

# Job 7:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So am I made to possess months of vanity, and wearisome nights are appointed to me.

## Analysis

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The phrase 'made to possess' (nachal, נָחַל) typically refers to receiving an inheritance or portion—bitterly ironic as Job's 'inheritance' consists of 'months of vanity' and 'wearisome nights.' The Hebrew shav (שָׁוְ, vanity) denotes emptiness, futility, and worthlessness—the same word used in Ecclesiastes to describe life 'under the sun.' Job's suffering has become his appointed portion, replacing the blessed inheritance described in chapter 1.

'Wearisome nights are appointed to me' employs the verb mana (מָנָה), meaning to number, assign, or appoint. This reveals Job's theological sophistication: he recognizes divine sovereignty even in suffering. His sleepless nights aren't random misfortune but divinely appointed trials. This Reformed perspective affirms God's meticulous providence while wrestling with its inscrutability. The verb 'appointed' echoes Lamentations 3:38, 'Out of the mouth of the most High proceedeth not evil and good?'

Job's lament paradoxically affirms both God's sovereignty and the legitimacy of human anguish under it. The 'months' (plural) indicate prolonged suffering, not momentary trial. This extended timeline challenges easy answers and demands patient endurance while maintaining faith in divine goodness despite contrary experiential evidence.

## Historical Context

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The ancient Near Eastern context understood prosperity as divine favor and prolonged suffering as divine displeasure. Job's 'months of vanity' would have been interpreted by his peers (including his friends) as clear evidence of hidden sin requiring repentance. Job's uniqueness lies in maintaining his integrity while acknowledging God's sovereign appointment of his suffering.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How do we reconcile God's sovereignty in appointing suffering with His essential goodness and love?
2. What does Job's extended timeline of suffering teach us about false expectations for quick resolution to trials?
3. In what ways does recognizing suffering as 'appointed' rather than random affect our response to it?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי	הִנֵּנִי לְתִי	לִי	יָרַחִי	שָׁוְאָה	וַלֵּיל וְלַיְלָה	עָמָל לַיְלָה
H3651	So am I made to possess	H0	months	of vanity	nights	and wearisome
	H5157		H3391	H7723	H3915	H5999
	מִנִּי	לִי				
	are appointed	H0				
	H4487					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 6:6** (Parallel theme): I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears.

**Ecclesiastes 1:14** (Parallel theme): I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.

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