

# Job 30:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Among the bushes they brayed; under the nettles they were gathered together.

## Analysis

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**Among the bushes they brayed** (בֵּין־שִׁיחִים וְנָהָקוּ)—The verb נָהָק (nahaq) means to 'bray like a donkey'—these humans make animal sounds rather than articulate speech. This occurs 'among bushes' (שִׁיחִים, sichim), the scrubland habitat of wild beasts. **Under the nettles they were gathered together** (תַּחַת חֲרוּל יִסְפָּחוּ)—The verb סָפַח (safach, gathered/huddled) suggests clustering for warmth or protection under charul (חֲרוּל, nettles/thistles), painful thorny plants.

Job's dehumanizing description reaches its nadir—outcasts reduced to braying animals sheltering under thorns. This is fallen humanity in extremis, bearing the curse's full weight (Genesis 3:18, 'thorns and thistles'). Yet Christ wore a crown of thorns (Matthew 27:29), identifying with humanity's most degraded state. The gospel descends to these depths—God doesn't abandon even those reduced to animal cries under nettles.

## Historical Context

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The progression in Job 30:1-8 describes complete social death—loss of human speech, civilized dwelling, and community belonging. Ancient Near Eastern literature rarely depicted such extreme degradation, making Job's account remarkable for its unflinching portrayal of poverty's dehumanizing effects.

## Related Passages

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

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does Christ's crown of thorns redeem the image of humans huddled under nettles?
2. When has suffering reduced you to inarticulate 'braying' rather than coherent prayer?
3. What does Job's honest depiction of degradation teach about bringing all reality before God, not sanitized versions?

## Interlinear Text

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בֵּין	שִׁיחַ יִם	יִנָּה קוֹ	תַּ חַת	חֵר וְלֹ
H996	Among the bushes	they brayed	H8478	under the nettles
	H7880	H5101		H2738

  

יִסְפְּחוּ:
they were gathered together
H5596

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 6:5** (Parallel theme): Doth the wild ass bray when he hath grass? or loweth the ox over his fodder?

**Job 11:12** (Parallel theme): For vain man would be wise, though man be born like a wild ass's colt.

**Genesis 16:12** (Parallel theme): And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.

