

When Life **HURTS**

THE STORY OF JOB

**Job's Gethsemane: Lament
(aka: Praying with a Limp)
Job 3:1-26**

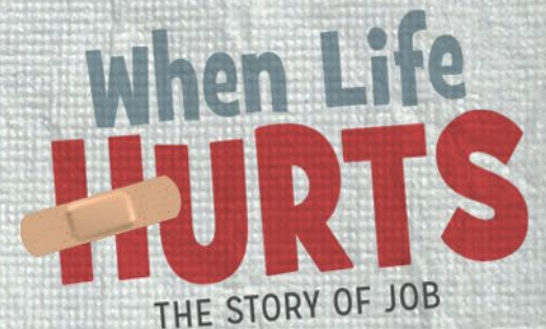


**Stanza #1: vs. 3-10:
Overturning Creation**

**Stanza #2: vs. 11-19:
Longing for Death**

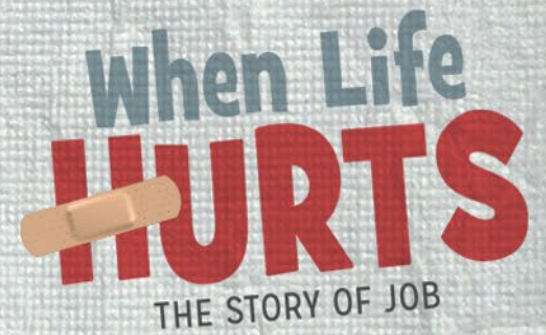
**Stanza #3: vs. 20-26:
Deploring Life**

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“The first step towards overcoming suffering is...to find a language that leads out of the uncomprehended suffering that makes one mute.”

-Dorothee Soelle



Job 3:1-5

After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. And Job said:

*“Let the day perish on which I was born,
and the night that said,*

‘A man is conceived.’

Let that day be darkness!

*May God above not seek it,
nor light shine upon it.*

Let gloom and deep darkness claim it.

Let clouds dwell upon it;

let the blackness of the day terrify it.

Job 3:6-10

That night—let thick darkness seize it!

Let it not rejoice among the days of the year;

let it not come into the number of the months.

Behold, let that night be barren;

let no joyful cry enter it.

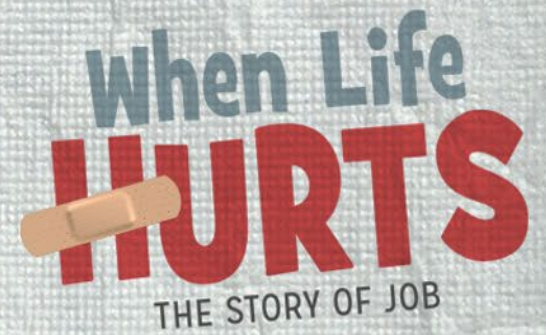
Let those curse it who curse the day,

who are ready to rouse up Leviathan.



*Let the stars of its dawn be dark;
let it hope for light, but have none,
nor see the eyelids of the morning,
because it did not shut the doors of my
mother's womb,
nor hide trouble from my eyes.*

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Nine Images of Darkness in Job 3:4-10

Vs. 4 - darkness

Vs. 4 - no light

Vs. 5 - deep darkness

Vs. 5 - Blackness of the day

Vs. 6 - night

Vs. 6 - thick darkness

Vs. 7 - night

Vs. 9 - dawn be dark

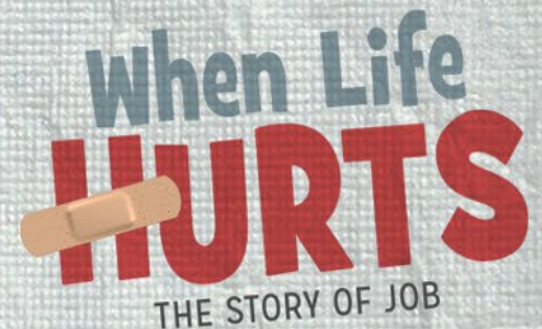
Vs. 9 - hope for light, but have none



“And so at last the sailor lays firm hold,
Upon the rock on which he had been
dashed.”

