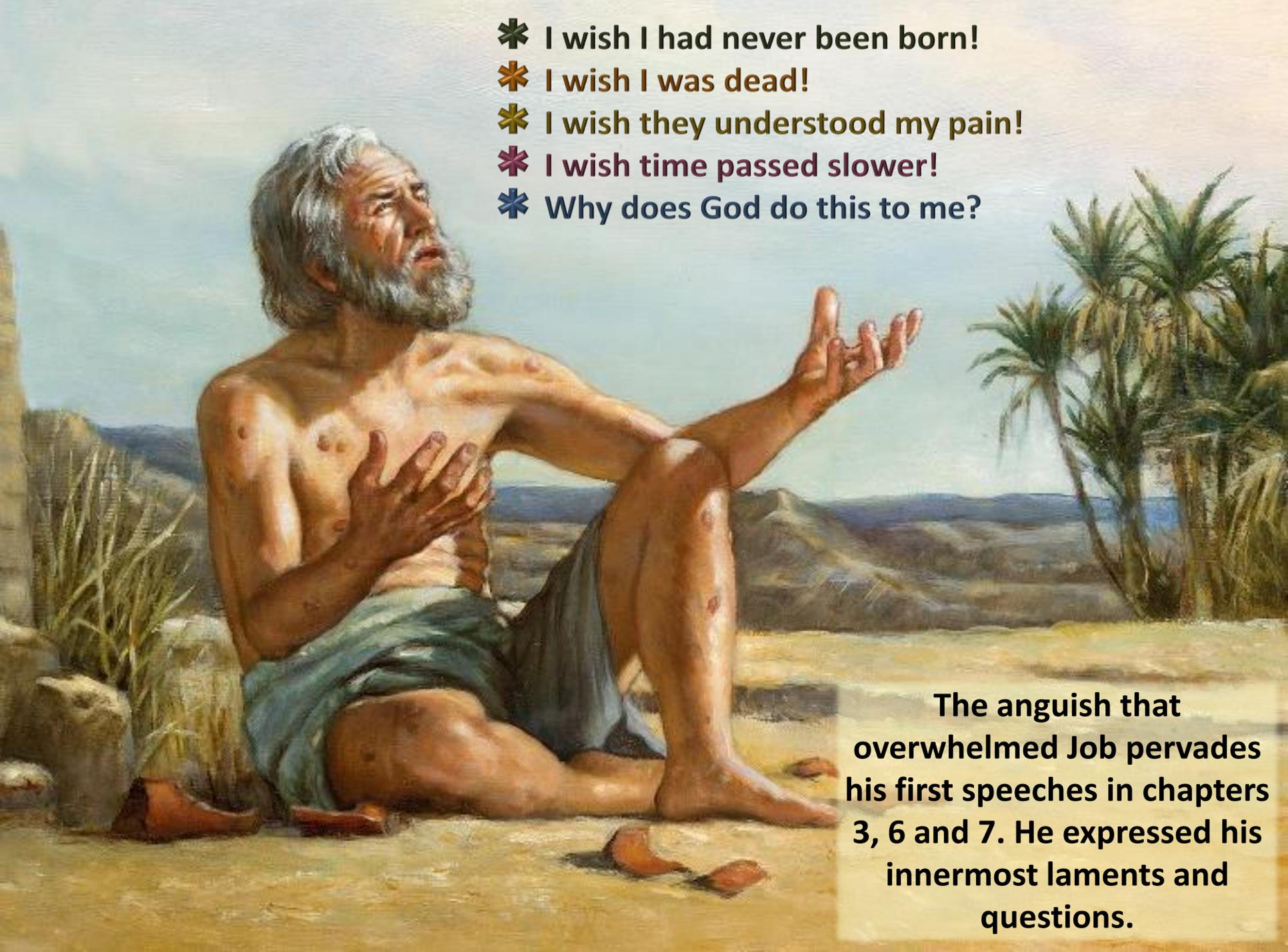


CURSE THE DAY



Lesson 5 for October 29, 2016

- 
- * I wish I had never been born!
 - * I wish I was dead!
 - * I wish they understood my pain!
 - * I wish time passed slower!
 - * Why does God do this to me?

