

Job 31 - Job Asserts His Moral Innocence

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Job 31

(E) Job's protest of innocence (31:1-40)

(a) Absence of sins related to sexuality and honesty (31:1-12)

(i) Lust (31:1-4)

1 "I have made a covenant with my eyes; How then could I look at a virgin?

1 "I have made a covenant with my eyes; How then could I gaze at a virgin?

1 "I made a covenant with my eyes; how, then, can I focus my attention on a virgin?

1 I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?

2 "And what is the portion of God from above, Or the inheritance of the Almighty from on high?

2 "And what is the portion of God from above Or the heritage of the Almighty from on high?

2 What would I have from God above, what heritage from the Almighty on high,

2 For what portion of God is there from above? and what inheritance of the Almighty from on high?

3 "Is it not disaster to the criminal, And misfortune to those who practice injustice?

3 "Is it not calamity to the unjust And disaster to those who work iniquity?

3 if not calamity that is due the unjust, and misfortune that is due those who practice iniquity?

3 Is not destruction to the wicked? and a strange punishment to the workers of iniquity?

4 "Does He not see my ways, And count all my steps?

4 "Does He not see my ways And number all my steps?

4 He watches my life, observing every one of my actions, does he not?"

4 Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps?

(ii) Lying and deceiving (31:5-8)

5 "If I have walked with deception, And my foot has hurried after deceit,

5 "If I have walked with falsehood, And my foot has hastened after deceit,

5 "If I've lived my life in the company of vanity, or run quickly to embrace deception,

5 If I have walked with vanity, or if my foot hath hasted to deceit;

6 Let Him weigh me with accurate scales, And let God know my integrity.

6 Let Him weigh me with accurate scales, And let God know my integrity.

6 let my righteousness be weighed in honest scales, and God will make known my integrity.

6 Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity.

7 "If my step has turned from the way, Or my heart followed my eyes, Or if any spot has stuck to my hands,

7 "If my step has turned from the way, Or my heart followed my eyes, Or if any spot has stuck to my hands,

7 If I have stepped away from the way, or if my heart covets whatever my eyes see, or if some other blemish clings to my hands,

7 If my step hath turned out of the way, and mine heart walked after mine eyes, and if any blot hath cleaved to mine hands;

8 Let me sow and another eat, And let my crops be uprooted.

8 Let me sow and another eat, And let my crops be uprooted.

8 what I've planted, let another eat or let my crops be uprooted."

8 Then let me sow, and let another eat; yea, let my offspring be rooted out.

(iii) Adultery (31:9-12)

9 "If my heart has been enticed by a woman, Or I have lurked at my neighbor's doorway,

9 "If my heart has been enticed by a woman, Or I have lurked at my neighbor's doorway,

9 "If my heart has been seduced by a woman and I've laid in wait at my friend's door,

9 If mine heart have been deceived by a woman, or if I have laid wait at my neighbour's door;

10 May my wife grind *grain* for another, And let others kneel down over her.

10 May my wife grind for another, And let others kneel down over her.

10 then let my wife cook for another person and may someone else sleep with her,

10 Then let my wife grind unto another, and let others bow down upon her.

11 "For that would be a lustful crime; Moreover, it would be wrongdoing *punishable by judges*.

11 "For that would be a lustful crime; Moreover, it would be an iniquity *punishable by judges*.

11 because something as lascivious as that is an iniquity that should be judged.

11 For this is an heinous crime; yea, it is an iniquity to be punished by the judges.

12 "For it would be fire that consumes to Abaddon, And would uproot all my increase.

12 "For it would be fire that consumes to Abaddon, And would uproot all my increase.

12 The fires of Abaddon will burn, disrupting every part of my eternal reward."

12 For it is a fire that consumeth to destruction, and would root out all mine increase.

(b) Absence of sins related to abusing authority (31:13-23)

(i) Helping slaves (31:13-15)

13 "If I have rejected the claim of my male or female slaves When they filed a complaint against me,

13 "If I have despised the claim of my male or female slaves When they filed a complaint against me,

13 "If I've refused to help my male and female servants when they complain against me,

13 If I did despise the cause of my manservant or of my maidservant, when they contended with me;

14 What then could I do when God arises? And when He calls me to account, how am I to answer Him?

14 What then could I do when God arises? And when He calls me to account, what will I answer Him?

14 what will I do when God stands up to act? When he asks the questions, how will I answer him?

