

Job

Ten cool verses

Verse 7

Job 17:13-15

“If I look for Sheol as my house, if I spread my couch in darkness, 14 if I say to the Pit, ‘You are my father,’ and to the worm, ‘My mother,’ or ‘My sister,’ 15 where then is my hope? Who will see my hope?”

This is a doozy. Sheol is everything to the believer of God. No matter what part of the Bible, Sheol is a judgment place. Possibly a waiting place. I have read that it could be empty. Many give it a tomb or grave description. It can be described as a place of *the asking*. That fits so well with the book of Job. They are asking so many questions. Is Job to blame? Where is God? Is Job a good man? It’s like we are in Sheol in this book.

They believed it. The place of *the asking* was real to them. I will not quote other parts of the Bible because there are too many. In the New Testament Sheol is called Hades. Even Jesus mentions it. To me that is proof it’s real and not just a tradition. What is it really? We just don’t have enough data. Yet, the words surrounding it give us clues. They believed it.

This whole book is so metaphorical. That’s why I think this conversation takes place in Sheol to some degree. Is it where Job lives now? Possibly he just believes life is hell now. A place of darkness like a grave. He has lost everything. All of them are asking if Job belongs there. People talk of a place called purgatory. A place of waiting. Maybe it’s a place, but I would fear Sheol more. Is it judgment? Is it the grave? I fear it’s a place of unknown answers.

There is another concept of being held in the bosom of the Lord. I know it sounds weird. Yet, here it is being played out. Being held in the Pit. Is that in his father's bosom or care? I believe that it relates to being in God's care or judgment. Is his Mother representing a womb? He wondered in earlier chapters about being born into this calamity. The grave? A place where the worms are. All the commentaries are confused about these verses. Except they all believe Job is in torment.

Finally, we have a view on hope. In Sheol, is there no hope? If he is in a dark place. A deserted place. A lost place. A place where no one can hear him, find him, or see him. Is Job eternally lost? He is wondering while asking questions. Where is his hope found? Who will see his hope? I believe his faith is faltering to some degree. Has God abandoned him? If, you're really in Sheol, then where is your hope? I think they all feared this place. In Luke 16 Jesus tells an ominous story of separation from God. A place we can't get out of. Maybe the confrontation of death has more meaning.