

Devotional Questions – Job 6:1-7:21

1. *Why was Job concerned about his words (Job 6:3, 10, 26, 7:11)?
What should we be concerned about?*
2. *What can we learn by ‘the arrows of the Lord’* (Job 6:4)? *The correct expression is “**the arrows of the Almighty**” Job 6:4.
What are God’s arrows used for in: Numbers 24:8, 2 Samuel 22:15, Psalm 38:2, Lamentations 3:13?
What does Paul warn us about (Ephesians 6:16)?
What are ‘the arrows’ here in Job 6?*
3. *Why does Job want God to let go of him (Job 6:9; see also Job 3:23)?
Why does the thought of God watching him terrify Job (Job 7:12-14, 20)?
What encouragement can we gain from this (John 10:28-29)?*
4. *What does Job say about his friends (Job 6:14-21, 27)?
Why could his friends not understand Job’s grief?
Why does God want us to know that He is our friend (John 15:13-15)?*
5. *Is Psalm 8 echoing Job’s words (Psalm 8:4, Job 7:17)?
Why or why not?*
6. *What was Job confused about in relation to his sins (Job 7:20-21)?
Has God forgiven his sin? How do we know?*

Devotional Questions – Job 6:1-7:21, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Job* pp 72-101, 404 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 735-736, 753, 755, 756, 1064 for detailed comments.

1. Why was Job concerned about his words (Job 6:3, 10, 26, 7:11)?

- That ***“my words are swallowed up”*** Job 6:3 i.e. no record would remain of his sufferings, which is why he later cries ***“O earth, cover not thou my blood, and let my cry have no place”*** Job 16:18. God does keep a record of His saints' suffering, though, which should be an encouragement to today's believers. ***“Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?”*** Psalm 56:8.
- That his words had not secured his comfort, though they were God's words to which Job had faithfully testified ***“for I have not concealed the words of the Holy One”*** Job 6:10. God's words are a source of comfort, though, to encourage the believer to keep going for the Lord. ***“This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me”*** Psalm 119:50.
- That his words were futile, Job 6:26, like ***“a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again”*** Psalm 78:39 as Job perceived himself soon to be according to Job 7:7 ***“O remember that my life is wind: mine eye shall no more see good.”*** God nevertheless responds to the seeking and repentant heart. ***“Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words”*** Daniel 10:12.
- That his words may soon be stopped so he should give full vent to them now, Job 7:11. God invites believers to do so in prayer, with the encouragement that such words uttered in prayer will not be terminal but taken as evidence of trust and turned into deliverance. ***“Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah”*** Psalm 62:8.

What should we be concerned about?

The giving forth of ***“acceptable words...even words of truth”*** Ecclesiastes 12:10 from ***“an honest and good heart”*** Luke 8:15 as David prayed and as Jeremiah was admonished ***“for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh”*** Matthew 12:34.

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer” Psalm 19:14.

“Therefore thus saith the LORD, If thou return, then will I bring thee again, and thou shalt stand before me: and if thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as my mouth: let them return unto thee; but return not thou unto them” Jeremiah 15:19.

2. *What can we learn by 'the arrows of the Lord'** (Job 6:4)? *The correct expression is ***"the arrows of the Almighty"*** Job 6:4.

If at all possible ***"by the grace of God"*** 1 Corinthians 15:10, don't be on the receiving end of them for ***"Thine arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies"*** Psalm 45:5. Therefore ***"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life"*** Proverbs 4:23 because ***"He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend"*** Proverbs 22:11. That means for today's believer ***"as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart"*** Ephesians 6:6 because the Lord said ***"Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you"*** John 15:14.

What are God's arrows used for in: Numbers 24:8, 2 Samuel 22:15, Psalm 38:2, Lamentations 3:13?

- *Destroying the enemies of God, Numbers 24:8*
- *Destroying the enemies of God's people, 2 Samuel 22:15, 18*
- *Chastening for sin, Psalm 38:2, 3*
- *Bringing suffering upon the Lord Jesus Christ in His humiliation, wrath upon Israel in the Tribulation and torment upon the lost man in hell, Lamentations 3:1-13, Luke 16:24, 21:23, Acts 8:33. That is why the Book of Job is "his parable" Job 27:1, 29:1.*

What does Paul warn us about (Ephesians 6:16)?

