

# Job 29:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover Job continued his parable, and said,

## Analysis

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**Moreover Job continued his parable**—the Hebrew **וַיֹּאמֶר** (vayyosef, and he added/continued) indicates Job resumes speaking after a pause. **His parable** translates **מַשָּׁל** (mashal), meaning proverb, discourse, or wisdom saying—not just a simple story but elevated wisdom speech. This term appears throughout Job (27:1, 29:1) and Proverbs, indicating authoritative teaching. Job speaks not as a desperate sufferer but as a sage offering wisdom from experience. Chapter 29 begins Job's final defense (chapters 29-31), where he recalls his former prosperity (29), laments his present humiliation (30), and affirms his integrity (31).

The transition from chapter 28's hymn to wisdom (which may be Job's or the narrator's) to chapter 29's personal testimony shifts from universal truth to particular experience. Job doesn't merely theorize about suffering—he speaks from lived reality. His "parable" will contrast past blessing with present suffering, building toward his final oath of innocence.

## Historical Context

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Job 29-31 represents Job's closing argument before God's appearance in the whirlwind (chapters 38-41). The dialogue cycle with his three friends has concluded; Elihu will speak next (chapters 32-37). Job's speech recalls the ancient Near Eastern literary form of the "negative confession," where the accused declares innocence by listing sins not committed (similar to Egyptian Book of the Dead). This format allows Job to comprehensively defend his character.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does reflecting on past blessings help or hinder us when facing present suffering?
2. What does it mean to speak with the authority of experience rather than mere theory about suffering?
3. How can we maintain perspective that our suffering, however severe, is part of a larger narrative?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־יְהוָב שְׁאֵת מִשְׁלֵל וְיֹאמְרָה  
continued Moreover Job H5375 his parable and said  
H3254 H347 H4912 H559

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 27:1** (Parallel theme): Moreover Job continued his parable, and said,