

JOB PART 4
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There are at least two views as to the meaning of Job?

The Traditional View. Paraphrasing ... Job was self-righteous ... God brought tragedy into Job's life ... loss of family ... wealth ... sickness (boils) ... to teach him humility. Technically ... God may have used satan as attack dog ... but it was all God's great Sovereign purpose ... to humble Job.

What's the lesson for us? God in His mysterious eternal purpose ... may bring suffering into our lives. To teach us ... to humble us ... to perfect us. Our house may burn down ... chronic sickness ... death of a loved one.

And ... just like Job ... we should declare: The Lord gives and the Lord takes away ... blessed be the name of the Lord!

I've offered a different view. If you take the overall context of the Bible ... it shows God as a God of Love ... God of mercy and loving kindness ... a God disposed to show goodness and compassion ... God is a Good shepherd who tends to His sheep (not a shepherd who takes His best sheep and breaks its legs and burns all its wool off with oxyacetylene torch to teach it humility and patience). That is not a fair reflection of God. So the Traditional view doesn't stack up.

We've seen that satan had already got Job in his cross-hairs ... set his heart on Job. What he did then ... he still does today (satan goes about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour).

Satan was free to attack Job ... just like he can us. Hence ... be vigilant ... resist the devil ... put on the whole armour of God. Because he's out there looking.

Job may have thought because he was an upright and moral man ... that he was automatically protected from harm and calamity? He wasn't. Neither are we! Presumption!

Then getting to last week:

Job's 3 friends arrived to comfort and encourage him ... Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar.

What do we see? There are 29 chapters of argument and disagreement ... between Job and his friends.

Although we have an inspired record ... they are not the truth. Men's opinions and theologies. Lots of hot-air. They don't contain God's truth.

Last week we reviewed the thoughts of Job's 3 friends. Their theology was:

1. God sends suffering and calamity on wicked people
2. Job's calamities were clear evidence that he was wicked

Job, of course, totally denied that ... he said he was "A good man".

Let's have a recap a of Job's friends.

Job 4:7-9 (NKJV) Eliphaz

7 "Remember now, **who ever perished being innocent?**

Or **where were the upright ever cut off?**

8 Even as I have seen,

**Those who plow iniquity
And sow trouble reap the same.
9 By the blast of God they perish,
And by the breath of His anger they are consumed.**

So ... Eliphaz is quite blunt. Job is reaping the consequences of his own terrible conduct. So. He blames Job and he blames God.

Remember: this is the guy who had a spirit visit him (from the dark side).

Job 5:17 (NKJV) Eliphaz

**17 "Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects;
Therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty. (NB this is God's handiwork. God is correcting and chastising)**

Job 11:5-6 (NKJV) Zophar

5 But oh, that God would speak,
And open His lips against you,
6 That He would show you the secrets of wisdom!
For they would double your prudence.

**Know therefore that God exacts from you
Less than your iniquity deserves. (God is being merciful. Job ...
You deserve worse!)**

Job. You've got bad things happening ... You have got to be a bad person. This is obvious to wise men. These friends were way off track. God said Job was an upright man.

Job 15:5-6 (NKJV) Eliphaz

**5 For your iniquity teaches your mouth,
And you choose the tongue of the crafty.
6 Your own mouth condemns you, and not I;**

Yes, your own lips testify against you. (*Your wickedness is clear from the words you are saying*)

Job 15:20-21 (NKJV) Eliphaz

20 **The wicked man writhes with pain all his days,** (*poor old Job is writhing with pain ... so he must be wicked*)

And the number of years is hidden from the oppressor.

21 Dreadful sounds are in his ears;

In prosperity the destroyer comes upon him. (*Why? Because he is a wicked man*)

Job 15:25 (NKJV) Eliphaz

25 **For he stretches out his hand against God,
And acts defiantly against the Almighty,**

Conclusion: Job is a wicked man. Hostile to God.

