfort him. They, and later a fourth, Elihu, gave speeches that neither comforted nor helped Job understand his suffering. Job felt his friends were miserable comforters (12:2; 13:4; 16:2; 19:3). He believed if he were in their place, he would help them and not judge them (16:4-5). Additionally, all his neighbors, associates, and servants had turned against him (19:13-22; 30:1, 9-10).

Alone – God is No Help

Job continually defended his innocence (27:6; 31:1-30). He pointed to his good works in the past (29:12-17; 30:25). Thus, he believed God was unfairly punishing him (9:16-17, 30-33; 10:2, 7-8; 13:26-27; 19:6-11; 30:20-21). Worse, he saw wicked people go unpunished (21:17). Job felt God wasn't listening to him (13:3, 24; 19:7; 23:3-5; 30:20), and Job couldn't find God (23:8-9) to plead his case or get the answers he wanted.

Hopeless – It will Never Get Better

Job's first speech was a wish to never have been born (3:3-11, 16 – repeated in 10:18). That wish shows the depth of his pain! He also realized he was getting worse (7:5; 30:17-18, 30). He stated he had no hope (10:20-22) and wished that he were dead (6:8-9; 7:15-16).

Trust – God is Just and Has a Plan

While he complained, Job didn't lose his faith in God! He continued to trust in God's justice. Job knew he wasn't suffering as a punishment for sin. So, he believed whether now or at his death, God would bring justice (13:15; 16:19). Job believed when his testing was done, he would be vindicated and better for it (23:10).