





¹At last Job spoke, and he cursed the day of his birth.





³"Let the day of my birth be erased, and the night I was conceived.



⁴Let that day be turned to darkness. Let it be lost even to God on high, and let no light shine on it.



⁵Let the darkness and utter gloom claim that day for its own.

Let a black cloud overshadow it, and let the darkness terrify it.



⁶Let that night be blotted off the calendar, never again to be counted among the days of the year, never again to appear among the months.





⁸Let those who are experts at cursing—whose cursing could rouse Leviathan—curse that day.

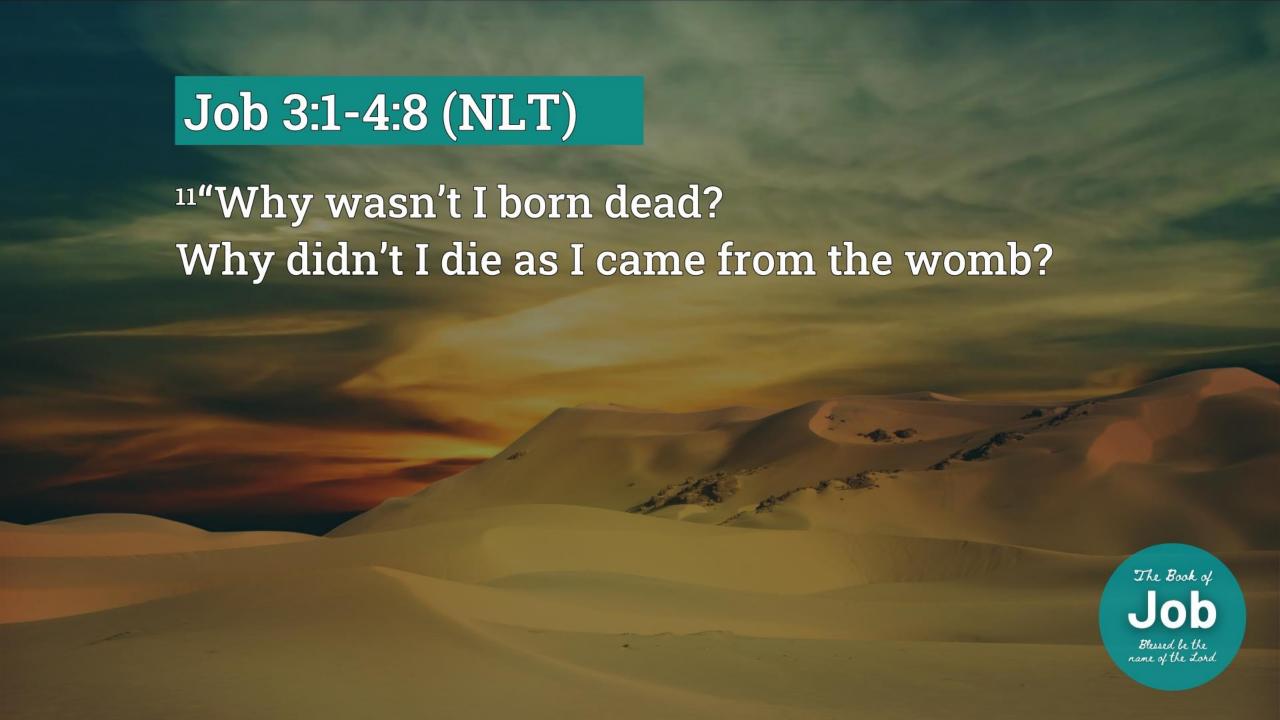


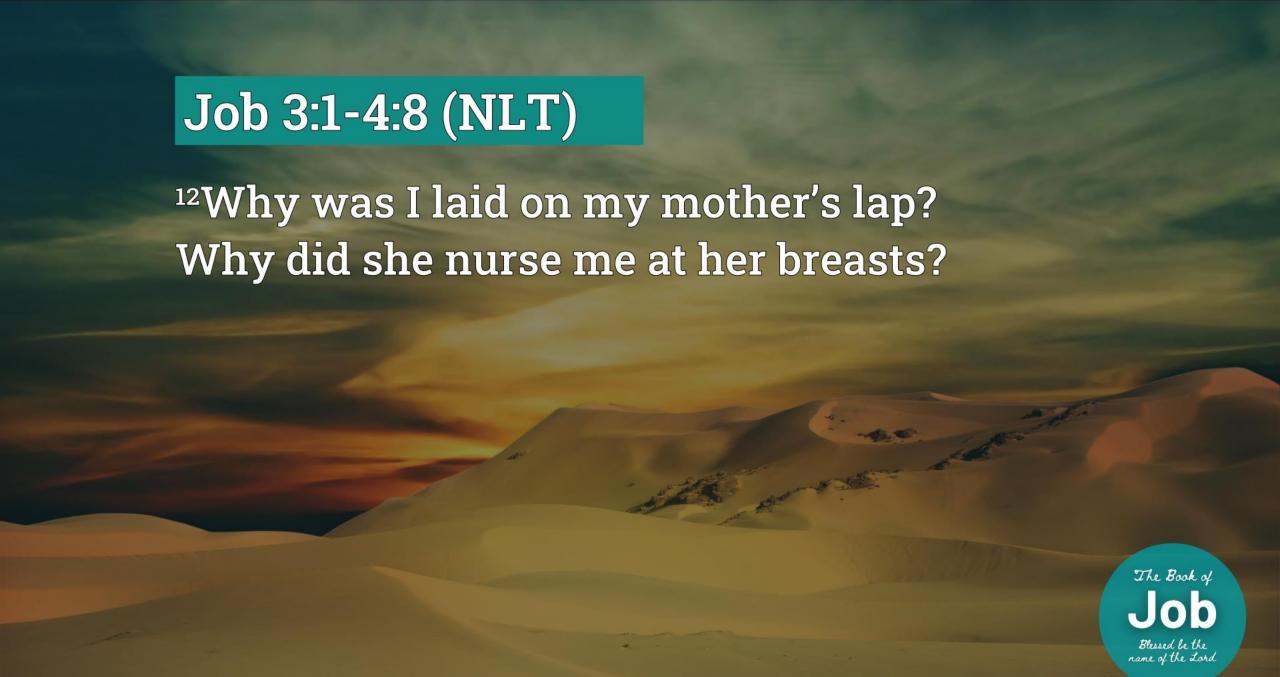
⁹Let its morning stars remain dark. Let it hope for light, but in vain; may it never see the morning light.



¹⁰Curse that day for failing to shut my mother's womb, for letting me be born to see all this trouble.









¹³Had I died at birth, I would now be at peace. I would be asleep and at rest.



¹⁴I would rest with the world's kings and prime ministers, whose great buildings now lie in ruins.





¹⁵I would rest with princes, rich in gold, whose palaces were filled with silver.





¹⁶Why wasn't I buried like a stillborn child, like a baby who never lives to see the light?





¹⁷For in death the wicked cause no trouble, and the weary are at rest.





