

Job 16:1-17:16 **Job's Miserable Comforters – Distress of Spirit**

Job Reproaches His Pitiless Friends

- 1 Then Job answered and said:
- 2 "I have heard many such things; Miserable comforters are you all!
- 3 Shall words of wind have an end? Or what provokes you that you answer?
- 4 I also could speak as you do, If your soul were in my soul's place. I could heap up words against you, And shake my head at you;
- 5 But I would strengthen you with my mouth, And the comfort of my lips would relieve your grief.

Job speaks to and of God regarding his continuing distress [Job 16:6-22]

- 6 "Though I speak, my grief is not relieved; And if I remain silent, how am I eased?
- 7 But now He has worn me out; You have made desolate all my company.
- 8 You have shriveled me up, And it is a witness against me; My leanness rises up against me And bears witness to my face.
- 9 He tears me in His wrath, and hates me; He gnashes at me with His teeth; My adversary sharpens His gaze on me.
- 10 They gape at me with their mouth, They strike me reproachfully on the cheek, They gather together against me.
- 11 El (God) has delivered me to the ungodly, And turned me over to the hands of the wicked.
- 12 I was at ease, but He has shattered me; He also has taken me by my neck, and shaken me to pieces; He has set me up for His target,
- 13 His archers surround me. He pierces my heart and does not pity; He pours out my gall on the ground.
- 14 He breaks me with wound upon wound; He runs at me like a warrior.

- 15 "I have sewn sackcloth over my skin, And laid my head in the dust.
- 16 My face is flushed from weeping, And on my eyelids is the shadow of death;
- 17 Although no violence is in my hands, And my prayer is pure.

- 18 "O earth, do not cover my blood, And let my cry have no resting place!
- 19 Surely even now my witness is in heaven, And my evidence is on high.
- 20 My friends scorn me; My eyes pour out tears to Elowah (God).
- 21 Oh, that one might plead for a man with Elowah (God), As a man pleads for his neighbor!
- 22 For when a few years are finished, I shall go the way of no return.

Job Prays for Relief [Job 17:1-16]

- 1 "My spirit is broken, My days are extinguished, The grave is ready for me.
- 2 Are not mockers with me? And does not my eye dwell on their provocation?

- 3 "Now put down a pledge for me with Yourself. Who is he who will shake hands with me?
- 4 For You have hidden their heart from understanding; Therefore You will not exalt them.
- 5 He who speaks flattery to his friends, Even the eyes of his children will fail.

- 6 "But He has made me a byword of the people, And I have become one in whose face men spit.
- 7 My eye has also grown dim because of sorrow, And all my members are like shadows.

8 Upright men are astonished at this, And the innocent stirs himself up against the hypocrite.
 9 Yet the righteous will hold to his way, And he who has clean hands will be stronger and stronger.

10 "But please, come back again, all of you, For I shall not find one wise man among you.
 11 My days are past, My purposes are broken off, Even the thoughts of my heart.
 12 They change the night into day; 'The light is near,' they say, in the face of darkness.
 13 If I wait for the grave as my house, If I make my bed in the darkness,
 14 If I say to corruption, 'You are my father,' And to the worm, 'You are my mother and my sister,'
 15 Where then is my hope? As for my hope, who can see it?
 16 Will they go down to the gates of Sheol? Shall we have rest together in the dust?"

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Job Reproaches His Pitiless Friends [Job 16:1-22]

✧ Then Job answered and said:

"I have heard many such things; **Miserable comforters are you all!**

Shall words of wind have an end? Or what provokes you that you answer?

I also could speak as you do, **If your soul were in my soul's place.** I could heap up words against you, And shake my head at you;

But I would strengthen you with my mouth, And the comfort of my lips would relieve your grief. [Job 16:1-5]

- ✧ When a person is struggling through severe tribulation like Job was going through, there is no comfort from friends who heap up condemnation and unjustly accuse him with sin and wickedness as the cause.
- ✧ If the situation were reversed, Job would use words of encouragement and comfort expressing compassionate sympathy and empathy.

Job speaks to and of God regarding his continuing distress [Job 16:6-22]

✧ "Though I speak, my grief is not relieved; And if I remain silent, how am I eased?" [Job 16:6]

✧ Speaking about the grief does not help ease the agony.

✧ Remaining silent also does not make it go away.

✧ El has worn me out to the point that my company has been made desolate.

✧ All the problems are a testimony against Job as the wrath of El rages on.

✧ Job feels that these have gathered together against him to attack him with their mouths, and strike him reproachfully.

✧ El has delivered me into the hands of the wicked and ungodly and set me as His target and shows no pity.

✧ He breaks me with wound upon wound and attacks like a warrior. [Job 16:6-14]

✧ "I have sewn sackcloth over my skin, And laid my head in the dust.

My face is flushed from weeping, And on my eyelids is the shadow of death;

Although no violence is in my hands, And my prayer is pure. [Job 16:15-17]

✧ Job calls on the earth to not cover the evidence of his suffering, and for his prayers to continue before Elowah.

✧ Job is confident that in heaven God is witnessing his struggle and keeps all his evidence, knowing that his friends scorn him and his eyes pour out tears to Elowah.

✧ Job still desires a mediator to plead his case with Elowah.

✧ Job expects to die within a few years and it will be ended.

Job Continued to express his distress of spirit [Job 17:1-16]

- ✧ Job expressed his feeling that his spirit is broken, and death is imminent.
- ✧ His friends are mockers and their charge of wickedness is heavy provocation against his integrity, and he has considered the charges with deep soul searching.
- ✧ Job turned to Yahweh for help and mercy, acknowledging that God Himself has hidden understanding from their hearts and will not exalt them. He who speaks flattery will bring down the consequences upon himself and his family.
- ✧ Yahweh has made Job a byword of the people and brought on him their ridicule and contempt.
- ✧ Job's upright friends are astonished at his distress, but Job stirs himself up against their hypocrisy.
- ✧ Job is determined to hold to his righteousness and he expects to grow stronger through the trials. [Job 23:10]
- ✧ Job invited them to come back again (resume their dialogue) and expects to find not one wise man among them.
- ✧ Job feels that his time is past and his purposes and goals are broken off.
- ✧ Job's friends have changed truth to falsehood, and light into darkness by their false accusations.
- ✧ If Job accepts their condemnation, then where is his hope?
- ✧ "Will they go down to the gates of Sheol? Shall we have rest together in the dust?"