



Noon Day Bible Study

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JOB: A BATTLE FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS!

AUGUST 9, 2023 – MARCH 20, 2024

LESSONS 1-25

The book of Job dramatically sets forth a colossal war between God and Satan, and we are the territory. Satan accuses. God defends. And in the outworking of this cosmic drama is the testing of man. We write our own ending. What shall it be? Shall we relinquish our faith as we suffer or shall our faith grow stronger with each test?" (Johnny Felker, Today, Vol.2, No.9).

Job Bible Study (A Battle For Righteousness)

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/Mary M. Heggie

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- To all our colleagues, online bible scholars, church family and friends, the words "Thank you" are not enough – so I'll just say, "May God forever bless you." */Mary M. Heggie*

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The Book of Job Bible Study (A Battle For Righteousness)

“But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold” (Job 23:10) “I have heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you” (Job 42:5)

GENERAL OUTLINE AND STUDY OVERVIEW

AUGUST 9, 2023 – MARCH 20, 2024

I. THE PRE-STUDY: *Please Read Before August 9th Classes Begin!*

The Author, The Introduction, Background Information, Message of the Book & The Overview

II. THE CONTENTS:

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| A. Turmoil Has Begun | August 9, 2023 - September 2023 |
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| D. Orthodox Intermission | January 17, 2024 - February 7, 2024 |
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III. THE EXTENDED CONTENTS:

Summer 2023 Revival - Wednesday, July 26 – Friday, July 28, 2023

A. The Turmoil Has Begun

- **Week One - August 9, 2023**
[The Prologue in Heaven I, The Prologue in Heaven II]
Scripture: Job 1:6-12, Job 2:1-6
- **Week Two - August 16, 2023**
[Calamity Overtakes Job, Job’s Total Poverty]
Scripture: Job 1:1-5, 20-22; Job 2:7-10
- **Week Three - August 23, 2023**
[The Arrival of Friends, Job Curses the Day of His Birth,
Scripture: Job 2:11-13, Job 3:1-26
- **Week Four – August 30, 2023**
[The first Speech of Eliphaz, Job’s Disappointment, Job’s Answer to Eliphaz
Scripture: Job 4:1-21, 5:1-8, 6:1-4, 8-15; 7:5-20
- **Week Five – September 6, 2023**

[The Attack of Bildad, Job's Answer to Bildad]

Scripture: Job 8:1-11; Job 9:10-35; Job 10:9-16

▪ **Week Six – September 13, 2023**

[Zophar's Poisoned Onslaught, Job's Forceful Response, Job Argued His Reproach, Job Denounced the Foolishness of His Friends]

Scripture: Job 11:1-11; Job 12:1-25; Job 13:1-12

▪ **Week Seven – September 20, 2023**

[Job's Case Before the Lord, Job Called the Lord to Account]

Scripture: Job 13:13-20; Job 14:1-22

Youth Revival Tuesday, September 19 – Thursday, September 20

Homecoming Break – Wednesdays – September 27, 2023 and October 4, 2023

B. The Poisoned Friendship

▪ **Week Seven – October 11, 2023**

[A Brief Review, The Friends Spoiled Their Mission, Eliphaz Slandered the Wisdom of Job, Eliphaz Issued a Judgment Against Job]

Scripture: 15:1-35,

▪ **Week Eight – October 18, 2023**

[Job Reproached His Friends for Their Malevolence, Job's Answer Continued]

Scripture: Job 16:1-14

▪ **Week Nine – October 25, 2023**

[Job's Vision of An Intercessor, The Vision Dims Again]

Scripture: Job 16:15-22; Job 17:1-16

▪ **Week Ten – November 1, 2023**

[Bildad Lashed out Against Job, Job's Grief Over the Hatred of His Friends]

Scripture: Job 18:1-14; Job 19:1-19

▪ **Week Eleven – November 8, 2023**

[Job Saw The Redeemer, Zophar's Last Speech]

Scripture: Job 19:20-29; Job 20::1-29

▪ **Week Twelve – November 15, 2023**

[Job Calls His Friends to Repentance, Job's Reflection on the Prosperity of the Godless, Job Tested the Wisdom of His Friends]

Scripture: Job 21:1-34

Thanksgiving Break - Wednesday, November 22, 2022

C. A More Moderate Conclusion

- **Week Thirteen – November 29, 2023**
[Eliphaz Renewed His Accusation Against Job, The Sins of Job According to Eliphaz, The Path of Destruction]
Scripture: Job 22:1-20
- **Week Fourteen – December 6, 2023**
[Friendly Reprimand, Job Answer's Eliphaz's Third Speech, The Elusive Judge, A Hidden God]
Scripture: Job 22:21-30; Job 23:1-17
- **Week Fifteen – December 13, 2023**
[Chaos in the Human World, Bildad's, "Yes, But..." Job Mocked the Wisdom of His Friends, Job's Glorious Song of Praise]
Scripture: Job 24:1-25; Job 25:1-6; Job 26:1-14

Christmas Break - December 20, 2023 – January 10, 2024

January 17 – March 20, 2024

- **Week One – January 17, 2024**
[Job Swore an Oath, God Would Serve Justice, The Praise of Wisdom, Remembering Former Joy]
Scripture: Job 27:1-23; Job 28:1-28; Job 29:1-12
- **Week Two – January 24, 2024**
[Job's Complaint about His Loss of Prestige, Job Declared His Innocence]
Scripture: Job 30:1-2; 20-31; Job 31:2-6, 35-40

D. Orthodox Intermission

- **Week Three – January 31, 2024**
[Tension and Courtesy, Affairs Among God's People,]
Scripture: Job 32:1-5; Job 33:1-18, 28-33
- **Week Four – February 7, 2024**
[Elihu Confessed God's Righteousness, Elihu's Teaching about God's Lack of Concern]
Scripture: Job 34:1-16; 35:1-16

- **Week Five – February 14, 2024**
[Through Suffering God Rescued Those Who Suffered, The Upcoming Storm]
Scripture: Job 36:1-12; Job 37:1-24

E. Job's Talk With God

- **Week Six – February 21, 2024**
[The Appearance of the Lord, The Lord Sought Out His Servant]
Scripture: Job 38:1-30
- **Week Seven – February 28, 2024**
[The Life of the Animals, Job's First Answer]
Scripture: Job 39: 1-30; Job 40:1-7
- **Week Eight – March 6, 2024**
[The Lord Continued His Talk With Job]
Scripture: Job 40:8-24
- **Week Nine – March 13, 2024**
[The Lord Spoke of Great Animals]
Scripture: Job 41:8-34
- **Week Ten – March 20, 2024**
[Job Conversion, Job's Later Life]
Scripture: Job 42:1-16

SPRING BREAK: Wednesdays March 27, 2024 and April 10, 2024

Job Bible Study (A Battle For Righteousness)

INTRODUCTION

The book of Job brings us a message with divine authority, namely that mankind is to acknowledge and praise the Lord God in His sovereignty. This message comes from God Himself and has the authority of an order. Acknowledgement of God's sovereignty means that those who are bound to God by covenant are moved to praise him, because He does all that pleases Him.

There is something truly majestic in the Lord doing all that pleases Him; and the splendor of that majesty gives light to our world. As soon as we short-change this majestic sovereignty, our own

sun becomes darkened and our human dignity is lost. Human beings, as creatures and children of the covenant find their human dignity in recognizing and praising the sovereignty of God. Whenever human beings who are covenanted to the Lord, neglect acknowledgement of God and His sovereign power, they come to grief. We need to praise the Lord for His omnipotence as much as we need to breathe and keep our heart beating. It is our health and glory to recognize that the Lord does ALL that pleases Him. Only when this recognition flourishes is our humanity visible and noticeable. Oppression and constraint take root wherever God's sovereignty is denied. And some of that oppression and constraint (indeed even more than a little) comes to haunt the Christian community as soon as the glorious proclamation of God's sovereignty receives impoverished, hesitant or reserved expression.

Hidden in the life of everyone who believes in Christ, there is something truly majestic. It belongs to the very core of their being. They are royal children. But they possess that Christian royal dignity only in as much as they acknowledge God's sovereignty with praise. There is no other source for living a life worthy of humanity.

Such a study is badly needed. It must be supported by persistent reading and a disciplined study of the Scriptures. Such a study can, after all, be undertaken only in the light of Scripture, if it is to have any chance of success.

It is indeed noteworthy and encouraging that analysis based on a responsible point of departure, when combined with study of Scripture reinforces a simple teaching, namely: that Scripture is to be read in a manner appropriate to Scripture; no use of exegetical technique can afford to ignore this.

As a result, the reading and re- reading of the book of Job only serves to clarify that in this wonderful book one can find everything that the Law and the Gospel instruct and promise us in the Name of the Lord.

But we still are faced with one more uncertainty: What is the real message of the book of Job? On this question even those who have remained faithful to the Scriptures are greatly divided. One might even speak of the riddle of this book, keeping in mind that in accordance with the nature of such a riddle it may well remain partly insoluble.

-K. J. Popma

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

AUTHOR: Anonymous. The authorship of this book has been attributed to many different men including Moses, Elihu, Elijah, Solomon, Hezekiah, Jeremiah, Baruch, Ezra, Isaiah, and others. It seems reasonable to suppose that some writer living in the Golden Age of Hebrew wisdom (1000-700BC) wrote the book.

HISTORICAL SETTING: There can be no doubt that Job was actually a historical character (cf. Ezekiel 14:14; James 5:11).

LOCATION: The story took place in the land of Uz (1:1) somewhere northeast of Palestine, near a desert (1:19), within raiding distance of the Chaldeans and Sabeans (1:15,17), probably between the city of Damascus and the Euphrates River. In later years it would fall under God's judgment (Jeremiah 25:20) and was home to some of the Edomites (Lamentations 4:21).

TIME PERIOD: Job likely lived in the second millennium BC (2000-1000BC) during the days of the ancient patriarchs, contemporary with the events of the book of Genesis.

- He was a prosperous man whose life resembles that of Abraham. His wealth is measured in cattle and possessions rather than silver and gold (1:3).
- His longevity corresponds to that of the patriarchs after the flood, when the length of life began declining drastically (cf. Genesis 5:1-32; 11:10-26,32; 25:7). He lived 140 more years after the events of the book (42:16-17).
- The picture of roving Sabean and Chaldean tribesmen fit the second millennium BC better than the first. So do the seats of judgment at the gate of the city where the wise men gathered to judge matters for the people (29:7).
- No mention is made of Moses, the Law, or any other event or institution of the Israelite covenant and nation (although that may have been because Job was Gentile).

MESSAGE OF THE BOOK:

The book of Job is a true story set in poetry, which delves into the feelings and emotions of the human mind when faced with trauma and suffering “Since poetry is the language of the heart, Job reveals the innermost thoughts of men more so than outward deeds” (Irving Jensen, *Jensen’s Survey of the Old Testament*, p.262).

“The book of Job is glorious because it shows people acting the way people act, rather than the way we ought to act. Job is querulous, antagonistic, bitter and despondent by turn. Surely in this Job does not set a good example. It is only as faith triumphs over despair that the example is set” (Andrew W. Blackwood, Jr., *Out of the Whirlwind*, p.22).

“And so then in this marvelous book we are privileged to gather the facts for a more complete cosmology. We are given a unique behind-the-scenes look at the battle that goes on for our loyalty and souls. The book of Job dramatically sets forth a colossal war between God and Satan, and we are the territory. Satan accuses. God defends. And in the outworking of this cosmic drama is the testing of man. We write our own ending. What shall it be? Shall we relinquish our faith as we suffer or shall our faith grow stronger with each test?” (Johnny Felker, *Today*, Vol.2, No.9, p.8).

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING AND LIVING RIGHTEOUSLY

Various solutions to the problem of suffering are expressed in the book. The prologue suggests that suffering is a test of character. The three friends opine that suffering is always punishment for sins. Job concludes that suffering is because something is out of balance in the moral universe. Elihu suggests that suffering is a call to repentance, which purifies and corrects us. The solution which God suggests is that suffering is one of the many incomprehensible, unfathomable things of life, therefore man needs to leave it all in God’s hands and trust Him!

1) Stuff Happens. Because you are a member of the human race you will have troubles, you can’t get around that. We live in a world that has been corrupted by evil and because of that bad things happen. If we go back to the verse that Schroeder reference in the strip Job 5:7 People are born for trouble as readily as sparks fly up from a fire. Without wanting to sound really cynical, it shouldn’t surprise us when we have problems it should surprise us when we don’t.

Bad things even happen to believers. It would be neat if becoming a Christian exempted you from all hurt and heart break, you'd never get sick, never become unemployed never lose a spouse or a child, but that ain't the way it happens. The bible is full of examples of bad things happening to good people.

It would be nice if our salvation was a passport out of suffering and tragedy. What a great outreach. We could put a sign up "Become a Christian and escape life's problems", we'd have to bar the doors to keep people out, but that's not the way it happens, sorry.

Jesus brother James wrote a letter to the early church and he said James 1:2 Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. He didn't say if trouble comes your way, he said when trouble comes your way.

And Jesus himself said in Matthew 6:34 "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today." Did you catch that? Today's trouble is enough for today.

C.S. Lewis kind of summed it up when he said "We were promised sufferings. They were part of the program. We were even told, 'Blessed are they that mourn.'"

And no it isn't fair, there are times that life isn't fair, but we live in a world that has been corrupted by sin, and stuff happens. Little stuff and big stuff. But you're probably doing alright compared to Job.

2) Don't Take It Personally. Sometimes when trouble happens we tend to look at it a couple of different ways. As Christians sometimes we look inward for reasons, wondering what I have done, why me, I don't deserve this. Job hadn't done anything wrong, there was no hidden sin in his life, and he wasn't rebelling against God. We need to realize that trouble happens to the just and the unjust. And I know that's a cynical view of life but Jesus said in Matthew 5:45 ". . . For He (God) gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike."

How often do we focus on our problems to the exclusion of everything and everyone else? We aren't alone in this world and chances are there are people with bigger problems than yours, it was Humphrey Bogart who said, "Everybody in Casablanca has problems." And everybody in Hammonds Plains has problems and everyone in the HRM has problems.

The second thing that believers do is to automatically attribute every problem in their life to Satan. Now I don't want to underestimate the power of the dark one, however I think we give him way too much credit. I don't know about you, but I'm a child of God and certain privileges come with that position. And my Bible still has 2 Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.

Sure you say but what about when you're in bondage? Again I don't want to minimize spiritual warfare, but there are a lot of people out there who are in bondage because they choose to be in bondage. It's a very convenient excuse when we enjoy a sin to simply throw up our hands and say "I can't help myself, I'm in bondage. I'm not sure that is what Jesus had in mind when he told his

disciples in John 8:34-36 Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin. A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.

I like that: So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.

And you might be thinking: “But Denn what if what happened to Job happens to me? What if God allows Satan to strike at my family and I.”

Probably won’t happen. Job is very much an isolated incident in the scriptures, we can’t explain why God allowed it to happen the first time but it doesn’t happen again. And considering the description of Job, remember it Job 1:1 He was blameless—a man of complete integrity. He feared God and stayed away from evil. So probably, unless you are blameless and a person of complete integrity who fears God and stays away from evil you are probably safe. If that is the criteria than most of us have nothing to worry about.

Don’t be in so much of a hurry to give the Devil all the credit for the bad stuff that happens in your life. To quote C.S. Lewis again “There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors.”

3) It’s Not Wrong To Question. Sometimes we are given the impression that Job stoically endured all that happened, that he never asked why, never questioned whether it was fair or not, just endured. And that just isn’t true, for most of the forty chapters in the book of Job, Job was asking; Why?

