



JOB



WORLD ENGLISH BIBLE | AMERICAN EDITION

JOB

1

¹There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God,[†] and turned away from evil. ²There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. ³His possessions also were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the children of the east. ⁴His sons went and held a feast in the house of each one on his birthday; and they sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. ⁵It was so, when the days of their feasting had run their course, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned, and renounced God in their hearts." Job did so continually.

⁶Now on the day when God's sons came to present themselves before Yahweh,[‡] Satan also came among them. ⁷Yahweh said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Then Satan answered Yahweh, and said, "From going back and forth in the earth, and from walking up and down in it."

⁸Yahweh said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant, Job? For there is no one like him in the earth, a blameless and an upright man, one who fears God, and turns away from evil."

⁹Then Satan answered Yahweh, and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰Haven't you made a hedge around him, and around his house, and around all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. ¹¹But stretch out your hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will renounce you to your face."

¹²Yahweh said to Satan, "Behold,[§] all that he has is in your power. Only on himself don't stretch out your hand."

So Satan went out from the presence of Yahweh. ¹³It fell on a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁴that a messenger came to Job, and said, "The oxen were

Notes

† 1:1 The Hebrew word rendered "God" is "אֱלֹהִים" (Elohim).

‡ 1:6 "Yahweh" is God's proper Name, sometimes rendered "LORD" (all caps) in other translations.

§ 1:12 "Behold", from "הִנֵּה" , means look at, take notice, observe, see, or gaze at. It is often used as an interjection.

Notes

plowing, and the donkeys feeding beside them, ¹⁵ and the Sabeans attacked, and took them away. Yes, they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another also came and said, “The fire of God has fallen from the sky, and has burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

¹⁷ While he was still speaking, another also came and said, “The Chaldeans made three bands, and swept down on the camels, and have taken them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

¹⁸ While he was still speaking, there came also another, and said, “Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, ¹⁹ and behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young men, and they are dead. I alone have escaped to tell you.”

²⁰ Then Job arose, and tore his robe, and shaved his head, and fell down on the ground, and worshiped. ²¹ He said, “Naked I came out of my mother’s womb, and naked will I return there. Yahweh gave, and Yahweh has taken away. Blessed be Yahweh’s name.” ²² In all this, Job didn’t sin, nor charge God with wrongdoing.

2

¹ Again, on the day when God’s sons came to present themselves before Yahweh, Satan came also among them to present himself before Yahweh. ² Yahweh said to Satan, “Where have you come from?”

Satan answered Yahweh, and said, “From going back and forth in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.”

³ Yahweh said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? For there is no one like him in the earth, a blameless and an upright man, one who fears God, and turns away from evil. He still maintains his integrity, although you incited me against him, to ruin him without cause.”

⁴ Satan answered Yahweh, and said, “Skin for skin. Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. ⁵ But stretch out your hand now, and touch his

bone and his flesh, and he will renounce you to your face.”

⁶Yahweh said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your hand. Only spare his life.”

⁷So Satan went out from the presence of Yahweh, and struck Job with painful sores from the sole of his foot to his head. ⁸He took for himself a potsherd to scrape himself with, and he sat among the ashes. ⁹Then his wife said to him, “Do you still maintain your integrity? Renounce God, and die.”

¹⁰But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?”

In all this Job didn’t sin with his lips. ¹¹Now when Job’s three friends heard of all this evil that had come on him, they each came from his own place: Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite; and they made an appointment together to come to sympathize with him and to comfort him. ¹²When they lifted up their eyes from a distance, and didn’t recognize him, they raised their voices, and wept; and they each tore his robe, and sprinkled dust on their heads toward the sky. ¹³So they sat down with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his grief was very great.

3

¹After this Job opened his mouth, and cursed the day of his birth. ²Job answered:

³“Let the day perish in which I was born, the night which said, ‘There is a boy conceived.’

⁴Let that day be darkness.

Don’t let God from above seek for it, neither let the light shine on it.

⁵Let darkness and the shadow of death claim it for their own.

Let a cloud dwell on it.

Let all that makes the day black terrify it.

⁶As for that night, let thick darkness seize on it.

Let it not rejoice among the days of the year.

Let it not come into the number of the months.

⁷Behold, let that night be barren.

Let no joyful voice come therein.

⁸Let them curse it who curse the day, who are ready to rouse up leviathan.

⁹Let the stars of its twilight be dark.

Let it look for light, but have none, neither let it see the eyelids of the morning,

Notes

Notes

¹⁰ because it didn't shut up the doors of my
mother's womb,
nor did it hide trouble from my eyes.

¹¹ "Why didn't I die from the womb?
Why didn't I give up the spirit when my mother
bore me?"

¹² Why did the knees receive me?
Or why the breast, that I should nurse?

¹³ For now I should have lain down and been quiet.
I should have slept, then I would have been at rest,

¹⁴ with kings and counselors of the earth,
who built up waste places for themselves;

¹⁵ or with princes who had gold,
who filled their houses with silver;

¹⁶ or as a hidden untimely birth I had not been,
as infants who never saw light.

¹⁷ There the wicked cease from troubling.
There the weary are at rest.

¹⁸ There the prisoners are at ease together.
They don't hear the voice of the taskmaster.

¹⁹ The small and the great are there.
The servant is free from his master.

²⁰ "Why is light given to him who is in misery,
life to the bitter in soul,

²¹ who long for death, but it doesn't come;
and dig for it more than for hidden treasures,

²² who rejoice exceedingly,
and are glad, when they can find the grave?"

²³ Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden,
whom God has hedged in?

²⁴ For my sighing comes before I eat.
My groanings are poured out like water.

²⁵ For the thing which I fear comes on me,
that which I am afraid of comes to me.

²⁶ I am not at ease, neither am I quiet, neither do I
have rest;
but trouble comes."

4

¹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered,

² "If someone ventures to talk with you, will you be
grieved?"

But who can withhold himself from speaking?

³ Behold, you have instructed many,
you have strengthened the weak hands.

⁴ Your words have supported him who was falling,
you have made the feeble knees firm.

⁵ But now it has come to you, and you faint.

Notes

They are crushed in the gate.
Neither is there any to deliver them,
⁵ whose harvest the hungry eat up,
and take it even out of the thorns.
The snare gapes for their substance.
⁶ For affliction doesn't come out of the dust,
neither does trouble spring out of the ground;
⁷ but man is born to trouble,
as the sparks fly upward.

⁸ "But as for me, I would seek God.
I would commit my cause to God,
⁹ who does great things that can't be fathomed,
marvelous things without number;
¹⁰ who gives rain on the earth,
and sends waters on the fields;
¹¹ so that he sets up on high those who are low,
those who mourn are exalted to safety.
¹² He frustrates the plans of the crafty,
so that their hands can't perform their enterprise.
¹³ He takes the wise in their own craftiness;
the counsel of the cunning is carried headlong.
¹⁴ They meet with darkness in the day time,
and grope at noonday as in the night.
¹⁵ But he saves from the sword of their mouth,
even the needy from the hand of the mighty.
¹⁶ So the poor has hope,
and injustice shuts her mouth.

¹⁷ "Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects.
Therefore do not despise the chastening of the
Almighty.

¹⁸ For he wounds and binds up.
He injures and his hands make whole.
¹⁹ He will deliver you in six troubles;
yes, in seven no evil will touch you.
²⁰ In famine he will redeem you from death;
in war, from the power of the sword.
²¹ You will be hidden from the scourge of the
tongue,
neither will you be afraid of destruction when it
comes.
²² You will laugh at destruction and famine,
neither will you be afraid of the animals of the
earth.
²³ For you will be allied with the stones of the field.
The animals of the field will be at peace with you.
²⁴ You will know that your tent is in peace.
You will visit your fold, and will miss nothing.
²⁵ You will know also that your offspring[†] will be
great,

†5:25 or, seed

your offspring as the grass of the earth.