The necessity of ***"Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked"*** Ephesians 6:16 e.g. with first mention in the New Testament of the expression ***"faith in"*** as the Lord said ***"Have faith in God"*** Mark 11:22 in order to counter:

- *doubt "by knowledge" 2 Corinthians 6:6*
- *despair by "longsuffering" 2 Corinthians 6:6*
- *deceit "by the word of truth" 2 Corinthians 6:7*
- *devilry "by the power of God" 2 Corinthians 6:7*
- *derision "by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left" 2 Corinthians 6:7*

What are 'the arrows' here in Job 6?

For Job they are ***"the days of affliction"*** Job 30:16, 27, one after another, each day like the last, every day like the next.

It is helpful to remember what Jeremiah said ***"For the Lord will not cast off for ever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men"*** Lamentations 3:31-33.

3. *Why does Job want God to let go of him (Job 6:9; see also Job 3:23)?*

Job 3:23 states ***"Why is light given to a man whose way is hid, and whom God hath hedged in?"***

Job 6:9 states ***"Even that it would please God to destroy me; that he would let loose his hand, and cut me off!"***

Job sees no way out of his suffering and because it is so intense he wants death not life ***"So that my soul chooseth strangling, and death rather than my life"*** Job 7:15. Any suffering saint may experience the same despair as Paul acknowledged ***"For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life"*** 2 Corinthians 1:8.

See www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php Job 2 Question 4, Job 3 Question 5.

The doctrinal point of Job's suffering, however, unbeknown to him at the time, is to show the reader *the fate of the lost man in hell, who then sees that he had "the true light" John 1:9 that he was lost but failed to come to the light John 3:19 and now it is too late because he is "in hell...being in torments" Luke 16:23 with no way out Job 3:23 so that he desperately wants total destruction and indeed oblivion Job 6:9 but can't and won't get it because hell is "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched" Mark 9:44, 46, 48.*

Job 3:23, 6:9 also picture men under God's judgement in *"great tribulation" Matthew 24:21, Revelation 2:22, 7:14 "And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them" Revelation 9:6.*

The lesson for today's believer towards unbelievers is therefore as the rich man *"tormented in this flame" Luke 16:24 himself urged to "testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment" Luke 16:28.* However, as Abraham admonished the rich man, this testimony must be in accordance with *"Moses and the prophets" Luke 16:29, 31 i.e. "the holy scriptures" Romans 1:2, 2 Timothy 3:15.*

Why does the thought of God watching him terrify Job (Job 7:12-14, 20)?

Though Job does *"desire to die"* he confesses *"I have sinned" Job 7:20* and he knows therefore that as David was forced to confess *"I have sinned against the LORD" 2 Samuel 12:13* so that Job concludes with fear that God has *marked* him for it in that *"thou...hast set me as a mark against thee"* so that he is *"a burden"* to himself Job 7:20 *in bringing about his own damnation like those in the End Times of "great tribulation" Matthew 24:21 according Revelation 14:9-10 "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb."*

All men, without exception, should follow Solomon's warning.

"I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him" Ecclesiastes 3:14.

What encouragement can we gain from this (John 10:28-29)?

Practically speaking, Job 7:20 etc. can be avoided by asking the Lord to make you one of His sheep, to whom *only* John 10:28-29 apply and as Peter then declares to those who are *"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ" 1 Peter 1:2* i.e. saved individuals.

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" John 10:27.

"For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls" 1 Peter 2:25.

4. What does Job say about his friends (Job 6:14-21, 27)?

- They were uncaring about him and didn't fear God, Job 6:14, a statement that Job's "very great...grief" Job 2:13 would have prompted. They were, after all, with him, Job 2:11, 12, 13 and were said to be "his friends" throughout the Book of Job, Job 2:11, 32:3, 42:10. Job testifies that "I... sat chief, and dwelt as a king in the army, as one that comforteth the mourners" Job 29:25 with Job 29:1-24. Where, then, were the others, to whom Job had faithfully ministered?