And there’s nothing wrong with asking why. Throughout the Bible people questioned God, Abraham asked why, Moses asked why, Joshua asked why, David asked why, Isaiah asked why, Peter asked why, Paul asked why. Even Jesus when he was hanging on the cross looked up to heaven and asked “Why?”

But if you’re going to ask God why, you are going to have to be satisfied with the answers and that can be tough. Because as God told Job 38:2 “Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorant words?”

Because I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again, God is God and we are just people. But a little homework for this week, go home and read Job chapters 38-40, won’t take you long but it might help you understand God a little more.

4) We Have The Victory. Sometimes we can figure out a solution to our problem on our own perhaps by using Brady’s First Law of Problem Solving: When confronted by a difficult problem, you can solve it more easily by reducing it to the question: How would the Lone Ranger have handled this? But more often than not, that’s not enough and so if you get nothing else out of this morning’s message get this “We Win”.

When we are faithful to God, in the good times and in the bad we are the victors. Listen to what Paul wrote to the early church in Rome, and remember this was where the persecution broke out

against the early church, where Christians were killed for the sheer sport of it. Romans 8:35-37 Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? . . . No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

Did you catch that Overwhelming victory is ours. And in 1 John 5:4 We read 1 John 5:4 For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith.

Don't throw up your hands and say, "I quit" It was Billy Sunday who said, "Stopping at third adds no more to the score then striking out."

Friends the message I leave with you today is: Don't quit, don't give up, the victory has already been won. So where are you at? Do you sometimes find it tough to be faithful, to believe in the victory? There's an old saying that says "Let go and let God." Is that what you need to do today, is to let go and let God? /Denn Guptill , "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown

AN OVERVIEW TO THE STUDY:

What is God doing when we're going through a trial? Is He behind the trials we face?

In this eye-opening message on the story of Job, you'll see how God wants to reveal His compassion and mercy in all your challenges and difficulties. We hope these notes will help you understand:

- The root cause of many trials you face.
- That what happened to Job cannot happen to you.
- The dangers of preaching that puts a spotlight on your sins.
- How allowing God to be your Justifier can deliver you and bring double restoration for all your losses.

Let this study put peace in your heart and fuel your faith to expect God's protection, provision, deliverance, and restoration!

God is a good God and He loves you.

The original sin happened because the devil managed to make Eve unsure of God's love for her. The devil presented God to her as if He was not generous, as if He was holding back good things from her, as if He had no concern for her.

The devil continues to present God in this bad light to us.

The cross of Jesus Christ destroyed that lie.

God loved us so much that He sent His own Son to die for our sins.

God needed to send Jesus to die for us. There was no other way for man to become righteous before Him.

God is a holy God. If He compromises on His holiness, the universe would collapse.

God is holy, but the essence of God is love. He is good and kind toward us not because *we* are good, but because *He* is good.

God found a way so that both His love and His holiness could be satisfied—He laid our sins on Jesus at the cross.

God had to send Jesus, His beloved Son, as a sacrifice because there was no man on earth who was worthy enough to redeem us from sin. The sacrifice had to be blameless and perfect, and every man had sin in his blood. So God sent Jesus to be born of a virgin so that His blood would not come from His earthly father but would be directly from God. He was born to be the perfect lamb, the perfect sacrifice, His sinless blood redeeming us from sin.

Today, if God rejects the sinner, God is saying that what Jesus did at the cross was a waste.

It's important to set this groundwork that God is not just *merciful* in making you righteous, He is *righteous* in making you righteous. He has a righteous basis provided by the cross of Christ. Sin must be punished and has been punished!

Job: the righteous man going through a trial

The book of Job is one of the wisdom books in the Bible: Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes

It is written in verse. But remember that it is not written in English poetry, but Hebrew poetry.

A technique of Hebrew poetry is to present two things (e.g. people, scenarios, speeches, etc.) and compare/contrast them to bring across a truth. We can see this technique used in the book of Job.

There are also many players/actors who play key roles in bringing across the truths in this book.

“There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and **that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.**” — Job 1:1 NKJV

“**that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil**” — Here we have Job, who represents a believer, someone whom God has pronounced righteous by the blood of His Son. Job speaks of a believer who is going through difficulties, someone who is a child of God yet things aren't going their way.

There are many teachings today that tell you if bad things are happening in your life, it's because you did something wrong or sinful. That is not why Job suffered.

God Himself said about Job, "... *there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil.*" (Job 1:8).

But even though Job was blameless and upright, he still had a root of self-righteousness in him that needed to be revealed.

Today, there are believers who also have this sense of self-righteousness that needs to be addressed. These are people who are always blaming others, e.g. "It's my parents' fault, my relative's fault, my colleague's fault. It's everyone's fault but mine."

The root cause of Job's suffering was his self-righteousness.

What happened to Job cannot happen to you

God corrects His children, but as a good Father, He doesn't discipline with car accidents, sickness, and disease. Where these things are present, Satan is involved. These are his works.

But Job did have to learn something, and God allowed him to go through what he did. God allowed a certain level of disruption in Job's life to bring out Job's self-righteousness.

God is still dealing with self-righteousness today, but you need to know that many of Job's trials cannot happen to you.

Job lamented that he did not have a mediator or an advocate to speak on his behalf. Today, we have this person. His name is Jesus.

The only reason Satan could stand before God to accuse Job in the first place is because Adam gave him the right to God's throne (when Adam sinned and fell). But today, Satan no longer has a place before God because Jesus has redeemed that place.

Jesus now stands before God, pleading for us. At that time, Job did not have Jesus as his advocate.

WE CAN BE ASSURED THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO JOB CANNOT HAPPEN TO US BECAUSE OF JESUS, OUR ADVOCATE.

The devil is evil. He knew God loved Job so he wanted to hurt Job to hurt God.

Even though God *used* Job's sufferings to deal with Job's self-righteousness, the devil was the one behind them.

Satan made Job lose all his possessions and even his children in one day. Job lost everything he had. Then Satan attacked his health—he "struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head." (Job 2:7).

Notice that sickness is from the feet to the head, but healing is from the head to the feet. Sickness is from below, healing is from above. God is in the business of healing.

The devil was behind Job's sufferings. It was not God.

Today, the devil will try to confuse the disasters he brings with God's anger to make you believe that God is punishing you.

We need to look at our trials with the right perspective and see what God is really after.

“Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.” — James 5:11 NKJV

Job's 3 friends: the personification of bad counsel

At the point Job's friends are introduced, Job is covered with diseases and he has lost everything. His 3 friends come to comfort him.

They start well but end horribly, even though they are true-hearted friends.

Their names are:

1. Eliphaz
2. Bildad
3. Zophar

Notice that the moment they show up, Satan is no more mentioned. Because he knows that with these 3 friends, he's no more needed.

Many times, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar's arguments are not wrong. But they are wrongly applied to Job.

Truth shared out of its season is no better than heresy. Make sure the truth you share with someone is in season. Don't just share everything.

Each of the 3 friends represent a type of teaching we see in the world today.

I. Eliphaz: argues from experience

“Remember now, **whoever perished being innocent?** Or where were the upright ever cut off?” — Job 4:7 NKJV

“whoever perished being innocent” — Eliphaz told Job he’s not innocent. If something bad is happening in his life, it’s because of some sin in his life.

It’s not true that if someone is going through a trial, it’s because of sin. Sometimes, people go through trials or persecution because of their faith.

The Bible promises that persecution will happen because you believe in the name of Jesus (but don’t get persecuted because of something wrong you did and say that you are under persecution for your belief in Christ—that’s different. The Bible also tells us not to be persecuted for being an evildoer (see 1 Pet. 4:15)).

“Even as I have **seen**,
Those who plow iniquity
And sow trouble reap the same.
By the blast of God they perish,
And by the breath of His anger they are consumed.”
— Job 4:8–9 NKJV

“Even as I have **seen...**” — Eliphaz argues from what he has seen, what he has experienced.

Experience is not the mother of wisdom. The Word of God is.

Eliphaz is using his experience (which is wrongly applied to Job) to kick Job after he has fallen.

II. Bildad: argues from tradition

“For inquire, please, **of the former age**,
And consider the things **discovered by their fathers**;
For we were born yesterday, and know nothing,
Because our days on earth are a shadow.
Will they not teach you and tell you,
And utter words from their heart?
“Can the papyrus grow up without a marsh?
Can the reeds flourish without water?
While it is yet green and not cut down,
It withers before any other plant.
So are the paths of all who forget God;
And the hope of the hypocrite shall perish,”
— Job 8:8–13 NKJV

“For inquire, please, **of the former age**, and consider the things **discovered by their fathers**”
— Bildad argues based on “the former age” and the precedence set by the “fathers.” He argues from tradition.

Tradition does not mean truth.

The things that Bildad says are wrongly applied to Job.

“Can the papyrus grow up without a marsh? ... And the hope of the hypocrite shall perish” — Marsh is slimy, a picture of sin. Bildad is saying, “You are the marsh, Job. You are sinful.” Then he calls Job a hypocrite, telling him that the reason he’s suffering is because he did not observe tradition.

III. Zophar: argues from legality

“If you would prepare your heart,
And stretch out your hands toward Him;
If iniquity were in your hand, and you put it far away,
And would not let wickedness dwell in your tents;
Then surely you could lift up your face without spot;
Yes, you could be steadfast, and not fear;
Because you would forget your misery,
And remember it as waters that have passed away,
And your life would be brighter than noonday.
Though you were dark, you would be like the morning.”
— Job 11:13–17 NKJV

“If you would prepare your heart ... If iniquity were in your hand, and you put it far away” — Zophar is saying, “Job, you didn’t prepare your heart. Iniquity is in your hand. That’s why you deserve all this happening to you.”

Technically, what Zophar is saying—that without sin, one can lift up his face without fear—is true. But it’s wrongfully applied to Job.

All Scripture is inspired by God, but not all Scripture should be applied to us, e.g. when Jesus said, “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees” (Matt. 23:13), he’s not talking to us.

When you apply Scripture wrongly to someone’s situation, you end up making the whole situation worse.

Today, this kind of counsel sounds like this: “Your life is very dark now because of sin in your life. If you put away sin, your life will become better.” This legalistic teaching is famous but doesn’t apply to us today because Jesus has fully put away our sins at the cross.

Pastor Prince shares about how terrible it was when a married couple he knew was told that the reason they lost their child is because of sin in their life. He encourages people not to be so narrow-minded to believe that sin is always the reason that people go through trials.

Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar represent the 3 kinds of teaching we have in the world today.

Teachers who argue from experience

e.g. “This is how it worked for my family... I let my wife handle all the finances and now there’s peace in my family.” A practice or decision can work for someone and not work for another person. Every family is different. God’s Word just says, “Husbands, love your wives” (Eph. 5:23).

How you love her, how you settle arguments, what you decide to agree on and be okay not agreeing on all has to be worked out.

Teachers who argue from tradition

e.g. “In my church, we’ve always done it this way... We only put pastors up for 2 years and worship leaders for 5 months, lest pride comes in.” Tradition is not necessarily truth. It cannot be applied to everything and everyone. It is not God’s Word.

Teachers who argue from legality

e.g. “If you’re going through a trial, there is sin in your life. If you do this, then life will get better for you.” This is religious talk and cannot be applied to those who are made righteous in Christ.

SIN/SELF-CENTERED COUNSEL LEADS PEOPLE TO BITTERNESS AND SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Whenever we teach from experience, tradition, and legality, you will get the opposite result of what you want. You want people to start living upright lives, but people will become self-righteous.

After his friends accuse him of deserving the suffering he is going through, Job gives his defense in chapter 29. In this one chapter, Job speaks of himself more than 40 times, e.g. “I *was* eyes to the blind, and I *was* feet to the lame.” (Job 29:15).

While Job mentions himself over 40 times, he mentions God only 5 times.

Pastor Prince tells pastors and ministers: “If you want to bring people to a place of humility where the Lord can become everything to them, where He can bless them richly without them being hurt by the blessings, where they know the source of all their blessings, you cannot argue from experience, tradition, or legality.”

Teaching based on experience, tradition, or legality will eventually lead people to bitterness.

“But now they mock at me, *men* younger than I, Whose fathers I disdained to put with the dogs of my flock.”— Job 30:1 NKJV

Teaching based on experience, tradition, or legality will also cause people to rise up in self-righteousness.

“Then Job answered and said:
 “I have heard many such things;
 Miserable comforters are you all!
 Shall words of wind have an end?
 Or what provokes you that you answer?
 I also could speak as you do,
 If your soul were in my soul’s place.
 I could heap up words against you,

And shake my head at you;
— Job 16:1–4 NKJV

Not only did Job defend himself, he also blamed God.

“Then Job answered and said:
“How long will you torment my soul,
And break me in pieces with words?
These ten times you have reproached me;
You are not ashamed that you have wronged me.
And if indeed I have erred,
My error remains with me.
If indeed you exalt yourselves against me,
And plead my disgrace against me,
**Know then that God has wronged me,
And has surrounded me with His net.**”
— Job 19:1–6 NKJV

“**know then that God has wronged me, and has surrounded me with His net.**” — Human nature would rather condemn God than condemn self. King David was different. He said: “Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done *this* evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, *And* blameless when You judge.”— Psalm 51:4 NKJV

David would rather condemn himself than condemn God. Let’s be like him. We should say to God, “You can never do wrong, Lord. I can never blame you. I might not understand everything I’m going through now, but I know that you’re a compassionate God.”

Don’t justify yourself; let God justify you

The whole time the 3 friends were talking, a young prophet named Elihu was standing with them silently. Finally, he spoke:

“Now because they were years older than he, Elihu had waited to speak to Job. When Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, his wrath was aroused. So Elihu, the son of **Barachel** the Buzite, answered and said:
“I am young in years, and you are very old; Therefore I was afraid, And dared not declare my opinion to you. I said, ‘Age should speak, And multitude of years should teach wisdom.’ But there is a spirit in man, And the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding. Great men are not always wise, Nor do the aged always understand justice. “Therefore I say, ‘Listen to me, I also will declare my opinion.’” — Job 32:4–10 NKJV

“Elihu, the son of **Barachel**” — “Barachel” means “blessing of God.”

Elihu is a type of Christ.

When Elihu spoke, Job didn't argue with him even though he argued with the rest of his friends. Job knew that he could not argue against what Elihu was saying.

To the people who are suffering, who have physical conditions in your body, the devil will come to you and tell you it's because of your sin. If not a recent sin, then a sin in your past. If not in your past, then it could be your father's or grandfather's sin.

Many people today still teach on the generational curse. They are going back to the law. We don't find Paul or Peter preaching on this, because Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law. This kind of teaching breaks people instead of helps them.

SO IF YOU'RE SICK, KNOW THIS: IT'S NOT GOD'S WILL. GOD WANTS YOU WELL.

At the end of Job's story, he was healed of his boils. He became healthy and lived a long, full life.

Elihu said something very precious to Job:

“His flesh wastes away from sight, And his bones stick out *which once* were not seen. Yes, his soul draws near the Pit, And his life to the executioners. **If there is a messenger for him, A mediator, one among a thousand, o show man His uprightness**, Then He is gracious to him, and says, ‘Deliver him from going down to the Pit; I have found a ransom’; His flesh shall be young like a child's, He shall return to the days of his youth.” — Job 33:21–25 NKJV

“**To show man His uprightness**” — Elihu is saying that what can save a man from suffering and sickness is showing him God's righteousness. When you talk to a person going through a difficult time, don't talk about what he has done right or wrong. Talk about JESUS' UPRIGHTNESS.

