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Job

Job the Good Man

1 There was a man named Job that lived in the country of Uz. Job was a good and faithful man. Job worshiped God and refused to do evil things. **2**Job had seven sons and three daughters. **3**Job owned 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 1,000 bulls, and 500 female donkeys. He had many servants. Job was the richest man in the east.

4Job's sons took turns having parties in their homes, and they invited their sisters. **5**Job got up early in the morning after his children had a party. He offered a burnt offering for each of his children. He thought, "Maybe my children were careless and sinned against God at their party." Job always did this so his children would be forgiven of their sins.

6Then the day came for the angels* to meet with the Lord. Even Satan was there with those angels. **7**The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you been?"

Satan answered the Lord, "I have been wandering around on the earth."

8Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you seen my servant Job? There is no person on earth like Job. Job is a good and faithful man. He worships God and refuses to do evil things."

9Satan answered, "Sure! But Job has a good reason for worshipping God! **10**You always protect him, his family, and everything he has. You have made him successful in everything he does. Yes, you have blessed him. He is so wealthy that his herds and flocks are all over the country. **11**But if you destroy everything he has, I promise you that he will curse* you to your face."

12The Lord said to Satan, "All right. Do anything you want to the things Job has. But don't hurt his body."

Then Satan went away from the Lord.

Job Loses Everything

13One day, Job's sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house. **14**Then a messenger came to Job and said, "The bulls were plowing and the donkeys were eating grass near by. **15**The Sabean people* attacked us and took your animals! Those people killed the other servants. I am the only person that escaped. So I came to tell you the news!"

16While that messenger was still speaking, another messenger came to Job. The second messenger said, "Lightning struck from the sky and burned up your sheep and servants. I am the only person that escaped. So I came to tell you the news!"

17While that messenger was still speaking, another messenger came. This third messenger said, "The Chaldeans sent three groups of soldiers. They attacked us and took the camels! They killed the servants. I am the only person that escaped. So I came to tell you the news!"

18While the third messenger was still speaking, another messenger came. The fourth messenger said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house. **19**Then a strong wind suddenly blew in from the desert and blew the house down. The house fell on your sons and daughters, and they are dead. I am the only person that escaped. So I came to tell you the news!"

angels Literally, "sons of God."
curse(d) To ask for bad things to happen to someone.

Sabean people A group of people from the desert area. They attacked people and took their things.

²⁰When Job heard this, he tore his clothes and shaved his head ₁to show he was sad and upset₁. Then Job fell on the ground and worshiped God. ²¹He said:

“When I was born into this world,
I was naked, and I had nothing.
When I die and leave this world,
I’ll be naked, and I’ll have nothing.
The Lord gives,
and the Lord takes away.
Praise the name of the Lord!”

²²All of those things happened, but Job didn’t sin. Job didn’t say that God did anything wrong.

Satan Bothers Job Again

2 On another day, the angels* came to meet with the Lord. Even Satan came to meet with the Lord. ²The Lord said to Satan, “Where have you been?”

Satan answered the Lord, “I have been wandering around on the earth.”

³Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you seen my servant Job? There is no person on earth like Job. Job is a good and faithful man. He worships God and refuses to do evil things. He still is faithful, even though you asked me to let you destroy everything he has for no reason.”

⁴Satan answered, “Skin for skin!* A person will give everything he has to save his life. ⁵If you use your power to hurt his body, then he will curse* you to your face!”

⁶So the Lord said to Satan, “All right, Job is in your power. But you are not allowed to kill him.”

⁷Then Satan went away from the Lord. Satan gave Job painful sores. The painful sores were all over Job’s body from the bottom of his feet to the top of his head. ⁸So Job sat near the garbage piles. He used a piece of broken pottery to scrape his sores. ⁹Job’s wife said to him, “Are you still

faithful to God? Why don’t you curse* God and die!”

¹⁰Job answered his wife, “You talk like a foolish woman! God gives us good things, and we accept them. So we should also accept trouble ₁and not complain₁.” All these things happened. But Job did not sin. He did not speak against God.

