

Lessons from the Story of Job

Hope and the Gates of Sheol (Job 16-17)

- 1. In 16:2 Job calls his companions “miserable comforters.” He then goes on to call them “desolate company” and “ungodly.” In v4 and v5, Job says that if their places were switched, he would strengthen and comfort them. How can he be sure of this? What would allow Job to give comfort where his companions have failed?*
- 2. In 16:9 Job laments, “My adversary sharpens His gaze on me.” This is certainly true, but Job seems confused about who his adversary actually is. Who is his adversary and where does this confusion come from?*
- 3. In 16:10-11 Job declares, “They strike me reproachfully on the cheek, they gather together against me. God has delivered me to the ungodly, and turned me over to the hands of the wicked.” Why has God done this?*
- 4. In 16:18-19 Job says “O earth, do not cover my blood, and let my cry have no resting place! Surely even now my witness is in heaven, and my evidence is on high.” What does this mean?*
- 5. In 17:6 Job says, “He has made me a byword of the people, and I have become one in whose face men spit.” What does it mean to be a byword?*
- 6. Job follows 17:7: “My eye has grown dim because of sorrow and all my members are like shadows,” with v9: “Yet the righteous will hold to his way, and he who has clean hands will be stronger and stronger.” What does this tell us about Job’s outlook?*
- 7. In 17:15-16 Job asks, “Where then is my hope? As for my hope, who can see it? Will they go down to the gates of Sheol?” Where is Job’s hope? What is the significance of going down to the gates of Sheol?*