



# Eternal PERSPECTIVE

## Job

### BIBLE TEXT | JOB 30:1-31

**1** "But now they laugh at me, men who are younger than I, whose fathers I would have disdained to set with the dogs of my flock. **2** What could I gain from the strength of their hands, men whose vigor is gone? **3** Through want and hard hunger they gnaw the dry ground by night in waste and desolation; **4** they pick saltwort and the leaves of bushes, and the roots of the broom tree for their food. **5** They are driven out from human company; they shout after them as after a thief. **6** In the gullies of the torrents they must dwell, in holes of the earth and of the rocks. **7** Among the bushes they bray; under the nettles they huddle together. **8** A senseless, a nameless brood, they have been whipped out of the land. **9** "And now I have become their song; I am a byword to them. **10** They abhor me; they keep aloof from me; they do not hesitate to spit at the sight of me. **11** Because God has loosed my cord and humbled me, they have cast off restraint in my presence. **12** On my right hand the rabble rise; they push away my feet; they cast up against me their ways of destruction. **13** They break up my path; they promote my calamity; they need no one to help them. **14** As through a wide breach they come; amid the crash they roll on. **15** Terrors are turned upon me; my honor is pursued as by the wind, and my prosperity has passed away like a cloud. **16** "And now my soul is poured out within me; days of affliction have taken hold of me. **17** The night racks my bones, and the pain that gnaws me takes no rest. **18** With great force my garment is disfigured; it binds me about like the collar of my tunic. **19** God has cast me into the mire, and I have become like dust and ashes. **20** I cry to you for help and you do not answer me; I stand, and you only look at me. **21** You have turned cruel to me; with the might of your hand you persecute me. **22** You lift me up on the wind; you make me ride on it, and you toss me about in the roar of the storm. **23** For I know that you will bring me to death and to the house appointed for all living. **24** "Yet does not one in a heap of ruins stretch out his hand, and in his disaster cry for help? **25** Did not I weep for him whose day was hard? Was not my soul grieved for the needy? **26** But when I hoped for good, evil came, and when I waited for light, darkness came. **27** My inward parts are in turmoil and never still; days of affliction come to meet me. **28** I go about darkened, but not by the sun; I stand up in the assembly and cry for help. **29** I am a brother of jackals and a companion of ostriches. **30** My skin turns black and falls from me, and my bones burn with heat. **31** My lyre is turned to mourning, and my pipe to the voice of those who weep."



# Eternal PERSPECTIVE Job

## DEVOTIONAL FOR JOB 30:1-31

AUTHOR: PHILLIP HOPKINS

Devastated! That's how you feel when you hit rock bottom, when you start to focus on how bad your life is right now because of the circumstances you find yourself in, and there doesn't seem to be an end in sight. I've been there a couple of times. All you can see is the path of devastation left behind you, and how your life will never be the same. You start to wonder what others think of you, or maybe they tell you what they think of you. You begin to question your very existence. You question God. Where is God in all of this? Why did He let this happen to me? Why didn't He stop it? You want the pain of it all to disappear and you want to act as if it never happened.

Job questions things from a worldly perspective at first, like many of us. He asks, "What does the world think about me?" He is focused on how he has now fallen below even the most despised people. Haven't you viewed yourself that way when going through a trial? If you've ever hit bottom, haven't you wondered how this would impact your life and what others will think of you? Even the lowly seem to rise above you. In verses 9 and 10 Job highlights this. He is no longer of a higher stature, but has fallen below even the lowest of people. From those verses though, we see a shift in who Job begins to focus on. He turns his attention to God! In Verse 20, he cries out to God, but God doesn't answer. Have you ever felt that way? Have you ever questioned where God was in your trial? King David did. Psalm 13:1-2 says, "How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?"

Going through the valleys in life doesn't mean your life is over. It means that God is at work. Through the valleys I went through, God restored me to a place of fellowship with Him that I would have never reached if I hadn't hit rock bottom. He was helping me build my house on a rock versus sand (Matthew 7:24-27). Later on, Job will see blessings upon blessings, after going through the valley. What you will find when you reach the mountain on the other side is that God was with you the whole time, pursuing you and your heart. Psalm 13 ends this way: "But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.". Psalm 13:5-6. What a beautiful way to end a passage that started out with despair, by praising the One who created us and knowing that He is in control. God uses those times in the valley to bring us closer to Him. We may be so far away from Him in the moment that we don't see it, but eventually we will be able to see Him in the trial.



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**Questions:**

1. When you faced a storm in life, where did you turn first?
2. How did God use that trial to grow you?
3. What blessings came out of the trial?