Job’s Three Friends Come to See Him

¹¹Three of Job’s friends were Eliphaz from Teman, Bildad from Shuah, and Zophar from Naamah. These three friends heard about all the bad things that happened to Job. These three friends left their homes and met together. They agreed to go and show sympathy to Job and to comfort him. ¹²But when the three friends saw Job from far away, they were not sure it was Job—he looked so different! They began to cry loudly. They tore their clothes and threw dirt in the air and on their heads ₁to show they were sad and upset₁. ¹³Then the three friends sat on the ground with Job for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to Job, because they saw Job was suffering so much.

Job Curses the Day He Was Born

3 Then Job opened his mouth and cursed* the day he was born. ^{2–3}He said:

“I wish the day I was born
would be lost forever.
I wish that night they said,
‘It’s a boy!’
had never happened.

⁴ I wish that day had stayed dark.
I wish God would forget that day.
I wish light had not shined on that day.

⁵ I wish that day had stayed dark—
as dark as death.
I wish clouds would hide that day.
I wish black clouds could
scare away the light
from the day I was born.

⁶ Let the darkness keep that night.
Leave that night off the calendar.
Don’t put that night in any of the months.

⁷ Don’t let that night produce anything.
Let no happy shout be heard on that night.

angels Literally, “sons of God.”

Skin for skin This means that a person will do anything he can do to avoid pain.

curse(d) To ask for bad things to happen to someone.

- 8 Some magicians are always wanting
to wake Leviathan.*
So let them say their curses,
and curse the day I was born.
- 9 Let that day's morning star be dark.
Let that night wait for the morning,
but may that light never come.
Don't let it see the first rays of sunlight.
- 10 Why? Because that night didn't stop me
from being born.
That night didn't stop me
from seeing these troubles.
- 11 Why didn't I die when I was born?
Why didn't I die at birth?
- 12 Why did my mother hold me
on her knees?
Why did my mother's breasts feed me?
- 13 If I had died when I was born,
I would be at peace now.
I wish I were asleep and at rest
with the kings and wise men
who lived on earth in the past.
Those men built places for themselves
that are now destroyed and gone.
- 14 I wish I were buried with those rulers
that filled their graves*
with gold and silver!
- 16 Why wasn't I a child who died at birth
and was buried in the ground?
I wish I were like a baby
that never saw the light of day.
- 17 Bad people stop making trouble
when they are in the grave.
And people who are tired
find rest in the grave.
- 18 Even prisoners find relief in the grave;
they don't hear their guards
yelling at them.
- 19 All kinds of people are in the grave—
important people
and people who are not so important.
Even the slave is freed from his master.
- 20 "Why must a suffering person
continue to live?
Why give life to a person
whose soul is bitter?"

Leviathan Here this is probably a giant sea monster. Some people thought magicians were able to make it 'swallow the sun', that is, cause an eclipse of the sun.
graves Or, "houses."

- 21 That person wants to die,
but death does not come.
That sad person searches for death
more than for hidden treasure.
- 22 Those people would be happy
to find their grave.
They would rejoice
to find their tomb.
- 23 But God keeps their future a secret,
and builds a wall around them
to protect them.
- 24 When it is time to eat,
I only sigh with sadness
not with joy.
My complaints pour out like water.
- 25 I was afraid that something terrible
might happen to me.
And that is what happened!
The things I feared most
happened to me.
- 26 I can't calm down.
I can't relax.
I can't rest.
I'm too upset!"

Eliphaz Speaks

- 4¹⁻² Eliphaz from Teman answered:
"I must say something.
Will it upset you if I try to speak?"
- 3 Job, you have taught many people.
You gave strength to weak hands.
- 4 Your words helped people
who were ready to fall.
You gave strength to people
who couldn't stand by themselves.
- 5 But now trouble comes to you,
and you are discouraged.
Trouble hits you,
and you are upset!
- 6 You worship God.
You trust him.
You are a good man.
So let that be your hope.
- 7 Job, think about this:
No innocent person was ever destroyed.
Good people are never destroyed.
- 8 I have seen some troublemakers
and people who make life hard.
But they are always punished!