“If there is a messenger for him, a mediator, **one among a thousand**, to show man His uprightness” — Sometimes you can feel like you are one among a thousand preachers proclaiming God's righteousness. But God is raising more and more young people to share this message of His righteousness!

These messengers will turn the focus away from man to God's righteousness which comes to man as a gift.

“Then He is **gracious** to him, and says, ‘Deliver him from going down to the Pit; I have found a **ransom**’;” — Job 33:23–24 NKJV

“Then He is gracious to him” — Once the messenger of grace is able to preach this good news to people, then God will be gracious to the suffering one.

“I have found a **ransom**” — The word “ransom” here is “atonement.”

When someone declares God's righteousness, declares that God has found a ransom, God will say over the sick person:

“His flesh shall be young like a child’s, He shall return to the days of his youth.” — Job 33:25 NKJV

God can be righteous in healing and blessing sinful men because the price for health, for a wonderful marriage, for blessed children, for days of heaven on earth, has been paid. God found a ransom.

Once we declare God’s righteousness, God says, “Deliver that man from going into the Pit. His flesh shall be young like a child’s and he shall return to the days of his youth.” Claim this blessing! Amen!

LET GOD BE YOUR JUSTIFIER.

After Elihu ends his speech, God speaks to Job.

“Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: “Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?” — Job 38:1–5 NKJV

God’s argument is not based on Job. It is based on the grandeur and sublimity of His creation.

Who can be like God? His wisdom is perfect. His compassions never fail. God asks Job, “Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?” (Job 40:8)

There are people who read the Bible and would rather say that the Bible is in error than say that they are in error. When the Bible condemns something they are doing, they would rather say that the Bible is old-fashioned than say that they are wrong. They would rather condemn God and justify themselves.

The Bible will outlast all of us. Long after we’re gone, God’s Word will still stand.

God tells Job about 2 creatures: the behemoth and leviathan. These are both old and powerful beings, and they represent the devil. God is saying, “Job, the devil has been around for a long time. You are no match for him. But the devil is no match for Me.”

Satan loses to God at every turn.

- When he went against Adam and Eve and instigated the fall of man, along with the curse came the promise that the Messiah would come and announce his doom.
- When he moved King David to number the people which resulted in their deaths, David ended up giving God offerings on what would become the Temple Mount.
- When he tried to sift Peter like wheat so that all the disciples’ faith would fail, Peter’s failure ended up being a story of grace that strengthened them.
- Finally, when Satan tried to put an end to the Son of God on the cross, the cross became the very instrument to save us. The divine blood that was shed cleansed us from all our sins.

Satan always loses.

Even in this story of Job, when Satan attacks Job, he meets with God. He thinks he's dealing with a weak and fallible saint, but he's dealing with the Almighty God.

GOD WILL ALWAYS SHOW UP IN YOUR TRIAL.

Unbelief is having a high opinion of yourself and a low opinion of God.

If you want to be blessed beyond your wildest dreams, learn to agree with God. If God says, "In your flesh dwells no good thing" (see Rom. 7:18), agree with it. Then you won't be surprised when you have bad thoughts. You won't respond with, "How can I have such thoughts?"

In our flesh dwells no good thing. That's why God wants us to come before him as Justifier. If you stand before God as Judge, you cannot be saved. If you stand before God as Justifier, you cannot be lost.

When God justifies you, nothing and no one can condemn you.

Receive double restoration for all your losses

After Job hears God, He answers:

"Then Job answered the LORD and said: "I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, 'I will question you, and you shall answer Me.' **"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes."**— Job 42:1–6 NKJV

"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You." — Some people only hear about God and know Him second-hand. But when they go through a trial, they end up really KNOWING Him. They end up realizing that He is not the problem, He is the answer.

"Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." — Job condemns himself before God. He recognizes God's power and compassion. He recognizes that God is above all.

This kind of condemnation is not about saying, "Oh, I'm so lousy. I'm so stupid. I'm so ugly..." That kind of condemnation kills! What Job did was see himself little and see God big. He humbled himself before God.

We can practice this in our daily lives by saying, "Lord, I had nothing before. All that I have now is from you." If you want to experience uninterrupted peace and joy, learn to say, "Lord, I would not have clothes to wear if not for you. I would not have food to eat if not for you."

These things demonstrate to God your indebtedness to His grace. And they remind you of it too.

Once Job comes to this place of humility, God restores to him all that he lost.

“And the LORD restored Job’s losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed **the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.**”— Job 42:10 NKJV

God also speaks against Job’s 3 friends and commands them to offer sacrifices and get Job to pray for them.

“And so it was, after the LORD had spoken these words to Job, that the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, **“My wrath is aroused against you and your two friends, for you have not spoken of Me what is right,** as My servant Job has. Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, go to My servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and My servant Job shall pray for you. For I will accept him, lest I deal with you according to your folly; because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has.”— Job 42:7–8 NKJV

The Lord restores Job’s losses when he prays for his friends. Don’t wait till you have received your miracle to pray for others! When you’re waiting to see the doctor at a clinic, pray for healing for someone else!

“Now the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. And he called the name of the first Jemimah, the name of the second Keziah, and the name of the third Keren-Happuch. In all the land were found **no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job;** and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations. **So Job died, old and full of days.**”— Job 42:12–17 NKJV

“no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job” — Beauty is a blessing that you can ask for. Some people have it because of their DNA, but if you feel like you don’t, you can ask God to make you beautiful and give you favor.

Job died old and full of days—satisfying days.

If you’re going through a trial, there’s an ending. You can choose to jump to chapter 42 and say “Lord, you are right and I’m wrong.”

Many of the things in Job’s life won’t happen to us because of Jesus who is pleading for us at God’s right hand. But there are trials that we will go through to manifest our self-righteousness so that it can be dealt with by the power of the Holy Spirit.

When you go through trials like that, you don’t have to live out all the 42 chapters of Job’s life—you can skip to the end of the trial by simply saying, “Lord, you are right and I am wrong. You are my righteousness, Lord. I repent. I abhor myself in ashes. Whatever You say is right, Lord. All that I have today is from You.”

We hope these notes blessed you! If they did, we encourage you to allow the Lord to speak to you personally as study. © Copyright JosephPrince.com 2019

BOOK OF JOB

Weekly Bible Study Scriptures

Job 1 **New International Version**

Prologue

1 In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. **2** He had seven sons and three daughters, **3** and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

4 His sons used to hold feasts in their homes on their birthdays, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. **5** When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would make arrangements for them to be purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom.

6 One day the angels^[a] came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan^[b] also came with them. **7** The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it."

8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

9 "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. **10** "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. **11** But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

12 The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger."

Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

13 One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, **14** a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, **15** and the Sabeans attacked and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

¹⁷ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

¹⁸ While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, “Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother’s house, ¹⁹ when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

²⁰ At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship ²¹ and said:

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb,
and naked I will depart.^[c]
The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away;
may the name of the LORD be praised.”

²² In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

Job 2

New International Version

2 On another day the angels^[a] came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him. **2** And the LORD said to Satan, “Where have you come from?”

Satan answered the LORD, “From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it.”

3 Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason.”

4 “Skin for skin!” Satan replied. “A man will give all he has for his own life. **5** But now stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face.”

6 The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life.”

7 So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. **8** Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.

9 His wife said to him, “Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!”

10 He replied, “You are talking like a foolish^[b] woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?”

In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

¹¹ When Job's three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him. ¹² When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads. ¹³ Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was.

Job 3 **New International Version**

Job Speaks

3 After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. ² He said:

- ³ “May the day of my birth perish,
and the night that said, ‘A boy is conceived!’
⁴ That day—may it turn to darkness;
may God above not care about it;
may no light shine on it.
⁵ May gloom and utter darkness claim it once more;
may a cloud settle over it;
may blackness overwhelm it.
⁶ That night—may thick darkness seize it;
may it not be included among the days of the year
nor be entered in any of the months.
⁷ May that night be barren;
may no shout of joy be heard in it.
⁸ May those who curse days^[a] curse that day,
those who are ready to rouse Leviathan.
⁹ May its morning stars become dark;
may it wait for daylight in vain
and not see the first rays of dawn,
¹⁰ for it did not shut the doors of the womb on me
to hide trouble from my eyes.
¹¹ “Why did I not perish at birth,
and die as I came from the womb?
¹² Why were there knees to receive me
and breasts that I might be nursed?
¹³ For now I would be lying down in peace;
I would be asleep and at rest
¹⁴ with kings and rulers of the earth,
who built for themselves places now lying in ruins,
¹⁵ with princes who had gold,
who filled their houses with silver.
¹⁶ Or why was I not hidden away in the ground like a stillborn child,
like an infant who never saw the light of day?
¹⁷ There the wicked cease from turmoil,
and there the weary are at rest.
¹⁸ Captives also enjoy their ease;

they no longer hear the slave driver's shout.
¹⁹ The small and the great are there,
 and the slaves are freed from their owners.
²⁰ "Why is light given to those in misery,
 and life to the bitter of soul,
²¹ to those who long for death that does not come,
 who search for it more than for hidden treasure,
²² who are filled with gladness
 and rejoice when they reach the grave?
²³ Why is life given to a man
 whose way is hidden,
 whom God has hedged in?
²⁴ For sighing has become my daily food;
 my groans pour out like water.
²⁵ What I feared has come upon me;
 what I dreaded has happened to me.
²⁶ I have no peace, no quietness;
 I have no rest, but only turmoil."

Job 4 **New International Version**

Eliphaz

4 Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied:

² "If someone ventures a word with you, will you be impatient?
 But who can keep from speaking?
³ Think how you have instructed many,
 how you have strengthened feeble hands.
⁴ Your words have supported those who stumbled;
 you have strengthened faltering knees.
⁵ But now trouble comes to you, and you are discouraged;
 it strikes you, and you are dismayed.
⁶ Should not your piety be your confidence
 and your blameless ways your hope?
⁷ "Consider now: Who, being innocent, has ever perished?
 Where were the upright ever destroyed?
⁸ As I have observed, those who plow evil
 and those who sow trouble reap it.
⁹ At the breath of God they perish;
 at the blast of his anger they are no more.
¹⁰ The lions may roar and growl,
 yet the teeth of the great lions are broken.
¹¹ The lion perishes for lack of prey,
 and the cubs of the lioness are scattered.
¹² "A word was secretly brought to me,
 my ears caught a whisper of it.
¹³ Amid disquieting dreams in the night,
 when deep sleep falls on people,

- ¹⁴ fear and trembling seized me
 and made all my bones shake.
¹⁵ A spirit glided past my face,
 and the hair on my body stood on end.
¹⁶ It stopped,
 but I could not tell what it was.
 A form stood before my eyes,
 and I heard a hushed voice:
¹⁷ ‘Can a mortal be more righteous than God?
 Can even a strong man be more pure than his Maker?
¹⁸ If God places no trust in his servants,
 if he charges his angels with error,
¹⁹ how much more those who live in houses of clay,
 whose foundations are in the dust,
 who are crushed more readily than a moth!
²⁰ Between dawn and dusk they are broken to pieces;
 unnoticed, they perish forever.
²¹ Are not the cords of their tent pulled up,
 so that they die without wisdom?’

Job 5

New International Version

- ⁵ “Call if you will, but who will answer you?
 To which of the holy ones will you turn?
² Resentment kills a fool,
 and envy slays the simple.
³ I myself have seen a fool taking root,
 but suddenly his house was cursed.
⁴ His children are far from safety,
 crushed in court without a defender.
⁵ The hungry consume his harvest,
 taking it even from among thorns,
 and the thirsty pant after his wealth.
⁶ For hardship does not spring from the soil,
 nor does trouble sprout from the ground.
⁷ Yet man is born to trouble
 as surely as sparks fly upward.
⁸ “But if I were you, I would appeal to God;
 I would lay my cause before him.
⁹ He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed,
 miracles that cannot be counted.
¹⁰ He provides rain for the earth;
 he sends water on the countryside.
¹¹ The lowly he sets on high,
 and those who mourn are lifted to safety.
¹² He thwarts the plans of the crafty,
 so that their hands achieve no success.
¹³ He catches the wise in their craftiness,
 and the schemes of the wily are swept away.
¹⁴ Darkness comes upon them in the daytime;
 at noon they grope as in the night.

- 15 He saves the needy from the sword in their mouth;
 he saves them from the clutches of the powerful.
 16 So the poor have hope,
 and injustice shuts its mouth.
 17 “Blessed is the one whom God corrects;
 so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.^[a]
 18 For he wounds, but he also binds up;
 he injures, but his hands also heal.
 19 From six calamities he will rescue you;
 in seven no harm will touch you.
 20 In famine he will deliver you from death,
 and in battle from the stroke of the sword.
 21 You will be protected from the lash of the tongue,
 and need not fear when destruction comes.
 22 You will laugh at destruction and famine,
 and need not fear the wild animals.
 23 For you will have a covenant with the stones of the field,
 and the wild animals will be at peace with you.
 24 You will know that your tent is secure;
 you will take stock of your property and find nothing missing.
 25 You will know that your children will be many,
 and your descendants like the grass of the earth.
 26 You will come to the grave in full vigor,
 like sheaves gathered in season.
 27 “We have examined this, and it is true.
 So hear it and apply it to yourself.”

Job 6

New International Version

Job 6

New International Version

6 Then Job replied:

- 2 “If only my anguish could be weighed
 and all my misery be placed on the scales!
 3 It would surely outweigh the sand of the seas—
 no wonder my words have been impetuous.
 4 The arrows of the Almighty are in me,
 my spirit drinks in their poison;
 God’s terrors are marshaled against me.
 5 Does a wild donkey bray when it has grass,
 or an ox bellow when it has fodder?
 6 Is tasteless food eaten without salt,
 or is there flavor in the sap of the mallow^[a]?
 7 I refuse to touch it;
 such food makes me ill.
 8 “Oh, that I might have my request,
 that God would grant what I hope for,
 9 that God would be willing to crush me,
 to let loose his hand and cut off my life!

- 10 Then I would still have this consolation—
 my joy in unrelenting pain—
 that I had not denied the words of the Holy One.
- 11 “What strength do I have, that I should still hope?
 What prospects, that I should be patient?
- 12 Do I have the strength of stone?
 Is my flesh bronze?
- 13 Do I have any power to help myself,
 now that success has been driven from me?
- 14 “Anyone who withholds kindness from a friend
 forsakes the fear of the Almighty.
- 15 But my brothers are as undependable as intermittent streams,
 as the streams that overflow
- 16 when darkened by thawing ice
 and swollen with melting snow,
- 17 but that stop flowing in the dry season,
 and in the heat vanish from their channels.
- 18 Caravans turn aside from their routes;
 they go off into the wasteland and perish.
- 19 The caravans of Tema look for water,
 the traveling merchants of Sheba look in hope.
- 20 They are distressed, because they had been confident;
 they arrive there, only to be disappointed.
- 21 Now you too have proved to be of no help;
 you see something dreadful and are afraid.
- 22 Have I ever said, ‘Give something on my behalf,
 pay a ransom for me from your wealth,
- 23 deliver me from the hand of the enemy,
 rescue me from the clutches of the ruthless’?
- 24 “Teach me, and I will be quiet;
 show me where I have been wrong.
- 25 How painful are honest words!
 But what do your arguments prove?
- 26 Do you mean to correct what I say,
 and treat my desperate words as wind?
- 27 You would even cast lots for the fatherless
 and barter away your friend.
- 28 “But now be so kind as to look at me.
 Would I lie to your face?
- 29 Relent, do not be unjust;
 reconsider, for my integrity is at stake.^[b]
- 30 Is there any wickedness on my lips?
 Can my mouth not discern malice?

