

I) V1-8 INTRO: But now they mock at me, men younger than I, whose fathers I disdained

II) As we have seen, Job is a righteous man who lost everything he had once valued

He lost his family, his wealth, and most of all his depth of relationship with God

III) In ch 29 he had said:

Job 29:2 Oh that I were as in months past, as in the days when God watched over me

Job 29:4-6 Just as I was in the days of my prime when the friendly counsel of God was over my tent; when the Almighty was yet with me, when my children were around me; when my steps were bathed with cream and the rock poured out rivers of oil for me

IV) I was rich, blessed, surrounded by my children and had the favor of both God and man

V) In those days young men were intimidated by my presence and elders stood in respect

But in a few short months, everything has changed

VI) He is now despised by men, afflicted, plagued by terrors, in constant physical pain, cast away by God, and with nothing but death to look forward to

VII) At one time, people greatly desired his counsel (V21-23)

Now, he is held in derision by those who should respect him

VIII) V1 But now they mock at me, men younger than I

IX) The aged should be held in respect

They have lived a long life and have gained great experience over time

They have much to say on various subjects, giving them a different

perspective

They have already been young and have learned how to deal with many

things

X) If they are your parents, remember that they patiently listened to you when you were little

They carried you, cared about you, provided for you, protected you

When you were learning to speak, they learned your language

When you couldn't put into words what you needed, they learned by

watching you

**When you needed help doing something, they helped you
When you couldn't move quickly, they waited for you
When you had a problem, they tried to help you solve it**

XI) The elderly should be cared for and in their old age, respect goes a very long way

It helps them to know that they are valued, and loved

Lev. 19:32 Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the LORD.

I) There are times when there are differences that need to be hashed out

When that occurs, respect goes a long way

1 Ti 5:1 Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father

II) Job had once been greatly respected and treated with honor

This has changed, and it is something that has greatly wounded him

III) Instead of treating him with respect, younger men are now mocking him

Those who should show him honor are now holding him in derision

IV) These younger men represent the worst of his society

V) V1 Whose fathers I disdained to put with the dogs of my flock

Their fathers had such low character that Job wouldn't hire them for the least job

They were less trustworthy than his sheep dogs

VI) V2 Indeed what profit is the strength of their hands to me Their vigor has perished

They were such useless workers that an employer would lose money by hiring them

They were so weak they could not pull their weight

VII) V3-4 They are gaunt from want and famine fleeing late to the wilderness, desolate and

society

Fleeing has been translated gnawing, speaking of them gnawing at the roots of plants

VIII) Mere skeletons of men, scrounging meals from wild plant life because they won't work

Pr 19:15 Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle person will

suffer hunger.

IX) V5-8 Reveals them as outcasts and thieves: The lowest morals of the people

X) V5 They were driven out from among men, they shouted at them as at a thief
This speaks of them being undesirable for honest society
When people would see them in the village, they would warn others
about them

XI) They were so dishonored and distrusted that people didn't want them around
This is how Job feels that he is being treated

XII) V6 They had to live in the clefts of the valleys in caves of the earth and the
rocks

residence They lived in valleys in caves, where wild beasts would take up

crops They did not build cities, did not care for sheep, and did not harvest

XIII) V7 Among the bushes they brayed and under the nettles they nestled

I) Interestingly this is Job's description of how they speak (the sound of their
language)

dwelling places Their surroundings are nettles, in that there is no comfort in their

arrest them They live in such conditions to hide from those who might be seeking to

II) V8-9 They were sons of fools, yes sons of vile men; they were scourged from
the land

people They are uneducated, unknown and are insignificant and despised

III) V9 And now I am their taunting song; yes, I am their byword

IV) We need to understand what Job is saying

It isn't that he feels intrinsically superior to these people
Job knows that they are human being and they, as people, have value
and worth

V) It is that they lack the initiative and character that reflects a civilized, cultured
people

They are the ones that do not make a city a good place to live in
They are the ones that make you uncomfortable because you can't trust

them

VI) V9 And now I am their taunting song; yes, I am their byword

This is similar to what David said

Ps 69:12 Those who sit at the gate mock me, and I am the song of the drunkards

Lam 3:14 (Jeremiah) I became the laughingstock of all my people; they mock me in song all day long.

VII) My suffering and loss has been used to insult and injure me

It has resulted in the lowest of society mocking me and singing songs about me

VIII) V10 They abhor me, they keep far from me; they do not hesitate to spit in my face

They mock me, laughing at all that I once was and what I have become

IX) These are people who live in caves and scavenge for food

They feel superior to me, and they see me coming and avoid me

When they are near me, they do not hesitate to spit in my face (in front of me?)