²⁶ You will come to your grave in a full age,
like a shock of grain comes in its season.

²⁷ Behold, we have researched it. It is so.
Hear it, and know it for your good."

6

¹ Then Job answered,

² "Oh that my anguish were weighed,
and all my calamity laid in the balances!

³ For now it would be heavier than the sand of the
seas,
therefore my words have been rash.

⁴ For the arrows of the Almighty are within me.
My spirit drinks up their poison.
The terrors of God set themselves in array against
me.

⁵ Does the wild donkey bray when he has grass?
Or does the ox low over his fodder?

⁶ Can that which has no flavor be eaten without
salt?

Or is there any taste in the white of an egg?

⁷ My soul refuses to touch them.
They are as loathsome food to me.

⁸ "Oh that I might have my request,
that God would grant the thing that I long for,

⁹ even that it would please God to crush me;
that he would let loose his hand, and cut me off!

¹⁰ Let it still be my consolation,
yes, let me exult in pain that doesn't spare,
that I have not denied the words of the Holy One.

¹¹ What is my strength, that I should wait?
What is my end, that I should be patient?

¹² Is my strength the strength of stones?
Or is my flesh of bronze?

¹³ Isn't it that I have no help in me,
that wisdom is driven away from me?

¹⁴ "To him who is ready to faint, kindness should be
shown from his friend;
even to him who forsakes the fear of the Almighty.

¹⁵ My brothers have dealt deceitfully as a brook,
as the channel of brooks that pass away;

¹⁶ which are black by reason of the ice,
in which the snow hides itself.

¹⁷ In the dry season, they vanish.
When it is hot, they are consumed out of their
place.

¹⁸ The caravans that travel beside them turn away.

Notes

Notes

They go up into the waste, and perish.
¹⁹ The caravans of Tema looked.
The companies of Sheba waited for them.
²⁰ They were distressed because they were confident.
They came there, and were confounded.
²¹ For now you are nothing.
You see a terror, and are afraid.
²² Did I ever say, 'Give to me'?
or, 'Offer a present for me from your substance'?
²³ or, 'Deliver me from the adversary's hand'?
or, 'Redeem me from the hand of the oppressors'?

²⁴ "Teach me, and I will hold my peace.
Cause me to understand my error.
²⁵ How forcible are words of uprightness!
But your reproof, what does it reprove?
²⁶ Do you intend to reprove words,
since the speeches of one who is desperate are as wind?
²⁷ Yes, you would even cast lots for the fatherless,
and make merchandise of your friend.
²⁸ Now therefore be pleased to look at me,
for surely I will not lie to your face.
²⁹ Please return.
Let there be no injustice.
Yes, return again.
My cause is righteous.
³⁰ Is there injustice on my tongue?
Can't my taste discern mischievous things?

7

¹ "Isn't a man forced to labor on earth?
Aren't his days like the days of a hired hand?
² As a servant who earnestly desires the shadow,
as a hireling who looks for his wages,
³ so I am made to possess months of misery,
wearisome nights are appointed to me.
⁴ When I lie down, I say,
'When will I arise, and the night be gone?'
I toss and turn until the dawning of the day.
⁵ My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of dust.
My skin closes up, and breaks out afresh.
⁶ My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle,
and are spent without hope.
⁷ Oh remember that my life is a breath.
My eye will no more see good.
⁸ The eye of him who sees me will see me no more.
Your eyes will be on me, but I will not be.
⁹ As the cloud is consumed and vanishes away,

†7:9 Sheol is the place of the dead.

so he who goes down to Sheol[†] will come up no more.

¹⁰ He will return no more to his house, neither will his place know him any more.

¹¹ “Therefore I will not keep silent. I will speak in the anguish of my spirit. I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.

¹² Am I a sea, or a sea monster, that you put a guard over me?

¹³ When I say, ‘My bed will comfort me. My couch will ease my complaint,’

¹⁴ then you scare me with dreams and terrify me through visions,

¹⁵ so that my soul chooses strangling, death rather than my bones.

¹⁶ I loathe my life.

I don’t want to live forever.

Leave me alone, for my days are but a breath.

¹⁷ What is man, that you should magnify him, that you should set your mind on him,

¹⁸ that you should visit him every morning, and test him every moment?

¹⁹ How long will you not look away from me, nor leave me alone until I swallow down my spittle?

²⁰ If I have sinned, what do I do to you, you watcher of men?

Why have you set me as a mark for you, so that I am a burden to myself?

²¹ Why do you not pardon my disobedience, and take away my iniquity?

For now will I lie down in the dust. You will seek me diligently, but I will not be.”

8

¹ Then Bildad the Shuhite answered,

² “How long will you speak these things? Shall the words of your mouth be a mighty wind?

³ Does God pervert justice?

Or does the Almighty pervert righteousness?

⁴ If your children have sinned against him, he has delivered them into the hand of their disobedience.

⁵ If you want to seek God diligently, make your supplication to the Almighty.

⁶ If you were pure and upright, surely now he would awaken for you, and make the habitation of your righteousness prosperous.

Notes

Notes

⁷ Though your beginning was small,
yet your latter end would greatly increase.

⁸ “Please inquire of past generations.
Find out about the learning of their fathers.
⁹ (For we are but of yesterday, and know nothing,
because our days on earth are a shadow.)

¹⁰ Shall they not teach you, tell you,
and utter words out of their heart?

¹¹ “Can the papyrus grow up without mire?
Can the rushes grow without water?

¹² While it is yet in its greenness, not cut down,
it withers before any other reed.

¹³ So are the paths of all who forget God.
The hope of the godless man will perish,

¹⁴ whose confidence will break apart,
whose trust is a spider’s web.

¹⁵ He will lean on his house, but it will not stand.
He will cling to it, but it will not endure.

¹⁶ He is green before the sun.

His shoots go out along his garden.

¹⁷ His roots are wrapped around the rock pile.
He sees the place of stones.

¹⁸ If he is destroyed from his place,
then it will deny him, saying, ‘I have not seen you.’

¹⁹ Behold, this is the joy of his way.
Out of the earth, others will spring.

²⁰ “Behold, God will not cast away a blameless man,
neither will he uphold the evildoers.

²¹ He will still fill your mouth with laughter,
your lips with shouting.

²² Those who hate you will be clothed with shame.
The tent of the wicked will be no more.”

9

¹ Then Job answered,

² “Truly I know that it is so,
but how can man be just with God?

³ If he is pleased to contend with him,
he can’t answer him one time in a thousand.

⁴ God is wise in heart, and mighty in strength.
Who has hardened himself against him and
prospered?

⁵ He removes the mountains, and they don’t know
it,
when he overturns them in his anger.

⁶ He shakes the earth out of its place.
Its pillars tremble.

Notes

²⁸ I am afraid of all my sorrows.
I know that you will not hold me innocent.
²⁹ I will be condemned.
Why then do I labor in vain?
³⁰ If I wash myself with snow,
and cleanse my hands with lye,
³¹ yet you will plunge me in the ditch.
My own clothes will abhor me.
³² For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer
him,
that we should come together in judgment.
³³ There is no umpire between us,
that might lay his hand on us both.
³⁴ Let him take his rod away from me.
Let his terror not make me afraid;
³⁵ then I would speak, and not fear him,
for I am not so in myself.

10

¹ "My soul is weary of my life.
I will give free course to my complaint.
I will speak in the bitterness of my soul.
² I will tell God, 'Do not condemn me.
Show me why you contend with me.
³ Is it good to you that you should oppress,
that you should despise the work of your hands,
and smile on the counsel of the wicked?
⁴ Do you have eyes of flesh?
Or do you see as man sees?
⁵ Are your days as the days of mortals,
or your years as man's years,
⁶ that you inquire after my iniquity,
and search after my sin?
⁷ Although you know that I am not wicked,
there is no one who can deliver out of your hand.