Job 7

New International Version

- 7 “Do not mortals have hard service on earth?
 Are not their days like those of hired laborers?
- 2 Like a slave longing for the evening shadows,
 or a hired laborer waiting to be paid,
- 3 so I have been allotted months of futility,

and nights of misery have been assigned to me.
 4 When I lie down I think, 'How long before I get up?'
 The night drags on, and I toss and turn until dawn.
 5 My body is clothed with worms and scabs,
 my skin is broken and festering.
 6 "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle,
 and they come to an end without hope.
 7 Remember, O God, that my life is but a breath;
 my eyes will never see happiness again.
 8 The eye that now sees me will see me no longer;
 you will look for me, but I will be no more.
 9 As a cloud vanishes and is gone,
 so one who goes down to the grave does not return.
 10 He will never come to his house again;
 his place will know him no more.
 11 "Therefore I will not keep silent;
 I will speak out in the anguish of my spirit,
 I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.
 12 Am I the sea, or the monster of the deep,
 that you put me under guard?
 13 When I think my bed will comfort me
 and my couch will ease my complaint,
 14 even then you frighten me with dreams
 and terrify me with visions,
 15 so that I prefer strangling and death,
 rather than this body of mine.
 16 I despise my life; I would not live forever.
 Let me alone; my days have no meaning.
 17 "What is mankind that you make so much of them,
 that you give them so much attention,
 18 that you examine them every morning
 and test them every moment?
 19 Will you never look away from me,
 or let me alone even for an instant?
 20 If I have sinned, what have I done to you,
 you who see everything we do?
 Why have you made me your target?
 Have I become a burden to you?^[a]
 21 Why do you not pardon my offenses
 and forgive my sins?
 For I will soon lie down in the dust;
 you will search for me, but I will be no more."

Job 8

New International Version

Bildad

8 Then Bildad the Shuhite replied:

- ² “How long will you say such things?
Your words are a blustering wind.
- ³ Does God pervert justice?
Does the Almighty pervert what is right?
- ⁴ When your children sinned against him,
he gave them over to the penalty of their sin.
- ⁵ But if you will seek God earnestly
and plead with the Almighty,
- ⁶ if you are pure and upright,
even now he will rouse himself on your behalf
and restore you to your prosperous state.
- ⁷ Your beginnings will seem humble,
so prosperous will your future be.
- ⁸ “Ask the former generation
and find out what their ancestors learned,
⁹ for we were born only yesterday and know nothing,
and our days on earth are but a shadow.
- ¹⁰ Will they not instruct you and tell you?
Will they not bring forth words from their understanding?
- ¹¹ Can papyrus grow tall where there is no marsh?
Can reeds thrive without water?
- ¹² While still growing and uncut,
they wither more quickly than grass.
- ¹³ Such is the destiny of all who forget God;
so perishes the hope of the godless.
- ¹⁴ What they trust in is fragile^[a];
what they rely on is a spider’s web.
- ¹⁵ They lean on the web, but it gives way;
they cling to it, but it does not hold.
- ¹⁶ They are like a well-watered plant in the sunshine,
spreading its shoots over the garden;
- ¹⁷ it entwines its roots around a pile of rocks
and looks for a place among the stones.
- ¹⁸ But when it is torn from its spot,
that place disowns it and says, ‘I never saw you.’
- ¹⁹ Surely its life withers away,
and^[b] from the soil other plants grow.
- ²⁰ “Surely God does not reject one who is blameless
or strengthen the hands of evildoers.
- ²¹ He will yet fill your mouth with laughter
and your lips with shouts of joy.
- ²² Your enemies will be clothed in shame,
and the tents of the wicked will be no more.”

Job 9

New International Version

Job

9 Then Job replied:

- ² “Indeed, I know that this is true.
But how can mere mortals prove their innocence before God?
- ³ Though they wished to dispute with him,
they could not answer him one time out of a thousand.
- ⁴ His wisdom is profound, his power is vast.
Who has resisted him and come out unscathed?
- ⁵ He moves mountains without their knowing it
and overturns them in his anger.
- ⁶ He shakes the earth from its place
and makes its pillars tremble.
- ⁷ He speaks to the sun and it does not shine;
he seals off the light of the stars.
- ⁸ He alone stretches out the heavens
and treads on the waves of the sea.
- ⁹ He is the Maker of the Bear^[a] and Orion,
the Pleiades and the constellations of the south.
- ¹⁰ He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed,
miracles that cannot be counted.
- ¹¹ When he passes me, I cannot see him;
when he goes by, I cannot perceive him.
- ¹² If he snatches away, who can stop him?
Who can say to him, ‘What are you doing?’
- ¹³ God does not restrain his anger;
even the cohorts of Rahab cowered at his feet.
- ¹⁴ “How then can I dispute with him?
How can I find words to argue with him?
- ¹⁵ Though I were innocent, I could not answer him;
I could only plead with my Judge for mercy.
- ¹⁶ Even if I summoned him and he responded,
I do not believe he would give me a hearing.
- ¹⁷ He would crush me with a storm
and multiply my wounds for no reason.
- ¹⁸ He would not let me catch my breath
but would overwhelm me with misery.
- ¹⁹ If it is a matter of strength, he is mighty!
And if it is a matter of justice, who can challenge him^[b]?
- ²⁰ Even if I were innocent, my mouth would condemn me;
if I were blameless, it would pronounce me guilty.
- ²¹ “Although I am blameless,
I have no concern for myself;
I despise my own life.
- ²² It is all the same; that is why I say,
‘He destroys both the blameless and the wicked.’
- ²³ When a scourge brings sudden death,
he mocks the despair of the innocent.
- ²⁴ When a land falls into the hands of the wicked,
he blindfolds its judges.
If it is not he, then who is it?
- ²⁵ “My days are swifter than a runner;
they fly away without a glimpse of joy.
- ²⁶ They skim past like boats of papyrus,

like eagles swooping down on their prey.
²⁷ If I say, 'I will forget my complaint,
 I will change my expression, and smile,'
²⁸ I still dread all my sufferings,
 for I know you will not hold me innocent.
²⁹ Since I am already found guilty,
 why should I struggle in vain?
³⁰ Even if I washed myself with soap
 and my hands with cleansing powder,
³¹ you would plunge me into a slime pit
 so that even my clothes would detest me.
³² "He is not a mere mortal like me that I might answer him,
 that we might confront each other in court.
³³ If only there were someone to mediate between us,
 someone to bring us together,
³⁴ someone to remove God's rod from me,
 so that his terror would frighten me no more.
³⁵ Then I would speak up without fear of him,
 but as it now stands with me, I cannot.

Job 10

New International Version

10 "I loathe my very life;
 therefore I will give free rein to my complaint
 and speak out in the bitterness of my soul.
² I say to God: Do not declare me guilty,
 but tell me what charges you have against me.
³ Does it please you to oppress me,
 to spurn the work of your hands,
 while you smile on the plans of the wicked?
⁴ Do you have eyes of flesh?
 Do you see as a mortal sees?
⁵ Are your days like those of a mortal
 or your years like those of a strong man,
⁶ that you must search out my faults
 and probe after my sin—
⁷ though you know that I am not guilty
 and that no one can rescue me from your hand?
⁸ "Your hands shaped me and made me.
 Will you now turn and destroy me?
⁹ Remember that you molded me like clay.
 Will you now turn me to dust again?
¹⁰ Did you not pour me out like milk
 and curdle me like cheese,
¹¹ clothe me with skin and flesh
 and knit me together with bones and sinews?
¹² You gave me life and showed me kindness,
 and in your providence watched over my spirit.
¹³ "But this is what you concealed in your heart,
 and I know that this was in your mind:

- 14 If I sinned, you would be watching me
 and would not let my offense go unpunished.
 15 If I am guilty—woe to me!
 Even if I am innocent, I cannot lift my head,
 for I am full of shame
 and drowned in^[a] my affliction.
 16 If I hold my head high, you stalk me like a lion
 and again display your awesome power against me.
 17 You bring new witnesses against me
 and increase your anger toward me;
 your forces come against me wave upon wave.
 18 “Why then did you bring me out of the womb?
 I wish I had died before any eye saw me.
 19 If only I had never come into being,
 or had been carried straight from the womb to the grave!
 20 Are not my few days almost over?
 Turn away from me so I can have a moment’s joy
 21 before I go to the place of no return,
 to the land of gloom and utter darkness,
 22 to the land of deepest night,
 of utter darkness and disorder,
 where even the light is like darkness.”

Job 11

New International Version

Zophar

11 Then Zophar the Naamathite replied:

- 2 “Are all these words to go unanswered?
 Is this talker to be vindicated?
 3 Will your idle talk reduce others to silence?
 Will no one rebuke you when you mock?
 4 You say to God, ‘My beliefs are flawless
 and I am pure in your sight.’
 5 Oh, how I wish that God would speak,
 that he would open his lips against you
 6 and disclose to you the secrets of wisdom,
 for true wisdom has two sides.
 Know this: God has even forgotten some of your sin.
 7 “Can you fathom the mysteries of God?
 Can you probe the limits of the Almighty?
 8 They are higher than the heavens above—what can you do?
 They are deeper than the depths below—what can you know?
 9 Their measure is longer than the earth
 and wider than the sea.
 10 “If he comes along and confines you in prison
 and convenes a court, who can oppose him?
 11 Surely he recognizes deceivers;

- and when he sees evil, does he not take note?
¹² But the witless can no more become wise
 than a wild donkey's colt can be born human.^[a]
¹³ "Yet if you devote your heart to him
 and stretch out your hands to him,
¹⁴ if you put away the sin that is in your hand
 and allow no evil to dwell in your tent,
¹⁵ then, free of fault, you will lift up your face;
 you will stand firm and without fear.
¹⁶ You will surely forget your trouble,
 recalling it only as waters gone by.
¹⁷ Life will be brighter than noonday,
 and darkness will become like morning.
¹⁸ You will be secure, because there is hope;
 you will look about you and take your rest in safety.
¹⁹ You will lie down, with no one to make you afraid,
 and many will court your favor.
²⁰ But the eyes of the wicked will fail,
 and escape will elude them;
 their hope will become a dying gasp."

Job 12

New International Version

Job

12 Then Job replied:

- ² "Doubtless you are the only people who matter,
 and wisdom will die with you!
³ But I have a mind as well as you;
 I am not inferior to you.
 Who does not know all these things?
⁴ "I have become a laughingstock to my friends,
 though I called on God and he answered—
 a mere laughingstock, though righteous and blameless!
⁵ Those who are at ease have contempt for misfortune
 as the fate of those whose feet are slipping.
⁶ The tents of marauders are undisturbed,
 and those who provoke God are secure—
 those God has in his hand.^[a]
⁷ "But ask the animals, and they will teach you,
 or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you;
⁸ or speak to the earth, and it will teach you,
 or let the fish in the sea inform you.
⁹ Which of all these does not know
 that the hand of the LORD has done this?
¹⁰ In his hand is the life of every creature
 and the breath of all mankind.
¹¹ Does not the ear test words
 as the tongue tastes food?"

- 12 Is not wisdom found among the aged?
 Does not long life bring understanding?
 13 “To God belong wisdom and power;
 counsel and understanding are his.
 14 What he tears down cannot be rebuilt;
 those he imprisons cannot be released.
 15 If he holds back the waters, there is drought;
 if he lets them loose, they devastate the land.
 16 To him belong strength and insight;
 both deceived and deceiver are his.
 17 He leads rulers away stripped
 and makes fools of judges.
 18 He takes off the shackles put on by kings
 and ties a loincloth^[b] around their waist.
 19 He leads priests away stripped
 and overthrows officials long established.
 20 He silences the lips of trusted advisers
 and takes away the discernment of elders.
 21 He pours contempt on nobles
 and disarms the mighty.
 22 He reveals the deep things of darkness
 and brings utter darkness into the light.
 23 He makes nations great, and destroys them;
 he enlarges nations, and disperses them.
 24 He deprives the leaders of the earth of their reason;
 he makes them wander in a trackless waste.
 25 They grope in darkness with no light;
 he makes them stagger like drunkards.

Job 13

New International Version

- 13 “My eyes have seen all this,
 my ears have heard and understood it.
 2 What you know, I also know;
 I am not inferior to you.
 3 But I desire to speak to the Almighty
 and to argue my case with God.
 4 You, however, smear me with lies;
 you are worthless physicians, all of you!
 5 If only you would be altogether silent!
 For you, that would be wisdom.
 6 Hear now my argument;
 listen to the pleas of my lips.
 7 Will you speak wickedly on God’s behalf?
 Will you speak deceitfully for him?
 8 Will you show him partiality?
 Will you argue the case for God?
 9 Would it turn out well if he examined you?
 Could you deceive him as you might deceive a mortal?
 10 He would surely call you to account

- if you secretly showed partiality.
- ¹¹ Would not his splendor terrify you?
Would not the dread of him fall on you?
- ¹² Your maxims are proverbs of ashes;
your defenses are defenses of clay.
- ¹³ “Keep silent and let me speak;
then let come to me what may.
- ¹⁴ Why do I put myself in jeopardy
and take my life in my hands?
- ¹⁵ Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him;
I will surely^[a] defend my ways to his face.
- ¹⁶ Indeed, this will turn out for my deliverance,
for no godless person would dare come before him!
- ¹⁷ Listen carefully to what I say;
let my words ring in your ears.
- ¹⁸ Now that I have prepared my case,
I know I will be vindicated.
- ¹⁹ Can anyone bring charges against me?
If so, I will be silent and die.
- ²⁰ “Only grant me these two things, God,
and then I will not hide from you:
- ²¹ Withdraw your hand far from me,
and stop frightening me with your terrors.
- ²² Then summon me and I will answer,
or let me speak, and you reply to me.
- ²³ How many wrongs and sins have I committed?
Show me my offense and my sin.
- ²⁴ Why do you hide your face
and consider me your enemy?
- ²⁵ Will you torment a windblown leaf?
Will you chase after dry chaff?
- ²⁶ For you write down bitter things against me
and make me reap the sins of my youth.
- ²⁷ You fasten my feet in shackles;
you keep close watch on all my paths
by putting marks on the soles of my feet.
- ²⁸ “So man wastes away like something rotten,
like a garment eaten by moths.

Job 14

New International Version

- 14** “Mortals, born of woman,
are of few days and full of trouble.
- ² They spring up like flowers and wither away;
like fleeting shadows, they do not endure.
- ³ Do you fix your eye on them?
Will you bring them^[a] before you for judgment?
- ⁴ Who can bring what is pure from the impure?
No one!
- ⁵ A person’s days are determined;

you have decreed the number of his months
 and have set limits he cannot exceed.
 6 So look away from him and let him alone,
 till he has put in his time like a hired laborer.
 7 "At least there is hope for a tree:
 If it is cut down, it will sprout again,
 and its new shoots will not fail.
 8 Its roots may grow old in the ground
 and its stump die in the soil,
 9 yet at the scent of water it will bud
 and put forth shoots like a plant.
 10 But a man dies and is laid low;
 he breathes his last and is no more.
 11 As the water of a lake dries up
 or a riverbed becomes parched and dry,
 12 so he lies down and does not rise;
 till the heavens are no more, people will not awake
 or be roused from their sleep.
 13 "If only you would hide me in the grave
 and conceal me till your anger has passed!
 If only you would set me a time
 and then remember me!
 14 If someone dies, will they live again?
 All the days of my hard service
 I will wait for my renewal^[b] to come.
 15 You will call and I will answer you;
 you will long for the creature your hands have made.
 16 Surely then you will count my steps
 but not keep track of my sin.
 17 My offenses will be sealed up in a bag;
 you will cover over my sin.
 18 "But as a mountain erodes and crumbles
 and as a rock is moved from its place,
 19 as water wears away stones
 and torrents wash away the soil,
 so you destroy a person's hope.
 20 You overpower them once for all, and they are gone;
 you change their countenance and send them away.
 21 If their children are honored, they do not know it;
 if their offspring are brought low, they do not see it.
 22 They feel but the pain of their own bodies
 and mourn only for themselves."