9 God's punishment kills those people.
 God's anger destroys them.

10 The bad people roar and growl like lions.
 But God makes the bad people be quiet,
 and God breaks their teeth.

11 Yes, those bad people are like lions
 that can't find animals to kill.
 They die and their children wander away.

12 "A message was brought to me in secret.
 My ears caught a whisper of it.

13 Like a bad dream in the night,
 it ruined my sleep.

14 I was afraid, and shook.
 All my bones shook!

15 A ghost passed by my face.
 The hair on my body stood up!

16 The spirit stood still,
 but I could not see what it was.
 A shape stood before my eyes,
 and there was silence.
 Then I heard a very quiet voice:

17 'A person can't be more right than God.
 Man can't be more pure than his Maker.

18 Look, God can't even trust
 his heavenly servants.
 God sees problems even in his angels.

19 So surely people are worse!
 People live in houses of clay.*
 The foundations of these houses of clay
 are in the dirt.
 They are crushed to death
 more easily than a moth!

20 People die from dawn to sunset,
 and no one even notices.
 They die and are gone forever.

21 The ropes of their tent are pulled up,
 and these people die without wisdom.'

5 "Job, call out if you want,
 but no one will answer you!
 You can't turn to any of the angels!

2 A foolish person's anger will kill him.
 A fool's strong emotions will kill him.

3 I saw a foolish person
 who thought he was safe.
 But suddenly, he died.*

4 There was no one to help his children.
 No one defended them in court .

houses of clay This means the human body.
suddenly, he died Or, "suddenly his home was cursed."

5 Hungry people ate all his crops.
 Those hungry people took even
 the grain growing among the thorns.
 Greedy people took all they had.

6 Bad times don't come up from the dirt.
 Trouble does not grow from
 the ground.

7 But man is born to have trouble,
 as sure as sparks fly up from a fire.

8 "But Job, if I were you,
 I would turn to God
 and tell him about my problems.

9 People can't understand
 the wonderful things God does.
 There is no end to the miracles God does.

10 God sends rain on the earth.
 He sends water to the fields.

11 God raises up the humble person,
 and he makes a sad person very happy.

12 God stops the plans of clever, evil people,
 so they have no success.

13 God catches even wise people
 in their own traps.
 So those clever plans are not successful.

14 Those smart people stumble around
 even in the daytime.
 Even at noon, they are like a person
 who feels his way in the dark.

15 God saves poor people from death.
 He saves the poor people from
 the power of the clever people.

16 So poor people have hope.
 God destroys bad people
 who are not fair.

17 "A person is fortunate
 when God corrects him!
 So don't complain when
 God All-Powerful punishes you.

18 God puts bandages
 on the wounds he makes.
 He might injure someone,
 but his hands also heal.

19 He will save you from six troubles.
 Yes, might endure seven disasters
 and not be hurt!

20 God will save you from death
 when there is famine.
 And God will protect you from death
 when there is war.

21 People might say bad things about you
with their sharp tongues.
But God will protect you.
You won't need to be afraid
when bad things happen!

22 You will laugh at destruction and famine.
You won't be afraid of wild animals!

23 Your agreement is with God,
so even the rocks in the field
share in your agreement.
Even the wild animals
make peace with you.

24 You will live in peace
because your tent is safe.
You will count your property
and find nothing missing.

25 You will have many children.
They will be as many as
the blades of grass on the earth.

26 You will be like the wheat that grows
until harvest time.
Yes, you will live to a ripe old age.

27 "Job, we have studied these things,
and we know they are true.
So Job, listen to us,
and learn them for yourself."