⁸ " 'Your hands have framed me and fashioned me
altogether,
yet you destroy me.
⁹ Remember, I beg you, that you have fashioned me
as clay.
Will you bring me into dust again?
¹⁰ Haven't you poured me out like milk,
and curdled me like cheese?
¹¹ You have clothed me with skin and flesh,
and knit me together with bones and sinews.
¹² You have granted me life and loving kindness.
Your visitation has preserved my spirit.
¹³ Yet you hid these things in your heart.
I know that this is with you:
¹⁴ if I sin, then you mark me.

You will not acquit me from my iniquity.
¹⁵ If I am wicked, woe to me.
 If I am righteous, I still will not lift up my head,
 being filled with disgrace,
 and conscious of my affliction.
¹⁶ If my head is held high, you hunt me like a lion.
 Again you show yourself powerful to me.
¹⁷ You renew your witnesses against me,
 and increase your indignation on me.
 Changes and warfare are with me.

¹⁸ “ ‘Why, then, have you brought me out of the
 womb?
 I wish I had given up the spirit, and no eye had
 seen me.
¹⁹ I should have been as though I had not been.
 I should have been carried from the womb to the
 grave.
²⁰ Aren’t my days few?
 Stop!
 Leave me alone, that I may find a little comfort,
²¹ before I go where I will not return from,
 to the land of darkness and of the shadow of death;
²² the land dark as midnight,
 of the shadow of death,
 without any order,
 where the light is as midnight.’ ”

11

¹ Then Zophar, the Naamathite, answered,
² “Shouldn’t the multitude of words be answered?
 Should a man full of talk be justified?
³ Should your boastings make men hold their
 peace?
 When you mock, will no man make you ashamed?
⁴ For you say, ‘My doctrine is pure.
 I am clean in your eyes.’
⁵ But oh that God would speak,
 and open his lips against you,
⁶ that he would show you the secrets of wisdom!
 For true wisdom has two sides.
 Know therefore that God exacts of you less than
 your iniquity deserves.

⁷ “Can you fathom the mystery of God?
 Or can you probe the limits of the Almighty?
⁸ They are high as heaven. What can you do?
 They are deeper than Sheol.[†] What can you know?
⁹ Its measure is longer than the earth,
 and broader than the sea.

Notes

†11:8 Sheol is the place of the dead.

Notes

¹⁰ If he passes by, or confines,
or convenes a court, then who can oppose him?
¹¹ For he knows false men.

He sees iniquity also, even though he doesn't
consider it.

¹² An empty-headed man becomes wise
when a man is born as a wild donkey's colt.

¹³ "If you set your heart aright,
stretch out your hands toward him.

¹⁴ If iniquity is in your hand, put it far away.
Don't let unrighteousness dwell in your tents.

¹⁵ Surely then you will lift up your face without
spot.

Yes, you will be steadfast, and will not fear,
¹⁶ for you will forget your misery.

You will remember it like waters that have passed
away.

¹⁷ Life will be clearer than the noonday.
Though there is darkness, it will be as the morning.

¹⁸ You will be secure, because there is hope.
Yes, you will search, and will take your rest in
safety.

¹⁹ Also you will lie down, and no one will make you
afraid.

Yes, many will court your favor.

²⁰ But the eyes of the wicked will fail.

They will have no way to flee.

Their hope will be the giving up of the spirit."

12

¹ Then Job answered,

² "No doubt, but you are the people,
and wisdom will die with you.

³ But I have understanding as well as you;
I am not inferior to you.

Yes, who doesn't know such things as these?

⁴ I am like one who is a joke to his neighbor,
I, who called on God, and he answered.

The just, the blameless man is a joke.

⁵ In the thought of him who is at ease there is
contempt for misfortune.

It is ready for them whose foot slips.

⁶ The tents of robbers prosper.

Those who provoke God are secure,
who carry their god in their hands.

⁷ "But ask the animals now, and they will teach you;
the birds of the sky, and they will tell you.

⁸ Or speak to the earth, and it will teach you.

The fish of the sea will declare to you.
⁹Who doesn't know that in all these,
Yahweh's hand has done this,
¹⁰in whose hand is the life of every living thing,
and the breath of all mankind?
¹¹Doesn't the ear try words,
even as the palate tastes its food?
¹²With aged men is wisdom,
in length of days understanding.

¹³"With God is wisdom and might.
He has counsel and understanding.
¹⁴Behold, he breaks down, and it can't be built
again.
He imprisons a man, and there can be no release.
¹⁵Behold, he withholds the waters, and they dry up.
Again, he sends them out, and they overturn the
earth.

¹⁶With him is strength and wisdom.
The deceived and the deceiver are his.
¹⁷He leads counselors away stripped.
He makes judges fools.
¹⁸He loosens the bond of kings.
He binds their waist with a belt.
¹⁹He leads priests away stripped,
and overthrows the mighty.

²⁰He removes the speech of those who are trusted,
and takes away the understanding of the elders.
²¹He pours contempt on princes,
and loosens the belt of the strong.
²²He uncovers deep things out of darkness,
and brings out to light the shadow of death.
²³He increases the nations, and he destroys them.
He enlarges the nations, and he leads them captive.
²⁴He takes away understanding from the chiefs of
the people of the earth,
and causes them to wander in a wilderness where
there is no way.
²⁵They grope in the dark without light.
He makes them stagger like a drunken man.

13

¹"Behold, my eye has seen all this.
My ear has heard and understood it.
²What you know, I know also.
I am not inferior to you.

³"Surely I would speak to the Almighty.
I desire to reason with God.
⁴But you are forgers of lies.
You are all physicians of no value.

Notes

Notes

⁵ Oh that you would be completely silent!
Then you would be wise.

⁶ Hear now my reasoning.
Listen to the pleadings of my lips.

⁷ Will you speak unrighteously for God,
and talk deceitfully for him?

⁸ Will you show partiality to him?
Will you contend for God?

⁹ Is it good that he should search you out?
Or as one deceives a man, will you deceive him?

¹⁰ He will surely reprove you
if you secretly show partiality.

¹¹ Won't his majesty make you afraid
and his dread fall on you?

¹² Your memorable sayings are proverbs of ashes.
Your defenses are defenses of clay.

¹³ "Be silent!
Leave me alone, that I may speak.
Let come on me what will.

¹⁴ Why should I take my flesh in my teeth,
and put my life in my hand?

¹⁵ Behold, he will kill me.
I have no hope.
Nevertheless, I will maintain my ways before him.

¹⁶ This also will be my salvation,
that a godless man will not come before him.

¹⁷ Listen carefully to my speech.
Let my declaration be in your ears.

¹⁸ See now, I have set my cause in order.
I know that I am righteous.

¹⁹ Who is he who will contend with me?
For then would I hold my peace and give up the
spirit.

²⁰ "Only don't do two things to me,
then I will not hide myself from your face:

²¹ withdraw your hand far from me,
and don't let your terror make me afraid.

²² Then call, and I will answer,
or let me speak, and you answer me.

²³ How many are my iniquities and sins?
Make me know my disobedience and my sin.

²⁴ Why do you hide your face,
and consider me your enemy?

²⁵ Will you harass a driven leaf?
Will you pursue the dry stubble?

²⁶ For you write bitter things against me,
and make me inherit the iniquities of my youth.

²⁷ You also put my feet in the stocks,
and mark all my paths.

You set a bound to the soles of my feet,
28 though I am decaying like a rotten thing,
like a garment that is moth-eaten.

