

Job 29 - Job Wishes for the Good ol' Days

II. Dialogue (Job 3:1—42:6)

(4) Third dialogue cycle (Job 22:1—31:40)

(C) Job yearns for his past glory (29:1-25)

(a) Blessings (29:1-3)

(b) Ease (29:4-6)

(c) Respect (29:7-11)

(d) Philanthropy (29:12-17)

(e) Full of life expectancy (29:18-20)

(f) Wise leadership (29:21-25)

Job 29

(C) Job yearns for his past glory (29:1-25)

(a) Blessings (29:1-3)

1 Job again took up his discourse and said,

1 And Job again took up his discourse and said,

1 Then Job continued with his discourse:

1 Moreover Job continued his parable, and said,

2 "Oh that I were as in months gone by, As in the days when God watched over me;

2 "Oh that I were as in months gone by, As in the days when God watched over me;

2 "I wish I could go back to how things were a few months ago; when God used to watch over me,

2 Oh that I were as in months past, as in the days when God preserved me;

3 When His lamp shone over my head, *And* by His light I walked *through* darkness;

3 When His lamp shone over my head, *And* by His light I walked through darkness;

3 when his lamp used to shine over my head, so I could walk through the dark,

3 When his candle shined upon my head, and when by his light I walked through darkness;

(b) Ease (29:4-6)

4 Just as I was in the days of my youth, When the protection of God was over my tent;

4 As I was in the prime of my days, When the friendship of God was over my tent;

4 like when I was in my prime and God trusted me with his secrets!

4 As I was in the days of my youth, when the secret of God was upon my tabernacle;

5 When the Almighty was still with me, *And* my children were around me;
5 When the Almighty was yet with me, *And* my children were around me;
5 "The Almighty was still with me back then, and my children were still around me.
5 When the Almighty was yet with me, when my children were about me;

6 When my steps were bathed in cream, And the rock poured out streams of oil for me!
6 When my steps were bathed in butter, And the rock poured out for me streams of oil!
6 I was successful wherever I went, and even the rocks poured out streams of olive oil for me."
6 When I washed my steps with butter, and the rock poured me out rivers of oil;

(c) Respect (29:7-11)

7 "When I went out to the gate of the city, When I took my seat in the public square,
7 "When I went out to the gate of the city, When I took my seat in the square,
7 "Whenever I went out to the city gate, a seat had been reserved for me in the plaza.
7 When I went out to the gate through the city, when I prepared my seat in the street!

8 The young men saw me and hid themselves, And the old men arose *and* stood.
8 The young men saw me and hid themselves, And the old men arose *and* stood.
8 The young men would see me and withdraw, and the aged would rise and stand.
8 The young men saw me, and hid themselves: and the aged arose, and stood up.

9 "The leaders stopped talking And put *their* hands on their mouths;
9 "The princes stopped talking And put *their* hands on their mouths;
9 Nobles would refrain from speaking, covering their mouths with their hands.
9 The princes refrained talking, and laid their hand on their mouth.

10 The voices of the prominent people were hushed, And their tongues stuck to their palates.
10 The voice of the nobles was hushed, And their tongue stuck to their palate.
10 The voices of the commanders-in-chief were hushed, and their tongues would cling to the roofs of their mouths."
10 The nobles held their peace, and their tongue cleaved to the roof of their mouth.

11 "For *when* an ear heard, it called me blessed, And when an eye saw, it testified in support of me,

11 "For when the ear heard, it called me blessed, And when the eye saw, it gave witness of me,

11 "When people heard me speak, they blessed me; when people saw me, they approved me,

11 When the ear heard me, then it blessed me; and when the eye saw me, it gave witness to me:

(d) Philanthropy (29:12-17)

12 Because I saved the poor who cried for help, And the orphan who had no helper.

12 Because I delivered the poor who cried for help, And the orphan who had no helper.

12 because I delivered the poor who were crying for help, along with orphans who had no one to help them.

12 Because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him.

13 "The blessing of the one who was about to perish came upon me, And I made the widow's heart sing for joy.

13 "The blessing of the one ready to perish came upon me, And I made the widow's heart sing for joy.

13 Those who were about to die blessed me, and I made widows sing for joy.

13 The blessing of him that was ready to perish 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 headband.

14 "I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; My justice was like a robe and a turban.

14 I put on righteousness like clothing; my just decisions were like a robe and a turban.

14 I put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my judgment was as a robe and a diadem.

15 "I was eyes to those who were blind, And feet to those who could not walk.

15 "I was eyes to the blind And feet to the lame.

15 I served as eyes for the blind and feet for the lame.

15 I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame.

16 "I was a father to the poor, And I investigated the case which I did not know.

16 "I was a father to the needy, And I investigated the case which I did not know.

16 I was a father to the needy; I diligently inquired into the case of those I didn't know.

16 I was a father to the poor: and the cause which I knew not I searched out.

17 "I broke the jaws of the wicked And rescued the prey from his teeth.
17 "I broke the jaws of the wicked And snatched the prey from his teeth.
17 I broke the fangs of the wicked, and made him drop the prey."
17 And I brake the jaws of the wicked, and plucked the spoil out of his teeth.

(e) Full of life expectancy (29:18-20)

18 "Then I thought, 'I will die with my family, And I will multiply *my* days as the sand.
18 "Then I thought, 'I shall die in my nest, And I shall multiply *my* days as the sand.
18 "I used to say: 'I will die in my home. I'm going to live as many days as there are grains of sand on the shore.
18 Then I said, I shall die in my nest, and I shall multiply my days as the sand.

19 'My root is spread out to the waters, And dew lies on my branch all night.
19 'My root is spread out to the waters, And dew lies all night on my branch.
19 My roots have spread out and have found water, and dew settles at night on my branches.
19 My root was spread out by the waters, and the dew lay all night upon my branch.

20 'My glory is *ever* new with me, And my bow is renewed in my hand.'
20 'My glory is *ever* new with me, And my bow is renewed in my hand.'
20 My glory renews for me and my bow is as good as new in my hand.'
20 My glory was fresh in me, and my bow was renewed in my hand.

(f) Wise leadership (29:21-25)

21 "To me they listened and waited, And they kept silent for my advice.
21 "To me they listened and waited, And kept silent for my counsel.
21 "They listened and waited for me, as they remained in silence for my counsel.
21 Unto me men gave ear, and waited, and kept silence at my counsel.

22 "After my words they did not *speak* again, And my speech dropped on them.
22 "After my words they did not speak again, And my speech dropped on them.
22 After I spoke, they had nothing to say, when what I said hit them.
22 After my words they spake not again; and my speech dropped upon them.

23 "They waited for me as for the rain, And opened their mouths as for the late rain.
23 "They waited for me as for the rain, And opened their mouth as for the spring rain.
23 They waited for me as one waits for rain, as one opens his mouth to drink in a spring rain shower.

23 And they waited for me as for the rain; and they opened their mouth wide as for the latter rain.

24 "I smiled at them *when* they did not believe, And they did not look at my kindness ungraciously.

24 "I smiled on them when they did not believe, And the light of my face they did not cast down.

24 I smiled at them when they had no confidence, and no one could discourage me.

24 If I laughed on them, they believed it not; and the light of my countenance they cast not down.

25 "I chose a way for them and sat as chief, And lived as a king among the troops, As one who comforted the mourners.

25 "I chose a way for them and sat as chief, And dwelt as a king among the troops, As one who comforted the mourners.

25 I set an example of the way to live, as a leader would; I lived like a king among his army; like one who comforts mourners."

25 I chose out their way, and sat chief, and dwelt as a king in the army, as one that comforteth the mourners.