Job 15
New International Version

Eliphaz

15 Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied:

² “Would a wise person answer with empty notions
or fill their belly with the hot east wind?
³ Would they argue with useless words,
with speeches that have no value?
⁴ But you even undermine piety
and hinder devotion to God.
⁵ Your sin prompts your mouth;
you adopt the tongue of the crafty.
⁶ Your own mouth condemns you, not mine;
your own lips testify against you.
⁷ “Are you the first man ever born?
Were you brought forth before the hills?
⁸ Do you listen in on God’s council?
Do you have a monopoly on wisdom?
⁹ What do you know that we do not know?
What insights do you have that we do not have?
¹⁰ The gray-haired and the aged are on our side,
men even older than your father.
¹¹ Are God’s consolations not enough for you,
words spoken gently to you?
¹² Why has your heart carried you away,
and why do your eyes flash,
¹³ so that you vent your rage against God
and pour out such words from your mouth?
¹⁴ “What are mortals, that they could be pure,
or those born of woman, that they could be righteous?
¹⁵ If God places no trust in his holy ones,
if even the heavens are not pure in his eyes,
¹⁶ how much less mortals, who are vile and corrupt,
who drink up evil like water!
¹⁷ “Listen to me and I will explain to you;
let me tell you what I have seen,
¹⁸ what the wise have declared,
hiding nothing received from their ancestors
¹⁹ (to whom alone the land was given
when no foreigners moved among them):
²⁰ All his days the wicked man suffers torment,
the ruthless man through all the years stored up for him.
²¹ Terrifying sounds fill his ears;
when all seems well, marauders attack him.
²² He despairs of escaping the realm of darkness;
he is marked for the sword.
²³ He wanders about for food like a vulture;
he knows the day of darkness is at hand.
²⁴ Distress and anguish fill him with terror;
troubles overwhelm him, like a king poised to attack,
²⁵ because he shakes his fist at God
and vaunts himself against the Almighty,
²⁶ defiantly charging against him
with a thick, strong shield.

27 “Though his face is covered with fat
 and his waist bulges with flesh,
 28 he will inhabit ruined towns
 and houses where no one lives,
 houses crumbling to rubble.
 29 He will no longer be rich and his wealth will not endure,
 nor will his possessions spread over the land.
 30 He will not escape the darkness;
 a flame will wither his shoots,
 and the breath of God’s mouth will carry him away.
 31 Let him not deceive himself by trusting what is worthless,
 for he will get nothing in return.
 32 Before his time he will wither,
 and his branches will not flourish.
 33 He will be like a vine stripped of its unripe grapes,
 like an olive tree shedding its blossoms.
 34 For the company of the godless will be barren,
 and fire will consume the tents of those who love bribes.
 35 They conceive trouble and give birth to evil;
 their womb fashions deceit.”

Job 16
New International Version

Job

16 Then Job replied:

2 “I have heard many things like these;
 you are miserable comforters, all of you!
 3 Will your long-winded speeches never end?
 What ails you that you keep on arguing?
 4 I also could speak like you,
 if you were in my place;
 I could make fine speeches against you
 and shake my head at you.
 5 But my mouth would encourage you;
 comfort from my lips would bring you relief.
 6 “Yet if I speak, my pain is not relieved;
 and if I refrain, it does not go away.
 7 Surely, God, you have worn me out;
 you have devastated my entire household.
 8 You have shriveled me up—and it has become a witness;
 my gauntness rises up and testifies against me.
 9 God assails me and tears me in his anger
 and gnashes his teeth at me;
 my opponent fastens on me his piercing eyes.
 10 People open their mouths to jeer at me;
 they strike my cheek in scorn
 and unite together against me.

11 God has turned me over to the ungodly
 and thrown me into the clutches of the wicked.
 12 All was well with me, but he shattered me;
 he seized me by the neck and crushed me.
 He has made me his target;
 13 his archers surround me.
 Without pity, he pierces my kidneys
 and spills my gall on the ground.
 14 Again and again he bursts upon me;
 he rushes at me like a warrior.
 15 "I have sewed sackcloth over my skin
 and buried my brow in the dust.
 16 My face is red with weeping,
 dark shadows ring my eyes;
 17 yet my hands have been free of violence
 and my prayer is pure.
 18 "Earth, do not cover my blood;
 may my cry never be laid to rest!
 19 Even now my witness is in heaven;
 my advocate is on high.
 20 My intercessor is my friend^[a]
 as my eyes pour out tears to God;
 21 on behalf of a man he pleads with God
 as one pleads for a friend.
 22 "Only a few years will pass
 before I take the path of no return.

Job 17

New International Version

17 ¹ My spirit is broken,
 my days are cut short,
 the grave awaits me.
 2 Surely mockers surround me;
 my eyes must dwell on their hostility.
 3 "Give me, O God, the pledge you demand.
 Who else will put up security for me?
 4 You have closed their minds to understanding;
 therefore you will not let them triumph.
 5 If anyone denounces their friends for reward,
 the eyes of their children will fail.
 6 "God has made me a byword to everyone,
 a man in whose face people spit.
 7 My eyes have grown dim with grief;
 my whole frame is but a shadow.
 8 The upright are appalled at this;
 the innocent are aroused against the ungodly.
 9 Nevertheless, the righteous will hold to their ways,
 and those with clean hands will grow stronger.
 10 "But come on, all of you, try again!
 I will not find a wise man among you.

¹¹ My days have passed, my plans are shattered.
 Yet the desires of my heart
¹² turn night into day;
 in the face of the darkness light is near.
¹³ If the only home I hope for is the grave,
 if I spread out my bed in the realm of darkness,
¹⁴ if I say to corruption, 'You are my father,'
 and to the worm, 'My mother' or 'My sister,'
¹⁵ where then is my hope—
 who can see any hope for me?
¹⁶ Will it go down to the gates of death?
 Will we descend together into the dust?"

Job 18

New International Version

Bildad

18 Then Bildad the Shuhite replied:

² "When will you end these speeches?
 Be sensible, and then we can talk.
³ Why are we regarded as cattle
 and considered stupid in your sight?
⁴ You who tear yourself to pieces in your anger,
 is the earth to be abandoned for your sake?
 Or must the rocks be moved from their place?
⁵ "The lamp of a wicked man is snuffed out;
 the flame of his fire stops burning.
⁶ The light in his tent becomes dark;
 the lamp beside him goes out.
⁷ The vigor of his step is weakened;
 his own schemes throw him down.
⁸ His feet thrust him into a net;
 he wanders into its mesh.
⁹ A trap seizes him by the heel;
 a snare holds him fast.
¹⁰ A noose is hidden for him on the ground;
 a trap lies in his path.
¹¹ Terrors startle him on every side
 and dog his every step.
¹² Calamity is hungry for him;
 disaster is ready for him when he falls.
¹³ It eats away parts of his skin;
 death's firstborn devours his limbs.
¹⁴ He is torn from the security of his tent
 and marched off to the king of terrors.
¹⁵ Fire resides^[a] in his tent;
 burning sulfur is scattered over his dwelling.
¹⁶ His roots dry up below

- and his branches wither above.
¹⁷ The memory of him perishes from the earth;
 he has no name in the land.
¹⁸ He is driven from light into the realm of darkness
 and is banished from the world.
¹⁹ He has no offspring or descendants among his people,
 no survivor where once he lived.
²⁰ People of the west are appalled at his fate;
 those of the east are seized with horror.
²¹ Surely such is the dwelling of an evil man;
 such is the place of one who does not know God.”

Job 19
New International Version
Job

19 Then Job replied:

- ² “How long will you torment me
 and crush me with words?
³ Ten times now you have reproached me;
 shamelessly you attack me.
⁴ If it is true that I have gone astray,
 my error remains my concern alone.
⁵ If indeed you would exalt yourselves above me
 and use my humiliation against me,
⁶ then know that God has wronged me
 and drawn his net around me.
⁷ “Though I cry, ‘Violence!’ I get no response;
 though I call for help, there is no justice.
⁸ He has blocked my way so I cannot pass;
 he has shrouded my paths in darkness.
⁹ He has stripped me of my honor
 and removed the crown from my head.
¹⁰ He tears me down on every side till I am gone;
 he uproots my hope like a tree.
¹¹ His anger burns against me;
 he counts me among his enemies.
¹² His troops advance in force;
 they build a siege ramp against me
 and encamp around my tent.
¹³ “He has alienated my family from me;
 my acquaintances are completely estranged from me.
¹⁴ My relatives have gone away;
 my closest friends have forgotten me.
¹⁵ My guests and my female servants count me a foreigner;
 they look on me as on a stranger.
¹⁶ I summon my servant, but he does not answer,
 though I beg him with my own mouth.

¹⁷ My breath is offensive to my wife;
 I am loathsome to my own family.
¹⁸ Even the little boys scorn me;
 when I appear, they ridicule me.
¹⁹ All my intimate friends detest me;
 those I love have turned against me.
²⁰ I am nothing but skin and bones;
 I have escaped only by the skin of my teeth.^[a]
²¹ “Have pity on me, my friends, have pity,
 for the hand of God has struck me.
²² Why do you pursue me as God does?
 Will you never get enough of my flesh?
²³ “Oh, that my words were recorded,
 that they were written on a scroll,
²⁴ that they were inscribed with an iron tool on^[b] lead,
 or engraved in rock forever!
²⁵ I know that my redeemer^[c] lives,
 and that in the end he will stand on the earth.^[d]
²⁶ And after my skin has been destroyed,
 yet^[e] in^[f] my flesh I will see God;
²⁷ I myself will see him
 with my own eyes—I, and not another.
 How my heart yearns within me!
²⁸ “If you say, ‘How we will hound him,
 since the root of the trouble lies in him,^[g]
²⁹ you should fear the sword yourselves;
 for wrath will bring punishment by the sword,
 and then you will know that there is judgment.^[h]”

Job 20

New International Version

Zophar

20 Then Zophar the Naamathite replied:

² “My troubled thoughts prompt me to answer
 because I am greatly disturbed.
³ I hear a rebuke that dishonors me,
 and my understanding inspires me to reply.
⁴ “Surely you know how it has been from of old,
 ever since mankind^[a] was placed on the earth,
⁵ that the mirth of the wicked is brief,
 the joy of the godless lasts but a moment.
⁶ Though the pride of the godless person reaches to the heavens
 and his head touches the clouds,
⁷ he will perish forever, like his own dung;
 those who have seen him will say, ‘Where is he?’
⁸ Like a dream he flies away, no more to be found,
 banished like a vision of the night.

- 9 The eye that saw him will not see him again;
 his place will look on him no more.
 10 His children must make amends to the poor;
 his own hands must give back his wealth.
 11 The youthful vigor that fills his bones
 will lie with him in the dust.
 12 “Though evil is sweet in his mouth
 and he hides it under his tongue,
 13 though he cannot bear to let it go
 and lets it linger in his mouth,
 14 yet his food will turn sour in his stomach;
 it will become the venom of serpents within him.
 15 He will spit out the riches he swallowed;
 God will make his stomach vomit them up.
 16 He will suck the poison of serpents;
 the fangs of an adder will kill him.
 17 He will not enjoy the streams,
 the rivers flowing with honey and cream.
 18 What he toiled for he must give back uneaten;
 he will not enjoy the profit from his trading.
 19 For he has oppressed the poor and left them destitute;
 he has seized houses he did not build.
 20 “Surely he will have no respite from his craving;
 he cannot save himself by his treasure.
 21 Nothing is left for him to devour;
 his prosperity will not endure.
 22 In the midst of his plenty, distress will overtake him;
 the full force of misery will come upon him.
 23 When he has filled his belly,
 God will vent his burning anger against him
 and rain down his blows on him.
 24 Though he flees from an iron weapon,
 a bronze-tipped arrow pierces him.
 25 He pulls it out of his back,
 the gleaming point out of his liver.
 Terrors will come over him;
 26 total darkness lies in wait for his treasures.
 A fire unfanned will consume him
 and devour what is left in his tent.
 27 The heavens will expose his guilt;
 the earth will rise up against him.
 28 A flood will carry off his house,
 rushing waters^[b] on the day of God’s wrath.
 29 Such is the fate God allots the wicked,
 the heritage appointed for them by God.”

Job 21
New International Version

Job

21 Then Job replied:

- 2** “Listen carefully to my words;
let this be the consolation you give me.
- 3** Bear with me while I speak,
and after I have spoken, mock on.
- 4** “Is my complaint directed to a human being?
Why should I not be impatient?
- 5** Look at me and be appalled;
clap your hand over your mouth.
- 6** When I think about this, I am terrified;
trembling seizes my body.
- 7** Why do the wicked live on,
growing old and increasing in power?
- 8** They see their children established around them,
their offspring before their eyes.
- 9** Their homes are safe and free from fear;
the rod of God is not on them.
- 10** Their bulls never fail to breed;
their cows calve and do not miscarry.
- 11** They send forth their children as a flock;
their little ones dance about.
- 12** They sing to the music of timbrel and lyre;
they make merry to the sound of the pipe.
- 13** They spend their years in prosperity
and go down to the grave in peace.^[a]
- 14** Yet they say to God, ‘Leave us alone!
We have no desire to know your ways.
- 15** Who is the Almighty, that we should serve him?
What would we gain by praying to him?’
- 16** But their prosperity is not in their own hands,
so I stand aloof from the plans of the wicked.
- 17** “Yet how often is the lamp of the wicked snuffed out?
How often does calamity come upon them,
the fate God allots in his anger?
- 18** How often are they like straw before the wind,
like chaff swept away by a gale?
- 19** It is said, ‘God stores up the punishment of the wicked for their children.’
Let him repay the wicked, so that they themselves will experience it!
- 20** Let their own eyes see their destruction;
let them drink the cup of the wrath of the Almighty.
- 21** For what do they care about the families they leave behind
when their allotted months come to an end?
- 22** “Can anyone teach knowledge to God,
since he judges even the highest?
- 23** One person dies in full vigor,
completely secure and at ease,
- 24** well nourished in body,^[b]
bones rich with marrow.
- 25** Another dies in bitterness of soul,
never having enjoyed anything good.

- 26 Side by side they lie in the dust,
and worms cover them both.
- 27 “I know full well what you are thinking,
the schemes by which you would wrong me.
- 28 You say, ‘Where now is the house of the great,
the tents where the wicked lived?’
- 29 Have you never questioned those who travel?
Have you paid no regard to their accounts—
- 30 that the wicked are spared from the day of calamity,
that they are delivered from^[c] the day of wrath?
- 31 Who denounces their conduct to their face?
Who repays them for what they have done?
- 32 They are carried to the grave,
and watch is kept over their tombs.
- 33 The soil in the valley is sweet to them;
everyone follows after them,
and a countless throng goes^[d] before them.
- 34 “So how can you console me with your nonsense?
Nothing is left of your answers but falsehood!”

