

# Job 29:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When I went out to the gate through the city, when I prepared my seat in the street!

## Analysis

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Job recalls his former honor: "When I went out to the gate through the city, when I prepared my seat in the street!" The noun sha'ar (שער, "gate") was where elders sat to judge cases and conduct business. The verb kun (קע, "prepared") means to establish or set firmly. Job describes his position of authority and respect in civic life. The city gate was where justice was administered (Ruth 4:1-11, Deuteronomy 21:19). From a Reformed perspective, Job's reminiscence reveals proper Christian ambition—seeking positions where one can serve others and administer justice. Job didn't seek status for selfish gain but to "deliver the poor that cried, and the fatherless" (verse 12). This models cultural engagement: believers should pursue influence not for self-exaltation but to establish justice and defend the vulnerable. Christ's teaching on greatness through service (Mark 10:43-45) fulfills this principle.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern cities had gates where legal proceedings occurred, trade was conducted, and community decisions made. Sitting at the gate indicated leadership and judicial authority. Lot sat in Sodom's gate (Genesis 19:1), suggesting civic position. Job's seat at the gate demonstrated his integration into society's structures for redemptive purposes—he didn't withdraw but engaged to promote justice.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does Job's example of holding civic authority for justice sake inform Christian cultural engagement?
2. What is the proper Christian motivation for seeking positions of influence and leadership?
3. How do we balance Christ's teaching on servant leadership with Job's description of civic authority?

## Interlinear Text

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אָכְלָה אֶת־עַמּוֹד בְּשַׁעַר עַל־שְׁעָרָה בְּבָצָת־בָּתָת  
When I went out to the gate H5921 through the city H7176 in the street H7339 when I prepared H3559

מָשְׁבֵּחַ

my seat

H4186

## Additional Cross-References

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**Zechariah 8:16** (Parallel theme): These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates:

**Deuteronomy 16:18** (Parallel theme): Judges and officers shalt thou make thee in all thy gates, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, throughout thy tribes: and they shall judge the people with just judgment.

**Ruth 4:11** (Parallel theme): And all the people that were in the gate, and the elders, said, We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Beth-lehem:

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