The anguish that overwhelmed Job pervades his first speeches in chapters 3, 6 and 7. He expressed his innermost laments and questions.

I WISH I HAD NEVER BEEN BORN!

“May the day of my birth perish, and the night that said,
'A boy is conceived!'" (Job 3:3 NIV)

In next to no time, Job—a wealthy landowner with a great family—became a poor sick man without money or family. Just his wife and some quite friends remained next to him.

Job was thinking about his misfortune; he couldn't understand that tragedy. Did a life like that make any sense? Wouldn't have been better not to be born?

In moments of desperation, we may be tempted to desire not to have been born, like Job did. But no suffering is forever.

We must remember that we have a hope even during our worst moments. We know that things will get better.



I WISH I WAS DEAD!

“Why did I not perish at birth, and die as I came from the womb? [...] For now I would be lying down in peace; I would be asleep and at rest.” (Job 3:11, 13 NIV)



Job didn't want to end with his own life but to find rest. The quiet rest of death makes all people equal and frees them from all worries (Job 3:11-26).



What a surprise! Job wasn't talking about living a glorious life or an eternal torment after dying. He just talked about rest and nothing more. An unconscious dream without any thought, suffering or joy.

That squares with the rest of the Bible and Jesus' teachings about death. See Ecclesiastes 9:5 and John 11:11-14 as an example of what the Bible teaches about death.



I WISH THEY UNDERSTOOD MY PAIN!

"If only my anguish could be weighed and all my misery be placed on the scales! It would surely outweigh the sand of the seas—no wonder my words have been impetuous." (Job 6:2-3 NIV)

Nothing in this world was greater for Job than his anguish and pain.

That doesn't mean that someone might suffer more than Job, but that nobody could feel his pain like he did.



That works the same for each one of us. We cannot feel others' pain. Everyone feels his own pain.

That doesn't mean that we cannot help those who suffer just because we cannot fully understand his pain.

We can and we must sympathize with those who suffer and help them to relieve their pain as far as possible.

“To leave a suffering neighbor unrelieved is a breach of the law of God.... He who loves God will not only love his fellow men, but will regard with tender compassion the creatures which God has made. When the Spirit of God is in man it leads him to relieve rather than to create suffering... We are to care for every case of suffering, and to look upon ourselves as God’s agents to relieve the needy to the very uttermost of our ability.”

E.G.W. (Sons and Daughters of God, February 15)

I WISH TIME PASSED SLOWER!



"My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope." (Job 7:6)

It may seem contradictory that Job first complained about eternal nights of concern and long days of constant suffering (7:1-5), and now he's complaining about how fast time passes ("my life is a breath", 7:6-11).

When we face death, all the time we've lived seems too short, even if we are suffering now.

On the other hand, we want suffering to end when living moments of pain. If that suffering is serious (like Job's), our understanding becomes cloudy and we think that "my eyes will never see happiness again." (7:7)

How short the time we've lived—either good or bad—seems compared to the eternity to come!



