

# Job 30:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, whereto might the strength of their hands profit me, in whom old age was perished?

## Analysis

**Yea, whereto might the strength of their hands profit me** (גַּם-כֵּן יִדְיָם לְפָה לִי) —Job describes outcasts so degraded that even their labor (כַּח, koach, strength) was worthless. The rhetorical question expresses contempt. **In whom old age was perished** (עַלְיָמָן אָבֵד כָּלָח) —The kalach (כָּלָח, vigor of old age, ripeness) had 'perished' (אָבֵד, avad), meaning they aged prematurely through hardship, never reaching dignified maturity.

This begins Job's devastating lament about his social reversal (Job 30:1-15)—those he once pitied now mock him. The Hebrew emphasizes the shocking inversion: respected elder becomes object of derision from society's refuse. This prefigures Christ, 'despised and rejected' (Isaiah 53:3), mocked by those He came to save. Job's descent into social death anticipates the ultimate innocent sufferer.

## Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern society was rigidly hierarchical, with elders commanding absolute respect (Leviticus 19:32). Job's earlier description of his honor (Job 29) contrasts sharply with this degradation. The outcasts he describes were likely landless nomads, criminals, or those exiled for various offenses—the 'untouchables' of ancient Israelite society.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

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

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does Job's social reversal help us identify with Christ's descent to humiliation?
2. When have you experienced mockery from those you once served or helped?
3. What does Job 30 teach about the Christian paradox that exaltation comes through humiliation?

## Interlinear Text

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עַל יָמָיו לְיָמִין לְמִתְּהִלָּה

H1571

might the strength

H3581

כְּנָסָה

of their hands

H3027

וְיֵאָמֵר

Yea whereto

H4100

H0

H5921

אָבֶד

כְּלֹתָה

was perished

profit me in whom old age

H6

H3624

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