Job Answers Eliphaz

6¹⁻² Then Job answered:
"If my suffering could be weighed,
and all my trouble could be
put on the weighing scales,
3 you would understand my sadness.
My sadness would be heavier
than all the sand of the seas!
That is why my words seem foolish.

4 God All-Powerful's arrows are in me.
My spirit feels the poison
from those arrows!
God's terrible weapons are lined up
against me.

5 Your words are easy to say
when nothing bad has happened,
Even a wild donkey doesn't complain
when it has grass to eat.
And a cow doesn't complain
when it has its food.

6 Food without salt
doesn't taste good.

And the white of an egg
doesn't have any taste.

7 I refuse to touch it;
that kind of food makes me sick!
And that is what your words
are like to me now.

8 "I wish I could have what I ask for.
I wish God would give me what I want.

9 I wish God would crush me,
just go ahead and kill me!

10 And if he does kill me,
I will be comforted about one thing,
I will be happy about one thing:
Even through all this pain,
I never refused to obey
the commands of the Holy One.

11 "My strength is gone,
so I have no hope to go on living.
I don't know what will happen to me,
so I have no reason to be patient.

12 I am not strong like a rock.
My body is not made from bronze.

13 I don't have power to help myself now.
Why? Because success has been taken
away from me.

14 "A person's friends should be kind
to him if he has troubles.
A person should be loyal to his friend,
even if that friend turned away from
God All-Powerful.

15 But you, my brothers, have not been loyal.
I can't depend on you.
You are like streams that flow sometimes
and don't flow at other times.
You are like streams that overflow
16 when they are choked with ice
and melting snow.

17 And when the weather is hot and dry,
the water stops flowing,
and the streams are gone.

18 Traders follow the twists and turns
out into the desert
and they disappear.

19 Traders from Tema look for water.
Travelers from Sheba look hopefully.

20 They were sure they would find water
but they were disappointed.

21 Now, you are like those streams.
You see my troubles and are afraid.

22 Did I ask for your help? No!
But you freely gave me your advice!

23 Did I say to you,
‘Save me from the enemy!
Save me from cruel people!’

24 “So now, teach me,
and I will be quiet.
Show me what I have done wrong.
Honest words are powerful.
But your arguments prove nothing.

25 Honest words are powerful.
But your arguments prove nothing.

26 Do you plan to criticize me?
Will you speak more tiring words?

27 You would even gamble to win things
that belong to children without fathers.
You would sell out your own friend.

28 But now, please study my face.
I would not lie to you.

29 So now, change your mind.
Don’t be unfair, think again.
I have done nothing wrong.

30 I am not lying.
And I know right from wrong.”

7 Job said,
“Man has a hard struggle on earth.
His life is like the life of a hired worker.

2 Man is like a slave who wants the
cool shade after hard work on a hot day.
Man is like a hired worker
waiting for payday.

3 Month after frustrating month
has gone by.
I have had night after night of suffering.

4 When I lie down, I think,
‘How long before it’s time to get up?’
The night drags on.
I toss and turn until the sun comes up.

5 My body is clothed with worms and dirt.
My skin is broken
and covered with running sores.

6 “My days go by faster
than a weaver’s shuttle.*
And my life ends without hope.

7 God, remember, my life is only a breath.
I will never see anything good again.

8 And you won’t see me again.

You will look for me,
but I will be gone.

9 A cloud disappears and is gone.
In the same way, a person dies
and is buried in the grave
and he won’t come back.

10 He will never come back
to his old house again.
His home won’t know him any more.

11 “So I won’t be quiet!
I will speak out!
My spirit is suffering!
I will complain because
my soul is bitter.

12 God, why do you guard me?
Am I the sea or a sea monster?

13 My bed should bring me comfort.
My couch should give me rest
and relief.

14 But God, [when I lie down]
you scare me with dreams,
you frighten with visions.*

15 So I prefer to be choked to death
than to live.

16 I hate my life—I give up.
I don’t want to live forever.
Leave me alone!
My life means nothing!

17 God, why is man so important to you?
Why should you honor him?
Why do you even notice him?

18 Why do you visit man every morning
and test him every moment?

19 God, you never look away from me.
You won’t leave me alone for a second.

20 God, you watch over people.
If I have sinned, fine,
what can I do?
Why did you use me for target practice?
Did I become a problem for you?

