

## Job 29:1-17- Job's Reflections

TSK, Gill, HebrewLexicon, Trapp, Henry, Geneva, INT, Pulpit, Delitzsch, JFB, Poole, Expositor

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: If you lost everything in this world, what would you keep the most? Job had lost everything in life. His animals were gone, dead or stolen. His many servants were gone. His children were dead. His wealth reduced to nothing. There was hardly a greater personal fall in history. But today you will see what things Job treasured the most and why he treasured them the most.

Our headings are: Job and his Faith, Job and his Family, and Job and his Friends.

Our goals are: That as blood bought children of Jesus Christ you will consider the things that truly matter to him and put your mind, abilities, and money to pursue them!

### Job and his Faith

1 Job further continued his discourse, and said: 2 Oh, that I were as in months past, As in the days when God watched over me; 3 When His lamp shone upon my head, And when by His light I walked through darkness; 4 Just as I was in the days of my prime, When the friendly counsel of God was over my tent; (1 约伯又接着说: 2 “惟愿我的景况如从前的月份, 如神保守我的日子。3 那时他的灯照在我头上, 我藉他的光行过黑暗。4 我愿如壮年的时候, 那时我在帐棚中, 神带我有密友之情; )

**1. Job reflected back on his life and expressed a desire to have the good things he had in the past.** He had good grounds for desiring good things. He was good. God called him good. God promises good things for his children.

Job 1:8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"

Even in all the struggles he had, Job never abandoned God.

**2. What specific things in the past did Job desire? An I-Phone 5s or a new Toyota Camry? No, the 1<sup>st</sup> thing Job mentioned is that he wanted to be close to God.**

**a. Job wanted to** feel God's protection over his temporal and spiritual matters again!

Psalm 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

**b. Job wanted God's light to shine on him to guide him** through the darkness of this world. He knew that God's Word was a lamp and a light to him.

Psalm 25:14 The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.

**c. Job desired to bear fruit for God again.** This is what the phrase "days of my prime" suggests. He wanted to be like a fruit tree with ripe fruits...fruits for God and man. Faith always results in fruits.

**d. Job wanted God to be near, as if God were his neighbor.** If fact, there is a historical account of Job had a church that met at his house. He understood the need to be part of a church.

**3. It is obvious that Job's troubles made him feel far from God. He felt lonely. He felt afflicted.** But was God far from him? No. Election is forever. God never chooses and adopts and then abandons his children. The covenant is unchangeable. God is never far from his children. Remember Isaiah's words:

Isaiah 43:2 When you pass through the waters, I *will be* with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.

But Job knew that his present state did not allow him to be a minister to his family or to his friends. His wealth to help the poor was gone. His children were not there so he could teach them. He could not administer justice on account of his poor physical condition. And even some of his close friends thought that he was estranged from God because of God's judgment on him. But what a desire! He could have wished for his animals and his children, his position and his power, but he wished to be near to God. He wanted the light of God's grace to shine on him. This is what gave meaning to his life. This is what made him walk with joy and comfort.

**4. Do you desire above all else to be close to God and that his light guides you?** Do you long to be in the house of God and get these blessings? Isn't this God's blessing? Isn't it here where you are instructed in truth and isn't this the truth that the Holy Spirit uses to strengthen your faith?

Numbers 6:25 The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;

## Job and his Family

5 When the Almighty was yet with me, When my children were around me; 6 When my steps were **bathed with cream**, And the rock poured out rivers of **oil for me!** (5 全能者仍与我同在，我的儿女都环绕我。6 奶多可洗我的脚，磐石为我出油成河。)

**1. Job desired to have his family together – and not just at Advent and Thanksgiving!** He wanted to have his children and their families with him...serving the Lord. His children were grown, but he wanted to maintain that unity of the faith. He knew the importance of the continuation of a godly line and he invested the time in it.

**Job wasn't interested in personal joys from wealth.** He did not long to become famous. He did not care if his children were rich or famous. He wanted to be around them. This is what mattered in his life. He wanted to make sure they were following God's way and working to establish God's kingdom on the earth.

**Notice how he wanted butter and oil, rather than gold and silver.** This was not a lust for food. He wanted things he could use and share (or else they would go bad) not things he could hoard (储藏) .

**2. Did Job really show that he was interested in his family?** Look at Job 1. He prayed for them, just in case they sinned.

What a caring father!

Job 1:4 And his sons would go and feast in their houses, each on his appointed day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. 5 So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." **Thus Job did regularly.**

**3. Now what is one of the most common things you hear at a funeral in Christian circles when a man dies?** "He was a great provider (供应者)." But the question that you must discuss is this: "What has he provided for his children?" Here is what he should be doing!

Psalm 128:3 Your wife *shall be* like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your children like olive plants All around your table.

The Psalmist wasn't simply saying have as many children as you are able. He wanted a Reformed home. So if you can't say this like Job – that you want to be truly close with your family, you have to go home and start working to be a blessing to your family! Be kinder to my wife. Work harder with your and for your children. If you have put more emphasis on being a "good provider," consider if you have provided things that matter. Your wife and your children belong to Christ. He is your Redeemer. And you should desire to do what your Ransom-er demands of you! So when you hear a sermon like this next year, you would praise God for progress.

