

Job's Defiance: Learning When to Speak to Others

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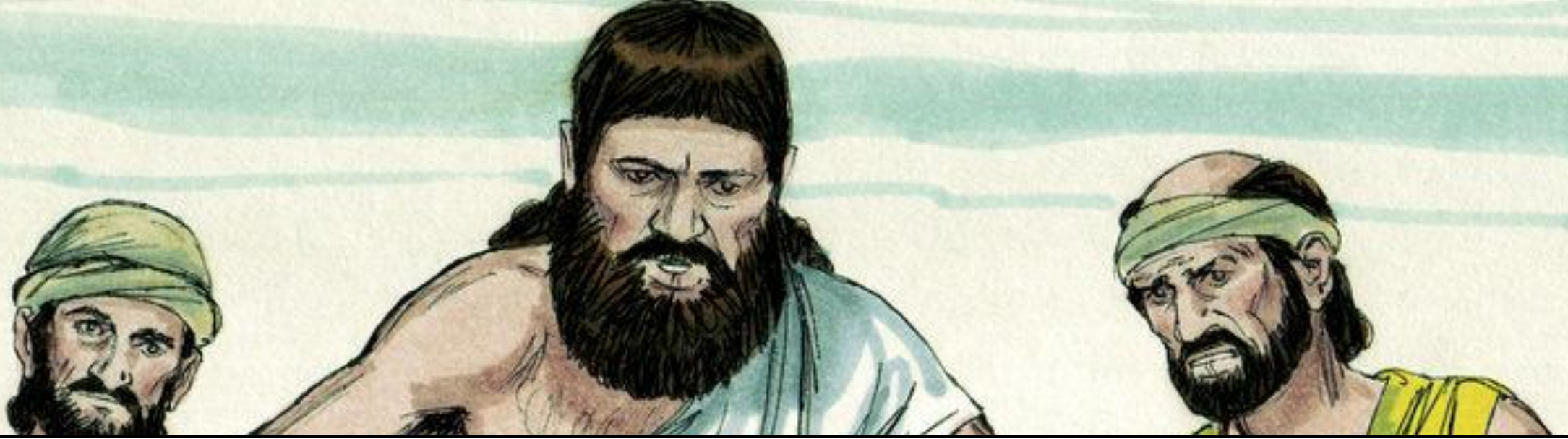


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The retribution system of Job's friends maintains that people *always* experience the consequences of their actions



Job Loses his Riches

15:27–29;
20:10, 15–18

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He will not be rich, and his wealth
will not endure, nor will his
possessions spread over the
earth. Job 15:29



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**Job has no
descendants
(15:32b–33, 34a;
18:16–17, 19).**



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He has no posterity or progeny
among his people,
and no survivor where he used
to live. Job 18:19



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Job is dying a
terrible death
(20:6–8, 16, 23, 26,
28).



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He will suck the poison of cobras;
the tongue of a viper will kill
him. Job 20:16



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May the day in which I was
born be damned,
and the night that said, “A
man has been conceived”
(Job 3:3).

May that day be darkness.
May God not seek it from above
and may light not shine upon it.

May darkness and deep gloom desecrate it.

May a cloud dwell on it.

May deep darkness of the day terrify it.

That night—may darkness take it.
May it not rejoice among the days of the year.
Into the number of the months, may it not
come (Job 3:4-6; cf., v. 9).