They were all in basic agreement. Job was wicked ... he fully deserved what he'd got! And yet ... when we get to chapter 42 ... we see that God's wrath was aroused against Job's friends.

[Job 42:7 (NKJV)

7 And so it was, after the Lord had spoken these words to Job, that **the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "My wrath is aroused against you and your two friends, for you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has.]**

Today. Let's review Job's opinions. Because ... Job totally rejected their views. He knew he was basically a good man ... decent ... generous ... disciplined ... wise ... avoided evil ... worshipped God. He wasn't wrong because God said the same. His opinion of himself was pretty much fair.

Yet ... God was after him. Why? It wasn't fair! He believed that God was behind it. All four parties were wrong.

Job 6:1-4 (NKJV)

1 **Then Job answered and said:**

2 "Oh, that my grief were fully weighed,
And my calamity laid with it on the scales!

3 For then it would be heavier than the sand of the sea—
Therefore my words have been rash.

4 **For the arrows of the Almighty are within me;**

My spirit drinks in their poison;

The terrors of God are arrayed against me. (*Job said it was the "arrows of the Almighty". Very early on in the book of Job ... Job is blaming God. It's God! Job was sincere ... but ... sincerely wrong!*)

Job 6:8-9 (NKJV)

8 **"Oh, that I might have my request,**

That God would grant me the thing that I long for!

9 **That it would please God to crush me,**

That He would loose His hand and cut me off! (*One translation says ... "Go ahead and kill me!". Another says ... "Do away with me"*)

Job 6:14 (NKJV)

14 **"To him who is afflicted, kindness should be shown by his friend,** (*You lot should show me sympathy*) Even though he forsakes the fear of the Almighty.

Job 6:24 (NKJV)

24 **"Teach me, and I will hold my tongue;**

Cause me to understand wherein I have erred. (*Talking to his friends ... show me where I'm wrong ... where have I sinned?*)

Job 7:4-11 (NKJV)

4 When I lie down, I say, 'When shall I arise,
And the night be ended?'

For I have had my fill of tossing till dawn.

5 My flesh is caked with worms and dust,
My skin is cracked and breaks out afresh.

6 "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle,
And are spent without hope.

7 Oh, remember that my life is a breath!
My eye will never again see good.

8 The eye of him who sees me will see me no more;
While your eyes are upon me, I shall no longer be.

9 As the cloud disappears and vanishes away,
So he who goes down to the grave does not come up.

10 He shall never return to his house,
Nor shall his place know him anymore.

11 "Therefore I will not restrain my mouth;
I will speak in the anguish of my spirit;
I will complain in the bitterness of my soul. (I'm doomed! My
time is up. My life is over. I'm justified to complain and be
miserable)

Job 7:17-21 (NKJV)

17 **"What is man, that You should exalt him,
That You should set Your heart on him, (similar phrase to Job 1
and 2: implies WITH AN EVIL PURPOSE. God ... what is behind
your attitude towards mankind?)**

18 **That You should visit him every morning,
And test him every moment?**

19 How long?

Will You not look away from me,

And let me alone till I swallow my saliva?

20 **Have I sinned?**

What have I done to You, O watcher of men?

**Why have You set me as Your target,
So that I am a burden to myself?**

**21 Why then do You not pardon my transgression,
And take away my iniquity?**

For now I will lie down in the dust,
And You will seek me diligently,
But I will no longer be." *(One translation says ... "Soon you won't
find me ... because I'll be dead")*

There is not one iota of doubt in Job's mind that God is his attacker.
Job's only question is "Why?"

Job 9:1-10 (NKJV)

1 Then Job answered and said:

2 "Truly I know it is so,

But how can a man be righteous before God?

3 If one wished to contend with Him,

He could not answer Him one time out of a thousand.

4 **God is wise in heart and mighty in strength.**

Who has hardened himself against Him (*God*) and prospered?