Job 22 **New International Version**

Eliphaz

22 Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied:

- 2 “Can a man be of benefit to God?
Can even a wise person benefit him?
- 3 What pleasure would it give the Almighty if you were righteous?
What would he gain if your ways were blameless?
- 4 “Is it for your piety that he rebukes you
and brings charges against you?
- 5 Is not your wickedness great?
Are not your sins endless?
- 6 You demanded security from your relatives for no reason;
you stripped people of their clothing, leaving them naked.
- 7 You gave no water to the weary
and you withheld food from the hungry,
- 8 though you were a powerful man, owning land—
an honored man, living on it.
- 9 And you sent widows away empty-handed
and broke the strength of the fatherless.
- 10 That is why snares are all around you,
why sudden peril terrifies you,
- 11 why it is so dark you cannot see,
and why a flood of water covers you.
- 12 “Is not God in the heights of heaven?
And see how lofty are the highest stars!
- 13 Yet you say, ‘What does God know?’

Does he judge through such darkness?
¹⁴Thick clouds veil him, so he does not see us
as he goes about in the vaulted heavens.’
¹⁵Will you keep to the old path
that the wicked have trod?
¹⁶They were carried off before their time,
their foundations washed away by a flood.
¹⁷They said to God, ‘Leave us alone!
What can the Almighty do to us?’
¹⁸Yet it was he who filled their houses with good things,
so I stand aloof from the plans of the wicked.
¹⁹The righteous see their ruin and rejoice;
the innocent mock them, saying,
²⁰‘Surely our foes are destroyed,
and fire devours their wealth.’
²¹“Submit to God and be at peace with him;
in this way prosperity will come to you.
²²Accept instruction from his mouth
and lay up his words in your heart.
²³If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored:
If you remove wickedness far from your tent
²⁴and assign your nuggets to the dust,
your gold of Ophir to the rocks in the ravines,
²⁵then the Almighty will be your gold,
the choicest silver for you.
²⁶Surely then you will find delight in the Almighty
and will lift up your face to God.
²⁷You will pray to him, and he will hear you,
and you will fulfill your vows.
²⁸What you decide on will be done,
and light will shine on your ways.
²⁹When people are brought low and you say, ‘Lift them up!’
then he will save the downcast.
³⁰He will deliver even one who is not innocent,
who will be delivered through the cleanness of your hands.”

Job 23 **New International Version**

Job

23 Then Job replied:

²“Even today my complaint is bitter;
his hand^[a] is heavy in spite of^[b] my groaning.
³If only I knew where to find him;
if only I could go to his dwelling!
⁴I would state my case before him
and fill my mouth with arguments.
⁵I would find out what he would answer me,

- and consider what he would say to me.
 6 Would he vigorously oppose me?
 No, he would not press charges against me.
 7 There the upright can establish their innocence before him,
 and there I would be delivered forever from my judge.
 8 “But if I go to the east, he is not there;
 if I go to the west, I do not find him.
 9 When he is at work in the north, I do not see him;
 when he turns to the south, I catch no glimpse of him.
 10 But he knows the way that I take;
 when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.
 11 My feet have closely followed his steps;
 I have kept to his way without turning aside.
 12 I have not departed from the commands of his lips;
 I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread.
 13 “But he stands alone, and who can oppose him?
 He does whatever he pleases.
 14 He carries out his decree against me,
 and many such plans he still has in store.
 15 That is why I am terrified before him;
 when I think of all this, I fear him.
 16 God has made my heart faint;
 the Almighty has terrified me.
 17 Yet I am not silenced by the darkness,
 by the thick darkness that covers my face.

Job 24

New International Version

- 24 “Why does the Almighty not set times for judgment?
 Why must those who know him look in vain for such days?
 2 There are those who move boundary stones;
 they pasture flocks they have stolen.
 3 They drive away the orphan’s donkey
 and take the widow’s ox in pledge.
 4 They thrust the needy from the path
 and force all the poor of the land into hiding.
 5 Like wild donkeys in the desert,
 the poor go about their labor of foraging food;
 the wasteland provides food for their children.
 6 They gather fodder in the fields
 and glean in the vineyards of the wicked.
 7 Lacking clothes, they spend the night naked;
 they have nothing to cover themselves in the cold.
 8 They are drenched by mountain rains
 and hug the rocks for lack of shelter.
 9 The fatherless child is snatched from the breast;
 the infant of the poor is seized for a debt.
 10 Lacking clothes, they go about naked;
 they carry the sheaves, but still go hungry.
 11 They crush olives among the terraces^[a];

- they tread the winepresses, yet suffer thirst.
- ¹² The groans of the dying rise from the city,
and the souls of the wounded cry out for help.
But God charges no one with wrongdoing.
- ¹³ “There are those who rebel against the light,
who do not know its ways
or stay in its paths.
- ¹⁴ When daylight is gone, the murderer rises up,
kills the poor and needy,
and in the night steals forth like a thief.
- ¹⁵ The eye of the adulterer watches for dusk;
he thinks, ‘No eye will see me,’
and he keeps his face concealed.
- ¹⁶ In the dark, thieves break into houses,
but by day they shut themselves in;
they want nothing to do with the light.
- ¹⁷ For all of them, midnight is their morning;
they make friends with the terrors of darkness.
- ¹⁸ “Yet they are foam on the surface of the water;
their portion of the land is cursed,
so that no one goes to the vineyards.
- ¹⁹ As heat and drought snatch away the melted snow,
so the grave snatches away those who have sinned.
- ²⁰ The womb forgets them,
the worm feasts on them;
the wicked are no longer remembered
but are broken like a tree.
- ²¹ They prey on the barren and childless woman,
and to the widow they show no kindness.
- ²² But God drags away the mighty by his power;
though they become established, they have no assurance of life.
- ²³ He may let them rest in a feeling of security,
but his eyes are on their ways.
- ²⁴ For a little while they are exalted, and then they are gone;
they are brought low and gathered up like all others;
they are cut off like heads of grain.
- ²⁵ “If this is not so, who can prove me false
and reduce my words to nothing?”

Job 25
New International Version

Bildad

25 Then Bildad the Shuhite replied:

- ² “Dominion and awe belong to God;
he establishes order in the heights of heaven.
- ³ Can his forces be numbered?
On whom does his light not rise?”

4 How then can a mortal be righteous before God?
 How can one born of woman be pure?
 5 If even the moon is not bright
 and the stars are not pure in his eyes,
 6 how much less a mortal, who is but a maggot—
 a human being, who is only a worm!”

Job 26
New International Version

Job

26 Then Job replied:

2 “How you have helped the powerless!
 How you have saved the arm that is feeble!
 3 What advice you have offered to one without wisdom!
 And what great insight you have displayed!
 4 Who has helped you utter these words?
 And whose spirit spoke from your mouth?
 5 “The dead are in deep anguish,
 those beneath the waters and all that live in them.
 6 The realm of the dead is naked before God;
 Destruction^[a] lies uncovered.
 7 He spreads out the northern skies over empty space;
 he suspends the earth over nothing.
 8 He wraps up the waters in his clouds,
 yet the clouds do not burst under their weight.
 9 He covers the face of the full moon,
 spreading his clouds over it.
 10 He marks out the horizon on the face of the waters
 for a boundary between light and darkness.
 11 The pillars of the heavens quake,
 aghast at his rebuke.
 12 By his power he churned up the sea;
 by his wisdom he cut Rahab to pieces.
 13 By his breath the skies became fair;
 his hand pierced the gliding serpent.
 14 And these are but the outer fringe of his works;
 how faint the whisper we hear of him!
 Who then can understand the thunder of his power?”

Job 27
New International Version

Job’s Final Word to His Friends

27 And Job continued his discourse:

² “As surely as God lives, who has denied me justice,
the Almighty, who has made my life bitter,
³ as long as I have life within me,
the breath of God in my nostrils,
⁴ my lips will not say anything wicked,
and my tongue will not utter lies.
⁵ I will never admit you are in the right;
till I die, I will not deny my integrity.
⁶ I will maintain my innocence and never let go of it;
my conscience will not reproach me as long as I live.
⁷ “May my enemy be like the wicked,
my adversary like the unjust!
⁸ For what hope have the godless when they are cut off,
when God takes away their life?
⁹ Does God listen to their cry
when distress comes upon them?
¹⁰ Will they find delight in the Almighty?
Will they call on God at all times?
¹¹ “I will teach you about the power of God;
the ways of the Almighty I will not conceal.
¹² You have all seen this yourselves.
Why then this meaningless talk?
¹³ “Here is the fate God allots to the wicked,
the heritage a ruthless man receives from the Almighty:
¹⁴ However many his children, their fate is the sword;
his offspring will never have enough to eat.
¹⁵ The plague will bury those who survive him,
and their widows will not weep for them.
¹⁶ Though he heaps up silver like dust
and clothes like piles of clay,
¹⁷ what he lays up the righteous will wear,
and the innocent will divide his silver.
¹⁸ The house he builds is like a moth’s cocoon,
like a hut made by a watchman.
¹⁹ He lies down wealthy, but will do so no more;
when he opens his eyes, all is gone.
²⁰ Terrors overtake him like a flood;
a tempest snatches him away in the night.
²¹ The east wind carries him off, and he is gone;
it sweeps him out of his place.
²² It hurls itself against him without mercy
as he flees headlong from its power.
²³ It claps its hands in derision
and hisses him out of his place.”

Job 28
New International Version

Interlude: Where Wisdom Is Found

- 28** There is a mine for silver
and a place where gold is refined.
- ² Iron is taken from the earth,
and copper is smelted from ore.
- ³ Mortals put an end to the darkness;
they search out the farthest recesses
for ore in the blackest darkness.
- ⁴ Far from human dwellings they cut a shaft,
in places untouched by human feet;
far from other people they dangle and sway.
- ⁵ The earth, from which food comes,
is transformed below as by fire;
- ⁶ lapis lazuli comes from its rocks,
and its dust contains nuggets of gold.
- ⁷ No bird of prey knows that hidden path,
no falcon's eye has seen it.
- ⁸ Proud beasts do not set foot on it,
and no lion prowls there.
- ⁹ People assault the flinty rock with their hands
and lay bare the roots of the mountains.
- ¹⁰ They tunnel through the rock;
their eyes see all its treasures.
- ¹¹ They search^[a] the sources of the rivers
and bring hidden things to light.
- ¹² But where can wisdom be found?
Where does understanding dwell?
- ¹³ No mortal comprehends its worth;
it cannot be found in the land of the living.
- ¹⁴ The deep says, "It is not in me";
the sea says, "It is not with me."
- ¹⁵ It cannot be bought with the finest gold,
nor can its price be weighed out in silver.
- ¹⁶ It cannot be bought with the gold of Ophir,
with precious onyx or lapis lazuli.
- ¹⁷ Neither gold nor crystal can compare with it,
nor can it be had for jewels of gold.
- ¹⁸ Coral and jasper are not worthy of mention;
the price of wisdom is beyond rubies.
- ¹⁹ The topaz of Cush cannot compare with it;
it cannot be bought with pure gold.
- ²⁰ Where then does wisdom come from?
Where does understanding dwell?
- ²¹ It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing,
concealed even from the birds in the sky.
- ²² Destruction^[b] and Death say,
"Only a rumor of it has reached our ears."
- ²³ God understands the way to it
and he alone knows where it dwells,
- ²⁴ for he views the ends of the earth
and sees everything under the heavens.
- ²⁵ When he established the force of the wind

and measured out the waters,
²⁶ when he made a decree for the rain
 and a path for the thunderstorm,
²⁷ then he looked at wisdom and appraised it;
 he confirmed it and tested it.
²⁸ And he said to the human race,
 “The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom,
 and to shun evil is understanding.”

Job 29 **New International Version**

Job’s Final Defense

29 Job continued his discourse:

² “How I long for the months gone by,
 for the days when God watched over me,
³ when his lamp shone on my head
 and by his light I walked through darkness!
⁴ Oh, for the days when I was in my prime,
 when God’s intimate friendship blessed my house,
⁵ when the Almighty was still with me
 and my children were around me,
⁶ when my path was drenched with cream
 and the rock poured out for me streams of olive oil.
⁷ “When I went to the gate of the city
 and took my seat in the public square,
⁸ the young men saw me and stepped aside
 and the old men rose to their feet;
⁹ the chief men refrained from speaking
 and covered their mouths with their hands;
¹⁰ the voices of the nobles were hushed,
 and their tongues stuck to the roof of their mouths.
¹¹ Whoever heard me spoke well of me,
 and those who saw me commended me,
¹² because I rescued the poor who cried for help,
 and the fatherless who had none to assist them.
¹³ The one who was dying blessed me;
 I made the widow’s heart sing.
¹⁴ I put on righteousness as my clothing;
 justice was my robe and my turban.
¹⁵ I was eyes to the blind
 and feet to the lame.
¹⁶ I was a father to the needy;
 I took up the case of the stranger.
¹⁷ I broke the fangs of the wicked
 and snatched the victims from their teeth.
¹⁸ “I thought, ‘I will die in my own house,
 my days as numerous as the grains of sand.

- 19 My roots will reach to the water,
 and the dew will lie all night on my branches.
 20 My glory will not fade;
 the bow will be ever new in my hand.[’]
 21 “People listened to me expectantly,
 waiting in silence for my counsel.
 22 After I had spoken, they spoke no more;
 my words fell gently on their ears.
 23 They waited for me as for showers
 and drank in my words as the spring rain.
 24 When I smiled at them, they scarcely believed it;
 the light of my face was precious to them.^[a]
 25 I chose the way for them and sat as their chief;
 I dwelt as a king among his troops;
 I was like one who comforts mourners.

Job 30

New International Version

- 30 “But now they mock me,
 men younger than I,
 whose fathers I would have disdained
 to put with my sheep dogs.
 2 Of what use was the strength of their hands to me,
 since their vigor had gone from them?
 3 Haggard from want and hunger,
 they roamed^[a] the parched land
 in desolate wastelands at night.
 4 In the brush they gathered salt herbs,
 and their food^[b] was the root of the broom bush.
 5 They were banished from human society,
 shouted at as if they were thieves.
 6 They were forced to live in the dry stream beds,
 among the rocks and in holes in the ground.
 7 They brayed among the bushes
 and huddled in the undergrowth.
 8 A base and nameless brood,
 they were driven out of the land.
 9 “And now those young men mock me in song;
 I have become a byword among them.
 10 They detest me and keep their distance;
 they do not hesitate to spit in my face.
 11 Now that God has unstrung my bow and afflicted me,
 they throw off restraint in my presence.
 12 On my right the tribe^[c] attacks;
 they lay snares for my feet,
 they build their siege ramps against me.
 13 They break up my road;
 they succeed in destroying me.
 ‘No one can help him,’ they say.
 14 They advance as through a gaping breach;

amid the ruins they come rolling in.
¹⁵ Terrors overwhelm me;
 my dignity is driven away as by the wind,
 my safety vanishes like a cloud.
¹⁶ “And now my life ebbs away;
 days of suffering grip me.
¹⁷ Night pierces my bones;
 my gnawing pains never rest.
¹⁸ In his great power God becomes like clothing to me^[d];
 he binds me like the neck of my garment.
¹⁹ He throws me into the mud,
 and I am reduced to dust and ashes.
²⁰ “I cry out to you, God, but you do not answer;
 I stand up, but you merely look at me.
²¹ You turn on me ruthlessly;
 with the might of your hand you attack me.
²² You snatch me up and drive me before the wind;
 you toss me about in the storm.
²³ I know you will bring me down to death,
 to the place appointed for all the living.
²⁴ “Surely no one lays a hand on a broken man
 when he cries for help in his distress.
²⁵ Have I not wept for those in trouble?
 Has not my soul grieved for the poor?
²⁶ Yet when I hoped for good, evil came;
 when I looked for light, then came darkness.
²⁷ The churning inside me never stops;
 days of suffering confront me.
²⁸ I go about blackened, but not by the sun;
 I stand up in the assembly and cry for help.
²⁹ I have become a brother of jackals,
 a companion of owls.
³⁰ My skin grows black and peels;
 my body burns with fever.
³¹ My lyre is tuned to mourning,
 and my pipe to the sound of wailing.

