

## **JOB'S FINAL DEFENSE**

### **JOB 29 —SELF-PORTRAIT OF BLESSED LIFE**

SUMMARY: A sentimental view of my life before my afflictions. My past was glorious, and I was in harmony with God. God's grace shone upon me so all my days were full of ease and prosperity. I wish everything could return to the way my life was before when I had everything, was marked with success, and where my council was considered supreme. A blessed life is not constrained to just family life but extends outward to public responsibilities, social justice, and community involvement. I have a long record of righteousness and justice for all, especially the unfortunate. Now that I have fallen into the state of despair, no one defends me. This picture of prosperity sets up a contrast for the next section.

### **JOB 30—SELF PORTRAIT OF LIFE AT PRESENT**

SUMMARY: My present state is humiliating now that God has forsaken me. Now I am in agony and am mocked by the lowest of the low. I seek peace from my suffering, but get no respite. Still I defend my right to cry to God for help. I question why I've been subjected to such turmoil when I am a righteous man. I have been left in utter darkness (v. 26), filled with turmoil (v. 27), and bereft of justice (v. 28), cut off from companionship and a fair hearing as the lonely animals of the desert (v. 29), in utter ruin of body and grief of soul (v. 30-31). Suffering, here, is portrayed in physical form and also represents spiritual and emotional pain.

### **JOB 31: 1-34—SELF-PORTRAIT OF RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

SUMMARY: I make an oath of innocence and I invite the God's retribution if I claim false. (An oath of innocence is proclaiming innocence of attitudes or actions understood to be offensive to God). If I am in violation of the 10 commandments, the code of hospitality, and other laws passed down by God, I will be struck down. Since I have made this oath, I have no choice but to continuing asserting my integrity.

### **JOB 31: 35-37—HIS FINAL CHALLENGE**

Here are all the faults and sins I could have committed but avoided because I kept my faith and feared God. I beg for someone to witness my endurance, hear my arguments, and defend me against God. By making an oath of innocence, I have taken matters into my own hands. If none of the curses I've invoked fall on my head, then I am morally vindicated. I am ready to approach God like a worthy person not in the misery I've been cast into. The claim sets the stage for God's arrival, but first, six chapters of the very long-winded Elihu.