21 Why don’t you just pardon me
for doing wrong?
Why don’t you just forgive me
for my sins?
Soon I will die and be in my grave.
Then you will search for me,
but I will be gone.”

weaver’s shuttle The tool a person that makes cloth uses to pass the thread between the other threads.

vision(s) Something like a dream that God used to speak to people.

Bildad Speaks to Job

- 8 Then Bildad from Shuah answered,
 2^a“How long will you talk like that?
 Your words blow like a strong wind.
 3 God is always fair.
 God All-Powerful never changes
 the things that are right.
 4 If your children sinned against God,
 then he has punished them.
 They paid for their sins.
 5 But now Job, look to God
 and pray to the All-Powerful.
 6 If you are pure and good,
 then he will quickly come to help you.
 He will give your family back to you.
 7 Then you will have a lot more
 than you had in the beginning!
- 8 “Ask the old people.
 Find out what their ancestors* learned.
 9 It seems like we were born yesterday.
 We are too young to know for sure.
 Our days on earth are very short,
 like a shadow.
 10 Maybe the old people can teach you.
 Maybe they can teach you
 what they have learned.”
- 11 Bildad said,
 “Can papyrus* grow tall on a dry land?
 Can reeds grow without water?
 12 No. If the water dries up,
 then they will also be dry.
 They will be too small to cut and use.
 13 People who forget God
 are like those reeds.
 The person who forgets God,
 has no hope.
 14 That person has nothing to lean on.
 His security is like a spider’s web.
 15 If a person leans against a spider’s web,
 the web will break.
 He holds on to the spider’s web,
 but it won’t support him.
 16 That man is like a plant that has
 plenty of water and sunshine.
 Its branches spread all through the garden.

ancestors Literally, “fathers,” meaning a person’s parents, grandparents, and all the people they are descended from.

papyrus A plant used to make a kind of paper to write on. Its bark is also used to make coverings for boats and ships.

- 17 It wraps its roots around a pile of rocks,
 looking for a place to grow in the rocks.
 18 But if the plant is moved from its place,
 [it will die] and no one would know
 that it had ever been there.
 19 But the plant was happy,
 and another will grow in its place.
 20 God doesn’t abandon innocent people.
 He doesn’t help evil people.
 21 God will still fill your mouth with laughter
 and your lips with happy shouts.
 22 But shame will be the clothes
 your enemies wear.
 And the homes of wicked people
 will be destroyed.”

Job Answers Bildad

- 9 Then Job answered:
 2^a“Yes, I know what you say is true.
 But how can a man win an argument
 with God?
 3 A person can’t argue with God!
 God could ask 1,000 questions and
 no person could answer even one!
 4 God is very wise
 and his power is very great.
 No person can fight God and not be hurt.
 5 God moves mountains when he is angry
 and they don’t even know it.
 6 God sends earthquakes to shake the earth.
 God shakes the earth’s foundations.
 7 God can speak to the sun,
 and make it not rise.
 He can lock up the stars,
 so they don’t shine.
 8 God alone made the skies.
 He walks on the ocean waves.
 9 “God made the Bear, Orion,
 and the Pleiades.*
 He made the planets that cross
 the southern sky.*”

Bear, Orion, Pleiades These are names of well-known constellations (groups of stars) in the night sky.

planets that cross the southern sky Literally, “Rooms of the South,” or “Rooms of Teman.” This might be the planets or it might be some star groups, possibly the twelve constellations of the Zodiac. In places north of the equator, these seem to move across the southern sky.