Job 31

New International Version

31 “I made a covenant with my eyes
 not to look lustfully at a young woman.
² For what is our lot from God above,
 our heritage from the Almighty on high?
³ Is it not ruin for the wicked,
 disaster for those who do wrong?
⁴ Does he not see my ways
 and count my every step?
⁵ “If I have walked with falsehood
 or my foot has hurried after deceit—
⁶ let God weigh me in honest scales
 and he will know that I am blameless—

7 if my steps have turned from the path,
if my heart has been led by my eyes,
or if my hands have been defiled,
8 then may others eat what I have sown,
and may my crops be uprooted.
9 "If my heart has been enticed by a woman,
or if I have lurked at my neighbor's door,
10 then may my wife grind another man's grain,
and may other men sleep with her.
11 For that would have been wicked,
a sin to be judged.
12 It is a fire that burns to Destruction^[a];
it would have uprooted my harvest.
13 "If I have denied justice to any of my servants,
whether male or female,
when they had a grievance against me,
14 what will I do when God confronts me?
What will I answer when called to account?
15 Did not he who made me in the womb make them?
Did not the same one form us both within our mothers?
16 "If I have denied the desires of the poor
or let the eyes of the widow grow weary,
17 if I have kept my bread to myself,
not sharing it with the fatherless—
18 but from my youth I reared them as a father would,
and from my birth I guided the widow—
19 if I have seen anyone perishing for lack of clothing,
or the needy without garments,
20 and their hearts did not bless me
for warming them with the fleece from my sheep,
21 if I have raised my hand against the fatherless,
knowing that I had influence in court,
22 then let my arm fall from the shoulder,
let it be broken off at the joint.
23 For I dreaded destruction from God,
and for fear of his splendor I could not do such things.
24 "If I have put my trust in gold
or said to pure gold, 'You are my security,'
25 if I have rejoiced over my great wealth,
the fortune my hands had gained,
26 if I have regarded the sun in its radiance
or the moon moving in splendor,
27 so that my heart was secretly enticed
and my hand offered them a kiss of homage,
28 then these also would be sins to be judged,
for I would have been unfaithful to God on high.
29 "If I have rejoiced at my enemy's misfortune
or gloated over the trouble that came to him—
30 I have not allowed my mouth to sin
by invoking a curse against their life—
31 if those of my household have never said,

‘Who has not been filled with Job’s meat?’—
 32 but no stranger had to spend the night in the street,
 for my door was always open to the traveler—
 33 if I have concealed my sin as people do,^[b]
 by hiding my guilt in my heart
 34 because I so feared the crowd
 and so dreaded the contempt of the clans
 that I kept silent and would not go outside—
 35 (“Oh, that I had someone to hear me!
 I sign now my defense—let the Almighty answer me;
 let my accuser put his indictment in writing.
 36 Surely I would wear it on my shoulder,
 I would put it on like a crown.
 37 I would give him an account of my every step;
 I would present it to him as to a ruler.)—
 38 “if my land cries out against me
 and all its furrows are wet with tears,
 39 if I have devoured its yield without payment
 or broken the spirit of its tenants,
 40 then let briars come up instead of wheat
 and stinkweed instead of barley.”
 The words of Job are ended.

Job 32

New International Version

Elihu

32 So these three men stopped answering Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes. ² But Elihu son of Barakel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, became very angry with Job for justifying himself rather than God. ³ He was also angry with the three friends, because they had found no way to refute Job, and yet had condemned him.^[a] ⁴ Now Elihu had waited before speaking to Job because they were older than he. ⁵ But when he saw that the three men had nothing more to say, his anger was aroused.

⁶ So Elihu son of Barakel the Buzite said:

“I am young in years,
 and you are old;
 that is why I was fearful,
 not daring to tell you what I know.
⁷ I thought, ‘Age should speak;
 advanced years should teach wisdom.’
⁸ But it is the spirit^[b] in a person,
 the breath of the Almighty, that gives them understanding.
⁹ It is not only the old^[c] who are wise,
 not only the aged who understand what is right.
¹⁰ “Therefore I say: Listen to me;
 I too will tell you what I know.
¹¹ I waited while you spoke,
 I listened to your reasoning;

while you were searching for words,
¹² I gave you my full attention.
 But not one of you has proved Job wrong;
 none of you has answered his arguments.
¹³ Do not say, 'We have found wisdom;
 let God, not a man, refute him.'
¹⁴ But Job has not marshaled his words against me,
 and I will not answer him with your arguments.
¹⁵ "They are dismayed and have no more to say;
 words have failed them.
¹⁶ Must I wait, now that they are silent,
 now that they stand there with no reply?
¹⁷ I too will have my say;
 I too will tell what I know.
¹⁸ For I am full of words,
 and the spirit within me compels me;
¹⁹ inside I am like bottled-up wine,
 like new wineskins ready to burst.
²⁰ I must speak and find relief;
 I must open my lips and reply.
²¹ I will show no partiality,
 nor will I flatter anyone;
²² for if I were skilled in flattery,
 my Maker would soon take me away.

Job 33

New International Version

³³ "But now, Job, listen to my words;
 pay attention to everything I say.
² I am about to open my mouth;
 my words are on the tip of my tongue.
³ My words come from an upright heart;
 my lips sincerely speak what I know.
⁴ The Spirit of God has made me;
 the breath of the Almighty gives me life.
⁵ Answer me then, if you can;
 stand up and argue your case before me.
⁶ I am the same as you in God's sight;
 I too am a piece of clay.
⁷ No fear of me should alarm you,
 nor should my hand be heavy on you.
⁸ "But you have said in my hearing—
 I heard the very words—
⁹ 'I am pure, I have done no wrong;
 I am clean and free from sin.
¹⁰ Yet God has found fault with me;
 he considers me his enemy.
¹¹ He fastens my feet in shackles;
 he keeps close watch on all my paths.'

12 “But I tell you, in this you are not right,
for God is greater than any mortal.
13 Why do you complain to him
that he responds to no one’s words^[a]?
14 For God does speak—now one way, now another—
though no one perceives it.
15 In a dream, in a vision of the night,
when deep sleep falls on people
as they slumber in their beds,
16 he may speak in their ears
and terrify them with warnings,
17 to turn them from wrongdoing
and keep them from pride,
18 to preserve them from the pit,
their lives from perishing by the sword.^[b]
19 “Or someone may be chastened on a bed of pain
with constant distress in their bones,
20 so that their body finds food repulsive
and their soul loathes the choicest meal.
21 Their flesh wastes away to nothing,
and their bones, once hidden, now stick out.
22 They draw near to the pit,
and their life to the messengers of death.^[c]
23 Yet if there is an angel at their side,
a messenger, one out of a thousand,
sent to tell them how to be upright,
24 and he is gracious to that person and says to God,
‘Spare them from going down to the pit;
I have found a ransom for them—
25 let their flesh be renewed like a child’s;
let them be restored as in the days of their youth’—
26 then that person can pray to God and find favor with him,
they will see God’s face and shout for joy;
he will restore them to full well-being.
27 And they will go to others and say,
‘I have sinned, I have perverted what is right,
but I did not get what I deserved.
28 God has delivered me from going down to the pit,
and I shall live to enjoy the light of life.’
29 “God does all these things to a person—
twice, even three times—
30 to turn them back from the pit,
that the light of life may shine on them.
31 “Pay attention, Job, and listen to me;
be silent, and I will speak.
32 If you have anything to say, answer me;
speak up, for I want to vindicate you.
33 But if not, then listen to me;
be silent, and I will teach you wisdom.”

Job 34

New International Version

34 Then Elihu said:

- ² “Hear my words, you wise men;
listen to me, you men of learning.
- ³ For the ear tests words
as the tongue tastes food.
- ⁴ Let us discern for ourselves what is right;
let us learn together what is good.
- ⁵ “Job says, ‘I am innocent,
but God denies me justice.
- ⁶ Although I am right,
I am considered a liar;
although I am guiltless,
his arrow inflicts an incurable wound.’
- ⁷ Is there anyone like Job,
who drinks scorn like water?
- ⁸ He keeps company with evildoers;
he associates with the wicked.
- ⁹ For he says, ‘There is no profit
in trying to please God.’
- ¹⁰ “So listen to me, you men of understanding.
Far be it from God to do evil,
from the Almighty to do wrong.
- ¹¹ He repays everyone for what they have done;
he brings on them what their conduct deserves.
- ¹² It is unthinkable that God would do wrong,
that the Almighty would pervert justice.
- ¹³ Who appointed him over the earth?
Who put him in charge of the whole world?
- ¹⁴ If it were his intention
and he withdrew his spirit^[a] and breath,
¹⁵ all humanity would perish together
and mankind would return to the dust.
- ¹⁶ “If you have understanding, hear this;
listen to what I say.
- ¹⁷ Can someone who hates justice govern?
Will you condemn the just and mighty One?
- ¹⁸ Is he not the One who says to kings, ‘You are worthless,’
and to nobles, ‘You are wicked,’
- ¹⁹ who shows no partiality to princes
and does not favor the rich over the poor,
for they are all the work of his hands?
- ²⁰ They die in an instant, in the middle of the night;
the people are shaken and they pass away;
the mighty are removed without human hand.
- ²¹ “His eyes are on the ways of mortals;
he sees their every step.
- ²² There is no deep shadow, no utter darkness,
where evildoers can hide.

23 God has no need to examine people further,
 that they should come before him for judgment.
 24 Without inquiry he shatters the mighty
 and sets up others in their place.
 25 Because he takes note of their deeds,
 he overthrows them in the night and they are crushed.
 26 He punishes them for their wickedness
 where everyone can see them,
 27 because they turned from following him
 and had no regard for any of his ways.
 28 They caused the cry of the poor to come before him,
 so that he heard the cry of the needy.
 29 But if he remains silent, who can condemn him?
 If he hides his face, who can see him?
 Yet he is over individual and nation alike,
 30 to keep the godless from ruling,
 from laying snares for the people.
 31 "Suppose someone says to God,
 'I am guilty but will offend no more.
 32 Teach me what I cannot see;
 if I have done wrong, I will not do so again.'
 33 Should God then reward you on your terms,
 when you refuse to repent?
 You must decide, not I;
 so tell me what you know.
 34 "Men of understanding declare,
 wise men who hear me say to me,
 35 'Job speaks without knowledge;
 his words lack insight.'
 36 Oh, that Job might be tested to the utmost
 for answering like a wicked man!
 37 To his sin he adds rebellion;
 scornfully he claps his hands among us
 and multiplies his words against God."

Job 35 **New International Version**

35 Then Elihu said:

2 "Do you think this is just?
 You say, 'I am in the right, not God.'
 3 Yet you ask him, 'What profit is it to me,^[a]
 and what do I gain by not sinning?'
 4 "I would like to reply to you
 and to your friends with you.
 5 Look up at the heavens and see;
 gaze at the clouds so high above you.
 6 If you sin, how does that affect him?
 If your sins are many, what does that do to him?

7 If you are righteous, what do you give to him,
 or what does he receive from your hand?
 8 Your wickedness only affects humans like yourself,
 and your righteousness only other people.
 9 “People cry out under a load of oppression;
 they plead for relief from the arm of the powerful.
 10 But no one says, ‘Where is God my Maker,
 who gives songs in the night,
 11 who teaches us more than he teaches^[b] the beasts of the earth
 and makes us wiser than^[c] the birds in the sky?’
 12 He does not answer when people cry out
 because of the arrogance of the wicked.
 13 Indeed, God does not listen to their empty plea;
 the Almighty pays no attention to it.
 14 How much less, then, will he listen
 when you say that you do not see him,
 that your case is before him
 and you must wait for him,
 15 and further, that his anger never punishes
 and he does not take the least notice of wickedness.^[d]
 16 So Job opens his mouth with empty talk;
 without knowledge he multiplies words.”

Job 36

New International Version

36 Elihu continued:

2 “Bear with me a little longer and I will show you
 that there is more to be said in God’s behalf.
 3 I get my knowledge from afar;
 I will ascribe justice to my Maker.
 4 Be assured that my words are not false;
 one who has perfect knowledge is with you.
 5 “God is mighty, but despises no one;
 he is mighty, and firm in his purpose.
 6 He does not keep the wicked alive
 but gives the afflicted their rights.
 7 He does not take his eyes off the righteous;
 he enthrones them with kings
 and exalts them forever.
 8 But if people are bound in chains,
 held fast by cords of affliction,
 9 he tells them what they have done—
 that they have sinned arrogantly.
 10 He makes them listen to correction
 and commands them to repent of their evil.
 11 If they obey and serve him,
 they will spend the rest of their days in prosperity
 and their years in contentment.

- 12 But if they do not listen,
they will perish by the sword^[a]
and die without knowledge.
- 13 “The godless in heart harbor resentment;
even when he fetters them, they do not cry for help.
- 14 They die in their youth,
among male prostitutes of the shrines.
- 15 But those who suffer he delivers in their suffering;
he speaks to them in their affliction.
- 16 “He is wooing you from the jaws of distress
to a spacious place free from restriction,
to the comfort of your table laden with choice food.
- 17 But now you are laden with the judgment due the wicked;
judgment and justice have taken hold of you.
- 18 Be careful that no one entices you by riches;
do not let a large bribe turn you aside.
- 19 Would your wealth or even all your mighty efforts
sustain you so you would not be in distress?
- 20 Do not long for the night,
to drag people away from their homes.^[b]
- 21 Beware of turning to evil,
which you seem to prefer to affliction.
- 22 “God is exalted in his power.
Who is a teacher like him?
- 23 Who has prescribed his ways for him,
or said to him, ‘You have done wrong’?
- 24 Remember to extol his work,
which people have praised in song.
- 25 All humanity has seen it;
mortals gaze on it from afar.
- 26 How great is God—beyond our understanding!
The number of his years is past finding out.
- 27 “He draws up the drops of water,
which distill as rain to the streams^[c];
- 28 the clouds pour down their moisture
and abundant showers fall on mankind.
- 29 Who can understand how he spreads out the clouds,
how he thunders from his pavilion?
- 30 See how he scatters his lightning about him,
bathing the depths of the sea.
- 31 This is the way he governs^[d] the nations
and provides food in abundance.
- 32 He fills his hands with lightning
and commands it to strike its mark.
- 33 His thunder announces the coming storm;
even the cattle make known its approach.^[e]

Job 37
New International Version

- 37 “At this my heart pounds
and leaps from its place.
- 2 Listen! Listen to the roar of his voice,
to the rumbling that comes from his mouth.
- 3 He unleashes his lightning beneath the whole heaven
and sends it to the ends of the earth.
- 4 After that comes the sound of his roar;
he thunders with his majestic voice.
When his voice resounds,
he holds nothing back.
- 5 God’s voice thunders in marvelous ways;
he does great things beyond our understanding.
- 6 He says to the snow, ‘Fall on the earth,’
and to the rain shower, ‘Be a mighty downpour.’
- 7 So that everyone he has made may know his work,
he stops all people from their labor.^[a]
- 8 The animals take cover;
they remain in their dens.
- 9 The tempest comes out from its chamber,
the cold from the driving winds.
- 10 The breath of God produces ice,
and the broad waters become frozen.
- 11 He loads the clouds with moisture;
he scatters his lightning through them.
- 12 At his direction they swirl around
over the face of the whole earth
to do whatever he commands them.
- 13 He brings the clouds to punish people,
or to water his earth and show his love.
- 14 “Listen to this, Job;
stop and consider God’s wonders.
- 15 Do you know how God controls the clouds
and makes his lightning flash?
- 16 Do you know how the clouds hang poised,
those wonders of him who has perfect knowledge?
- 17 You who swelter in your clothes
when the land lies hushed under the south wind,
- 18 can you join him in spreading out the skies,
hard as a mirror of cast bronze?
- 19 “Tell us what we should say to him;
we cannot draw up our case because of our darkness.
- 20 Should he be told that I want to speak?
Would anyone ask to be swallowed up?
- 21 Now no one can look at the sun,
bright as it is in the skies
after the wind has swept them clean.
- 22 Out of the north he comes in golden splendor;
God comes in awesome majesty.
- 23 The Almighty is beyond our reach and exalted in power;
in his justice and great righteousness, he does not oppress.

