

JOB'S COMPLAINT
(Job 2:11 - 3:26)

- I. STRUCTURE of a Lament (cf. 2 Sam. 1:17-27; Ps. 88; Lam. 1 - 5; Jon. 2:2-9; Hab. 1; Job 1 - 42)
 - A. INTRODUCTION (Job 1 - 2)
 - B. COMPLAINT: Expression to God of one's TRUE FEELINGS (Job 3 - 37)
 - C. Confession of TRUST: Expression of CONFIDENCE in GOD because of His CHARACTER and POWER (Job 38 - 42)
 - D. REQUEST: Expression of NEED for God's HELP (Job 42:4a)
 - E. PROMISE: Expression of VOW to offer PUBLIC thanksgiving, often including a SACRIFICE (Job 42:4b-6)
 - F. PRAISE or THANKSGIVING: Expressed to God for what He COULD do, WILL do, or HAS DONE, because of Who He is (Job 42:7-17)

- II. Consolation of Job's FRIENDS (Job 2:11-13)
 - A. Men of WISDOM and WEALTH
 - B. Men of COMPASSION
 - 1. Went to great TROUBLE to OFFER consolation
 - 2. WEPT over his CONDITION
 - 3. SHARED in his SUFFERING

- III. Content of Job's COMPLAINT (Job 3:1-26)

- A. Wished he had NEVER BEEN BORN (3:1-10)
- B. Wished he had DIED AT BIRTH (3:11-19)
- C. Wished he would DIE IMMEDIATELY (3:20-26)
 - 1. Felt God had TRAPPED him in a life of MISERY
 - 2. Felt that DEATH would be a GREAT RELIEF
 - 3. CONFUSED by the paradox that DEATH seems to COME to those who don't want it and ELUDE those sufferers who desire it

IV. Lessons from Job's CONDITION

- A. God SEEMED DISTANT, but was PRESENT and DIRECTING Job's life
- B. The difficulties we view as OPPRESSION, God uses as BLESSINGS
 - 1. To PROVE our FAITH (1 Pet. 1:7)
 - 2. To REFINE our CHARACTER (Rom. 8:28-30)
 - 3. To ENHANCE our MINISTRY (2 Cor. 1:3-4)

V. Outline for a PERSONAL Lament

- A. "Dear Lord, I am discouraged, because..."
- B. "But I put my trust in You because..."
- C. "What I would like to request from You is..."
- D. "I promise to praise and thank You by means of..."
- E. "I pause right now to praise and thank You for..."