14

1 “Man, who is born of a woman,
is of few days, and full of trouble.
2 He grows up like a flower, and is cut down.
He also flees like a shadow, and doesn’t continue.
3 Do you open your eyes on such a one,
and bring me into judgment with you?
4 Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean?
Not one.
5 Seeing his days are determined,
the number of his months is with you,
and you have appointed his bounds that he can’t
pass.
6 Look away from him, that he may rest,
until he accomplishes, as a hireling, his day.
7 “For there is hope for a tree if it is cut down,
that it will sprout again,
that the tender branch of it will not cease.
8 Though its root grows old in the earth,
and its stock dies in the ground,
9 yet through the scent of water it will bud,
and sprout boughs like a plant.
10 But man dies, and is laid low.
Yes, man gives up the spirit, and where is he?
11 As the waters fail from the sea,
and the river wastes and dries up,
12 so man lies down and doesn’t rise.
Until the heavens are no more, they will not awake,
nor be roused out of their sleep.
13 “Oh that you would hide me in Sheol,[†]
that you would keep me secret until your wrath is
past,
that you would appoint me a set time and
remember me!
14 If a man dies, will he live again?
I would wait all the days of my warfare,
until my release should come.
15 You would call, and I would answer you.
You would have a desire for the work of your
hands.
16 But now you count my steps.
Don’t you watch over my sin?
17 My disobedience is sealed up in a bag.
You fasten up my iniquity.

Notes

†14:13 Sheol is the place of the dead.

Notes

¹⁸ “But the mountain falling comes to nothing.
The rock is removed out of its place.
¹⁹ The waters wear the stones.
The torrents of it wash away the dust of the earth.
So you destroy the hope of man.
²⁰ You forever prevail against him, and he departs.
You change his face, and send him away.
²¹ His sons come to honor, and he doesn’t know it.
They are brought low, but he doesn’t perceive it of
them.
²² But his flesh on him has pain,
and his soul within him mourns.”

15

¹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered,
² “Should a wise man answer with vain knowledge,
and fill himself with the east wind?
³ Should he reason with unprofitable talk,
or with speeches with which he can do no good?
⁴ Yes, you do away with fear,
and hinder devotion before God.
⁵ For your iniquity teaches your mouth,
and you choose the language of the crafty.
⁶ Your own mouth condemns you, and not I.
Yes, your own lips testify against you.
⁷ “Are you the first man who was born?
Or were you brought out before the hills?
⁸ Have you heard the secret counsel of God?
Do you limit wisdom to yourself?
⁹ What do you know that we don’t know?
What do you understand which is not in us?
¹⁰ With us are both the gray-headed and the very
aged men,
much older than your father.
¹¹ Are the consolations of God too small for you,
even the word that is gentle toward you?
¹² Why does your heart carry you away?
Why do your eyes flash,
¹³ that you turn your spirit against God,
and let such words go out of your mouth?
¹⁴ What is man, that he should be clean?
What is he who is born of a woman, that he should
be righteous?
¹⁵ Behold, he puts no trust in his holy ones.
Yes, the heavens are not clean in his sight;
¹⁶ how much less one who is abominable and
corrupt,
a man who drinks iniquity like water!

Notes

¹ Then Job answered,

² “I have heard many such things.

You are all miserable comforters!

³ Shall vain words have an end?

Or what provokes you that you answer?

⁴ I also could speak as you do.

If your soul were in my soul’s place,

I could join words together against you,

and shake my head at you,

⁵ but I would strengthen you with my mouth.

The solace of my lips would relieve you.

⁶ “Though I speak, my grief is not subsided.

Though I forbear, what am I eased?

⁷ But now, God, you have surely worn me out.

You have made all my company desolate.

⁸ You have shriveled me up. This is a witness
against me.

My leanness rises up against me.

It testifies to my face.

⁹ He has torn me in his wrath and persecuted me.

He has gnashed on me with his teeth.

My adversary sharpens his eyes on me.

¹⁰ They have gaped on me with their mouth.

They have struck me on the cheek reproachfully.

They gather themselves together against me.

¹¹ God delivers me to the ungodly,
and casts me into the hands of the wicked.

¹² I was at ease, and he broke me apart.

Yes, he has taken me by the neck, and dashed me to
pieces.

He has also set me up for his target.

¹³ His archers surround me.

He splits my kidneys apart, and does not spare.

He pours out my bile on the ground.

¹⁴ He breaks me with breach on breach.

He runs at me like a giant.

¹⁵ I have sewed sackcloth on my skin,
and have thrust my horn in the dust.

¹⁶ My face is red with weeping.

Deep darkness is on my eyelids,

¹⁷ although there is no violence in my hands,
and my prayer is pure.

¹⁸ “Earth, don’t cover my blood.

Let my cry have no place to rest.

¹⁹ Even now, behold, my witness is in heaven.

He who vouches for me is on high.

²⁰ My friends scoff at me.

Notes

¹ Then Bildad the Shuhite answered,

² “How long will you hunt for words?
Consider, and afterwards we will speak.

³ Why are we counted as animals,
which have become unclean in your sight?

⁴ You who tear yourself in your anger,
will the earth be forsaken for you?
Or will the rock be removed out of its place?

⁵ “Yes, the light of the wicked will be put out.
The spark of his fire won’t shine.

⁶ The light will be dark in his tent.
His lamp above him will be put out.

⁷ The steps of his strength will be shortened.
His own counsel will cast him down.

⁸ For he is cast into a net by his own feet,
and he wanders into its mesh.

⁹ A snare will take him by the heel.
A trap will catch him.

¹⁰ A noose is hidden for him in the ground,
a trap for him on the path.

¹¹ Terrors will make him afraid on every side,
and will chase him at his heels.

¹² His strength will be famished.
Calamity will be ready at his side.

¹³ The members of his body will be devoured.
The firstborn of death will devour his members.

¹⁴ He will be rooted out of the security of his tent.
He will be brought to the king of terrors.

¹⁵ There will dwell in his tent that which is none of
his.

Sulfur will be scattered on his habitation.

¹⁶ His roots will be dried up beneath.
His branch will be cut off above.

¹⁷ His memory will perish from the earth.
He will have no name in the street.

¹⁸ He will be driven from light into darkness,
and chased out of the world.

¹⁹ He will have neither son nor grandson among his
people,
nor any remaining where he lived.

²⁰ Those who come after will be astonished at his
day,

as those who went before were frightened.

²¹ Surely such are the dwellings of the unrighteous.
This is the place of him who doesn’t know God.”

- ¹ Then Job answered,
- ² “How long will you torment me,
and crush me with words?
- ³ You have reproached me ten times.
You aren’t ashamed that you attack me.
- ⁴ If it is true that I have erred,
my error remains with myself.
- ⁵ If indeed you will magnify yourselves against me,
and plead against me my reproach,
- ⁶ know now that God has subverted me,
and has surrounded me with his net.
- ⁷ “Behold, I cry out of wrong, but I am not heard.
I cry for help, but there is no justice.
- ⁸ He has walled up my way so that I can’t pass,
and has set darkness in my paths.
- ⁹ He has stripped me of my glory,
and taken the crown from my head.
- ¹⁰ He has broken me down on every side, and I am
gone.
He has plucked my hope up like a tree.
- ¹¹ He has also kindled his wrath against me.
He counts me among his adversaries.
- ¹² His troops come on together,
build a siege ramp against me,
and encamp around my tent.
- ¹³ “He has put my brothers far from me.
My acquaintances are wholly estranged from me.
- ¹⁴ My relatives have gone away.
My familiar friends have forgotten me.
- ¹⁵ Those who dwell in my house and my maids
consider me a stranger.
I am an alien in their sight.
- ¹⁶ I call to my servant, and he gives me no answer.
I beg him with my mouth.
- ¹⁷ My breath is offensive to my wife.
I am loathsome to the children of my own mother.
- ¹⁸ Even young children despise me.
If I arise, they speak against me.
- ¹⁹ All my familiar friends abhor me.
They whom I loved have turned against me.
- ²⁰ My bones stick to my skin and to my flesh.
I have escaped by the skin of my teeth.
- ²¹ “Have pity on me. Have pity on me, you my
friends,
for the hand of God has touched me.
- ²² Why do you persecute me as God,

Notes

Notes

and are not satisfied with my flesh?

²³ “Oh that my words were now written!
Oh that they were inscribed in a book!

²⁴ That with an iron pen and lead
they were engraved in the rock forever!

