

## A Study of the Book of Job: When Bad Things Happen to God's People

### *Lesson 14: Job's Closing Argument (Chapters 29-31)*

#### Third Cycle

Eliphaz (ch. 22)	→	Job (ch. 23-24)
Bildad (ch. 25)	→	Job (ch. 26-28)
Zophar (?)	→	<b>Job (ch. 29-31)</b>

Introduction: The NIV study Bible note provides an excellent summation of these three chapters. In them Job is like a lawyer presenting his closing arguments protesting his innocence (not sinlessness). In Chapter 29 he reflects on his former happiness and honor. In Chapter 30 he contrasts his former life with his current misery. In Chapter 31 Job issues his final appeal, asking for a verdict from God.

- Scan these chapters, what repeated pronoun(s) jump out at you? Why is such a focus a recipe for trouble?

#### 29:1-6

- V. 4 – “in my prime” = “in my August / harvest”
- As Job reminisces on his life, what relationship does he see between the good times past and God's presence? What is he implying about his present piteous condition? We often and easily make the same associations as Job, but is this assumption correct? (cf. Proverbs 3:11-12; Psalm 119:71-72)

#### 29:7-25

- What honors had formerly been accorded Job?

#### 30:1-15

- In spite of the fact that everyone had previously honored Job, how is he treated now? By whom?

#### 30:16-31

- What complaint does Job make against the Lord?

### 31:1-34, 38-40

- In these verses Job lists the fruits of his faith (cf. John 15) and continues to uphold his righteousness. While Job's friends accuse him of sinning greatly, Job maintains he has served the Lord. Note that these statements are not work righteousness but evidence of the Holy Spirit making him a new creation, who hates sin and loves God and neighbor. As we read let's catalog Job's transformation in the following verses:
  - 1 – 4:
  - 5 – 8:
  - 9 – 12:
  - 13 – 15:
  
  - 16 – 23:
  - 24 – 28:
  - 29 – 30:
  - 31 – 32:
  - 33 – 34:
  - 38 – 40:

### 31:35-37

- Job interjects his “verbal signature” to his case, appealing one last time to God's judgment.

### 31:40b

- From here on Job speaks but a few words of repentance after the Lord confronts him.