X) V11 Because He has loosed my bowstring and afflicted me they have cast off restraint

God has taken my strength and protection from me: I have become helpless

Blow after blow has landed on my unprotected life

XI) At one time I was respected and honored, and people would not think of harming me

Now, God has removed His hand of protection and people feel free to insult me

They insult me whenever they desire, and speak and act towards me without kindness

Nothing is left to restrain them from treating me with such contempt

I) V12 At my right hand the rabble arises; they push away my feet, and they raise against

Half-grown boys shout insults at me, taunting the one who is respectable

They try to trip him when he walks, and place obstacles in his path to trip him

II) V13 They break up my path they promote my calamity; they have no helper

They interfere with whatever I am trying to do and try to frustrate me constantly

They have no helper because no one opposes them, and they don't need help to do it

III) This sounds unbelievable until you think of what is happening right now
I saw video of two elderly people attempting to cross the street who were bullied

IV) Today the thought that people don't need to work and others should feed them exists

We live in a society that increasingly is becoming incapable of working to get ahead

Many believe that others should work for them while they live off others' contributions

V) The lack of respect resulting from sloth and poor upbringing has produced savages

We are busy creating a society that blurs distinctions and lacks moral restraint

Is 5:20-23 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!

VI) V14 They come as broad breakers; under the ruinous storm they roll along
They overwhelm me, like when a huge wave crashes upon the shore
Like a wave breaking through a breach in a retaining wall

VII) V15 Terrors are turned upon me; they pursue my honor as the wind, and my prosperity

These terrors he speaks about are speaking of the terrible nightmares he has suffered

His dreams often contain frightening images

VIII) Since he thinks God is his enemy, he believes that it is God giving him such dreams

Job 6:4 The arrows of the Almighty are in me, my spirit drinks in their poison; God's terrors are marshaled against me.

Job 7:13-15 When I think my bed will comfort me and my couch will ease my complaint, even then you frighten me with dreams and terrify me with

visions, so that I prefer strangling and death, rather than this body of mine.

IX) Interestingly enough, God isn't his enemy: if He were, it would be much worse (Trib)

These dreams undermine his calm composure that once adorned his life
He has lost both his health and his prosperity

I) V16-17 And now my soul is poured out because of my plight; the days of affliction

I am greatly fatigued: My body is wracked with pain, my bones are on fire, and ache

My gnawing pain keeps me from sleep

II) V18 By great force my garment is disfigured; it binds me about as the collar of my coat

My garment is polluted by my oozing sores, and I can't take it off of my body easily

This could imply that what at one time revealed my honor has now been polluted

III) V19 He has cast me into the mire, and I have become like dust and ashes

God has done this to me and now I cannot walk about freely

I am now an object of dislike and disdain: I am unclean in the sight of man

IV) Soon Job will be able to say something entirely different

Ps 40:2 He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay,
And set my feet upon a rock, And established my steps.

V) V20-23 I cry out to You but You do not answer me; I stand up and You regard me

I have been forsaken: I cry to you, but you ignore my cries

I stand up in prayer, but you see me but won't answer me!

VI) When people are in pain: Immediately, they believe that God has turned against them

If God loved them, then He would remove the pain

VII) The loneliest place we ever go to is the place where we think we are abandoned by God

I have been abandoned by God and man!

VIII) V21 But You have become cruel to me with the strength of Your hand You oppose me

I believed You were kind and compassionate, but I was wrong
You seem to take pleasure in my pain and actually work to increase my
pain

IX) The power that I once thought would deliver me has actually been turned
against me

X) V22 You lift me up to the wind and cause me to ride on it You spoil my success
You have caused my life to become a storm that I am tossed about it
I am like a piece of straw caught in a whirlwind
You spoil my success: I just can't win

XI) V24-31 Surely He would not stretch out His hand against a heap of ruins if they
cry out

Obscure: May mean that God would not destroy something that is
already in ruins
He especially would not destroy something that cried out for mercy and
help

I) V25 Have I not wept for him who was in trouble Has not my soul grieved for the
poor

I have had human compassion on someone suffering and have cared for
people
Why is it that I am suffering and God doesn't care?

II) V26 But when I looked for good, evil came to me and when I waited for light
then came

I have done good for others but instead of good, I have had evil returned
to me

In my old age, I would have expected respect and honor, not what I am
not receiving

III) V27-28 My heart is in turmoil and cannot rest Days of affliction confront me
I am in turmoil and torment and in constant, unrelenting affliction

IV) V28 I go about mourning but not in the sun

My days are spent in sorrow, living without sun light or comfort

V) I stand up in the assembly and cry for help, even though it diminishes and
humbles me

I have humbled myself in front of large groups of people, humiliating
myself

- VI) V29 I am the brother of jackals and a companion of ostriches
Both jackals and ostriches have loud, mournful cries
- VII) V30 My skin grows black and falls from me My bones burn with fever
My disease and fever have combined to dry out my skin, and my marrow
is dried up
- VIII) V31 My harp is turned to mourning and my flute to the voice of those who
weep
Harps and flutes are associated with joyful music
The only song that I now sing is a song of sorrow and pain
- IX) My reason to rejoice no longer exists
My pain and sorrow is almost too much to bear, and all I can do I cry in
pain
I just don't have anything to be joyful about, anymore
- X) Ps 30:5 For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life Weeping
may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.