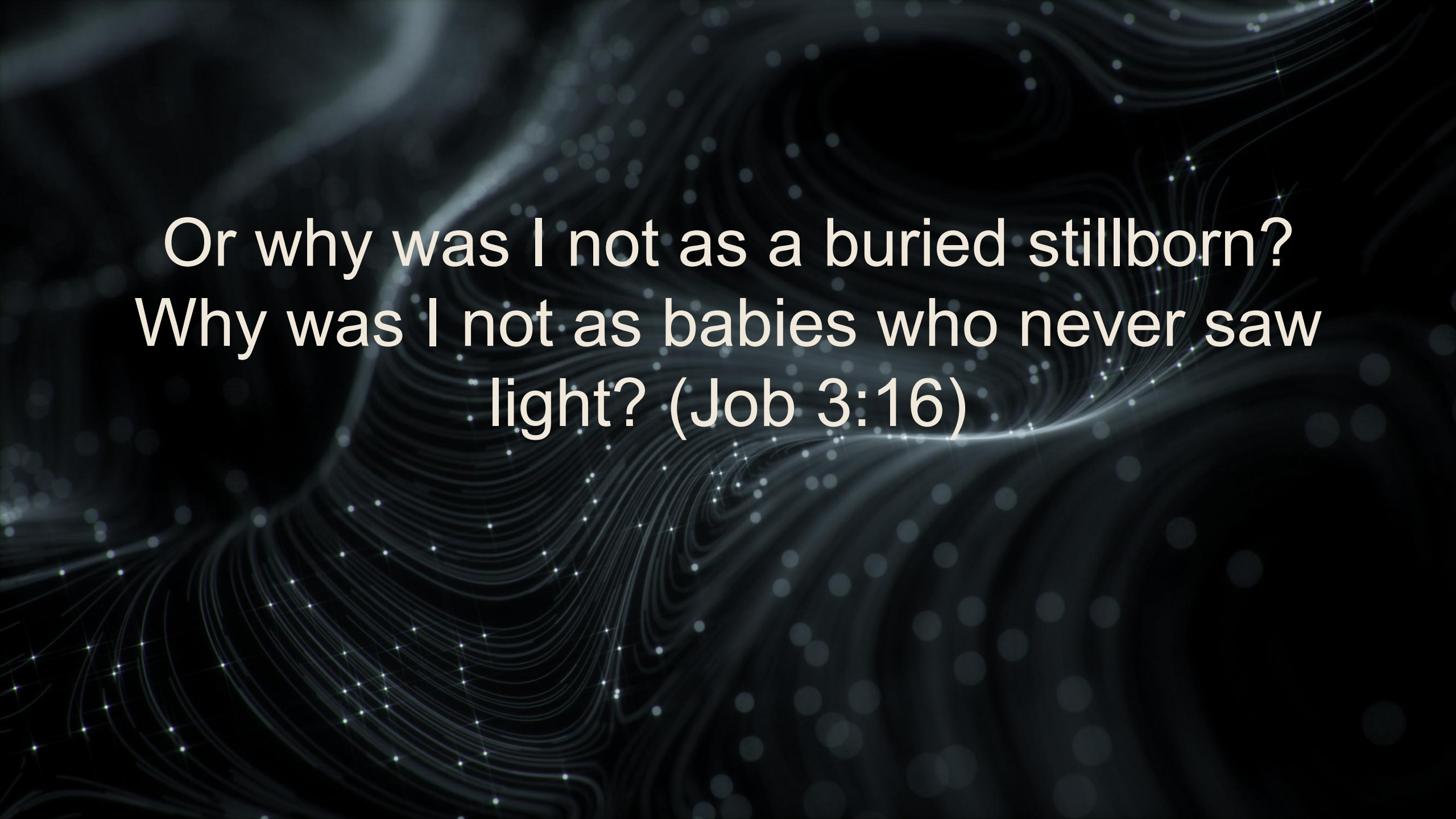


NON-EXISTENCE IS DARKNESS

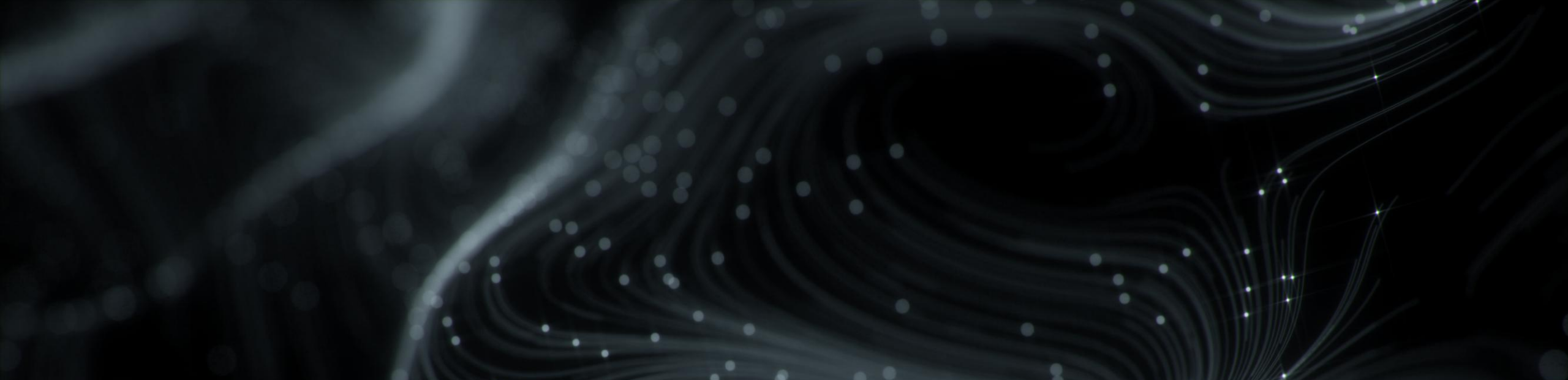
Then, by inference:

EXISTENCE IS LIGHT





Or why was I not as a buried stillborn?
Why was I not as babies who never saw
light? (Job 3:16)

The top half of the image features an abstract, dark background with glowing, wavy lines and numerous small, bright particles, creating a sense of depth and movement.

