

The Book of Job

The Unsearchable Wisdom of God



LESSON 11
JOB'S FINAL DEFENSE
JOB 29 – 31

Chiastic Outline of Job



A. Job's Afflictions (1–2)

B. Job's First Response (3)

C. 3 Cycles of Debate (4–27)

D. Wisdom Poem (28)

C'. 3 Major Speeches (29–41)

B'. Job's Second Response (42:1–9)

A'. Job's Prosperity (42:10–17)

I. Job's Former Glory



- A. Fellowship with God (29:1–6)**
- B. Respect from Men (29:7–11)**
- C. Job's Justice toward All (29:11–17)**
- D. Job's Satisfaction in Life (29:18–20)**
- E. Job's Eminence (29:21–25)**

II. Job's Present Ruin



- A. Low-life People Mock Job (30:1–15)**
- B. God Afflicts Job (30:16–23)**
- C. Job's Final Lament (30:24–31)**

III. Job's Negative Confession (31)

A. Formal Characteristics of the Confessions



1. Conditional (if) clause that denies Job committed a sin.
2. A curse on himself if it were true.
3. Explanation (why he would never commit such an act).

III. Job's Negative Confession (31)

B. Job's Denials



1. Lust (31:1–4)
2. Fraud & deceit (31:5 – 6)
3. Covetousness (31:7 – 8)
4. Adultery (31:9 – 12)
5. Cruelty to workers (31:13 – 15)
6. Lack of compassion (hunger) (31:16 – 18)
7. Lack of compassion (nakedness) (31:19 – 20)

III. Job's Negative Confession (31)

B. Job's Denials



8. Legal abuse of the poor (31:21 – 23)
9. Miserly conduct (31:24 – 25)
10. Idolatry (astral deities) (31:26 – 28)
11. Rejoicing over suffering of an enemy (31:29 – 30)
12. Inhospitality (31:31 – 32)
13. Hypocrisy (31:33 – 37)
14. Lawless use/accumulation of land (31:38 -40)

2 x 7 = absolutely innocent

III. Job's Negative Confession (31)

C. Negative Confession Observations



- Sins that a man in his *powerful position* might commit
- Nothing is said about sins he would not have committed
- Job feared God and turned from evil
- Oath formula
- Job's tone is not angry or defiant, but sad, firm, resolute