**Job 5-8** - May 14th

**5**“Call if you will, but who will answer you? To which of the holy ones will you turn?
**2**Resentment kills a fool, and envy slays the simple.
**3**I myself have seen a fool taking root, but suddenly his house was cursed.
**4**His children are far from safety,  crushed in court without a defender.
**5**The hungry consume his harvest, taking it even from among thorns, and the thirsty pant after his wealth.
**6**For hardship does not spring from the soil, nor does trouble sprout from the ground.
**7**Yet man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward.

**8**“But if I were you, I would appeal to God; I would lay my cause before him.
**9**He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted.
**10**He provides rain for the earth; he sends water on the countryside.
**11**The lowly he sets on high, and those who mourn are lifted to safety.
**12**He thwarts the plans of the crafty, so that their hands achieve no success.
**13**He catches the wise in their craftiness, and the schemes of the wily are swept away.
**14**Darkness comes upon them in the daytime; at noon they grope as in the night.
**15**He saves the needy from the sword in their mouth; he saves them from the clutches of the powerful.
**16**So the poor have hope, and injustice shuts its mouth.

**17**“Blessed is the one whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. **18**For HE wounds, but HE also binds up; HE injures, but HIS hands also heal.

**19From six calamities HE will rescue you;  in seven no harm will touch you.**

 **20**In famine he will deliver you from death, and in battle from the stroke of the sword.
**21**You will be protected from the lash of the tongue, and need not fear when destruction comes.
**22**You will laugh at destruction and famine, and need not fear the wild animals.
**23**For you will have a covenant with the stones of the field, and the wild animals will be at peace with you. **24**You will know that your tent is secure; you will take stock of your property and find nothing missing.
**25**You will know that your children will be many, and your descendants like the grass of the earth. **26**You will come to the grave in full vigor, like sheaves gathered in season.

**27**“We have examined this, and it is true. So hear it and apply it to yourself.”

Job

**6**Then Job replied: **2**“If only my anguish could be weighed and all my misery be placed on the scales! **3**It would surely outweigh the sand of the seas -  no wonder my words have been impetuous.
**4**The arrows of the Almighty are in me, my spirit drinks in their poison; God’s terrors are marshaled against me. **5**Does a wild donkey bray when it has grass, or an ox bellow when it has fodder? **6**Is tasteless food eaten without salt, or is there flavor in the sap of the mallow? **7**I refuse to touch it; such food makes me ill.

**8**“Oh, that I might have my request, that God would grant what I hope for,
**9**that God would be willing to crush me, to let loose his hand and cut off my life!
**10**Then I would still have this consolation - my joy in unrelenting pain - that I had not denied the words of the Holy One.

**11**“What strength do I have, that I should still hope? What prospects, that I should be patient? **12**Do I have the strength of stone? Is my flesh bronze? **13**Do I have any power to help myself, now that success has been driven from me?

**14**“Anyone who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty.
**15**But my brothers are as undependable as intermittent streams, as the streams that overflow **16**when darkened by thawing ice  and swollen with melting snow,
**17**but that stop flowing in the dry season, and in the heat vanish from their channels.
**18**Caravans turn aside from their routes; they go off into the wasteland and perish.
**19**The caravans of Tema look for water, the traveling merchants of Sheba look in hope.
**20**They are distressed, because they had been confident; they arrive there, only to be disappointed.
**21**Now you too have proved to be of no help; you see something dreadful and are afraid. **22**Have I ever said, ‘Give something on my behalf, pay a ransom for me from your wealth, **23**deliver me from the hand of the enemy, rescue me from the clutches of the ruthless’?

**24**“Teach me, and I will be quiet; show me where I have been wrong. **25**How painful are honest words! But what do your arguments prove?
**26**Do you mean to correct what I say, and treat my desperate words as wind?
**27**You would even cast lots for the fatherless  and barter away your friend.

**28**“But now be so kind as to look at me. Would I lie to your face?
**29**Relent, do not be unjust; reconsider, for my integrity is at stake.
**30**Is there any wickedness on my lips? Can my mouth not discern malice?

**7**“Do not mortals have hard service on earth? Are not their days like those of hired laborers? **2**Like a slave longing for the evening shadows, or a hired laborer waiting to be paid, **3**so I have been allotted months of futility, and nights of misery have been assigned to me.
**4**When I lie down I think, ‘How long before I get up?’ The night drags on, and I toss and turn until dawn. **5**My body is clothed with worms and scabs, my skin is broken and festering.

**6**“My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle, and they come to an end without hope.
**7**Remember, O God, that my life is but a breath; my eyes will never see happiness again. **8**The eye that now sees me will see me no longer;
    you will look for me, but I will be no more. As a cloud vanishes and is gone,
    so one who goes down to the grave does not return. **10**He will never come to his house again; his place will know him no more.

**11**“Therefore I will not keep silent; I will speak out in the anguish of my spirit,
    I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.

**12**Am I the sea, or the monster of the deep, that you put me under guard?
**13**When I think my bed will comfort me and my couch will ease my complaint,
**14**even then you frighten me with dreams and terrify me with visions,
**15**so that I prefer strangling and death, rather than this body of mine.
**16**I despise my life; I would not live forever. Let me alone; my days have no meaning.

**17**“What is mankind that you make so much of them, that you give them so much attention, **18**that you examine them every morning and test them every moment?
**19**Will you never look away from me, or let me alone even for an instant?
**20**If I have sinned, what have I done to you,
    you who see everything we do?
Why have you made me your target?
    Have I become a burden to you?
**21**Why do you not pardon my offenses
    and forgive my sins?
For I will soon lie down in the dust;
    you will search for me, but I will be no more.”

Bildad

**8**Then Bildad the Shuhite replied:

**2**“How long will you say such things? Your words are a blustering wind.
**3**Does God pervert justice?  Does the Almighty pervert what is right?
**4**When your children sinned against him,
    he gave them over to the penalty of their sin.
**5**But if you will seek God earnestly and plead with the Almighty,
**6**if you are pure and upright, even now he will rouse himself on your behalf
    and restore you to your prosperous state.
**7**Your beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will your future be.

**8**“Ask the former generation and find out what their ancestors learned,
**9**for we were born only yesterday and know nothing,
    and our days on earth are but a shadow.
**10**Will they not instruct you and tell you?
    Will they not bring forth words from their understanding?
**11**Can papyrus grow tall where there is no marsh?
    Can reeds thrive without water?
**12**While still growing and uncut,
    they wither more quickly than grass.
**13**Such is the destiny of all who forget God; so perishes the hope of the godless.
**14**What they trust in is fragile; what they rely on is a spider’s web.
**15**They lean on the web, but it gives way; they cling to it, but it does not hold.
**16**They are like a well-watered plant in the sunshine, spreading its shoots over the garden;
**17**it entwines its roots around a pile of rocks and looks for a place among the stones.
**18**But when it is torn from its spot, that place disowns it and says, ‘I never saw you.’
**19**Surely its life withers away, and from the soil other plants grow.

**20**“Surely God does not reject one who is blameless or strengthen the hands of evildoers.
**21**He will yet fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy.
**22**Your enemies will be clothed in shame, and the tents of the wicked will be no more.”