

## Sunday, March 5, 2017: Job's Lament and God's Response

### Genre of Job 3

#### Purpose of Lament

- For the lamenter
- For the reader

#### Prose and Poetry – integrity of the composition

- I. Common literary feature between 1:21 and 3:10–11
- II. Job 1:21
  - A. He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD."
  - B. Womb is metaphorical of birth *and* death
    1. For birth, it is obvious
    2. For death, what is the imagery?
- III. The *womb* does double-duty as a metaphor
  - A. **Birth** – womb: Naked I came from my mother's womb
  - B. **Death** – womb: And naked I shall return there
  - C. **Birth** – 3:10 Because it did not shut the opening of my mother's **womb**, Or hide trouble from my eyes.
  - D. **Death** – 3:11 Why did I not **die at birth** (Lit. "from the womb"), Come forth from the womb (lit. "belly") and expire?

#### Ironic use of "warrior-man" (*gibor*) in Job 3:3

- Read various translations of Job 3:3
- Problem with *gibor*

#### Theme of day-night/light-dark

3:3 "Let the day on which I was born perish,  
and the night that said, 'A man has been conceived!'  
3:4 That day – let it be darkness;  
let not God on high regard it,  
nor let light shine on it!  
3:5 Let darkness and the deepest shadow claim it;  
let a cloud settle on it;  
let whatever blackens the day terrify it!  
3:6 That night – let darkness seize it;  
let it not be included among the days of the year;  
let it not enter among the number of the months!  
3:7 Indeed, let that night be barren;  
let no shout of joy penetrate it!  
3:8 Let those who curse the day curse it –  
those who are prepared to rouse Leviathan.  
3:9 Let its morning stars be darkened;  
let it wait for daylight but find none,  
nor let it see the first rays of dawn,  
3:10 because it did not shut the doors of my mother's womb on me,  
nor did it hide trouble from my eyes!

Rhetorical Questions of Job 3

- “Why did I not die at birth . . . expire from the belly?” (3:11)
- “Why did the knees welcome me? And why two breasts?” (3:12)
- “Why does God give light to one who is in misery?” (3:20-22)

- I. Read Jeremiah 20:14–18
- II. Common features with Job 3 (structurally, thematically, lexically)
  - A. Fate worse than death
  - B. Form of both Curses
    - 1. Curse the day of birth (Jer 20:14a)
    - 2. Announcement of male child (Jer 20:15)
    - 3. Blocking the Womb (Jer 20:17)
    - 4. Seeing Misery/Trouble *amal* (Jer 20:18)
- III. Genesis 1 and Job 3. There are strong lexical (word) connections between the two chapters. Identify as many of these as possible.
  - 1. Comparison with Genesis 1

Job 3	Genesis 1
That [redacted], Let there be darkness!	The first [redacted] . . . Let there be light!
Let not God [redacted]	And the waters [redacted] . . .
Let [redacted] reclaim it . . .	And [redacted] was upon the face of the deep . . . And God separated between <i>light</i> and the [redacted]
That [redacted] let it not be included among the [redacted] of the year; let it not enter among the number of the [redacted]!	divide between day and [redacted] and let them be for signs and seasons and [redacted] and [redacted]
Let those who curse the day curse it – those who are prepared to rouse [redacted]	And God also created the <i>great sea</i> [redacted]
let it wait for [redacted] but find none	Let them be for lights in the firmament of heaven to give <i>light</i>
and there the weary are at [redacted]. I cannot [redacted]; [redacted] has come upon me.”	By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He [redacted] on the seventh day

God’s response to Job (38–41)

Job 38:1–3

- God answers Job – something Job desperately wanted – divine presence!
- “who is this” / “like a man” (*gibor*) /
- Creation-focused response of God in the rest

God’s final words to Eliphaz (42:7–8)