Why does he give light to the sufferer,
and life to the bitter of soul,
those who wait for death, but it is
nonexistent;
and those who dig for it more than hidden
treasures ... ? (Job 3:20–21).



DEATH IS DARKNESS



LIFE IS LIGHT



He [i.e., the wicked person] does not believe in his return from darkness, and he is spied out for a sword.

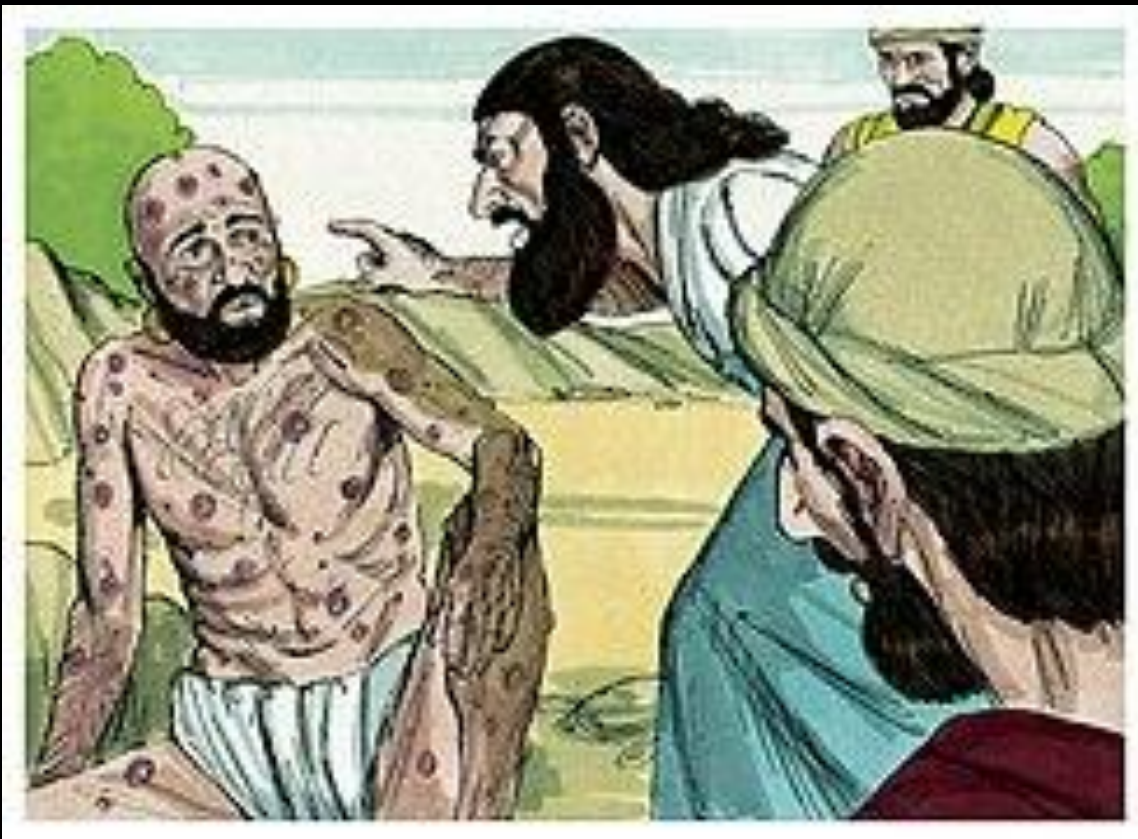
He wanders for bread—
“Where is it?”

He knows that the day of darkness is established in his hand.