¹⁸Even captives are at ease in death, with no guards to curse them.



¹⁹Rich and poor are both there, and the slave is free from his master.



²⁰"Oh, why give light to those in misery, and life to those who are bitter?





²¹They long for death, and it won't come. They search for death more eagerly than for hidden treasure.





²²They're filled with joy when they finally die, and rejoice when they find the grave.





²³Why is life given to those with no future, those God has surrounded with difficulties?







²⁵What I always feared has happened to me. What I dreaded has come true.



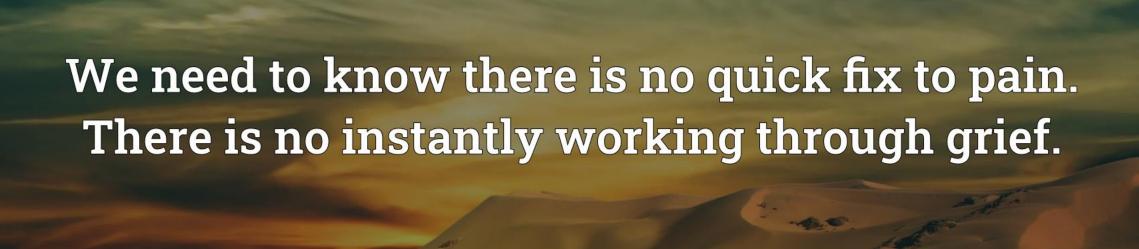


²⁶I have no peace, no quietness. I have no rest; only trouble comes."









The Book of

name of the Lord





²"Will you be patient and let me say a word? For who could keep from speaking out?



weak.

³"In the past you have encouraged many people; you have strengthened those who were





⁴Your words have supported those who were falling; you encouraged those with shaky knees.





⁵But now when trouble strikes, you lose heart.

You are terrified when it touches you.





⁶Doesn't your reverence for God give you confidence?

Doesn't your life of integrity give you hope?





⁷"Stop and think! Do the innocent die? When have the upright been destroyed?



⁸My experience shows that those who plant trouble and cultivate evil will harvest the same.