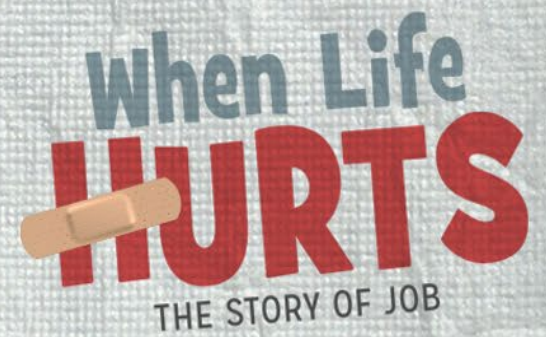
–Wolfgang Goethe

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**To suppress lament is to be
satisfied with hollow praise.**

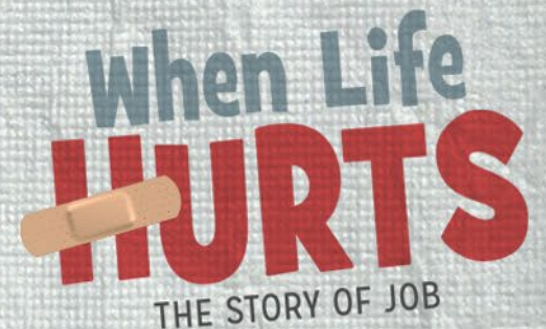
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“You do not have to sit outside in the dark.
If, however, you want to look at the stars,
You will find that darkness is required.”

–Ann Dillard

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Job 3:11-15

*“Why did I not die at birth,
come out from the womb and expire?*

Why did the knees receive me?

*Or why the breasts, that I should nurse?
For then I would have lain down and been
quiet;*

*I would have slept; then I would have
been at rest,
with kings and counselors of the earth
who rebuilt ruins for themselves,
or with princes who had gold,
who filled their houses with silver.*

Job 3:16-19

Or why was I not as a hidden stillborn child,

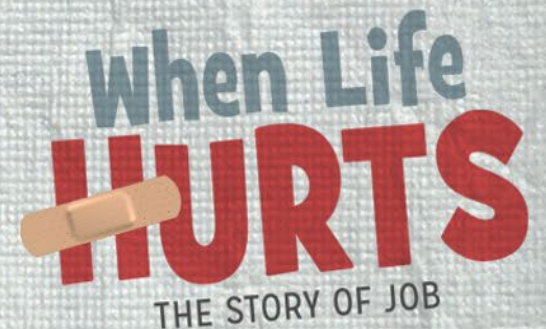
as infants who never see the light?

*There the wicked cease from troubling,
and there the weary are at rest.*

*There the prisoners are at ease together;
they hear not the voice of the
taskmaster.*

*The small and the great are there,
and the slave is free from his master.*

The prayer of lament holds your heart close to your sufferings that your heart may be broken open for the sufferings of others.



Job 3:20-26

*“Why is light given to him who is in misery,
and life to the bitter in soul,
who long for death, but it comes not,
and dig for it more than for hidden treasures,
who rejoice exceedingly
and are glad when they find the grave?”*

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Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden, whom God has hedged in?

For my sighing comes instead of my bread,

and my groanings are poured out like water.

For the thing that I fear comes upon me, and what I dread befalls me.

I am not at ease, nor am I quiet;

I have no rest, but trouble comes.”

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**You lament in order to enrich
your praise of God.**

**You lament in order to enrich
your praise of God.**

**You lament in order to open
your heart to the sufferings of
others.**

**You lament in order to enrich
your praise of God.**

**You lament in order to open
your heart to the sufferings of
others.**

**You lament because God is big
enough to hear your struggles.**

“If God were small enough to be understood, he wouldn’t be big enough to be worshipped.”

–Evelyn Underhill

