

Highlights from Job

Part 2

...miserable comforters are ye all. (Job 16:2)

Indeed! The “comfort” that is offered by man is miserable. It is so miserable that almost inevitably those who offer such “comfort” resort to prescribing mind-numbing medications to cover for their miserable failure to provide true comfort. That is because their “comfort” is based on the (foolish) wisdom of man, and not on the wisdom of God’s word. What people truly need, man is unwilling and unable to provide. It is God, and God alone, who can provide true comfort. The Holy Ghost of God is the Comforter (John 14-16). He is the God of all comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3).

Job 16:2 I have heard many such things: miserable comforters are ye all.

Job 21:34 How then comfort ye me in vain, seeing in your answers there remaineth falsehood?

Man cannot be comforted by man; but only by God. And only those of us who belong to God, who are born again, who have humbled ourselves (Job 22:29) and called upon the name of the Lord (Jesus Christ) to be saved, shall be comforted by God. For us, the word of the Lord is *full* of comfort and peace for the soul, in the midst of this world of turmoil:

Psalms 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psalms 71:21 Thou shalt increase my greatness, and comfort me on every side.

Psalms 94:19 In the multitude of my thoughts within me thy comforts delight my soul.

Psalms 119:50 This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.

Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

1 Thess 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Isaiah 40:1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

Isaiah 51:12 I, even I, am he that comforteth you:

Isaiah 61:1-2 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me[Jesus Christ]... to comfort all that mourn;

Luke 4:18,21 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...

This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

Isaiah 66:13 As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you;

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Job 16:9 He teareth me in his wrath, who hateth me: he gnasheth upon me with his teeth...

A spiritual understanding of “gnashing of teeth” begins here in Job, and ends in Acts:

Acts 7:54 ...they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

A most familiar usage of these words comes from Jesus relating to those entering into damnation:

Matthew 8:12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 13:42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 13:50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 22:13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 24:51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Luke 13:28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.

In hell, there will be both weeping and wailing, and gnashing of teeth. But as can be seen from Job and Acts (which provide bookends for rightly dividing the word of truth regarding gnashing of teeth) we can understand that the gnashing of teeth by those in hell refers not to grinding of teeth (or gnawing of tongues, Rev 16:10) in pain or torment, but rather to the speaking of hate-filled words of blasphemy directed against God whose word (the holy scriptures) and whose Word (Jesus Christ) they despise and reject.

Revelation 16:9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.
10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,
11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

Yes, there will be gnawing of tongues, and such; but the gnashing of teeth... *that* refers to the blaspheming of the God of heaven - of his name - by those who *will not* repent. This verse from Revelation speaks of the tribulation poured out upon the earth in the end times, which will be a foretaste for some, of the torment to come, to those who will not repent: who in their pride of heart will not humble themselves and call upon the name of the Lord – the God of heaven – to be saved.

Job 22:29 he [God] shall save the humble person.

If you have not called upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved from death and hell, will you humble yourself today, and repent of your sin and unbelief, and call upon Jesus Christ to ask for, and receive, his free gift of salvation and everlasting life? His promises are yea, and amen. He promises that whosoever asketh receiveth. Will you ask him today? Today is the day of salvation. Tomorrow... ???

Job 17:4 ...thou has hid their [mockers'] heart from understanding...

In "Understanding the Deep Things of God" we saw that it is with the heart that man understands God's word(s). We are given an understanding heart/spirit, and it is by the inspiration of God (Job 32:8, 2 Tim 3:16) that we are given spiritual understanding. Mockers (Job 17:2) will not be given spiritual understanding: instead, God will *hide* their heart *from* understanding. This applies to the unsaved, and also to the saved that question God's word(s) and follow after other versions, and who heap unto themselves teachers, having itching ears (2 Tim 4:3), like the Athenians that spent their time in nothing else, but to tell, or to hear some *new* thing (Acts 17:21). (E.g., "What does the New King James Version Say?")

Job 20:3 ...the spirit of my understanding causeth me to answer

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer...

Job 18:7 (man's) own counsel shall cast him down

Believers are to be look for the counsel of the Counsellor:

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Job 18:20 They that come after him shall be astounded at his day, as they that went before were affrighted.

Here is one of those horrid, "hard to understand" *archaic* words that modern versionists and text critics don't like, and wish to change. But wait: is it not apparent (to the believing-hearted) that right here, within the self-same verse, God has given his definition of his word? Can we not understand this word *as it is*? Should we not seek understanding of all of God's words... *as they are*? The more we read the word of the Lord, over and over, again and again, the more we will come to understand even the most "difficult" of his words. Remember The LORD's command... diminish not a word (Jeremiah 26:2).

Ezra 9:3-4 Job 17:8 Isaiah 52:14 Jeremiah 14:9 Ezekiel 4:17

Daniel 3:24, 4:19, 5:9

Job 19:20 ...by the skin of my teeth (just noting a common expression that is found in Job)

Job 19:23-27 See the study notes for "**The Gospel According to Job**"