



Job 29-31

Tuesday, 8 Sept 2020

Women
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TOGETHER

Job Continues (29-31)

Structure

- That was then ... (Job 29)
- This is now ... (Job 30)
- Job's defence (Job 31)

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That was then ... (Job 29)

“How I long for the months gone by ...” (29:2)

- | | |
|---------|---------------------------|
| v.1-6 | Job's relationship to God |
| v.7-11 | Job's standing in society |
| v.12-17 | Job's acts of mercy |
| v.18-20 | Job's future |
| v.21-25 | Job's position of honour |

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This is now ... (Job 30)

“But now they mock me ...” (30:1)

- v.1-8 unworthy people
- v.9-11 young men mock me, I am left defenceless
- v.12-15 the attack comes
- v.16-19 my life is failing
- v.20-23 I cry out to you God
- v.24-31 surely that is not right

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Job's defence (Job 31)

Style of defence

- Legal argument
- Oath of innocence → “May God do to me, if I do (or do not do) so and so”
- 4x – names the curse if guilty (v.8, v.10, v.22, v.40)

“His reckless bravery reflects his unwavering confidence in his own innocence”

(John Hartley, NICOT)

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Job's defence (Job 31)

Structure of defence

1. Character attributes (31:1-12)
2. Social justice credentials (31:13-28)
3. Obligations to the foreigner (31:29-37)
4. Environmental obligations (31:37-40)

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Job's defence (Job 31)

Job's character attributes (31:1-12)

- | | | | |
|---------|---|---------|---------|
| v.1-4 | "what is our lot from God above?" | } | Point 1 |
| v.5-6 | "If I have walked in falsehood ..." | | |
| v.7-8 | "If my steps have turned from the path ..." | | |
| v.9-10 | "If my heart has been enticed ..." | | |
| v.11-12 | "that would be wicked" } | Summary | |

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Job's defence (Job 31)

Social justice credentials (31:13-28)

- v.13-15 "If I denied justice ..."
 - v.16 "If I denied the desires of the poor ..."
 - v.17-18 "If I kept my bread to myself ..."
 - v.19-20 "If I have seen anyone perishing ..."
 - v.21-23 "If I have raised my hand against ..."
- } Point 2a

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Job's defence (Job 31)

Social justice credentials (31:13-28)

- v.24 "If I have put my trust in gold ..."
 - v.25 "If I have rejoiced in great wealth ..."
 - v.26-27 "If I have regarded the sun ..."
 - v.28 "These would be sins ...
I would have been unfaithful"
- } Point 2b
- } Summary

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Job's defence (Job 31)

Obligations to the foreigner (31:29-37)

- | | | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|---|----------|
| v.29-30 | "If I have rejoiced ..." | } | Point 3 |
| v.31-32 | "If those of my household ..." | | |
| v.33-34 | "If I have concealed my sin ..." | | |
| v.35-37 | I declare my innocence | } | Excursus |

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Job's defence (Job 31)

Environmental obligations (31:38-40)

- | | | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|---|---------|
| v.38 | "If my land cries out against me ..." | } | Point 4 |
| v.39-40a | "If I have abused my land ..." | | |
| v.40b | "The words of Job are ended" | } | Summary |

I rest my case!

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Next Week

Job 32-37

Jonathan Anthony
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