

# Job

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Job 29



Job 29

Vss. 1-20

- This speech of Job's is his longest in the book, covering Chapters 29-31. Job here is not responding to his friends. In parts, he seems to be just thinking out loud, talking to himself as he recalls how wonderful his life had once been. Chapters 29-30 are full of sadness and lament, while in 31 Job takes an oath of innocence.
- Verse 1 refers back to Chapter 27 where Job emphatically declared his righteousness.
- In verses 2 through 6, Job is speaking of how God blessed him when he was younger. He remembers the days when God watched over him, when God's guided his path and God's favor was on him, in the days when God was his friend. Verse 6 speaks to just how easy everything came to him because of God's blessings. His life was bathed in butter and oil, two ancient symbols of prosperity. Some commentators point out that in Jesus' time, after hundred's of years of occupation and persecution, the prayers of the Jews sounded very much like Job here, remembering and thanking God for the great things He did for them in ancient times: the deliverance from Egypt, the bread and manna, the conquest of the Promised Land.
- In verses 7-10, Job is remembering how important he was, the high status that he held in the hearts and minds of the poor and the rich. Young men stepped aside and hid themselves while old men stood out of respect. Even princes and nobles stopped talking when he walked to the gate and took his seat.
- Job recalls in verses 11 through 13 how he used his wealth and power for the benefit of the less fortunate. The poor, the orphan, the widow, even the one on the verge of death we're blessed by Job, in stark contrast to the failure of his three friends. Indeed, Job was so generous in those days, he would make the widow's heart sing for joy.
- In verses 14 through 17 job is speaking to the quality of his righteousness. "I put on righteousness, and it clothed me. My justice was like a robe and a turban", meaning that he wore righteousness and justice as everyday clothes. Job saw that the blind and the crippled needed extra care and responded without being asked. As he looked around and saw the poor he responded to them as a father would a hurting child. He would go out of his way to investigate why someone, even a stranger, was suffering and do whatever was needed to make things right. He was a champion for the weak against the wicked and would crush the evil doers by his own hand.

- In verses 18 through 20 he concludes this walk down memory lane of his life as he recalls thinking that when the time came he would die a happy man. He would die at home, comfortably in his bed, safe in the knowledge that his children were many and secure and that like a great oak, his legacy would last for generations to come. Even in death, his power, his bow, “is renewed in my hand”.

#### Vss. 21-25

- These verses seem to refer back to vss. 9-10: “The princes stopped talking and put their hands on their mouths. The voice of the nobles was hushed and their tongue stuck to their palate.” Now in verse 21, “To me they listened and waited and kept silent for my counsel.” Job’s words, his teachings were crucial to the leaders of the land.
- John D.W. Watts says, “Job’s sitting at the gate set the stage for all his work among the people. His word was vital to them. The Word which comes from God, the king, or a gifted person, was as vital to the land as rain.” A thought which we also find in Deuteronomy 11:14.

And like the rain, we find in verse 24 that Job gave his blessing even to those who did not expect it or deserve it (Matthew 5:45) Microphone off. “I smiled on them when they did not believe”. And even if they did not believe or did not even know Job they did not despise or reject the gift of his wisdom and support. Clearly Job’s position among the people was supreme. “I chose a way for them and sat as chief and dwelt as a king among the troops.” In good times or bad, Job was the supreme leader of the region. Even in the darkest times he was a leader who was “as one who comforted the mourners.”