

# Sisters for Yah

## Job's "Comforters"

The book of Job is an interesting study. In the first two chapters, we learn about the great calamities that came upon Job, and we heard him responding with beautiful confessions of the sovereignty of Yahweh. At the end of chapter two, Job's three friends come to "comfort" him. They sit in silence with him for seven days. At the end of the seven days, Job speaks. Here is where things take a turn for the worse. Job is so distraught (understandably) that he curses the day he was born and wishes he had died as an infant. He wonders why Yahweh wants him to continue living when his life is so miserable. If we were honest, many of us can relate! Job is in a dark pit of depression and sees no light at the end of the tunnel.

In response to Job's words, his three friends (Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar) begin a lengthy discussion that goes on for 29 long chapters. Very quickly, we see that with friends like that, who needs enemies? Each of the three speaks in turn. All of us have friends, like Job, who are hurting. Perhaps we are hurting too. One may have physical/health problems, another has psychological problems such as depression or anxiety, another may suffer severe marriage problems or have wayward children, or the inability to secure regular employment. How are we going to help these hurting friends? Or how can we avoid hurting them more?

We can learn a lot from Job's friends. Friendship can be a wonderful thing. Having friends during difficult times is very important. They can counsel us, or offer helpful advice. But Job's friends failed. In Job 16:2, Job declares, "Miserable comforters are ye all!" He basically tells them that nothing they say is new, and he is weary of their pointless speeches.

So what did these friends say to make Job negatively respond? Eliphaz speaks first. Many scholars think Eliphaz was probably Job's oldest friend. Eliphaz appeals to his experience as an older man. Over and over he says, "I have seen." Eliphaz seems to come to the conclusion that Job must be wicked; that Yahweh is punishing him for something. He even appears to say that Job was stingy, not wanting to give food and water to poor people and widows. Now Bildad joins the chorus.



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Bildad's assertion is that Yahweh is a just Elohim and that Yahweh does not pervert judgement. He believes that Yahweh would not allow calamity to come upon a righteous individual.

Zophar is Job's harshest friend. He doesn't bother arguing from experience or history, but simply makes assumptions. His main assumption is that Job is a sinner and must repent, so that things can improve in his life. What terrible friends Job had! We already know from earlier chapters that Yahweh Himself viewed Job as an upright man. We know exactly why Yahweh brought these trials upon him. Job's suffering happened because Satan wanted to harm Job to prove to Yahweh that the only reason Job worshiped Him was because of the blessings that Yahweh gave Job.

It makes us wonder, why did Yahweh allow these cruel friends to taunt an already-suffering man? Perhaps Satan compelled these men to further persecute Job and add to his suffering. It's true that sometimes Yahweh will allow people into our lives who are constant critics. They can become a thorn in the flesh, whose words are never encouraging. They may be put there in our lives to teach us patience. One thing we can be sure of is that Yahweh was not happy with the words of Job's friends.

The truth is that Job's friends probably had good intentions. We read in chapter 2:11 that they came to mourn with and comfort Job. That's a good thing. But many people, us included, don't realize how our "comfort" can actually hurt someone and make things worse. When we comfort others,



it's important to have sympathy. It's obvious that Job's friends had no sympathy. It's also important to console suffering people and cheer them up. We need to provide strength and hope. What exactly does it mean to sympathize? To be sympathetic means to feel with another person what they are feeling; it is to enter their situation and to look at the world and their experiences through their eyes. This can be challenging, since many trials are unique to the individual. What may bother one person may not have any effect on another.

Another way that Job's friends failed is by jumping to conclusions. Instead of seeking to understand, they bring accusations with no compassion. They should have instead showed pity not cruelty. Even worse, they thought they knew Yahweh and could

explain His behavior. Yahweh's wrath was kindled against them because they did not speak what was right. Job's friends had a lopsided view of Yahweh. They understood His greatness, but they didn't see His love and tenderness. It was obvious that Job's friends didn't see the whole picture. They had no idea that Satan had instigated the entire situation.