5 He removes the mountains, and they do not know

When He overturns them in His anger;

6 He shakes the earth out of its place,

And its pillars tremble;

7 He commands the sun, and it does not rise;

He seals off the stars;

8 He alone spreads out the heavens,

And treads on the waves of the sea;

9 He made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades,

And the chambers of the south;

10 He does great things past finding out,

Yes, wonders without number.

Job is more than happy to concede that God is great and a marvel ...
but ...

Job 9:14-17 (NKJV)

14 "How then can I answer Him,
And choose my words to reason with Him?"

15 For though I were righteous, I could not answer Him;
I would beg mercy of my Judge.

16 If I called and He answered me,
I would not believe that He was listening to my voice.

17 For He crushes me with a tempest,
And multiplies my wounds without cause. *(Even though God is mighty and powerful ... Job says God crushes him ... Without a cause!! He just does all of this to Job just because He wants to)*

Job 9:21-23 (NKJV)

21 "I am blameless, yet I do not know myself; *(nothing that merits destruction)*

I despise my life.

22 It is all one thing;

Therefore I say, 'He destroys the blameless and the wicked.'

23 If the scourge slays suddenly,
He laughs at the plight of the innocent. *(God destroys the blameless and the wicked. Both of them. God doesn't differentiate. Job is talking non-stop nonsense)*

Job 9:32-35 (NKJV)

32 "For He is not a man, as I am,
That I may answer Him,
And that we should go to court together. *(This is what Job would want. Job knows he is not wicked. He would love to take God to court ... and he would be declared innocent)*

33 Nor is there any mediator between us,

Who may lay his hand on us both. (*"Mediator" ... "Umpire" ... One who could help bridge the gap between a "mere human" and a Great God! Job wanted a mediator ... someone there to help. We have one!! Jesus. He can represent us to God.* **1 Timothy 2:5-6 (NKJV)**)

5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,)

34 Let Him take His rod away from me,
And do not let dread of Him terrify me.

35 Then I would speak and not fear Him,
But it is not so with me.

Job 10:1-9 (NKJV)

1 **"My soul loathes my life;
I will give free course to my complaint,
I will speak in the bitterness of my soul.** (*Nobody is holding me back. I've got a right to complain*)

2 **I will say to God, "Do not condemn me;
Show me why You contend with me.** (*Why do you contend with me?*)

3 **Does it seem good to You that You should oppress,
That You should despise the work of Your hands,
And smile on the counsel of the wicked?**

4 Do You have eyes of flesh?
Or do You see as man sees?

5 Are Your days like the days of a mortal man?
Are Your years like the days of a mighty man,

6 That You should seek for my iniquity
And search out my sin,

7 **Although You know that I am not wicked, (Correct: see Job 1)
And there is no one who can deliver from Your hand?**

8 "Your hands have made me and fashioned me,
An intricate unity;

Yet You would destroy me.

9 Remember, I pray, that You have made me like clay.

And will You turn me into dust again? *(Why are you setting out to destroy me God?)*

Job 13:1-5 (NKJV)

1 "Behold, my eye has seen all this,
My ear has heard and understood it.

2 What you know, I also know;

I am not inferior to you. *(Talking to his friends)*

3 But I would speak to the Almighty,

And I desire to reason with God. *(I want to speak with God!*

Argue my case with Him)

4 But you forgers of lies,

You are all worthless physicians. *(Your words are useless)*

5 Oh, that you would be silent,

And it would be your wisdom! *(Wish you lot would shut up!)*

Job 13:15-27 (NKJV)

15 Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.

Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him. *(Job had a great attitude!)*

16 He also shall be my salvation,

For a hypocrite could not come before Him.

17 Listen carefully to my speech,

And to my declaration with your ears.

18 See now, I have prepared my case,

I know that I shall be vindicated.

19 Who is he who will contend with me?

If now I hold my tongue, I perish.

20 "Only two things do not do to me,

Then I will not hide myself from You:

21 Withdraw Your hand far from me,

And let not the dread of You make me afraid.