14 What then shall I do when God riseth up? and when he visiteth, what shall I answer him?

15 "Did He who made me in the womb not make him, And the same one create us in the womb?

15 "Did not He who made me in the womb make him, And the same one fashion us in the womb?

15 The one who made me in the womb made them, too, didn't he? Didn't the same one prepare each of us in the womb?"

15 Did not he that made me in the womb make him? and did not one fashion us in the womb?

(ii) Helping the poor and needy (31:16-23)

16 "If I have kept the poor from *their* desire, Or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail,

16 "If I have kept the poor from *their* desire, Or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail,

16 "If I refused to grant the desire of the poor or exhausted the eyes of the widow,

16 If I have withheld the poor from their desire, or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail;

17 Or have eaten my morsel alone, And the orphan has not shared it

17 Or have eaten my morsel alone, And the orphan has not shared it

17 if I ate my meals by myself without feeding orphans,

17 Or have eaten my morsel myself alone, and the fatherless hath not eaten thereof;

18 (But from my youth he grew up with me as with a father, And from my infancy I guided her),

18 (But from my youth he grew up with me as with a father, And from infancy I guided her),

18 (even a poor man had grown up with me as if I were his father, and even though I had guided the widow from the time I was born),

18 (For from my youth he was brought up with me, as with a father, and I have guided her from my mother's womb;)

19 If I have seen anyone perish for lack of clothing, Or that the needy had no covering,

19 If I have seen anyone perish for lack of clothing, Or that the needy had no covering,

19 if I've observed someone who is about to die for lack of clothes or if I have no clothing to give to the poor,

19 If I have seen any perish for want of clothing, or any poor without covering;

20 If his waist has not thanked me, And if he has not been warmed with the fleece of my sheep,

20 If his loins have not thanked me, And if he has not been warmed with the fleece of my sheep,

20 if he hadn't thanked me from the bottom of his heart, if he had not been warmed by wool from my sheep,

20 If his loins have not blessed me, and if he were not warmed with the fleece of my sheep;

21 If I have lifted up my hand against the orphan, Because I saw I had support in the gate,

21 If I have lifted up my hand against the orphan, Because I saw I had support in the gate,

21 if I've raised my hand against an orphan when I thought I would against him in court,

21 If I have lifted up my hand against the fatherless, when I saw my help in the gate:

22 May my shoulder fall from *its* socket, And my arm be broken off at the elbow.

22 Let my shoulder fall from the socket, And my arm be broken off at the elbow.

22 then let my arm fall from its socket; and may my arm be torn off at the shoulder.

22 Then let mine arm fall from my shoulder blade, and mine arm be broken from the bone.

23 "For disaster from God is a terror to me, And because of His majesty I can do nothing.

23 "For calamity from God is a terror to me, And because of His majesty I can do nothing.

23 For I'm terrified of what calamity God may have in store for me; and I cannot endure his grandeur."

23 For destruction from God was a terror to me, and by reason of his highness I could not endure.

(c) Absence of sins related to dishonesty before both God and man (31:24-40)

(i) Materialism (31:24-25)

24 "If I have put my confidence *in* gold, And called fine gold my trust,

24 "If I have put my confidence *in* gold, And called fine gold my trust,

24 "If I've put my confidence in gold, if I've told gold, 'You're my security,'

24 If I have made gold my hope, or have said to the fine gold, Thou art my confidence;

25 If I have gloated because my wealth was great, And because my hand had obtained so much;

25 If I have gloated because my wealth was great, And because my hand had secured so much;

25 if I've found joy in great wealth that I own, if I've earned a lot with my own hands,

25 If I rejoiced because my wealth was great, and because mine hand had gotten much;

(ii) Idolatry (31:26-28)

26 If I have looked at the sun when it shone, Or the moon going in splendor,

26 If I have looked at the sun when it shone Or the moon going in splendor,

26 if I look at the sun when it shines or the moon as it rises in steady splendor,

26 If I beheld the sun when it shined, or the moon walking in brightness;

27 And my heart was secretly enticed, And my hand threw a kiss from my mouth,

27 And my heart became secretly enticed, And my hand threw a kiss from my mouth,

27 so that in the depths of my deceived heart I worshipped them with my mouth and hands,

27 And my heart hath been secretly enticed, or my mouth hath kissed my hand:

28 That too would have been a guilty deed *calling for judgment*, For I would have denied God above.

28 That too would have been an iniquity *calling for judgment*, For I would have denied God above.

28 this is also a sin that deserves to be judged, since I would have tried to deceive God above."

