

Studies in Job

Job, "The Arrows of the Almighty Are Within Me" (6-7)

I. Job's hope is that God would take his life (6:1-13)

- A. The unbearable weight of my grief (6:2-4)
- B. I have a right to complain (6:5-7)
- C. I want God to end my life so I can have some comfort (6:8-10)
- D. I have no more strength to live (6:11-13)

II. Job's friends are treacherous counselors (6:14-30)

- A. There should be kindness from friends (6:14)

- See differences in line b

^{NAU} **Job 6:14** "For the despairing man *there should be* kindness from his friend; **So that he does not forsake** the fear of the Almighty.

^{ESV} **Job 6:14** "**He** who withholds kindness from a friend **forsakes** the fear of the Almighty. (KJV*, NJB, RSV, Andersen, Hartley)

^{CSB} **Job 6:14** A despairing man should receive loyalty from his friends, **even if he abandons** the fear of the Almighty (NET, ASV, NKJ, NIV, TNK)

- B. Instead, they have been a disappointment (6:15-21)

- C. Explain where I am wrong (6:22-24)

- D. Look me in the eyes and reconsider your position (6:25-30)

- You want to censure my words – why? They are wind.

^{NAU} **Job 6:26** "Do you intend to reprove *my* words, When the words of one in despair belong to the wind?

^{ESV} **Job 6:26** Do you think that you can reprove words, when the speech of a despairing man is wind?

- You want me to listen to your words, but you disregard my words.

^{NET} **Job 6:26** Do you intend to criticize mere words, and treat the words of a despairing man as wind?

^{NLT} **Job 6:26** Do you think your words are convincing when you disregard my cry of desperation?

III. Job's life is like forced labor (7:1-6)

- A. The laborer wants relief, he wants his wages, he wants to go home
- B. Months of emptiness, nights of misery

- C. I can't wait for night, it comes and it drags on!
- D. He is still in physical agony
- E. Life goes by quickly, like a weaver's shuttle, no hope (6)

IV. Job's complaint to ??? (7:7-11)

- A. My life is a vapor and I will never be happy again (7)
- B. I will be gone soon enough and forgotten (8-10)
- C. Therefore, I am going to vent (11)

V. Job's anguish expressed to God (7:12-21)

- A. I am no threat to You! (12)
- B. If I look for the smallest comfort, You take it away (13-14)
- C. I want to die! (15-16)
- D. What is Man that You Watch So Closely? (17-19)
- E. Just forgive me and let me die! (20-21)

Observations

1. Job is angry. He feels like everyone is against him, even or especially, God (6:4; 7:20).
2. Things to keep in mind:
3. Job mistakenly interprets his pain as God's punishment: 6:4; 7:11-21.
4. Job also realizes that his words are rash, although he feels justified (6:3, 26; 7:26).

Application

1. This is depression caused by grief.
2. When we are in it, or dealing with someone who is, compassion is critical. Heb. 4:16 is critical, Psa. 103:12 is critical.
3. Acknowledge mystery and mercy