

- א הלא-צבא לאנוש על- (עלי-) ארץ; וכימי שכיר ימיו. **1** Is there not a time of service to man upon earth? And are not his days like the days of a hireling?
- ב כעבד ישאף-צל; וכשכיר, יקנה פעלו. **2** As a servant that eagerly longeth for the shadow, and as a hireling that looketh for his wages;
- ג כן הנםלתי לי, נרחי-שוא; ולילות עמל, מנו-לי. **3** So am I made to possess-- months of vanity, and wearisome nights are appointed to me.
- ד אם-שכבתי-- ואמרתי, מתי אקום ומדד-ערב; ושבעתי נדדים עדי-נשא. **4** When I lie down, I say: 'When shall I arise?' But the night is long, {N} and I am full of tossings to and fro unto the dawning of the day.
- ה לבש בשרי רמה, וגיש (גוש) עפר; עורי רגע, וימאס. **5** My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of dust; my skin closeth up and breaketh out afresh.
- ו ימי קלו, מני-ארג; ויכלו, באפס תקוה. **6** My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope.
- ז זכר, כי-רוח חיי; לא-תשוב עיני, לראות טוב. **7** O remember that my life is a breath; mine eye shall no more see good.

Listen. Just listen. <http://www.torahclass.com/audio-bible-in-hebrew> "Here are complete and accurate Hebrew voice recordings of every Old Testament book. They are not chanted with a melody (as in a formal synagogue service) but instead are clearly pronounced in Sephardic-style modern Hebrew so that by hearing, you may learn how to properly vocalize the words." As you listen to the Hebrew, in your group, note *three* of any of the following ten items: 1. Chiasm 2. Parallelism in sound and meaning 3. Heightened speech 4. An appeal to the emotions 5. Repetition for emphasis 6. Rhythmic pattern or meter 7. Structure that adds to the meaning 8. Alliteration 9. Puns 10. Wordplays. Summarize your findings. Note their significance. Report to the group. Choose as reporter the participant who most recently became a father. ("Job" may mean "where is my father?")

Living Bible Enthusiasts. You've always wanted the opportunity to paraphrase. Why wait till later? Do it now. In your group, look over Job 7:1-7. Use the Hebrew and the English to create your own paraphrase that has rhythm and meter. E.g. Verse one in NIV reads, "Does not man have hard service on earth? Are not his days like those of a hired man?" Your new version could read: "Life is hard/life is rough. Life on earth/Days are tough. Does it pay?/I've had enough." When you have composed your masterpiece of literary excellence, have a public reading of your poem. Choose as the reader from your group the participant who most resembles Robin Williams in the Dead Poets' Society (1989 movie).

Who is Job? Do we have two characters named Job or only one? Do we have the saintly Job, the patient man who accepts tragedy and suffering without complaint? Do we have a second Job, the complaining Job who questions God, confronts his friends, and curses the day of his birth? Does one Job have characteristics of saintliness and saltiness or did the writer of the book describe two different characters who have opposing views? Use the verses of Job 7:1-7 to debate the point. The side of your table towards the front of the room takes the view of one Job. The side of your table towards the back of the room takes the view of two Jobs. Allow each side some time to develop arguments. Then hold a debate contending for one view or the other. Rules of the debate will follow the general principles of World Wrestling Federation (WWF) and participants may take the names of The Undertaker, Dwayne Johnson, Triple H, Hulk Hogan or Da Crusher (for those who grew up in Milwaukee). Wrap it up with insights the debate gave you in understanding the character of Job. Choose as the communicator of your insights the participant who most recently watched a performance of professional wrestling.

Months of futility. Nights of misery. Can't stay up but can't sleep. Tossing and turning till dawn. Feeling cursed. Not seeing the blessings. Lamenting your hard service. Envy the easy life of others. Just trying to get through it all until you can give up. Sounds like the perfect description of the WELS pastor's life. Can you relate? Look over the Hebrew of Job 7:1-4. Allow each person in the group to

discover one aspect of the Hebrew text that connects closely to your own experience in the ministry. Tell your story. Share your struggles and the triumph Jesus has given you to persevere. Compose a brief prayer of thanksgiving to God for allowing you to bear your cross and see it through. Spin a pen around the table. Where it stops, have that person read his prayer to the larger group.

You experience your own struggles. You also counsel others in their struggles. Imagine that Job belongs to your congregation. He requested to meet with you, tells the story of his great tragedy, then pours out his complaint in the words we've studied today: Job 7:1-7. You listen patiently. You let him vent. You don't judge him. Your eyes show your concern for him. It especially concerns you that he says, "My days come to an end without hope." And: "My eyes will never see happiness again." You wonder if he has suicidal tendencies. You want to help. When he stops talking, you have a chance to say something. For each verse of this account, find a corresponding word of Jesus that will give Christian hope to Job. For the seven verses you should have seven statements from Jesus. To help suffering Job go home with some hope, give him a one-word summary of each statement from Jesus. That way he can memorize seven words that will remind him of seven statements giving him the comfort of his Redeemer. Choose for the reporter from your group the participant whose current age is divisible by seven.