28 This also were an iniquity to be punished by the judge: for I should have denied the God that is above.

(iii) Revenge (31:29-30)

29 "Have I rejoiced at the misfortune of my enemy, Or become excited when evil found him?

29 "Have I rejoiced at the extinction of my enemy, Or exulted when evil befell him?

29 "Have I rejoiced in the destruction of those who hate me, or have I been happy that evil caught up with him?

29 If I rejoiced at the destruction of him that hated me, or lifted up myself when evil found him:

30 "No, I have not allowed my mouth to sin By asking for his life in a curse.

30 "No, I have not allowed my mouth to sin By asking for his life in a curse.
30 No, I haven't allowed my mouth to sin by asking for his life with a curse.
30 Neither have I suffered my mouth to sin by wishing a curse to his soul.

(iv) Miserliness (31:31-32)

31 "Have the people of my tent not said, 'Who can find one who has not been satisfied with his meat'?
31 "Have the men of my tent not said, 'Who can find one who has not been satisfied with his meat'?
31 People in my household have said, 'We cannot find anyone who has not been satisfied with his meat,' haven't they?
31 If the men of my tabernacle said not, Oh that we had of his flesh! we cannot be satisfied.

32 "The stranger has not spent the night outside, *For I have opened my doors to the traveler.*
32 "The alien has not lodged outside, *For I have opened my doors to the traveler.*
32 No stranger ever spent the night in the street, because I opened my doors to travelers."
32 The stranger did not lodge in the street: but I opened my doors to the traveller.

(v) Hypocrisy (31:33-34)

33 "Have I covered my wrongdoings like a man, By hiding my guilt in my shirt pocket,
33 "Have I covered my transgressions like Adam, By hiding my iniquity in my bosom,
33 "Have I covered my transgression like other people, to conceal iniquity within myself?
33 If I covered my transgressions as Adam, by hiding mine iniquity in my bosom:

34 Because I feared the great multitude And the contempt of families terrified me, And I kept silent and did not go out of doors?
34 Because I feared the great multitude, And the contempt of families terrified me, And kept silent and did not go out of doors?
34 Have I feared large crowds? Has my family's contempt ever terrified me so that I remained silent and wouldn't go outside?"
34 Did I fear a great multitude, or did the contempt of families terrify me, that I kept silence, and went not out of the door?

(vi) After signing his defense Job challenges God to answer (31:35-37)

35 "Oh that I had one to hear me! Here is my signature; Let the Almighty answer me! And the indictment which my adversary has written,

35 "Oh that I had one to hear me! Behold, here is my signature; Let the Almighty answer me! And the indictment which my adversary has written,
35 "Who will grant me a hearing? Here's my signature—let the Almighty answer! Since my adversary indicted me,
35 Oh that one would hear me! behold, my desire is, that the Almighty would answer me, and that mine adversary had written a book.

36 I would certainly carry it on my shoulder, I would tie it to myself *like* a garland.

36 Surely I would carry it on my shoulder, I would bind it to myself like a crown.

36 I'll wear it on my shoulder, or tie it on my head for a crown!

36 Surely I would take it upon my shoulder, and bind it as a crown to me.

37 "I would declare to Him the number of my steps; Like a prince, I would approach Him.

37 "I would declare to Him the number of my steps; Like a prince I would approach Him.

37 I'll give an account for every step I've taken; I'll approach him confidently like a Commander-in-Chief."

37 I would declare unto him the number of my steps; as a prince would I go near unto him.

(vii) Exploitation (31:38-40)

38 "If my land cries out against me, And its furrows weep together;

38 "If my land cries out against me, And its furrows weep together;

38 "If my land were to cry out against me or if all its furrows wept as one,

38 If my land cry against me, or that the furrows likewise thereof complain;

39 If I have eaten its fruit without money, Or have caused its owners to lose their lives,

39 If I have eaten its fruit without money, Or have caused its owners to lose their lives,

39 If I've consumed its produce without paying for it and snuffed out the life of its owners;

39 If I have eaten the fruits thereof without money, or have caused the owners thereof to lose their life:

40 May the thorn-bush grow instead of wheat, And stinkweed instead of barley." The words of Job are ended.

40 Let briars grow instead of wheat, And stinkweed instead of barley." The words of Job are ended.

40 may thorns spring up instead of wheat, and obnoxious weeds instead of barley." With this, Job's discourse with his friends is completed.

40 Let thistles grow instead of wheat, and cockle instead of barley.