²⁵ But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives.
In the end, he will stand upon the earth.

²⁶ After my skin is destroyed,
then I will see God in my flesh,

²⁷ whom I, even I, will see on my side.
My eyes will see, and not as a stranger.

“My heart is consumed within me.

²⁸ If you say, ‘How we will persecute him!’
because the root of the matter is found in me,

²⁹ be afraid of the sword,
for wrath brings the punishments of the sword,
that you may know there is a judgment.”

20

¹ Then Zophar the Naamathite answered,

² “Therefore my thoughts answer me,
even by reason of my haste that is in me.

³ I have heard the reproof which puts me to shame.
The spirit of my understanding answers me.

⁴ Don’t you know this from old time,
since man was placed on earth,

⁵ that the triumphing of the wicked is short,
the joy of the godless but for a moment?

⁶ Though his height mount up to the heavens,
and his head reach to the clouds,

⁷ yet he will perish forever like his own dung.
Those who have seen him will say, ‘Where is he?’

⁸ He will fly away as a dream, and will not be
found.

Yes, he will be chased away like a vision of the
night.

⁹ The eye which saw him will see him no more,
neither will his place see him any more.

¹⁰ His children will seek the favor of the poor.
His hands will give back his wealth.

¹¹ His bones are full of his youth,
but youth will lie down with him in the dust.

¹² “Though wickedness is sweet in his mouth,
though he hide it under his tongue,

¹³ though he spare it, and will not let it go,
but keep it still within his mouth,

¹⁴ yet his food in his bowels is turned.

Notes

†21:13 Sheol is the place of the dead.

Why shouldn't I be impatient?

⁵ Look at me, and be astonished.

Lay your hand on your mouth.

⁶ When I remember, I am troubled.

Horror takes hold of my flesh.

⁷ "Why do the wicked live,
become old, yes, and grow mighty in power?

⁸ Their child is established with them in their sight,
their offspring before their eyes.

⁹ Their houses are safe from fear,
neither is the rod of God upon them.

¹⁰ Their bulls breed without fail.

Their cows calve, and don't miscarry.

¹¹ They send out their little ones like a flock.

Their children dance.

¹² They sing to the tambourine and harp,
and rejoice at the sound of the pipe.

¹³ They spend their days in prosperity.

In an instant they go down to Sheol.[†]

¹⁴ They tell God, 'Depart from us,
for we don't want to know about your ways.

¹⁵ What is the Almighty, that we should serve him?

What profit should we have, if we pray to him?'

¹⁶ Behold, their prosperity is not in their hand.

The counsel of the wicked is far from me.

¹⁷ "How often is it that the lamp of the wicked is put
out,

that their calamity comes on them,

that God distributes sorrows in his anger?

¹⁸ How often is it that they are as stubble before the
wind,

as chaff that the storm carries away?

¹⁹ You say, 'God lays up his iniquity for his
children.'

Let him recompense it to himself, that he may know
it.

²⁰ Let his own eyes see his destruction.

Let him drink of the wrath of the Almighty.

²¹ For what does he care for his house after him,
when the number of his months is cut off?

²² "Shall any teach God knowledge,
since he judges those who are high?

²³ One dies in his full strength,
being wholly at ease and quiet.

²⁴ His pails are full of milk.

The marrow of his bones is moistened.

²⁵ Another dies in bitterness of soul,
and never tastes of good.

Notes

See the height of the stars, how high they are!

¹³ You say, 'What does God know?

Can he judge through the thick darkness?

¹⁴ Thick clouds are a covering to him, so that he doesn't see.

He walks on the vault of the sky.'

¹⁵ Will you keep the old way, which wicked men have trodden,

¹⁶ who were snatched away before their time, whose foundation was poured out as a stream,

¹⁷ who said to God, 'Depart from us!' and, 'What can the Almighty do for us?'

¹⁸ Yet he filled their houses with good things, but the counsel of the wicked is far from me.

¹⁹ The righteous see it, and are glad.

The innocent ridicule them,

²⁰ saying, 'Surely those who rose up against us are cut off.

The fire has consumed their remnant.'

²¹ "Acquaint yourself with him now, and be at peace.

By it, good will come to you.

²² Please receive instruction from his mouth, and lay up his words in your heart.

²³ If you return to the Almighty, you will be built up, if you put away unrighteousness far from your tents.

²⁴ Lay your treasure in the dust, the gold of Ophir among the stones of the brooks.

²⁵ The Almighty will be your treasure, and precious silver to you.

²⁶ For then you will delight yourself in the Almighty, and will lift up your face to God.

²⁷ You will make your prayer to him, and he will hear you.

You will pay your vows.

²⁸ You will also decree a thing, and it will be established to you.

Light will shine on your ways.

²⁹ When they cast down, you will say, 'be lifted up.' He will save the humble person.

³⁰ He will even deliver him who is not innocent.

Yes, he will be delivered through the cleanness of your hands."

Notes

they go out to their work, seeking diligently for food.

The wilderness yields them bread for their children.

⁶ They cut their food in the field.

They glean the vineyard of the wicked.

⁷ They lie all night naked without clothing, and have no covering in the cold.

⁸ They are wet with the showers of the mountains, and embrace the rock for lack of a shelter.

⁹ There are those who pluck the fatherless from the breast,

and take a pledge of the poor,

¹⁰ so that they go around naked without clothing.

Being hungry, they carry the sheaves.

¹¹ They make oil within the walls of these men.

They tread wine presses, and suffer thirst.

¹² From out of the populous city, men groan.

The soul of the wounded cries out, yet God doesn't regard the folly.

¹³ "These are of those who rebel against the light.

They don't know its ways, nor stay in its paths.

¹⁴ The murderer rises with the light.

He kills the poor and needy.

In the night he is like a thief.

¹⁵ The eye also of the adulterer waits for the twilight,

saying, 'No eye will see me.'

He disguises his face.

¹⁶ In the dark they dig through houses.

They shut themselves up in the daytime.

They don't know the light.

¹⁷ For the morning is to all of them like thick darkness,

for they know the terrors of the thick darkness.

¹⁸ "They are foam on the surface of the waters.

Their portion is cursed in the earth.

They don't turn into the way of the vineyards.

¹⁹ Drought and heat consume the snow waters, so does Sheol[†] those who have sinned.

²⁰ The womb will forget him.

The worm will feed sweetly on him.

He will be no more remembered.

Unrighteousness will be broken as a tree.

²¹ He devours the barren who don't bear.

He shows no kindness to the widow.

²² Yet God preserves the mighty by his power.

He rises up who has no assurance of life.

²³ God gives them security, and they rest in it.

[†]24:19 Sheol is the place of the dead.

His eyes are on their ways.

²⁴ They are exalted; yet a little while, and they are gone.

Yes, they are brought low, they are taken out of the way as all others,

and are cut off as the tops of the ears of grain.

²⁵ If it isn't so now, who will prove me a liar, and make my speech worth nothing?"

25

¹ Then Bildad the Shuhite answered,

² "Dominion and fear are with him.

He makes peace in his high places.

³ Can his armies be counted?

On whom does his light not arise?

⁴ How then can man be just with God?

Or how can he who is born of a woman be clean?

⁵ Behold, even the moon has no brightness, and the stars are not pure in his sight;

⁶ How much less man, who is a worm, and the son of man, who is a worm!"

26

¹ Then Job answered,

² "How have you helped him who is without power!

How have you saved the arm that has no strength!

³ How have you counseled him who has no wisdom,

and plentifully declared sound knowledge!

⁴ To whom have you uttered words?

Whose spirit came out of you?

⁵ "The departed spirits tremble, those beneath the waters and all that live in them.

⁶ Sheol[†] is naked before God, and Abaddon[‡] has no covering.

⁷ He stretches out the north over empty space, and hangs the earth on nothing.

⁸ He binds up the waters in his thick clouds, and the cloud is not burst under them.

⁹ He encloses the face of his throne, and spreads his cloud on it.

