

# Job 30:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because he hath loosed my cord, and afflicted me, they have also let loose the bridle before me.

## Analysis

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**Because he hath loosed my cord**—The Hebrew yether (יְתַהַר) means tent cord or bowstring, either image suggesting structural collapse. God has loosened what held Job's life taut and functional—the tent of his prosperity has collapsed, or his strength is unbent like a slack bow. The verb pitach (פִּתְחָה) means to open, loose, or untie. Job recognizes divine agency in his unraveling.

**Afflicted me**—The verb anah (אָנַחַת) means to oppress, humble, or bring low, the same term for Israel's Egyptian bondage (Exodus 1:11-12). Job frames his suffering theologically: God is the primary actor. **They have also let loose the bridle before me**—Seeing God's hand against Job, his mockers throw off all restraint (resen, רֵסֶן, meaning bridle or restraint). Divine discipline emboldens human cruelty—when people perceive someone under God's judgment, they feel licensed to join the attack.

## Historical Context

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The tent cord imagery reflects nomadic life in ancient Uz. A loosened tent cord meant immediate structural failure and exposure to elements. The bridle metaphor comes from animal husbandry—a horse without bridle runs wild. Job's accusers interpret his suffering as proof of divine rejection, which in honor-shame culture meant he's lost all social protections. Ancient Near Eastern thought directly connected blessing with righteousness, suffering with sin—making Job's protestations of innocence incomprehensible to observers.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does recognizing God's sovereignty over suffering affect how we interpret our trials?
2. Why do people often intensify their attacks on those already suffering? How should Christians respond differently?
3. What does Job's honesty about feeling attacked by both God and man teach us about prayer during dark seasons?

## Interlinear Text

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מִפְנֵי	בְּ	אֲתָרֵ	רַ	פְּתַח	פְּתַח	וַיַּעֲבֹד	נִ	מִפְנֵי	בְּ	אֲתָרֵ	רַ
H3588	my cord	Because	he hath loosed	and afflicted	the bridle	before	H3499	H6605	H6031	H7448	H6440

שְׁלַחְתִּי

me they have also let loose

H7971

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