22 Then call, and I will answer;

Or let me speak, then You respond to me.

23 How many are my iniquities and sins?

Make me know my transgression and my sin.

24 Why do You hide Your face,

And regard me as Your enemy?

25 Will You frighten a leaf driven to and fro?

And will You pursue dry stubble?

26 For You write bitter things against me,

And make me inherit the iniquities of my youth.

27 You put my feet in the stocks,

And watch closely all my paths.

You set a limit for the soles of my feet. *(Poor old Job. God was after him every way he turned. How unfair can God be?)*

Job 14:1-2 (NKJV)

1 "Man who is born of woman

Is of few days and full of trouble.

2 He comes forth like a flower and fades away;

He flees like a shadow and does not continue. *(Man is so temporary)*

Job 14:7-9 (NKJV)

7 "For there is hope for a tree,

If it is cut down, that it will sprout again,

And that its tender shoots will not cease.

8 Though its root may grow old in the earth,

And its stump may die in the ground,

9 Yet at the scent of water it will bud

And bring forth branches like a plant.

Job 14:10-12 (NKJV)

10 But man dies and is laid away;

Indeed he breathes his last

And where is he? *(If you cut a man down ... the book is closed. He is ended)*

11 As water disappears from the sea,
And a river becomes parched and dries up,

12 **So man lies down and does not rise.**

Till the heavens are no more,

They will not awake

Nor be roused from their sleep.

Job 14:13-15 (NKJV)

13 "Oh, that You would hide me in the grave,
That You would conceal me until Your wrath is past,
That You would appoint me a set time, and remember me!

14 **If a man dies, shall he live again?** *(Excellent question. Job is perhaps uncertain?)*

All the days of my hard service I will wait,

Till my change comes.

15 You shall call, and I will answer You;

You shall desire the work of Your hands. *(I get the impression that Job thinks he will live again)*

But we know more than Job. We've got 1 Corinthians 15 ... the whole chapter! "As in Adam all die ... even so In Christ ... all will be made alive". We've got certainty in something that Job was feeling his way around.

Job 16:1-5 (NKJV)

1 **Then Job answered and said:**

2 "I have heard many such things;

Miserable comforters are you all!

3 **Shall words of wind have an end?** *(You windbags!)*

Or what provokes you that you answer?

4 **I also could speak as you do,**

If your soul were in my soul's place.

I could heap up words against you,

And shake my head at you;

5 But I would strengthen you with my mouth,

And the comfort of my lips would relieve your grief. *(I would try and relieve your grief if I were you and you were me)*

Job 16:9-14 (NKJV)

9 He tears me in His wrath, and hates me;

He gnashes at me with His teeth;

My adversary sharpens His gaze on me.

10 They gape at me with their mouth,

They strike me reproachfully on the cheek,

They gather together against me.

11 God has delivered me to the ungodly,

And turned me over to the hands of the wicked.

12 I was at ease, but He has shattered me;

He also has taken me by my neck, and shaken me to pieces;

He has set me up for His target,

13 His archers surround me.

He pierces my heart and does not pity;

He pours out my gall on the ground.

14 He breaks me with wound upon wound;

He runs at me like a warrior. *(God attacks me ... He breaks me ... He hates me ... He has no pity. Does that sound like the true nature of God? No! He finds out later he was wrong)*

Job 19:1-6 (NKJV)

1 Then Job answered and said:

2 "How long will you torment my soul,

And break me in pieces with words?

3 These ten times you have reproached me;

You are not ashamed that you have wronged me.

4 And if indeed I have erred,

My error remains with me.

5 **If indeed you exalt yourselves against me,
And plead my disgrace against me,**
6 **Know then that God has wronged me,
And has surrounded me with His net.** (*Bildad's view was that
wicked people get trapped in their own net. Job 18:8 "cast into
a net by his own feet". No says Job. God did it! God's in the
wrong. God's not just*)

Job 19:8-12 (NKJV)

8 He has fenced up my way, so that I cannot pass;
And He has set darkness in my paths.

9 He has stripped me of my glory,
And taken the crown from my head.

10 He breaks me down on every side,
And I am gone;

My hope He has uprooted like a tree.