¹⁰ He has described a boundary on the surface of the waters,

and to the confines of light and darkness.

¹¹ The pillars of heaven tremble and are astonished at his rebuke.

¹² He stirs up the sea with his power,

Notes

[†]26:6 Sheol is the place of the dead.
[‡]26:6 Abaddon means Destroyer.

Notes

and by his understanding he strikes through Rahab.
¹³ By his Spirit the heavens are garnished.
His hand has pierced the swift serpent.
¹⁴ Behold, these are but the outskirts of his ways.
How small a whisper do we hear of him!
But the thunder of his power who can understand?"

27

¹ Job again took up his parable, and said,
² "As God lives, who has taken away my right,
the Almighty, who has made my soul bitter
³ (for the length of my life is still in me,
and the spirit of God is in my nostrils);
⁴ surely my lips will not speak unrighteousness,
neither will my tongue utter deceit.
⁵ Far be it from me that I should justify you.
Until I die I will not put away my integrity from
me.
⁶ I hold fast to my righteousness, and will not let it
go.
My heart will not reproach me so long as I live.

⁷ "Let my enemy be as the wicked.
Let him who rises up against me be as the
unrighteous.

⁸ For what is the hope of the godless, when he is cut
off,
when God takes away his life?
⁹ Will God hear his cry when trouble comes on him?
¹⁰ Will he delight himself in the Almighty,
and call on God at all times?
¹¹ I will teach you about the hand of God.
I will not conceal that which is with the Almighty.
¹² Behold, all of you have seen it yourselves;
why then have you become altogether vain?

¹³ "This is the portion of a wicked man with God,
the heritage of oppressors, which they receive from
the Almighty.
¹⁴ If his children are multiplied, it is for the sword.
His offspring will not be satisfied with bread.
¹⁵ Those who remain of him will be buried in death.
His widows will make no lamentation.
¹⁶ Though he heap up silver as the dust,
and prepare clothing as the clay;
¹⁷ he may prepare it, but the just will put it on,
and the innocent will divide the silver.
¹⁸ He builds his house as the moth,

Notes

neither will it be exchanged for jewels of fine gold.

¹⁸ No mention will be made of coral or of crystal.

Yes, the price of wisdom is above rubies.

¹⁹ The topaz of Ethiopia will not equal it.

It won't be valued with pure gold.

²⁰ Where then does wisdom come from?

Where is the place of understanding?

²¹ Seeing it is hidden from the eyes of all living,
and kept close from the birds of the sky.

²² Destruction and Death say,

'We have heard a rumor of it with our ears.'

²³ "God understands its way,
and he knows its place.

²⁴ For he looks to the ends of the earth,
and sees under the whole sky.

²⁵ He establishes the force of the wind.

Yes, he measures out the waters by measure.

²⁶ When he made a decree for the rain,
and a way for the lightning of the thunder,

²⁷ then he saw it, and declared it.

He established it, yes, and searched it out.

²⁸ To man he said,

'Behold, the fear of the Lord,[‡] that is wisdom.

To depart from evil is understanding.' "

[‡]28:28 The word translated "Lord" is
"Adonai."

29

¹ Job again took up his parable, and said,

² "Oh that I were as in the months of old,
as in the days when God watched over me;

³ when his lamp shone on my head,
and by his light I walked through darkness,

⁴ as I was in my prime,

when the friendship of God was in my tent,

⁵ when the Almighty was yet with me,

and my children were around me,

⁶ when my steps were washed with butter,

and the rock poured out streams of oil for me,

⁷ when I went out to the city gate,

when I prepared my seat in the street.

⁸ The young men saw me and hid themselves.

The aged rose up and stood.

⁹ The princes refrained from talking,

and laid their hand on their mouth.

¹⁰ The voice of the nobles was hushed,

and their tongue stuck to the roof of their mouth.

¹¹ For when the ear heard me, then it blessed me,

and when the eye saw me, it commended me,

¹² because I delivered the poor who cried,

Notes

⁸ They are children of fools, yes, children of wicked men.
They were flogged out of the land.

⁹ “Now I have become their song.
Yes, I am a byword to them.

¹⁰ They abhor me, they stand aloof from me,
and don’t hesitate to spit in my face.

¹¹ For he has untied his cord, and afflicted me;
and they have thrown off restraint before me.

¹² On my right hand rise the rabble.
They thrust aside my feet.
They cast their ways of destruction up against me.

¹³ They mar my path.
They promote my destruction
without anyone’s help.

¹⁴ As through a wide breach they come.
They roll themselves in amid the ruin.

¹⁵ Terrors have turned on me.
They chase my honor as the wind.
My welfare has passed away as a cloud.

¹⁶ “Now my soul is poured out within me.
Days of affliction have taken hold of me.

¹⁷ In the night season my bones are pierced in me,
and the pains that gnaw me take no rest.

¹⁸ My garment is disfigured by great force.
It binds me about as the collar of my tunic.

¹⁹ He has cast me into the mire.
I have become like dust and ashes.

²⁰ I cry to you, and you do not answer me.
I stand up, and you gaze at me.

²¹ You have turned to be cruel to me.
With the might of your hand you persecute me.

²² You lift me up to the wind, and drive me with it.
You dissolve me in the storm.

²³ For I know that you will bring me to death,
to the house appointed for all living.

²⁴ “However doesn’t one stretch out a hand in his fall?
Or in his calamity therefore cry for help?

²⁵ Didn’t I weep for him who was in trouble?
Wasn’t my soul grieved for the needy?

²⁶ When I looked for good, then evil came.
When I waited for light, darkness came.

²⁷ My heart is troubled, and doesn’t rest.
Days of affliction have come on me.

²⁸ I go mourning without the sun.
I stand up in the assembly, and cry for help.

²⁹ I am a brother to jackals,

Notes

or that the needy had no covering;
²⁰ if his heart hasn't blessed me,
if he hasn't been warmed with my sheep's fleece;
²¹ if I have lifted up my hand against the fatherless,
because I saw my help in the gate;
²² then let my shoulder fall from the shoulder blade,
and my arm be broken from the bone.
²³ For calamity from God is a terror to me.
Because of his majesty, I can do nothing.
²⁴ "If I have made gold my hope,
and have said to the fine gold, 'You are my
confidence;'
²⁵ If I have rejoiced because my wealth was great,
and because my hand had gotten much;
²⁶ if I have seen the sun when it shined,
or the moon moving in splendor,
²⁷ and my heart has been secretly enticed,
and my hand threw a kiss from my mouth;
²⁸ this also would be an iniquity to be punished by
the judges,
for I would have denied the God who is above.
²⁹ "If I have rejoiced at the destruction of him who
hated me,
or lifted up myself when evil found him
³⁰ (I have certainly not allowed my mouth to sin
by asking his life with a curse);
³¹ if the men of my tent have not said,
'Who can find one who has not been filled with his
meat?'
³² (the foreigner has not camped in the street,
but I have opened my doors to the traveler);
³³ if like Adam I have covered my transgressions,
by hiding my iniquity in my heart,
³⁴ because I feared the great multitude,
and the contempt of families terrified me,
so that I kept silence, and didn't go out of the
door—
³⁵ oh that I had one to hear me!
Behold, here is my signature! Let the Almighty
answer me!
Let the accuser write my indictment!
³⁶ Surely I would carry it on my shoulder,
and I would bind it to me as a crown.
³⁷ I would declare to him the number of my steps.
I would go near to him like a prince.
³⁸ If my land cries out against me,
and its furrows weep together;
³⁹ if I have eaten its fruits without money,
or have caused its owners to lose their life,
⁴⁰ let briars grow instead of wheat,
and stinkweed instead of barley."

Notes

†32:8 or, breath

²⁰ I will speak, that I may be refreshed.
I will open my lips and answer.
²¹ Please don't let me respect any man's person,
neither will I give flattering titles to any man.
²² For I don't know how to give flattering titles,
or else my Maker would soon take me away.