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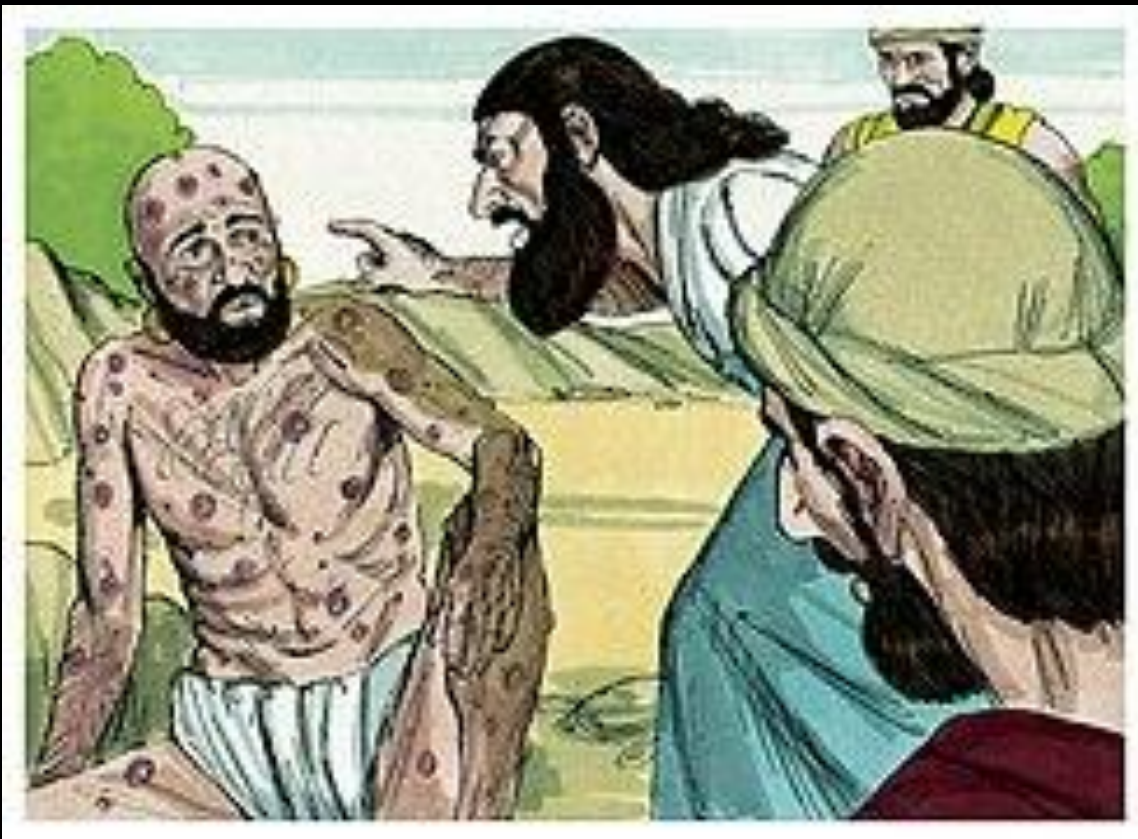
He will not depart from darkness.

A flame will dry up his branch.

He will depart by the breath of his [i.e., God's] mouth (Job 15:22–23, 30).



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As I have seen, those who
plow iniquity,
and those who sow mischief,
will reap it.
From the breath of God they
will perish
and from the breath of his
nose they will be consumed.

Job 4:8-9



If I hope for Sheol, my home, in the darkness I spread out my bed. I have called to the pit, 'You are my father' and to the worm, 'My mother,' and 'My sister.' And where, where is my hope?