## Job and his Friends

7 "When I went out to the gate by the city, when I took my seat in the open square, 8 The **young men saw me and hid**, And the **aged arose and stood**; 9 The **princes refrained from talking**, And put their hand on their mouth; 10 The voice of **nobles was hushed**, And their **tongue stuck to the roof of their mouth**. 11 When the ear heard, then it **blessed me**, And when the eye saw, then it **approved me**; (7 我出到城门，在街上设立座位；8 少年人见我而回避，老年人也起身站立；9 王子都停止说话，用手捂口。10 首领静默无声，舌头贴住上膛。11 耳朵听我的，就称我有福；眼睛看我的，便称赞我；)

**1. Job desired to serve any of his friends in court by sharing God's wisdom and making sound judgments.** What a true public servant! Henry wrote: *We are not born for ourselves. We are born for the public.* What a mind for service for his country!

**a. Job's judgments were so sound, so fair, that the old, the young, and the important listened and accepted them.** Do you realize how difficult it is gain the approval of both old and young at the same time? The old often think that you are too loose and the young not loose enough. But the old and young were like quiet when Job spoke, like the baby upon the breast or the bee upon the flower. He did not coddle them. Remember how he spoke to his wife: "You speak like a foolish woman." (And yet, he didn't call her a fool.)

You probably heard of the trouble a reality show personality got when he spoke the truth of God's Word about adultery. The biggest condemnation the man got was that he should not pronounce judgment. Even Christians attacked him. How awful...ignorant! Christian are to judge. And they are to speak of God's condemnation (定罪，咒诅) . And they are to say that Christ took our condemnation and he offers his punishment for their punishment.

**b. As a result of Job's sound judgment, the people blessed him – honored him!**

12 Because I delivered the **poor** who cried out, The **fatherless** and the one who had no helper. 13 The blessing of a **perishing man came** upon me, And I caused the **widow's heart** to sing for joy.

14 I **put on righteousness**, and it clothed me; My justice was like a robe and a turban. 15 I was **eyes to the blind**, And I was **feet to the lame**. 16 I was a father to the poor, And I **searched out the case that I did not know**. 17 I **broke the fangs** of the wicked, And **plucked the victim from his teeth**. (12 因我拯救哀求的困苦人和无人帮助的孤儿。13 将要灭亡的为我祝福，我也使寡妇心中欢乐。14 我以公义为衣服，以公平为外袍和冠冕。15 我为瞎子的眼，瘸子的脚。16 我为穷乏人的父，素不认识的人，我查明他的案件。17 我打破不义人的牙床，从他牙齿中夺了所抢的。)

**2. Look at the details: Job desired to serve the widow, orphan, and the foreigner.** Job “righted those who were slighted.”

**a. Job helped to provide food and cared for the needs of the fatherless, the dying, the widows, the blind, and the lame, so much so, that then they were about to die, they praised him.** The son of a prince was a true father to the poor. His zeal as a Christian did not wane.

**b. Job helped to secure justice for the oppressed and the abused.** He did not let the rich abuse the poor. He did not condone the poor robbing the rich.

Surely this work brought him much fulfillment. He did what his Lord called him to do!

Isaiah 35:3 Strengthen the weak hands, And make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those *who are* fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, *With* the recompense of God; He will come and save you."

**3. What will young people say when they look back at your life**...maybe young people in this church? Will they say: you were always complaining about everything, you were always reluctant to do any outreach activities, you complained about paying the pastor too much, you had roast pastor after every Sunday service, you refused to be involved in the affairs of the country, you could not being bothered to speak up for children who are daily being killed by abortions, you had no time from May to September because those days were all about you, and you complained from the time the electricity went out till it returned? May it be that they will say: He always gave me good advice. He always had time to talk. He encouraged me when I was struggling in my faith. He rebuked me when I said something wrong.

**4. Notice that Job highlighted that his righteousness was from the outside – from** the Lord, not from himself. He followed God’s righteous system. This was the beautiful clothing you see on the priests who served the Lord in the Old Testament ceremonial system, and this is the clothing you see that the redeemed of God have in Revelation.

Psalms 45:13 The royal daughter is all glorious within the palace; Her clothing is woven with gold. 14 She shall be brought to the King in robes of many colors; The virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be brought to You.

Isaiah 11:5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

And it is only normal that Job would do what his Savior would do...as Solomon wrote.

Psalms 72:12 For He will deliver the needy when he cries, The poor also, and him who has no helper.

### **Conclusion:**

Job’s faith was precious to him. He longed to be close to God and he wanted God to be the guide of his home. Job’s family was dear to him. He wanted to be around his family to be a blessing to them and help fulfill the creation mandate-spreading the kingdom. Job loved his friends through Jesus Christ and he labored for them and pursued justice for them. His friends praised him for it.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: As a child of God, clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, reflect on your actions this past year regarding your faith, family, and friends and see how well you have fared. Where you have been successful, praise God for it. Continue doing it. Where you have failed – and strayed (偏离) in your faith, or ignored your family, or have been indifferent to your friends’ needs, repent. Ask God for the grace to be selfless and caring about your moral duties and to pursue them with diligence. And remember, when you faith is strong, it is easier to fulfill your duties to your family and friends! Pursue faith.

Finally, I know around this time every year people make promises to be good. It is a useless promise! It is useless because your good acts are no good. God only accepts the goodness of Christ on your behalf: He lived for the world and died for the world. May you plead with God the Father to accept Christ’s good work on your behalf. Then you can begin to be good in your own life.