



# Eternal PERSPECTIVE Job

## BIBLE TEXT | JOB 14:1-22

**1** "Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble. **2** He comes out like a flower and withers; he flees like a shadow and continues not. **3** And do you open your eyes on such a one and bring me into judgment with you? **4** Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? There is not one. **5** Since his days are determined, and the number of his months is with you, and you have appointed his limits that he cannot pass, **6** look away from him and leave him alone, that he may enjoy, like a hired hand, his day. **7** "For there is hope for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease. **8** Though its root grow old in the earth, and its stump die in the soil, **9** yet at the scent of water it will bud and put out branches like a young plant. **10** But a man dies and is laid low; man breathes his last, and where is he? **11** As waters fail from a lake and a river wastes away and dries up, **12** so a man lies down and rises not again; till the heavens are no more he will not awake or be roused out of his sleep. **13** Oh that you would hide me in Sheol, that you would conceal me until your wrath be past, that you would appoint me a set time, and remember me! **14** If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my service I would wait, till my renewal should come. **15** You would call, and I would answer you; you would long for the work of your hands. **16** For then you would number my steps; you would not keep watch over my sin; **17** my transgression would be sealed up in a bag, and you would cover over my iniquity. **18** "But the mountain falls and crumbles away, and the rock is removed from its place; **19** the waters wear away the stones; the torrents wash away the soil of the earth; so you destroy the hope of man. **20** You prevail forever against him, and he passes; you change his countenance, and send him away. **21** His sons come to honor, and he does not know it; they are brought low, and he perceives it not. **22** He feels only the pain of his own body, and he mourns only for himself."



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## DEVOTIONAL FOR JOB 14:1-22

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This past year I was in a season where it seemed that chaos and the troubles in life would consume me. Distractions were hitting me from every side. I continually tried to keep my eyes on Jesus, resting in Him, but I was tired and felt there was no rest for my weary soul. I, like Job, wrestled to understand why I was being plagued with so much hardship. I, by no means, can compare my journey to the magnitude of grief and pain that Job was experiencing; however, I do find comfort in knowing that I am not alone in my struggle. I, far too often, complain and whine about unfairness or difficulty in my life. I can easily find myself focusing far more on what seems to be unjust than on the command in Philippians 4:8 of thinking on what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise.

In Chapter 14, Job continues to be authentic with his friends and before God. His feelings are pouring out of his pain. He is reminded that life is fragile and short and that his days are numbered. What a lonely place that must have been for him as his friends spoke in their own wisdom, continually telling him that he was experiencing this hardship because of his own sin. Job knows that he is not innocent of sin and seems to have a deeper understanding that his current situation is not tied to his sin. The tragic circumstances, excruciating pain, weariness and grief seem to be more than he can bear. He is struggling to hold on to hope. I wonder how much more Job would have been comforted if his friends had continued to point him back to gratitude and remind him of God's promises. After all, amid the horrendous pain he was feeling, he had what was most important. He had all that he needed. He had the most precious gift of all, he knew and trusted God. Who or what could save him apart from God? He needed a savior, and deep within he understood that his relief would have to come from God.

Remember the season I endured last year? I am grateful for friends who allowed me to be vulnerable in processing through my feelings and emotions instead of continually telling me that I must have some sin in my life that was causing me to endure hardship. God reminded me, through a friend, of the truths found in the 23rd Psalm. He led me into this valley where He grew me into a deeper dependance and understanding of Him. He protected and taught me. He reminded me of how closely He walks with me even in the darkest valleys. He nourished and cared for me in ways only He can. I prayed for peace to be restored. I love how He provided way more than peace. He provided His perfect peace and renewed my hope (Isaiah 26:3-4). I am forever grateful for a firm foundation that is built upon Jesus. It holds me steadfast no matter the circumstances.



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## Questions:

1. How do you comfort a friend who is going through difficult times? Do you attempt to rely on your own wisdom, or do you point them to the truths found in the Word and reliance on Jesus?
2. Do you have friends who love you well by pointing you back to truth and gratitude? If not, consider getting plugged into a Journey Group or other community of believers that will help spur you on (Hebrews 10:24-25).
3. Are you trusting God during the valleys of life (Romans 8:28)? If not, what is holding you back from putting your trust in God and his beautiful promises?