11 **He has also kindled His wrath against me,
And He counts me as one of His enemies.**

12 His troops come together
And build up their road against me;
They encamp all around my tent.

Job 19:21-29 (NKJV)

21 "Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends,

For the hand of God has struck me!

22 Why do you persecute me as God does,
And are not satisfied with my flesh? (*God's persecuting me. Do
you have to join Him?*)

23 **"Oh, that my words were written!
Oh, that they were inscribed in a book!**

24 **That they were engraved on a rock
With an iron pen and lead, forever!** (*Job got his wish ... His words
are written in The Bible*)

25 For I know that my Redeemer lives,

And He shall stand at last on the earth; *(another hint of Job's understanding of the future)*

26 And after my skin is destroyed, this I know,

That in out of my flesh I shall see God,

27 Whom I shall see for myself,

And my eyes shall behold, and not another.

How my heart yearns within me!

28 If you should say, 'How shall we persecute him?'—

Since the root of the matter is found in me,

29 **Be afraid of the sword for yourselves;**

For wrath brings the punishment of the sword,

That you may know there is a judgment." *(You guys had better watch out what you say ... it might come back and bite you)*

Job 23:1-7 (NKJV)

1 Then Job answered and said:

2 "Even today my complaint is bitter;

My hand is listless because of my groaning.

3 **Oh, that I knew where I might find Him,**

That I might come to His seat!

4 **I would present my case before Him,**

And fill my mouth with arguments. *(Job wants to present his case ... if he could track down God)*

5 I would know the words which He would answer me,

And understand what He would say to me.

6 Would He contend with me in His great power?

No! But He would take note of me.

7 There the upright (*namely me*) could reason with Him,

And I would be delivered forever from my Judge.

Job 23:10-12 (NKJV)

10 **But He knows the way that I take; (anyway)**

When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.

11 **My foot has held fast to His steps;**

I have kept His way and not turned aside.

12 I have not departed from the commandment of His lips;

I have treasured the words of His mouth

More than my necessary food. *(Just a minute ... I've always lived right. I keep God's ways and words)*

Job 27:1-6 (NKJV)

1 Moreover Job continued his discourse, and said:

2 **"As God lives, who has taken away my justice,**

And the Almighty, who has made my soul bitter, *(God is unjust... unfair ... evil)*

3 As long as my breath is in me,

And the breath of God in my nostrils,

4 My lips will not speak wickedness,

Nor my tongue utter deceit.

5 **Far be it from me**

That I should say you are right;

Till I die I will not put away my integrity from me.

6 **My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go;**

My heart shall not reproach me as long as I live. *(I won't agree with you guys ...no matter what you keep telling me. Wrong! My integrity is real. Job is just being honest. God said the same about him in chapter1)*

Job 27:11-23 (NKJV)

11 "I will teach you about the hand of God;

What is with the Almighty I will not conceal.

12 Surely all of you have seen it;

Why then do you behave with complete nonsense?

13 **"This is the portion of a wicked man with God,**

And the heritage of oppressors, received from the Almighty: *(this is what God does to the wicked)*

14 If his children are multiplied, it is for the sword;

And his offspring shall not be satisfied with bread.

15 Those who survive him shall be buried in death,
And their widows shall not weep,
16 Though he heaps up silver like dust,
And piles up clothing like clay—
17 He may pile it up, but the just will wear it,
And the innocent will divide the silver.
18 He builds his house like a moth,
Like a booth which a watchman makes.
19 The rich man will lie down,
But not be gathered up;
He opens his eyes,
And he is no more.
20 Terrors overtake him like a flood;
A tempest steals him away in the night.
21 The east wind carries him away, and he is gone;
It sweeps him out of his place.
22 It hurls against him and does not spare;
He flees desperately from its power.
23 Men shall clap their hands at him,
And shall hiss him out of his place.