²⁴ Therefore, people revere him,
for does he not have regard for all the wise in heart?^[b]”

Job 38 **New International Version**

The LORD Speaks

38 Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm. He said:

² “Who is this that obscures my plans
with words without knowledge?
³ Brace yourself like a man;
I will question you,
and you shall answer me.
⁴ “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation?
Tell me, if you understand.
⁵ Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!
Who stretched a measuring line across it?
⁶ On what were its footings set,
or who laid its cornerstone—
⁷ while the morning stars sang together
and all the angels^[a] shouted for joy?
⁸ “Who shut up the sea behind doors
when it burst forth from the womb,
⁹ when I made the clouds its garment
and wrapped it in thick darkness,
¹⁰ when I fixed limits for it
and set its doors and bars in place,
¹¹ when I said, “This far you may come and no farther;
here is where your proud waves halt”?
¹² “Have you ever given orders to the morning,
or shown the dawn its place,
¹³ that it might take the earth by the edges
and shake the wicked out of it?
¹⁴ The earth takes shape like clay under a seal;
its features stand out like those of a garment.
¹⁵ The wicked are denied their light,
and their upraised arm is broken.
¹⁶ “Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea
or walked in the recesses of the deep?
¹⁷ Have the gates of death been shown to you?
Have you seen the gates of the deepest darkness?
¹⁸ Have you comprehended the vast expanses of the earth?
Tell me, if you know all this.
¹⁹ “What is the way to the abode of light?
And where does darkness reside?
²⁰ Can you take them to their places?
Do you know the paths to their dwellings?
²¹ Surely you know, for you were already born!
You have lived so many years!

- 22 “Have you entered the storehouses of the snow
or seen the storehouses of the hail,
23 which I reserve for times of trouble,
for days of war and battle?
24 What is the way to the place where the lightning is dispersed,
or the place where the east winds are scattered over the earth?
25 Who cuts a channel for the torrents of rain,
and a path for the thunderstorm,
26 to water a land where no one lives,
an uninhabited desert,
27 to satisfy a desolate wasteland
and make it sprout with grass?
28 Does the rain have a father?
Who fathers the drops of dew?
29 From whose womb comes the ice?
Who gives birth to the frost from the heavens
30 when the waters become hard as stone,
when the surface of the deep is frozen?
31 “Can you bind the chains^[b] of the Pleiades?
Can you loosen Orion’s belt?
32 Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons^[c]
or lead out the Bear^[d] with its cubs?
33 Do you know the laws of the heavens?
Can you set up God’s^[e] dominion over the earth?
34 “Can you raise your voice to the clouds
and cover yourself with a flood of water?
35 Do you send the lightning bolts on their way?
Do they report to you, ‘Here we are’?
36 Who gives the ibis wisdom^[f]
or gives the rooster understanding?^[g]
37 Who has the wisdom to count the clouds?
Who can tip over the water jars of the heavens
38 when the dust becomes hard
and the clods of earth stick together?
39 “Do you hunt the prey for the lioness
and satisfy the hunger of the lions
40 when they crouch in their dens
or lie in wait in a thicket?
41 Who provides food for the raven
when its young cry out to God
and wander about for lack of food?

Job 39

New International Version

- 39 “Do you know when the mountain goats give birth?
Do you watch when the doe bears her fawn?
2 Do you count the months till they bear?
Do you know the time they give birth?
3 They crouch down and bring forth their young;
their labor pains are ended.

- 4 Their young thrive and grow strong in the wilds;
they leave and do not return.
- 5 “Who let the wild donkey go free?
Who untied its ropes?
- 6 I gave it the wasteland as its home,
the salt flats as its habitat.
- 7 It laughs at the commotion in the town;
it does not hear a driver’s shout.
- 8 It ranges the hills for its pasture
and searches for any green thing.
- 9 “Will the wild ox consent to serve you?
Will it stay by your manger at night?
- 10 Can you hold it to the furrow with a harness?
Will it till the valleys behind you?
- 11 Will you rely on it for its great strength?
Will you leave your heavy work to it?
- 12 Can you trust it to haul in your grain
and bring it to your threshing floor?
- 13 “The wings of the ostrich flap joyfully,
though they cannot compare
with the wings and feathers of the stork.
- 14 She lays her eggs on the ground
and lets them warm in the sand,
15 unmindful that a foot may crush them,
that some wild animal may trample them.
- 16 She treats her young harshly, as if they were not hers;
she cares not that her labor was in vain,
17 for God did not endow her with wisdom
or give her a share of good sense.
- 18 Yet when she spreads her feathers to run,
she laughs at horse and rider.
- 19 “Do you give the horse its strength
or clothe its neck with a flowing mane?
- 20 Do you make it leap like a locust,
striking terror with its proud snorting?
- 21 It paws fiercely, rejoicing in its strength,
and charges into the fray.
- 22 It laughs at fear, afraid of nothing;
it does not shy away from the sword.
- 23 The quiver rattles against its side,
along with the flashing spear and lance.
- 24 In frenzied excitement it eats up the ground;
it cannot stand still when the trumpet sounds.
- 25 At the blast of the trumpet it snorts, ‘Aha!’
It catches the scent of battle from afar,
the shout of commanders and the battle cry.
- 26 “Does the hawk take flight by your wisdom
and spread its wings toward the south?
- 27 Does the eagle soar at your command
and build its nest on high?
- 28 It dwells on a cliff and stays there at night;

a rocky crag is its stronghold.
²⁹ From there it looks for food;
 its eyes detect it from afar.
³⁰ Its young ones feast on blood,
 and where the slain are, there it is.”

Job 40 **New International Version**

40 The LORD said to Job:

² “Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him?
 Let him who accuses God answer him!”

³ Then Job answered the LORD:

⁴ “I am unworthy—how can I reply to you?
 I put my hand over my mouth.

⁵ I spoke once, but I have no answer—
 twice, but I will say no more.”

⁶ Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm:

⁷ “Brace yourself like a man;
 I will question you,
 and you shall answer me.

⁸ “Would you discredit my justice?
 Would you condemn me to justify yourself?

⁹ Do you have an arm like God’s,
 and can your voice thunder like his?

¹⁰ Then adorn yourself with glory and splendor,
 and clothe yourself in honor and majesty.

¹¹ Unleash the fury of your wrath,
 look at all who are proud and bring them low,

¹² look at all who are proud and humble them,
 crush the wicked where they stand.

¹³ Bury them all in the dust together;
 shroud their faces in the grave.

¹⁴ Then I myself will admit to you
 that your own right hand can save you.

¹⁵ “Look at Behemoth,
 which I made along with you
 and which feeds on grass like an ox.

¹⁶ What strength it has in its loins,
 what power in the muscles of its belly!

¹⁷ Its tail sways like a cedar;
 the sinews of its thighs are close-knit.

¹⁸ Its bones are tubes of bronze,
 its limbs like rods of iron.

¹⁹ It ranks first among the works of God,
 yet its Maker can approach it with his sword.

²⁰ The hills bring it their produce,

- and all the wild animals play nearby.
²¹ Under the lotus plants it lies,
 hidden among the reeds in the marsh.
²² The lotuses conceal it in their shadow;
 the poplars by the stream surround it.
²³ A raging river does not alarm it;
 it is secure, though the Jordan should surge against its mouth.
²⁴ Can anyone capture it by the eyes,
 or trap it and pierce its nose?

Job 41

New International Version

- ⁴¹ ^[a]“Can you pull in Leviathan with a fishhook
 or tie down its tongue with a rope?
² Can you put a cord through its nose
 or pierce its jaw with a hook?
³ Will it keep begging you for mercy?
 Will it speak to you with gentle words?
⁴ Will it make an agreement with you
 for you to take it as your slave for life?
⁵ Can you make a pet of it like a bird
 or put it on a leash for the young women in your house?
⁶ Will traders barter for it?
 Will they divide it up among the merchants?
⁷ Can you fill its hide with harpoons
 or its head with fishing spears?
⁸ If you lay a hand on it,
 you will remember the struggle and never do it again!
⁹ Any hope of subduing it is false;
 the mere sight of it is overpowering.
¹⁰ No one is fierce enough to rouse it.
 Who then is able to stand against me?
¹¹ Who has a claim against me that I must pay?
 Everything under heaven belongs to me.
¹² “I will not fail to speak of Leviathan’s limbs,
 its strength and its graceful form.
¹³ Who can strip off its outer coat?
 Who can penetrate its double coat of armor^[b]?
¹⁴ Who dares open the doors of its mouth,
 ringed about with fearsome teeth?
¹⁵ Its back has^[c] rows of shields
 tightly sealed together;
¹⁶ each is so close to the next
 that no air can pass between.
¹⁷ They are joined fast to one another;
 they cling together and cannot be parted.
¹⁸ Its snorting throws out flashes of light;
 its eyes are like the rays of dawn.
¹⁹ Flames stream from its mouth;
 sparks of fire shoot out.
²⁰ Smoke pours from its nostrils

- as from a boiling pot over burning reeds.
- ²¹ Its breath sets coals ablaze,
and flames dart from its mouth.
- ²² Strength resides in its neck;
dismay goes before it.
- ²³ The folds of its flesh are tightly joined;
they are firm and immovable.
- ²⁴ Its chest is hard as rock,
hard as a lower millstone.
- ²⁵ When it rises up, the mighty are terrified;
they retreat before its thrashing.
- ²⁶ The sword that reaches it has no effect,
nor does the spear or the dart or the javelin.
- ²⁷ Iron it treats like straw
and bronze like rotten wood.
- ²⁸ Arrows do not make it flee;
slingstones are like chaff to it.
- ²⁹ A club seems to it but a piece of straw;
it laughs at the rattling of the lance.
- ³⁰ Its undersides are jagged potsherds,
leaving a trail in the mud like a threshing sledge.
- ³¹ It makes the depths churn like a boiling caldron
and stirs up the sea like a pot of ointment.
- ³² It leaves a glistening wake behind it;
one would think the deep had white hair.
- ³³ Nothing on earth is its equal—
a creature without fear.
- ³⁴ It looks down on all that are haughty;
it is king over all that are proud.”

Job 42
New International Version

Job

42 Then Job replied to the LORD:

- ² “I know that you can do all things;
no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
- ³ You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?’
Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me to know.
- ⁴ “You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak;
I will question you,
and you shall answer me.’
- ⁵ My ears had heard of you
but now my eyes have seen you.
- ⁶ Therefore I despise myself
and repent in dust and ashes.”

Epilogue

⁷ After the LORD had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has. ⁸ So now take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and sacrifice a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. You have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has.” ⁹ So Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite did what the LORD told them; and the LORD accepted Job’s prayer.

¹⁰ After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before. ¹¹ All his brothers and sisters and everyone who had known him before came and ate with him in his house. They comforted and consoled him over all the trouble the LORD had brought on him, and each one gave him a piece of silver^[a] and a gold ring.

¹² The LORD blessed the latter part of Job’s life more than the former part. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys. ¹³ And he also had seven sons and three daughters. ¹⁴ The first daughter he named Jemimah, the second Keziah and the third Keren-Happuch. ¹⁵ Nowhere in all the land were there found women as beautiful as Job’s daughters, and their father granted them an inheritance along with their brothers.

¹⁶ After this, Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. ¹⁷ And so Job died, an old man and full of years.

Job Bible Study Thought Questions

THOUGHT QUESTIONS:

1. *Summarize the book of Job in one or two sentences.*
2. *What have you personally learned from this book?*
3. *What is more important in this story--Job’s physical condition or his spiritual condition? On which does Job concentrate? On which does the book itself center its discussion?*
4. *Who are the main characters in this book?*
5. *Why does God never answer the question of “why” Job is suffering?*
6. *How will the lessons of this book help us relate to our own lives?*
7. *Describe how righteous Job was (cf. 1:1,5; 23:12; 27:4; 29:12-16; 31:1-11,24-25,29-30).*

Behind The Scenes

2 Kings 6:8-18 Daniel 10:1-11:4 Matthew 18:10 Ephesians 2:1-3 Ephesians 6:12 Hebrews 1:14 1 Peter 5:8. 1 John 5:19 Revelation 12:9

There is a spiritual war going on for our souls (2 Corinthians 10:3-6)

Job Bible Study ABOUT THE AUTHORS AND RESOURCES,

About the Authors:

Klaas Jan Popma was born in The Hague, The Netherlands, in 1903. He studied classical languages and received his doctorate in this field at the University of Leiden in 1931. From 1928 to 1955 he taught classical languages in a Gymnasium or classical high school, but this was combined in 1948 with an academic appointment in philosophy. At first in a part-time capacity but later full-time, he occupied the chair for Christian reformational philosophy at the universities of Groningen and Utrecht, from which he retired in 1973. He was a prolific writer; publishing not only in his primary fields of classics and philosophy, but also in theology and literary studies. His most extensive publication is the seven-volume work entitled *Levensbeschouwing*, a series of philosophical and theological reflections in the form of a commentary on the Heidelberg Catechism. One of his greatest loves was the study and exposition of Scripture, which led to a wide range of popular and semi-popular publications. His study of the biblical writings was grounded in a solid knowledge of Hebrew and Greek, and was informed by a comprehensive grasp of Western intellectual and cultural history. His writings on the Bible are marked by exceptional originality, combined with a love for the reformed confessional tradition. He died in 1986.

Charles R. Swindoll has devoted his life to the accurate, practical teaching and application of God's Word and His grace. A pastor at heart, Chuck has served as senior pastor to congregations in Texas, Massachusetts, and California. Since 1998, he has served as the founder and senior pastor-teacher of Stonebriar Community Church in Frisco, Texas, but Chuck's listening audience extends far beyond a local church body. As a leading program in Christian broadcasting since 1979, *Insight for Living* airs in major Christian radio markets around the world, reaching people groups in languages they can understand. Chuck's extensive writing ministry has also served the body of Christ worldwide and his leadership as president and now chancellor of Dallas Theological Seminary (1994–2001) has helped prepare and equip a new generation for ministry. Chuck and Cynthia, his partner in life and ministry, have four grown children, ten grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

SOURCE OF COMMENTARIES & DICTIONARY

Bible versions used in this text:

Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary of the Old Testament

ASV American Standard Version

JB Jerusalem Bible

KJV King James Version

NASB New American Standard Bible

NIV New international Version (not further identified in the text)

NKJV New King James Version

RSV Revised Standard Version