Moreover, Job's friend Eliphaz, no doubt with the agreement of his two companions, does say "I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause" Job 5:8 and Job does take that advice "Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him" Job 23:8 and though at first without success, Eliphaz's advice is eventually effective for Job, even if at first by way of God's rebuke to Job, as Job 38:1-3 show "Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said...Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me."

The lesson for today's believer is to keep seeking the Lord according to Jeremiah 29:13 "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

- They had not spoken truthfully about him implying that Job had sinned, Job 6:15, according to Job 4:8 "Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same." Job does say "I have sinned" Job 7:20 but with the grief he has got from God, Job understandably thinks his friends should assuage his grief as he protests he would do for them, Job 16:5, not add to it with additional accusations of sin.

The lesson for today's believer is John 7:24 "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment."

- They had sought with Job to "make...him...an offender for a word" Isaiah 29:21, Job 6:27, as the Pharisees and scribes would later do with the Lord Jesus Christ "Laying wait for him, and seeking to catch something out of his mouth, that they might accuse him" Luke 11:54 by insinuating that Job had spoken out against God's chastening of him, Job 4:5, when he should "despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty" Job 5:17. Eliphaz's words in Job 5:17-27 are "right words" Job 6:25 but they don't help Job at the time.

The lesson for today's believer is Psalm 141:3 "Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips."

Why could his friends not understand Job's grief?

They didn't know his heart (neither did the devil and nor do most commentators unless they've read Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Job* and the *Ruckman Reference Bible*), only God did "(for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;)" 1 Kings 8:39 with 2 Chronicles 6:30 and only God knew what He sought to achieve with Job's heart as David later understood "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" Psalm 51:17 and as God did achieve with Job, Job 42:5, 6, 7.

Why does God want us to know that He is our friend (John 15:13-15)?

- That the believer may be assured of God's unfailing love for him in that nothing "shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" Romans 8:39
- That the believer "may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God" Colossians 4:12 with John 15:10, 14
- That the believer may have abundance of hope in the Lord's Return according to Romans 15:13 "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost" with John 14:1-3, 15:15.

5. *Is Psalm 8 echoing Job's words (Psalm 8:4, Job 7:17)?*

Job 7:17 states ***“What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him?”***

Psalm 8:4 states ***“What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?”***

Job 7:17 and Psalm 8:4 voice similar sentiments as may be shown by comparing scripture with scripture, 1 Corinthians 2:13. See below.

Why or why not?

God does magnify man by getting close up and personal with him in being mindful of him, as David reveals. ***“How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!”*** Psalm 139:17.

God does set His heart on a man and visit him for:

- *Blessing according to Psalm 21:3* ***“For thou preventest him with the blessings of goodness: thou settest a crown of pure gold on his head”*** for example ***“a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing”*** 2 Timothy 4:8
- *Chastening according to Psalm 39:5* ***“Remove thy stroke away from me: I am consumed by the blow of thine hand”*** noting that ***“Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby”*** Hebrews 12:11
- *Guiding, teaching and instructing according to Psalm 32:8* ***“I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye”*** as the Lord promised ***“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you”*** John 14:26.

Today's believer can have faith in God's fulfilment for him of 2 Peter 1:3 ***“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:”***

6. *What was Job confused about in relation to his sins (Job 7:20-21)?*

It appears to this writer that Job was more giving way to despair than confused. See *Question 3* for remarks on Job 7:20. It appeared to Job at this point that, according to Job 7:21, God had charged him with transgression and iniquity for which he would have no pardon and that in going back to the dust, Genesis 3:19, he would then descend ***“whence I shall not return, even to the land of darkness and the shadow of death; A land of darkness, as darkness itself; and of the shadow of death, without any order, and where the light is as darkness”*** Job 10:21-22 i.e. ***“the belly of hell”*** Jonah 2:2.

Job at this point despaired that he would not be among those who would be with God ***“in the morning”*** Job 7:21 of the Lord's Return when ***“shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings”*** Malachi 4:2 as Isaiah would later prophesy ***“Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead”*** Isaiah 26:19.

Has God forgiven his sin? How do we know?

Job has forgiveness and assurance of it. In that sense Job typifies the same for today's believer.

“Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy” James 5:11.