



# Eternal PERSPECTIVE *Job*

## BIBLE TEXT | JOB 6:1-30

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**1** Then Job answered and said:

**2** "Oh that my vexation were weighed, and all my calamity laid in the balances!

**3** For then it would be heavier than the sand of the sea; therefore my words have been rash.

**4** For the arrows of the Almighty are in me; my spirit drinks their poison; the terrors of God are arrayed against me.

**5** Does the wild donkey bray when he has grass, or the ox low over his fodder?

**6** Can that which is tasteless be eaten without salt, or is there any taste in the juice of the mallow?

**7** My appetite refuses to touch them; they are as food that is loathsome to me.

**8** "Oh that I might have my request, and that God would fulfill my hope,

**9** that it would please God to crush me, that he would let loose his hand and cut me off!

**10** This would be my comfort; I would even exult in pain unsparing, for I have not denied the words of the Holy One.

**11** What is my strength, that I should wait? And what is my end, that I should be patient?

**12** Is my strength the strength of stones, or is my flesh bronze?

**13** Have I any help in me, when resource is driven from me?

**14** "He who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty.

**15** My brothers are treacherous as a torrent-bed, as torrential streams that pass away,

**16** which are dark with ice, and where the snow hides itself.

**17** When they melt, they disappear; when it is hot, they vanish from their place.

**18** The caravans turn aside from their course; they go up into the waste and perish.

**19** The caravans of Tema look, the travelers of Sheba hope.

**20** They are ashamed because they were confident; they come there and are disappointed.

**21** For you have now become nothing; you see my calamity and are afraid.

**22** Have I said, 'Make me a gift'? Or, 'From your wealth offer a bribe for me'?

**23** Or, 'Deliver me from the adversary's hand'? Or, 'Redeem me from the hand of the ruthless'?



# Eternal PERSPECTIVE

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**24** "Teach me, and I will be silent; make me understand how I have gone astray.

**25** How forceful are upright words! But what does reproof from you reprove?

**26** Do you think that you can reprove words, when the speech of a despairing man is wind?

**27** You would even cast lots over the fatherless, and bargain over your friend.

**28** "But now, be pleased to look at me, for I will not lie to your face.

**29** Please turn; let no injustice be done. Turn now; my vindication is at stake.

**30** Is there any injustice on my tongue? Cannot my palate discern the cause of calamity?

### DEVOTIONAL FOR JOB 6:1-30

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When my children were young, I often had to address a squabble over a toy. As they grew, I had to address disagreements over privileges. Inevitably, one of my children would tell me I wasn't being fair. They would cross their arms, scowl, and share all the reasons they believed my decision was unfair. Early in life, we have a desire for what we deem as fair or just. As an adult, I can easily find myself seeking what I deem to be just. Living under the disillusionment that if I live a life pursuing God's will, work hard, and treat others with kindness, I might be immune to pain and grief in this life. Humanity has always struggled with the question of why bad things happen to good people.

In this passage, Job responded to his friend about his despair, overwhelming grief, and unwavering commitment to the Lord. Job told his friends to look at him, as he told them he was not lying and that he had not turned away from God (verse 28). However, Job's friends did not understand the character of God and assumed Job must be at fault in some manner.

The disciples had a similar misunderstanding of God's character when they asked, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered them, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him" (John 9:2-3). We have often heard the statement, "God helps those who help themselves." This is not a true statement. God helps those who could not help themselves. Job indicates his inability to control the situation and help himself (verses 12-13). The true character of God indicates that he has always loved us and prepared a way for us to be reconciled to him.



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## Questions:

1. What area in your life are you trying to control?
2. How has God used, or how is he currently using your painful circumstances to display His work in your life?
3. How are you caring for your brothers and sisters that are experiencing grief and pain?