

Verse 1

Job 1:21

""Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.""

I was listening to broadcasts describing the book of Job one chapter at a time. Of course, I had heard it before. Over time I have read them before. Yet, this time it hit me. This is good writing. There is so much in-between the lines. What stood out was the incredible statements. I decided to highlight one verse per chapter. In some cases, I wanted to highlight more than that. Many verses in the Bible become famous for good reasons. Yet, here in Job, they are not the most famous verses. They are however, amazing statements like the one above.

I know that we all say statements. In this modern era, we would never talk like the book of Job. Yet, there is something profound in the above verse. Naked I came into this world and naked I will depart. It's true we come to life with nothing. We leave with nothing too. There was a story of a billionaire dying. One sibling asked how much did he leave. The lawyer said *all of it*. People make a living on earth. You don't make a living once your gone. Why? You're not living.

Secondly, I'd like to acknowledge the writer saying the Lord gives and takes away. There are so many who discount that. Yet, there is an important message within those words. If I am just born then who cares. Many are born. We all die. But, if life is given then it's different. What would you do if your life was a gift? If it meant something to someone? This book is based on an

argument and question. Why are we here? Are we just dust? Are we just alive for a time? The writer does not share that assumption.

This is cool. The above statement is a lament. Job is frustrated with the calamity that befalls him. He is groaning, wailing, and angry. He wonders if his life was useless. Yet, he says praise the Lord. That seems odd. How can we be in distress? Maybe even humbled by God. Yet, we praise him? The message is that some people hang the good and bad on God. It's God's world, earth, and universe. Other people say things just happen either good or bad. Why is Job frustrated? I think he felt his life was worth something. Yet, we have been given a life to live. Dwelling on good and bad is not living. God's sees life differently than we do.

Finally, I just want to say that this verse is fun. It's obvious. I suppose it means nothing. Yes, we arrive and depart naked. We can't take it with us, but we do leave plenty behind. All the failures, successes, and relationships are gathered up at our funeral. Who wants what? That is a daunting thing. We went through my mothers' stuff. Plenty of her things went into the trash. I hated that. It was her life. yet, within all her stuff was my memories. My relationship with her. Not everything returned to dust. Reflecting on this verse is important to the living.