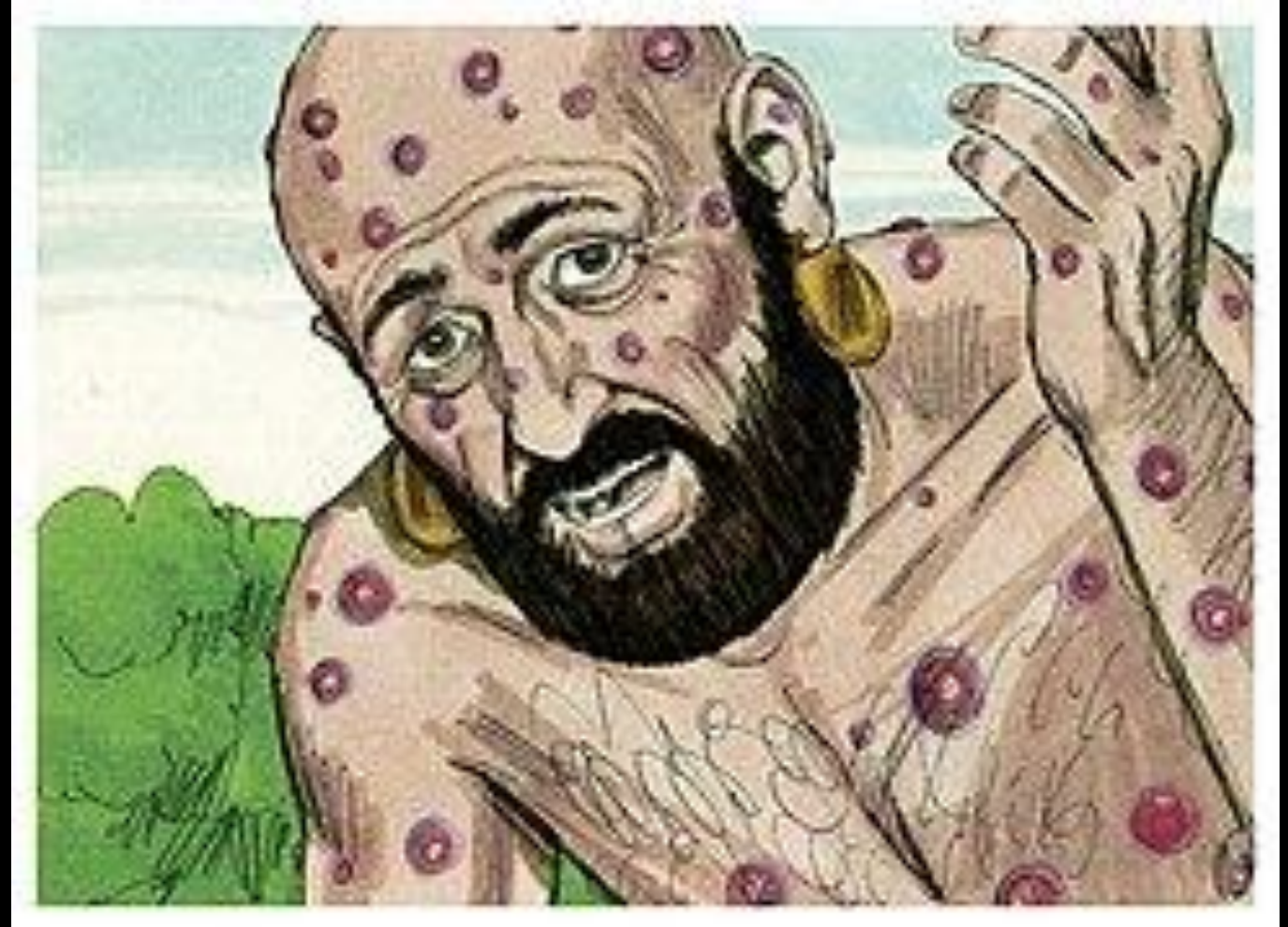


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And my hope, who will
see it? It will go down
to the bars of Sheol;
together on the dust of
rest. Job 17:13-16



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“Yes, the light of the wicked will wane.
The flame of his fire will not gleam.
Light will darken in his tent,
and his lamp will wane on him.”

Bildad in Job 18:5-6



What is the point of Bildad's reference to the lamp in Job 18 and how should this be understood within the context of references to the lamp in Prov 13:9; 20:20; 24:20?



“He [i.e., the wicked person] will be
driven from light into darkness,
and from the world he will be
banished.”



Bildad in Job 18:18

The light of the righteous rejoices,
but the **lamp** of the wicked will be put
out.

Proverbs 13:9



If one curses his father or his mother,
his lamp will be put out in utter
darkness.

Proverbs 20:20



For the evil man has no future;
the lamp of the wicked will be put out.

Proverbs 24:20



cf., Exod. 21:17; Lev. 20:9; Deut. 27:16

How often does the lamp of the wicked
wane,
and their calamity comes on them?
How often does God distribute pains in his
anger?



Job 21:17

The Wicked Prosper!!!


Job's Friends

- No descendants (15:32b–33, 34a; 18:16–17, 19).
- No financial prosperity (15:27–29; 20:10, 15–18).
- Die horrible deaths (20:6–8, 16, 23, 26, 28).

Job's Response

- Plenty of joyous children (21:8–9, 11–12).
- Zoological plenty (21:10).
- Live long and productive lives (21:7; 13a, 32–33).



A classical painting of Job, a bearded man looking upwards in a state of suffering or prayer. The man has a long, flowing white beard and is shirtless, showing his muscular torso. He is looking upwards with a pained expression. The background is dark and indistinct.

1. Be sensitive and be patient - This is not the time for a theology lecture.

Kynes & Kynes, *Wrestling with Job: Defiant Faith in the Face of Suffering*.



2. Be humble—don't
presume to know more
than you do

3. Be practical. Those who suffer often need practical help when tragedy strikes



4. Be prayerful. Long to connect people who suffer with the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort...
(2 Cor 1:3, 4).

