

Why did the prophet Jeremiah curse the day he was born, and is it right for us to curse our own birthdays?

Answer:

Let us begin by looking at the Scriptures, starting from Jeremiah 20:14-17:

*Jeremiah 20:14-17 (ESV)*

14 "Cursed be the day on which I was born! The day when my mother bore me, let it not be blessed!

15 Cursed be the man who brought the news to my father, 'A son is born to you,' making him very glad.

16 Let that man be like the cities that the Lord overthrew without pity; let him hear a cry in the morning and an alarm at noon,

17 because he did not kill me in the womb; so my mother would have been my grave, and her womb forever great."

Here, we see that Jeremiah was overwhelmed by the intense suffering and persecution he faced as a prophet of the Lord. He had been beaten, imprisoned, mocked, and hunted simply for speaking God's word.

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*See also:*

- *Jeremiah 20:1-2 Pashhur beats and imprisons him.*
- *Jeremiah 37:15-16 He is beaten and imprisoned again.*
- *Jeremiah 38:6 He is thrown into a cistern.*
- *Jeremiah 15:5 He laments being rejected and abandoned.*

In Jeremiah 20:18, he concludes with this lament:

*“Why did I come out from the womb to see toil and sorrow, and spend my days in shame?” (Jeremiah 20:18, ESV)*

So, his cursing of the day he was born came from a deep place of

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emotional anguish, spiritual exhaustion, and human weakness.

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Jeremiah Was Not Alone in This

The prophet Job also cursed the day of his birth in a similar state of despair:

*Job 3:1-6 (NIV)*

1 After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth.

3 “May the day of my birth perish, and the night that said, ‘A boy is conceived!’

4 That day may it turn to darkness; may God above not care about it; may no light shine on it.

5 May gloom and utter darkness claim it once more; may a cloud settle over it; may blackness overwhelm it.

6 That night may thick darkness seize it; may it not be included among the days of the year nor be entered in any of the months.”

Like Jeremiah, Job’s pain was beyond comprehension he had lost his children, his wealth, his health, and even the support of his

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wife and friends.

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So, Was It Right for Them to Curse Their Birthdays?

The answer is NO it was not right. While understandable as a human reaction, cursing the day of one's birth is not in alignment with faith, trust, or reverence toward God's sovereignty.

Jeremiah and Job were not expressing theological truths but emotional reactions. They were speaking from the depth of their despair, not from a place of divine insight. That's why we see Job later repent for his words:

*Job 42:3-6 (ESV)*

3 "Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?"

Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

5 I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you;

6 therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

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This shows that Job recognized his words were out of ignorance and pain, and he humbled himself before God. Likewise, Jeremiah later acknowledges his doubts and frustrations and is corrected by God:

*Jeremiah 15:18-19 (NIV)*

“Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable? You are to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails.”

19 Therefore this is what the Lord says: “If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me...”

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What Can We Learn from Their Experience?

Both Job and Jeremiah were godly men, yet they faced unimaginable suffering. Their pain led them to say things they later regretted but their honesty in expressing their struggles also gives us permission to bring our emotions before God.

Still, we must not curse our lives, our days of birth, or the people who gave us life. That is a reaction of despair, not of faith. Even

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Jesus warned us that suffering is part of the journey for His followers:

*Matthew 10:16-18 (NIV)*

16 “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

17 Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues.

18 On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles.”

Suffering is not a sign of rejection by God, but often a part of the refining process. We are reminded in James 1:2-4 that trials build our faith and character:

*James 1:2-4 (ESV)*

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,

for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

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It is not right to curse the day of our birth or to speak evil over ourselves, our parents, or our existence even in great suffering.

Instead, we should:

- Acknowledge our pain honestly before God.
- Trust His greater plan, even when we don't understand.
- Pray for strength to endure and remain faithful.
- Avoid complaining or cursing, which is fruitless (see Philippians 2:14).

*Philippians 2:14-15 (NIV)*

“Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may

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become blameless and pure, 'children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.' Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky."

Let us learn from Job and Jeremiah, not just their weaknesses, but their eventual restoration and repentance. Their stories serve as a lesson for us that suffering does not mean abandonment, and faith is often forged in the fire of trials.

May the Lord help us to stand firm in faith, even in times of great distress. Amen.

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