10 God does wonderful things
that people can't understand.
There is no end to God's great miracles.

11 When God goes past me,
I can't see him.
When God goes by,
I don't notice him.

12 If God takes something away,
no one can stop him.
No one can say to him,
'What are you doing?'

13 God won't hold his anger back.
Even Rahab's* helpers
are afraid of God.

14 So I can't argue with God.
I wouldn't know what to say to him.

15 I am innocent,
but I can't give him an answer.
All I can do is beg my Judge (*God*)
for mercy.

16 Even if I called and he answered,
I still wouldn't believe
that he really would listen to me.

17 God would just send storms to crush me.
He would just give me more wounds
for no reason.

18 God would't let me catch my breath again.
He would just give me more trouble.

19 I can't defeat God.
God is too powerful!
I can't take God to court
and force him to be fair to me.
Who could force God to come to court?

20 I am innocent, but the things I say
make me seem guilty.
I am innocent, but if I speak
my mouth proves me guilty.

21 I am innocent.
But I don't know what to think.
I hate my own life.

22 I say to myself,
'The same thing happens to everybody.
Innocent people die just like the guilty.
God ends all their lives.'

23 When something terrible happens
and an innocent person is killed,
does God just laugh at him?

24 When an evil man takes control of a land,
does God keep the leaders
from seeing what is happening?
If that is true,
then who is God anyway?

25 "My days go faster than a runner.
My days fly away and there is
no happiness in them.

26 My days go by quickly
like the papyrus* boats.
My days go by as fast as eagles
swooping down to catch an animal.

27 "If I say,
'I won't complain.
I will forget my pain,
I will put a smile on my face.'
28 It doesn't really change anything.
The suffering still scares me!
29 I am already judged guilty.
So why should I keep trying?
I say, 'Forget it!'
30 Even if I wash myself with snow
and make my hands clean with soap,
31 God will still push me into the slime pit.*
Then even my clothes will hate me.
32 God is not a man like me.
That is why I can't answer him.
We can't meet each other in court.
33 I wish there were someone
to listen to both sides.*
I wish there were someone
to judge both of us in a fair way.
34 I wish there were someone to take God's
punishing stick away.
Then God would not scare me any more.
35 Then I could say what I want to say
without being afraid of God.
But now I can't do that.
10 I hate my own life.
So I will complain freely.
My soul is very bitter,
so now I will speak.

Rahab's A dragon or sea monster. People thought Rahab controlled the sea. Rahab is often a symbol for God's enemies or for anything evil.

papyrus A plant used to make a kind of paper to write on. Its bark is also used to make coverings for boats and ships.

slime pit The grave, a place where bodies rot.

someone ... sides Literally a "mediator" or an "umpire."

2 I will say to God:
 ‘Don’t blame me!
 Tell me,
 What have I done wrong?
 What do you have against me?’

3 God, does hurting me make you happy?
 It seems that you don’t care about
 what you made.
 Or maybe you are happy
 with the plans that bad people make?

4 God, do you have human eyes?
 Do you see things the way people do?

5 Is your life as short as ours?
 Is your life as short as a man’s life?
 No! ₁So how do you know what it’s like?₂

6 You look for my wrong
 and search for my sin.

7 You know I am innocent,
 but no one can save me
 from your power!

8 God, your hands made me
 and shaped my body.
 But now they are closing in on me
 and destroying me!

9 God, remember, you made me like clay.
 Will you make into clay again?

10 You pour me out like milk.
 You spin me and squeeze me
 like someone making cheese.

11 You put me together
 with bones and muscles.
 And then you clothed me
 with skin and flesh.

12 You gave me life
 and were very kind to me.
 You cared for me
 and watched over my spirit.

13 But this is what you hid in your heart,
 I know this is what you secretly
 planned in your heart.
 Yes, I know this is what was
 in your mind:

14 If I sinned, you would be watching me,
 so you could punish me
 for doing wrong.

15 When I sin, I am guilty
 and it will be very bad for me.
 But I can’t lift up my head
 even when I am innocent!
 I am so ashamed and embarrassed.