This is what God does to wicked men. Job is righteous. So ... why is it happening to him?

Job 29:1-12 (NKJV)

1 Job further continued his discourse, and said:
2 "Oh, that I were as in months past,
As in the days when God watched over me;
3 When His lamp shone upon my head,
And when by His light I walked through darkness;
4 Just as I was in the days of my prime,
When the friendly counsel of God was over my tent;
5 **When the Almighty was yet with me,**
When my children were around me;

6 When my steps were bathed with cream,
And the rock poured out rivers of oil for me!
7 "When I went out to the gate by the city,
When I took my seat in the open square,
8 The young men saw me and hid,
And the aged arose and stood;
9 The princes refrained from talking,
And put their hand on their mouth;
10 The voice of nobles was hushed,
And their tongue stuck to the roof of their mouth.
11 When the ear heard, then it blessed me,
And when the eye saw, then it approved me;
12 Because I delivered the poor who cried out,
The fatherless and the one who had no helper. (*My former life was
blessed*)

Job 29:21-22 (NKJV)

21 "Men listened to me and waited,
And kept silence for my counsel.
22 After my words they did not speak again,
And my speech settled on them as dew. (*I was respected ...
highly regarded*)

Job 29:25 (NKJV)

25 I chose the way for them, and sat as chief;
So I dwelt as a king in the army, (*lived like a king ... a highly
valued individual*)
As one who comforts mourners.

Job 30:1 (NKJV)

1 "But now they mock at me, men younger than I,
Whose fathers I disdained to put with the dogs of my flock.

Job 30:8-10 (NKJV)

8 **They were sons of fools,**

Yes, sons of vile men;

They were scourged from the land.

9 **"And now I am their taunting song;**

Yes, I am their byword.

10 They abhor me, they keep far from me;

They do not hesitate to spit in my face. *(Rather than being honoured and respected ... now vile men mock me. How his life has changed)*

Job 30:16-23 (NKJV)

16 "And now my soul is poured out because of my plight;

The days of affliction take hold of me.

17 My bones are pierced in me at night,

And my gnawing pains take no rest.

18 By great force my garment is disfigured;

It binds me about as the collar of my coat.

19 He has cast me into the mire,

And I have become like dust and ashes.

20 **"I cry out to You, (God) but You do not answer me;**

I stand up, and You regard me.

21 But **You have become cruel to me;**

With the strength of Your hand You oppose me.

22 **You lift me up to the wind and cause me to ride on it;**

You spoil my success.

23 **For I know that You will bring me to death,**

And to the house appointed for all living.

Job 30:25-30 (NKJV)

25 Have I not wept for him who was in trouble?

Has not my soul grieved for the poor?

26 But when I looked for good, evil came to me;

And when I waited for light, then came darkness.

27 My heart is in turmoil and cannot rest;

Days of affliction confront me.

28 I go about mourning, but not in the sun;
I stand up in the assembly and cry out for help.

29 I am a brother of jackals,
And a companion of ostriches.

30 **My skin grows black and falls from me;
My bones burn with fever.**

Then Job concludes his discourse ... his innocence ... his goodness ...
uprightness.

Job 31:2-12 (NKJV)

2 **For what is the allotment of God from above,
And the inheritance of the Almighty from on high?**

3 **Is it not destruction for the wicked,
And disaster for the workers of iniquity?**

4 Does He not see my ways,
And count all my steps? *(Can't God see that I'm not wicked)*

5 "If I have walked with falsehood,
Or if my foot has hastened to deceit,

6 Let me be weighed on honest scales,
That God may know my integrity.

7 If my step has turned from the way,
Or my heart walked after my eyes,

Or if any spot adheres to my hands,

8 Then let me sow, and another eat;
Yes, let my harvest be rooted out.

9 "If my heart has been enticed by a woman,
Or if I have lurked at my neighbour's door,

10 Then let my wife grind for another,
And let others bow down over her.

11 For that would be wickedness;
Yes, it would be iniquity deserving of judgment.

12 For that would be a fire that consumes to destruction,

And would root out all my increase.

