

### **Devotional Questions – Job 29:1-31:40**

1. *What sort of things had Job done in former days (Job 29:12-17)?*
2. *What had Job expected his future would hold (Job 29:18-20)?*
3. *Who was it that mocked Job in his present condition (Job 30:1)?*
4. *Who did Job think was attacking him – was he correct – why (Job 30:19, 21-23)?*
5. *What was it that troubled Job the most (Job 30:20)?*
6. *How does Job describe his physical problems (Job 30:26-31)?*
7. *What was the covenant that Job had made (Job 31:1-4)?*
8. *What encouragement does Job 31:4 give us?*
9. *What had Adam done that Job did not do (Job 31:33-34)?*
10. *What things does Job say that he has/has not done (Job 31:1-40)?*
11. *What is Job's final request as he ends his words (Job 31:35)?*
12. *What does 'the words of Job are ended' mean, since Job does have other things to say (i.e. Job 40:3-5, 42:1-3) later (Job 31:40)?*
13. *How does this chapter fit the discussion between Job and his friends? What is Job's point?*

## Devotional Questions – Job 29:1-31:40, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Job* pp 389-436 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 755-758, 948, 1313, 1662-1663 for detailed comment.

### 1. What sort of things had Job done in former days (Job 29:12-17)?

Job had a threefold ministry.

- *Deliverance from evil* Job 29:12, 17. Job ***“helped him that is without power”*** Job 26:2.
- *Right judgement* Job 29:14. Job ***“plentifully declared the thing as it is”*** Job 26:3.
- *Wise Guidance* Job 29:17. Job ***“counselled him that hath no wisdom?”*** Job 26:3.

Today's believer has a similar ***“ministry which thou hast received in the Lord”*** Colossians 4:17 to fulfil.

**“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord”** Luke 4:18-19.

**“Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you”** John 20:21.

### 2. What had Job expected his future would hold (Job 29:18-20)?

- ***“length of days, and long life, and peace”*** Proverbs 3:2 with Job 29:18
- ***“fruit in old age”*** Psalm 92:14 ***“as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit”*** Jeremiah 17:8 with Job 29:19
- ***“youth...renewed like the eagle's”*** Psalm 103:4 with Job 29:20

Today's believer has those promised expectations from the Lord Jesus Christ.

**“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand”** John 10:28 for Job 29:18, 20.

**“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you”** John 15:16 for Job 29:19.

### 3. Who was it that mocked Job in his present condition (Job 30:1)?

Youths like those that mocked Elisha for his physical appearance and incurred God's judgement.

**“And he went up from thence unto Bethel: and as he was going up by the way, there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head. And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the LORD. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them”** 2 Kings 2:23-24.

Mockers of today's believers will themselves incur ***“the righteous judgment of God”*** 2 Thessalonians 1:5.

**“But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption”** 2 Peter 2:12.

4. Who did Job think was attacking him – was he correct – why (Job 30:19, 21-23)?

God, as Job had said earlier

**“Have pity upon me, have pity upon me, O ye my friends; for the hand of God hath touched me. Why do ye persecute me as God, and are not satisfied with my flesh?”** Job 19:21-22.

**“For God maketh my heart soft, and the Almighty troubleth me”** Job 23:16.

**“As God liveth, who hath taken away my judgment; and the Almighty, who hath vexed my soul”** Job 27:2.

**“Oh that one would hear me! behold, my desire is, that the Almighty would answer me, and that mine adversary had written a book”** Job 31:35.

Though God worked through the devil, 2 Samuel 24:1 with 1 Chronicles 21:1, Job was *correct*.

**“And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause”** Job 2:3.

**“But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips”** Job 2:10.

Today’s believer therefore needs *practically* to keep in mind the Lord’s admonition.

**“I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit”** John 15:1-2.

5. What was it that troubled Job the most (Job 30:20)?

Job was troubled most by the thought that God was not hearing his prayer as Job 30:20 states **“I cry unto thee, and thou dost not hear me: I stand up, and thou regardest me not.”**

Today’s believer should keep in mind that sin blocks prayer.

**“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me”** Psalm 66:18.

**“Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear”** Isaiah 59:1-2.

However, where it is known that sin is not blocking prayer, today’s believer should keep in mind the Lord’s exhortation that prayer *will* be answered. It was for Job, even if at first in a discomfoting rather than comforting manner. **“Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind...”** Job 38:1.

**“And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”** Luke 18:7-8.

The Lord’s question in Luke 18:8 is a reminder of the need for *believing* prayer as a condition for *answered* prayer. Note also James’ admonition.

**“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive”** Matthew 21:22.

**“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them”** Mark 11:24.

**“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord”** James 1:6-7.

6. *How does Job describe his physical problems (Job 30:26-31)?*

Job is experiencing feverish heat, burning of skin and bone and weeping with no respite.

**“My bowels boiled, and rested not: the days of affliction prevented me...My skin is black upon me, and my bones are burned with heat. My harp also is turned to mourning, and my organ into the voice of them that weep”** Job 30:27, 30-31.

Job is here describing indeed typifying the condition of the lost man in hell.

For the association of Job 30:28 **“I went mourning without the sun: I stood up, and I cried in the congregation”** and the lost man in hell, see below.

For the association of Job 30:29 **“I am a brother to dragons, and a companion to owls”** and the lost man in hell see [www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php) *Dragons - What saith the Scripture* pp 2, 3, 4, 5. See the following with respect to the lost man in hell.

