



# Eternal PERSPECTIVE *Job*

## BIBLE TEXT | JOB 29:1-25

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**1** And Job again took up his discourse, and said: **2** "Oh, that I were as in the months of old, as in the days when God watched over me, **3** when his lamp shone upon my head, and by his light I walked through darkness, **4** as I was in my prime, when the friendship of God was upon my tent, **5** when the Almighty was yet with me, when my children were all around me, **6** when my steps were washed with butter, and the rock poured out for me streams of oil! **7** When I went out to the gate of the city, when I prepared my seat in the square, **8** the young men saw me and withdrew, and the aged rose and stood; **9** the princes refrained from talking and laid their hand on their mouth; **10** the voice of the nobles was hushed, and their tongue stuck to the roof of their mouth. **11** When the ear heard, it called me blessed, and when the eye saw, it approved, **12** because I delivered the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to help him. **13** The blessing of him who was about 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 turban. **15** I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame. **16** I was a father to the needy, and I searched out the cause of him whom I did not know. **17** I broke the fangs of the unrighteous and made him drop his prey from his teeth. **18** Then I thought, 'I shall die in my nest and I shall multiply my days as the sand, **19** my roots spread out to the waters, with the dew all night on my branches, **20** my glory fresh with me, and my bow ever new in my hand.' **21** "Men listened to me and waited and kept silence for my counsel. **22** After I spoke they did not speak again, and my word dropped upon them. **23** They waited for me as for the rain, and they opened their mouths as for the spring rain. **24** I smiled on them when they had no confidence, and the light of my face they did not cast down. **25** I chose their way and sat as chief, and I lived like a king among his troops, like one who comforts mourners.

## DEVOTIONAL FOR JOB 29:1-25

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As we begin this chapter, Job is reflecting on his past when he felt God's true presence in his life. He remembers when times and circumstances were good. He acknowledges when God's friendship was upon Him. He recalls when his family was healthy, when his life was full, and his reputation was beyond reproach. Job had no complaints. He was a faithful servant of the Lord.



# Eternal PERSPECTIVE

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## Job

A little later in the passage, Job is lamenting over all that has happened to him since the good times. Clearly Job is sad by the fact he cannot understand why God is mistreating him. He is longing to experience the "good old days". I can look back in my own life to when times were good. Sometimes I long for those things or feelings to be present in my current circumstances.

In Job's life we can see a defining moment between his former prosperity and his present misery. Job's tragedies had nothing to do with anything he did or did not do. I, too, can draw a hard line in the sand that defines what used to be and how my life is now. Through my suffering, God has grown me more than I would have grown had my life gone as I had planned. Suffering is difficult.

In David's Psalm 23, God keeps reiterating for us to be still, to lie down to rest. God is inviting us into the calm and quiet to restore us, to comfort us, and to rest our souls with Him. He does not give us permission to be lazy or procrastinate in our waiting. Keeping God near in good times and bad times is important. He does want us to share our feelings with Him. It is okay to be upset with God, and ask Him why when bad things happen. We, however, should do so reverently. In our suffering, when we are faithful to abide in and with Him, we will grow in our walk with Him. Our suffering can teach us compassion in order to serve others going through similar circumstances.

Today if you are struggling to understand why something is going on in your life, caused by your own choices or just circumstances beyond your control, I encourage you to give it all over to God. To know God is to have an intimate relationship with Him. He fully knows you, and wants you to fully know Him. He can use all things for good and for His glory. God is a loving Father, the giver of peace that surpasses all worldly understanding. "And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you" (1 Peter 5:10).

### Questions:

1. How often do you refer to the former things, relationships, etc. in your life? Have you allowed God to use circumstances in your life for His glory?
2. Is the Lord directing your schedule each day or do you schedule your day and ask God to make it happen as you've planned?
3. In a season of waiting, how are you using this time to grow closer to the Lord?