33

¹ "However, Job, please hear my speech,
and listen to all my words.
² See now, I have opened my mouth.
My tongue has spoken in my mouth.
³ My words will utter the uprightness of my heart.
That which my lips know they will speak sincerely.
⁴ The Spirit of God has made me,
and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.
⁵ If you can, answer me.
Set your words in order before me, and stand up.
⁶ Behold, I am toward God even as you are.
I am also formed out of the clay.
⁷ Behold, my terror will not make you afraid,
neither will my pressure be heavy on you.

⁸ "Surely you have spoken in my hearing,
I have heard the voice of your words, saying,
⁹ 'I am clean, without disobedience.
I am innocent, neither is there iniquity in me.
¹⁰ Behold, he finds occasions against me.
He counts me for his enemy.
¹¹ He puts my feet in the stocks.
He marks all my paths.'

¹² "Behold, I will answer you. In this you are not
just,
for God is greater than man.
¹³ Why do you strive against him,
because he doesn't give account of any of his
matters?
¹⁴ For God speaks once,
yes twice, though man pays no attention.
¹⁵ In a dream, in a vision of the night,
when deep sleep falls on men,
in slumbering on the bed,
¹⁶ then he opens the ears of men,
and seals their instruction,
¹⁷ that he may withdraw man from his purpose,
and hide pride from man.
¹⁸ He keeps back his soul from the pit,
and his life from perishing by the sword.

¹⁹ "He is chastened also with pain on his bed,

Notes

My wound is incurable, though I am without disobedience.'

⁷ What man is like Job,
who drinks scorn like water,
⁸ who goes in company with the workers of
iniquity,
and walks with wicked men?

⁹ For he has said, 'It profits a man nothing
that he should delight himself with God.'

¹⁰ "Therefore listen to me, you men of
understanding:
far be it from God, that he should do wickedness,
from the Almighty, that he should commit iniquity.

¹¹ For the work of a man he will render to him,
and cause every man to find according to his ways.

¹² Yes surely, God will not do wickedly,
neither will the Almighty pervert justice.

¹³ Who put him in charge of the earth?
Or who has appointed him over the whole world?

¹⁴ If he set his heart on himself,
if he gathered to himself his spirit and his breath,

¹⁵ all flesh would perish together,
and man would turn again to dust.

¹⁶ "If now you have understanding, hear this.
Listen to the voice of my words.

¹⁷ Should even one who hates justice govern?
Will you condemn him who is righteous and
mighty,

¹⁸ who says to a king, 'Vile!'
or to nobles, 'Wicked!'

¹⁹ He doesn't respect the persons of princes,
nor respect the rich more than the poor,
for they all are the work of his hands.

²⁰ In a moment they die, even at midnight.
The people are shaken and pass away.
The mighty are taken away without a hand.

²¹ "For his eyes are on the ways of a man.
He sees all his goings.

²² There is no darkness, nor thick gloom,
where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.

²³ For he doesn't need to consider a man further,
that he should go before God in judgment.

²⁴ He breaks mighty men in pieces in ways past
finding out,
and sets others in their place.

²⁵ Therefore he takes knowledge of their works.
He overturns them in the night, so that they are
destroyed.

Notes

and your righteousness may profit a son of man.

⁹“By reason of the multitude of oppressions they cry out.

They cry for help by reason of the arm of the mighty.

¹⁰But no one says, ‘Where is God my Maker, who gives songs in the night,

¹¹who teaches us more than the animals of the earth,

and makes us wiser than the birds of the sky?’

¹²There they cry, but no one answers, because of the pride of evil men.

¹³Surely God will not hear an empty cry, neither will the Almighty regard it.

¹⁴How much less when you say you don’t see him. The cause is before him, and you wait for him!

¹⁵But now, because he has not visited in his anger, neither does he greatly regard arrogance,

¹⁶therefore Job opens his mouth with empty talk, and he multiplies words without knowledge.”

36

¹ Elihu also continued, and said,

²“Bear with me a little, and I will show you; for I still have something to say on God’s behalf.

³I will get my knowledge from afar, and will ascribe righteousness to my Maker.

⁴For truly my words are not false. One who is perfect in knowledge is with you.

⁵“Behold, God is mighty, and doesn’t despise anyone.

He is mighty in strength of understanding.

⁶He doesn’t preserve the life of the wicked, but gives justice to the afflicted.

⁷He doesn’t withdraw his eyes from the righteous, but with kings on the throne, he sets them forever, and they are exalted.

⁸If they are bound in fetters, and are taken in the cords of afflictions,

⁹then he shows them their work, and their transgressions, that they have behaved themselves proudly.

¹⁰He also opens their ears to instruction, and commands that they return from iniquity.

¹¹If they listen and serve him, they will spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures.

¹² But if they don't listen, they will perish by the sword;
they will die without knowledge.

¹³ "But those who are godless in heart lay up anger.
They don't cry for help when he binds them.

¹⁴ They die in youth.
Their life perishes among the unclean.

¹⁵ He delivers the afflicted by their affliction,
and opens their ear in oppression.

¹⁶ Yes, he would have allured you out of distress,
into a wide place, where there is no restriction.
That which is set on your table would be full of fatness.

¹⁷ "But you are full of the judgment of the wicked.
Judgment and justice take hold of you.

¹⁸ Don't let riches entice you to wrath,
neither let the great size of a bribe turn you aside.

¹⁹ Would your wealth sustain you in distress,
or all the might of your strength?

²⁰ Don't desire the night,
when people are cut off in their place.

²¹ Take heed, don't regard iniquity;
for you have chosen this rather than affliction.

²² Behold, God is exalted in his power.
Who is a teacher like him?

²³ Who has prescribed his way for him?
Or who can say, 'You have committed unrighteousness'?

²⁴ "Remember that you magnify his work,
about which men have sung.

²⁵ All men have looked on it.
Man sees it afar off.

²⁶ Behold, God is great, and we don't know him.
The number of his years is unsearchable.

²⁷ For he draws up the drops of water,
which distill in rain from his vapor,

²⁸ which the skies pour down
and which drop on man abundantly.

²⁹ Indeed, can anyone understand the spreading of the clouds
and the thunderings of his pavilion?

³⁰ Behold, he spreads his light around him.
He covers the bottom of the sea.

³¹ For by these he judges the people.
He gives food in abundance.

³² He covers his hands with the lightning,
and commands it to strike the mark.

³³ Its noise tells about him,

Notes

Notes

and the livestock also, concerning the storm that comes up.

37

- ¹ “Yes, at this my heart trembles,
and is moved out of its place.
- ² Hear, oh, hear the noise of his voice,
the sound that goes out of his mouth.
- ³ He sends it out under the whole sky,
and his lightning to the ends of the earth.
- ⁴ After it a voice roars.
He thunders with the voice of his majesty.
He doesn’t hold back anything when his voice is heard.
- ⁵ God thunders marvelously with his voice.
He does great things, which we can’t comprehend.
- ⁶ For he says to the snow, ‘Fall on the earth,’
likewise to the shower of rain,
and to the showers of his mighty rain.
- ⁷ He seals up the hand of every man,
that all men whom he has made may know it.
- ⁸ Then the animals take cover,
and remain in their dens.
- ⁹ Out of its room comes the storm,
and cold out of the north.
- ¹⁰ By the breath of God, ice is given,
and the width of the waters is frozen.
- ¹¹ Yes, he loads the thick cloud with moisture.
He spreads abroad the cloud of his lightning.
- ¹² It is turned around by his guidance,
that they may do whatever he commands them
on the surface of the habitable world,
- ¹³ whether it is for correction, or for his land,
or for loving kindness, that he causes it to come.
- ¹⁴ “Listen to this, Job.
Stand still, and consider the wondrous works of
God.
- ¹⁵ Do you know how God controls them,
and causes the lightning of his cloud to shine?
- ¹⁶ Do you know the workings of the clouds,
the wondrous works of him who is perfect in
knowledge?
- ¹⁷ You whose clothing is warm
when the earth is still by reason of the south wind?
- ¹⁸ Can you, with him, spread out the sky,
which is strong as a cast metal mirror?
- ¹⁹ Teach us what we will tell him,
for we can’t make our case by reason of darkness.
- ²⁰ Will it be told him that I would speak?
Or should a man wish that he were swallowed up?