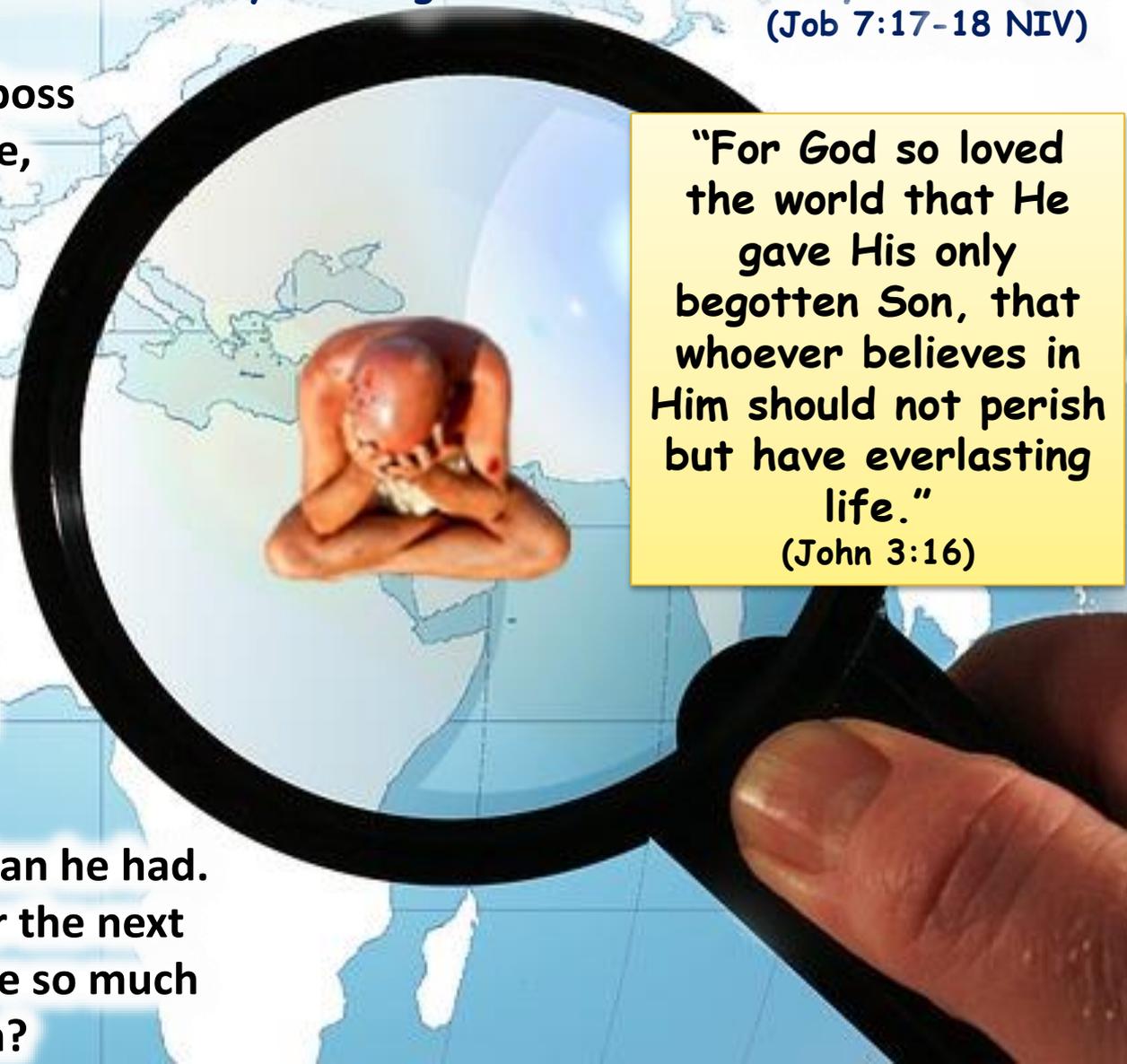
WHY DOES GOD DO THIS TO ME?

"What is mankind that you make so much of them, that you give them so much attention, that you examine them every morning and test them every moment?"
(Job 7:17-18 NIV)

How would you feel if your boss stood constantly by your side, looking at all you do and criticizing you?

Let's put on Job's shoes. He didn't know the cosmic magnitude of his test, so he thought his pain came from God. He thought, who am I that you are looking at me? Choose another person and leave me alone!

Today we have more light than he had. We must be ready to answer the next question; Why does God care so much about each man and woman?



**"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
(John 3:16)**

“God is love. He has a care for the creatures He has formed. ‘Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him.’ ‘Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.’ Psalm 103:13; 1 John 3:1.

What a precious privilege is this, that we may be sons and daughters of the Most High, heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. Then let us not mourn and grieve because in this life we are not free from disappointments and afflictions... Even in the night of affliction how can we refuse to lift heart and voice in grateful praise, when we remember the love to us expressed by the cross of Calvary?”