Job 31:13-14 (NKJV)

13 "If I have despised the cause of my male or female servant
When they complained against me,
14 What then shall I do when God rises up?
When He punishes, how shall I answer Him?

Job 31:16-17 (NKJV)

16 "If I have kept the poor from their desire,
Or caused the eyes of the widow to fail,
17 Or eaten my morsel by myself,
So that the fatherless could not eat of it

Job 31:19-22 (NKJV)

19 If I have seen anyone perish for lack of clothing,
Or any poor man without covering;
20 If his heart has not blessed me,
And if he was not warmed with the fleece of my sheep;
21 If I have raised my hand against the fatherless,
When I saw I had help in the gate;
22 Then let my arm fall from my shoulder,
Let my arm be torn from the socket.

Job 31:24-28 (NKJV)

24 "If I have made gold my hope,
Or said to fine gold, 'You are my confidence';
25 If I have rejoiced because my wealth was great,
And because my hand had gained much;
26 **If I have observed the sun when it shines,
Or the moon moving in brightness,** (*means to worship it ... to have false gods*)
27 So that my heart has been secretly enticed,
And my mouth has kissed my hand;

28 **This also would be an iniquity deserving of judgment,
For I would have denied God who is above.**

Job 31:33-34 (NKJV)

33 **If I have covered my transgressions as Adam,
By hiding my iniquity in my bosom,**

34 Because I feared the great multitude,
And dreaded the contempt of families,
So that I kept silence
And did not go out of the door—

Job 31:35 (NKJV)

35 Oh, that I had one to hear me!

Here is my mark. (In the Hebrew: Legal implications)

**Oh, that the Almighty would answer me,
That my Prosecutor had written a book!**

“Here is my defence, my pleading, my case, my position. Or ... “Here is my mark”. I now want my adversary to come to trial”.

I wish my prosecutor would write down his detailed charges in a book. State his case. What exactly does God have against me?

[KJV + Hebrew: “Adversary” in verse 35. Job’s true “adversary” was satan ... “The Adversary”.]

Job 31:36 (NKJV)

36 **Surely I would carry it on my shoulder,
And bind it on me like a crown;**

Job was confident ... no charges could stick. He would wear any such accusations triumphantly! Hence he can defend his righteousness.

Job 31:37 (NKJV)

37 **I would declare to Him the number of my steps;**
Like a prince I would approach Him. *(With my head held high)*

Job 31:38-40 (NKJV)

38 "If my land cries out against me,
And its furrows weep together;
39 If I have eaten its fruit without money,
Or caused its owners to lose their lives;
40 Then let thistles grow instead of wheat,
And weeds instead of barley." **The words of Job are ended.**

Job 32:1 (NKJV)

1 **So these three men ceased answering Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes.** *(actually he was righteous in God's eyes too)*

The debate ends. His friends can't convince Job. They have no evidence of the great wickedness they've accused him of.

"You must be wicked! You just must! Because God only punishes really wicked people!"

Job's continual response was "Show me where?"

God said Job was "blameless and upright, one who fears God and shuns evil." So actually Job's friends would never have found anything.

Though Job had maintained his innocence ... he couldn't think of anything particularly wicked or serious he had done ... he had made numerous accusations against God.

Dake's Annotated Bible lists 74 false charges Job makes against God.

Multiplies wounds without cause
Destroys blameless and wicked
Laughs at troubles of innocent
If I sin ... He won't forgive me
He hates me
He's wronged me
Shows no justice
Is cruel

Oops! So ... Job has spent many chapters libelling ... slandering ...
defaming God (albeit sincere).

Next week ... God turns up.