Notes

Or have you walked in the recesses of the deep?
¹⁷ Have the gates of death been revealed to you?
Or have you seen the gates of the shadow of death?
¹⁸ Have you comprehended the earth in its width?
Declare, if you know it all.

¹⁹ "What is the way to the dwelling of light?
As for darkness, where is its place,
²⁰ that you should take it to its bound,
that you should discern the paths to its house?
²¹ Surely you know, for you were born then,
and the number of your days is great!
²² Have you entered the storehouses of the snow,
or have you seen the storehouses of the hail,
²³ which I have reserved against the time of trouble,
against the day of battle and war?
²⁴ By what way is the lightning distributed,
or the east wind scattered on the earth?

²⁵ Who has cut a channel for the flood water,
or the path for the thunderstorm,
²⁶ to cause it to rain on a land where there is no man,
on the wilderness, in which there is no man,
²⁷ to satisfy the waste and desolate ground,
to cause the tender grass to grow?
²⁸ Does the rain have a father?
Or who fathers the drops of dew?
²⁹ Whose womb did the ice come out of?
Who has given birth to the gray frost of the sky?
³⁰ The waters become hard like stone,
when the surface of the deep is frozen.

³¹ "Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades,
or loosen the cords of Orion?
³² Can you lead the constellations out in their
season?
Or can you guide the Bear with her cubs?
³³ Do you know the laws of the heavens?
Can you establish its dominion over the earth?

³⁴ "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,
that abundance of waters may cover you?
³⁵ Can you send out lightnings, that they may go?
Do they report to you, 'Here we are'?
³⁶ Who has put wisdom in the inward parts?
Or who has given understanding to the mind?
³⁷ Who can count the clouds by wisdom?
Or who can pour out the containers of the sky,
³⁸ when the dust runs into a mass,
and the clods of earth stick together?

Notes

neither has he imparted to her understanding.

¹⁸ When she lifts up herself on high,
she scorns the horse and his rider.

¹⁹ "Have you given the horse might?

Have you clothed his neck with a quivering mane?

²⁰ Have you made him to leap as a locust?

The glory of his snorting is awesome.

²¹ He paws in the valley, and rejoices in his strength.

He goes out to meet the armed men.

²² He mocks at fear, and is not dismayed,
neither does he turn back from the sword.

²³ The quiver rattles against him,
the flashing spear and the javelin.

²⁴ He eats up the ground with fierceness and rage,
neither does he stand still at the sound of the
trumpet.

²⁵ As often as the trumpet sounds he snorts, 'Aha!'
He smells the battle afar off,
the thunder of the captains, and the shouting.

²⁶ "Is it by your wisdom that the hawk soars,
and stretches her wings toward the south?

²⁷ Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up,
and makes his nest on high?

²⁸ On the cliff he dwells and makes his home,
on the point of the cliff and the stronghold.

²⁹ From there he spies out the prey.
His eyes see it afar off.

³⁰ His young ones also suck up blood.
Where the slain are, there he is."

40

¹ Moreover Yahweh answered Job,

² "Shall he who argues contend with the Almighty?
He who argues with God, let him answer it."

³ Then Job answered Yahweh,

⁴ "Behold, I am of small account. What will I answer
you?

I lay my hand on my mouth.

⁵ I have spoken once, and I will not answer;
Yes, twice, but I will proceed no further."

⁶ Then Yahweh answered Job out of the
whirlwind:

⁷ "Now brace yourself like a man.

I will question you, and you will answer me.

⁸ Will you even annul my judgment?

Will you condemn me, that you may be justified?
9 Or do you have an arm like God?
Can you thunder with a voice like him?

10 "Now deck yourself with excellency and dignity.
Array yourself with honor and majesty.

11 Pour out the fury of your anger.
Look at everyone who is proud, and bring him low.

12 Look at everyone who is proud, and humble him.
Crush the wicked in their place.

13 Hide them in the dust together.
Bind their faces in the hidden place.

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

15 "See now behemoth, which I made as well as you.
He eats grass as an ox.

16 Look now, his strength is in his thighs.
His force is in the muscles of his belly.

17 He moves his tail like a cedar.
The sinews of his thighs are knit together.

18 His bones are like tubes of bronze.
His limbs are like bars of iron.

19 He is the chief of the ways of God.
He who made him gives him his sword.

20 Surely the mountains produce food for him,
where all the animals of the field play.

21 He lies under the lotus trees,
in the covert of the reed, and the marsh.

22 The lotuses cover him with their shade.
The willows of the brook surround him.

23 Behold, if a river overflows, he doesn't tremble.
He is confident, though the Jordan swells even to
his mouth.

24 Shall any take him when he is on the watch,
or pierce through his nose with a snare?

41

1 "Can you draw out Leviathan[†] with a fish hook,
or press down his tongue with a cord?

2 Can you put a rope into his nose,
or pierce his jaw through with a hook?

3 Will he make many petitions to you,
or will he speak soft words to you?

4 Will he make a covenant with you,
that you should take him for a servant forever?

5 Will you play with him as with a bird?
Or will you bind him for your girls?

6 Will traders barter for him?
Will they part him among the merchants?

Notes

[†]41:1 Leviathan is a name for a crocodile or similar creature.

Notes

⁷ Can you fill his skin with barbed irons,
or his head with fish spears?
⁸ Lay your hand on him.
Remember the battle, and do so no more.
⁹ Behold, the hope of him is in vain.
Won't one be cast down even at the sight of him?

¹⁰ None is so fierce that he dare stir him up.
Who then is he who can stand before me?
¹¹ Who has first given to me, that I should repay
him?
Everything under the heavens is mine.

¹² "I will not keep silence concerning his limbs,
nor his mighty strength, nor his goodly frame.
¹³ Who can strip off his outer garment?
Who will come within his jaws?
¹⁴ Who can open the doors of his face?
Around his teeth is terror.
¹⁵ Strong scales are his pride,
shut up together with a close seal.

¹⁶ One is so near to another,
that no air can come between them.
¹⁷ They are joined to one another.
They stick together, so that they can't be pulled
apart.

¹⁸ His sneezing flashes out light.
His eyes are like the eyelids of the morning.
¹⁹ Out of his mouth go burning torches.
Sparks of fire leap out.

²⁰ Out of his nostrils a smoke goes,
as of a boiling pot over a fire of reeds.
²¹ His breath kindles coals.

A flame goes out of his mouth.
²² There is strength in his neck.
Terror dances before him.

²³ The flakes of his flesh are joined together.
They are firm on him.
They can't be moved.

²⁴ His heart is as firm as a stone,
yes, firm as the lower millstone.

²⁵ When he raises himself up, the mighty are afraid.
They retreat before his thrashing.

²⁶ If one attacks him with the sword, it can't prevail;
nor the spear, the dart, nor the pointed shaft.

²⁷ He counts iron as straw,
and bronze as rotten wood.

²⁸ The arrow can't make him flee.
Sling stones are like chaff to him.

²⁹ Clubs are counted as stubble.

Notes

†42:11 literally, kesitah, a unit of money, probably silver

brought on him. Everyone also gave him a piece of money,[†] and everyone a ring of gold.

¹²So Yahweh blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand female donkeys. ¹³He had also seven sons and three daughters. ¹⁴He called the name of the first, Jemimah; and the name of the second, Keziah; and the name of the third, Keren Happuch. ¹⁵In all the land were no women found so beautiful as the daughters of Job. Their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. ¹⁶After this Job lived one hundred forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, to four generations. ¹⁷So Job died, being old and full of days.