#### **In summary:**

1. It's wonderful to be a comforter to others. A thoughtful text, email, phone call, greeting card, or a visit is great.
2. Never jump to conclusions about why a person is suffering. They may not be sinning. It might be a test from Yahweh.
3. Pray for the person. And pray that your view of Yahweh is right and balanced. Also, ask for discernment.
4. Do not equate grace with things or circumstances. Ultimately only Yahweh knows the big picture. Most of all, we must trust His plan in all circumstances!

## Sanctification

To live in Yahweh's holiness you must be clean within  
 It is only through Yahshua the process does begin  
 But once your house is clean from sin, it must be sanctified,  
 a process done by Yahweh's Word, His truth must be your guide  
 It is this sanctification, a life-long work within  
 The evidence of salvation that one is free from sin  
 There must be Holy fruit you bear or else you'll be cut off  
 If grafted in the olive tree there is no place to scoff

### His Workmanship

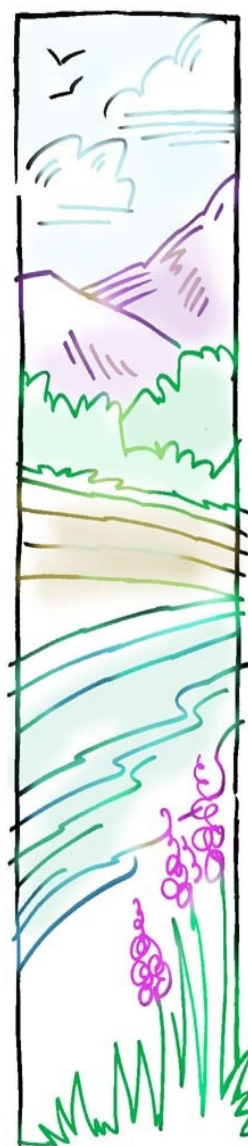
"For we are His workmanship, created in Messiah  
 Yahshua unto good works, which Yahweh has or-  
 dained that we should walk in them"

— Ephesians 2:10

- \*Romans 6:10-12
- \*1 Corinthians 6:9-11
- \*John 17:17
- \*Psalms 119:142
- \*James 1:22-27
- \*John 15:1-6
- \*Romans 11:16-18

### All Things

Giving thanks for every thing both blessing and the curse  
 The feasting and the famine, the forward and reverse  
 Not knowing why, the reason for things the way they are  
 Thank Yahweh for His wisdom for making things bizarre  
 For all things have their purpose, the light and darkness too  
 When Joseph went to Egypt, he had a job to do  
 So look to Yah for guidance, no matter where you're at  
 And give Him thanks for all things, the eagle and the gnat



*We know  
 that all  
 things work  
 together  
 for good for  
 those who  
 love Yah...*

*Romans 8:28*



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## Carrot Cake Smoothie

- 1 cup chopped steamed carrots
- 1/2 cup frozen sliced banana
- 1/2 cup plain yogurt
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/4 chopped pineapple
- 2 T. chopped walnuts
- 1/4 t. Cinnamon
- Pinch nutmeg

Blend until smooth!



## End Of Summer Soup

The mornings are getting cooler here in the Midwest, so it's time to put away our summer recipes. Try this nourishing healthy soup! It makes a large quantity, but it freezes well, so you can divide the soup up into individual freezer containers for when you need a quick meal. Just thaw the amount you need.

- 2 T. olive oil
- 7 medium carrots, chopped
- 7 celery ribs, chopped
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3 medium zucchini, chopped
- 2 yellow summer squash, chopped
- 2 bay leaves
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/4 t. pepper
- 1/4 t. dried thyme leaves
- 1/4 t. dried sage leaves
- 1/8 t. crushed red pepper flakes
- 3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 2 cans white beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (15 oz.) crushed tomatoes
- 2 cartons (32 oz. each) chicken broth
- 1 cup uncooked small pasta (such as shells or rotini)
- 12 cups roughly chopped fresh spinach



In a large stock pot, heat oil over medium heat. Cook all the veggies and seasonings about 6 minutes until slightly soft and aromatic. Stir in the beans and tomatoes. Follow with the chicken broth. Simmer about 12 minutes. Add the pasta and simmer an additional 9 minutes, or until the pasta is cooked. Discard the bay leaves. Add the spinach and cook just until wilted. This soup is wonderful with crackers or crusty bread and butter!