**“So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth”** Matthew 13:49-50.

**“Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth”** Matthew 22:13. That will be dry weeping therefore accompanied by gnashing of teeth because hell has no water. See Luke 16:23-24 below.

**“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels...And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal”** Matthew 25:41, 46.

**“And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame”** Luke 16:23-24.

**“...the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power”** 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9.

Solomon states that **“The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath”** Proverbs 15:24.

**“The wise”** today obey **“the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ”** by following the scripture.

**“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”** Romans 10:13.

7. *What was the covenant that Job had made (Job 31:1-4)?*

Job **“made a covenant with mine eyes”** Job 31:1. Job knew ahead of time the admonition from the Lord Jesus Christ to His followers.

**“The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!”** Matthew 6:22-23 with Luke 11:34.

The application for today’s believer is therefore as John expressed it.

**“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever”** 1 John 2:16-17.

8. *What encouragement does Job 31:4 give us?*

Job 31:4 states ***“Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps?”*** Job 31:4 with Job 23:10 ***“But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold”*** is an encouragement for the man who then follows David’s example.

***“I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies”*** Psalm 119:59.

9. *What had Adam done that Job did not do (Job 31:33-34)?*

Adam had committed and then in vain tried to conceal known disobedience to what God had said through fear of being found out, which he was, after which Adam then tried to blame someone else, Genesis 3:7-12. Job had done none of those things.

Anyone in a situation like Job’s, therefore, of suffering for no apparent reason, can only keep in mind Jeremiah’s exhortation.

***“For the Lord will not cast off for ever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men”*** Lamentations 3:31-33.

10. *What things does Job say that he has/has not done (Job 31:1-40)?*

Job has:

- *Given the grievances of his servants a fair hearing and resolved them, Job 31:13, 31*
- *Fed and clothed the poor, Job 31:15, 17, 19, 20*
- *Shown hospitality to strangers, Job 31:32*

Job has not:

- *Indulged “the lust of the eyes” 1 John 2:16, see Question 7, Job 31:1-2*
- *Lied and cheated in any way to satisfy himself, Job 31:5, 7*
- *Been unfaithful to Mrs Job, Job 31:9*
- *Abused a position of power and authority against the vulnerable, Job 31:21*
- *Made wealth his god, Job 31:24, 25*
- *Committed idolatry according to “the way of the heathen” Jeremiah 10:2 and “after the manners of the heathen” Ezekiel 11:12*
- *Derived pleasure from the downfall of a personal foe or bore ill will against him, Job 31:29, 30. Job knew ahead of time Solomon’s warning against personal vindictiveness. ***“Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth: Lest the LORD see it, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him”*** Proverbs 24:17-18 and turn it on the enemy of “thine enemy.”*

Note that Job 31:29, 30 in reference to Job eschewing personal vengeance are not the same as God’s judgement on Rome when the Lord Jesus Christ destroys the Catholic Church at the Second Advent. God’s people rightly rejoice at the Lord’s vengeance on Rome.

***“And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia: Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever”*** Revelation 19:1-3.

- *Sinned as Adam had done or given in to fear as Adam had done, even if the whole community would have been united against him, Job 31:33, 34. Job followed David's later exhortation. **"Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident"** Psalm 27:3.*
- *Neglected his land, hoarded its produce or subjected his tenant farmers to life-threatening hazards, Job 31:38, 39*

Yet for all this, Job **"sat down among the ashes"** Job 2:8, the city dump like **"Tophet...in the valley of the son of Hinnom"** Jeremiah 7:31 with Nehemiah 2:13, 11:30 depicting **"hell...the fire that never shall be quenched"** Mark 9:43 where Job typified the lost man in hell **"Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched"** Mark 9:44, 46, 48. See *Question 6*.

As Isaiah warns **"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away"** Isaiah 64:6.

11. *What is Job's final request as he ends his words (Job 31:35)?*

Job 31:35 states **"Oh that one would hear me! behold, my desire is, that the Almighty would answer me, and that mine adversary had written a book."**

Job's final request is in part the same as his earlier one and it is answered. See *Question 5*.

**"Oh that I knew where I might find him! that I might come even to his seat! I would order my cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments"** Job 23:3-4.

However, Job's final request has the added component that he desires God to write up his ordeal. Job's request is answered more than he could have envisaged in that God speaks to Elihu in the manner that He spoke to Jeremiah centuries later.

**"Thus speaketh the LORD God of Israel, saying, Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book"** Jeremiah 30:2 with Job 32:15-17.

Job 31:35 and what follows is therefore a reminder of Paul's encouraging exhortation.

**"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen"** Ephesians 3:20-21.

12. *What does 'the words of Job are ended' mean, since Job does have other things to say (i.e. Job 40:3-5, 42:1-3) later (Job 31:40)?*

**"The words of Job are ended"** Job 31:40 in that Job has nothing further to say until his final request of Job 31:35 is fulfilled, which it eventually is. See *Questions 5, 11*.

Today's believer should therefore keep in mind Paul's admonition.

**"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God"** Romans 14:12.

13. *How does this chapter fit the discussion between Job and his friends? What is Job's point?*

Job 31 concludes the discussion between Job and his friends. That conclusion and Job's point are summarised in the opening verse of the very next chapter. **"So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes"** Job 32:1.

Today's believer should therefore keep in mind Paul's testimony about righteousness.

**"Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith"** Philippians 3:8-9.