16 If I have any success and feel proud,
 you hunt me like a person hunts a lion.
 You again show your power against me.

17 You always have someone
 to prove I am wrong.
 Your will show your anger at me
 again and again in many ways,
 as you send one army after another
 against me.

18 So, God, why did you let me be born?
 I wish I had died before anyone saw me.

19 I wish I had never lived.
 I wish I had been carried
 from my mother’s womb
 straight to the grave.

20 My life is almost finished.
 So leave me alone!
 Let me enjoy the little time I have left,
 before I go to the place
 that no person comes back from,
 the place of darkness and death.

21 ₁Let me enjoy the little time I have left,
 before I go to the place no one can see
 that place of darkness, shadows,
 and confusion.
 In that place even the light is dark.”

Zophar Speaks to Job

11 Then Zophar from Naamah answered
 Job and said,

2 “This flood of words should be answered!
 Does all this talking make Job right? No!

3 Job, do you think we don’t have
 an answer for you?
 Do you think no one will warn you
 when you laugh at God?

4 Job, you say to God,
 ‘My arguments are right,
 and you can see I am pure.’

5 Job, I wish God would answer you
 and tell you that you are wrong.

6 God could tell you the secret of wisdom.
 He would tell you that
 every story has two sides.
 Job, listen to me,
 God is not punishing you
 as much as he should.

7 “Job, do you think that
 you really understand God?
 You can’t understand God All-Powerful.

8 You can't do anything about
 what is up in heaven!
 You don't know anything
 about the place of death.
 9 God is greater than the earth
 and bigger than the seas.
 10 "If God arrests you,
 and brings you to court,
 no person can stop him.
 11 Truly, God knows who is worthless.
 When God sees evil,
 he remembers it.
 12 A wild donkey can't give birth
 to a man.
 And a stupid person will never
 become wise.
 13 "But Job, you should make your heart
 ready to serve only God,
 and you should lift up your hands to
 [worship] him.
 14 You should put away the sin
 that is in your home.
 Don't let evil live in your tent.
 15 Then you could look to God without shame.
 You could stand strong and not be afraid.
 16 Then you could forget your trouble.
 Your troubles would be like
 water that has passed on by.
 17 Then your life would be brighter
 than the sunshine at noon.
 Life's darkest hours would shine
 like the morning sun.
 18 Then you would feel safe,
 because there would be hope.
 God would care for you
 and give you rest.
 19 You could lie down to rest,
 and no one would bother you.
 And many people would come to you
 for help.
 20 Bad people might look for help,
 but they won't escape their troubles.
 Their hope leads only to death."

Job Answers Zophar

12 Then Job answered [them]:
 2 "I'm sure you think you are
 the only wise people.
 You think when you die,
 wisdom will be gone with you.

3 But my mind is as good as yours.
 I am as smart as you are.
 Anyone can see this is true.
 4 "My friends laugh at me now.
 They say,
 'He prayed to God,
 and he got his answer.
 [That is why all these bad things
 happened to him.]'
 "I am a good man.
 I am innocent.
 But still they laugh at me.
 5 People that don't have troubles
 make fun of people who do have them.
 Those people hit a man when he is down.
 6 But robbers' tents are not bothered.
 People who make God angry live in peace,
 and their own strength
 is their only god!
 7 "But ask the animals,
 they will teach you.
 Or ask the birds of the air,
 they will tell you.
 8 Or speak to the earth,
 it will teach you.
 Or let the fish in the sea
 tell you their wisdom.
 9 Everyone knows the Lord
 made those things.
 10 Every animal that lives,
 and every person that breathes,
 is under God's power.
 11 But just like the tongue tastes food,
 the ears test the words they hear.
 12 [We say:]
 'Wisdom is to be found in old people.
 Long life brings understanding.'
 13 But wisdom and power belong to God.
 Good advice and understanding are his.
 14 If God tears down anything,
 people can't build it again.
 If God puts a person in prison,
 people can't free the person.
 15 If God holds back the rain,
 the earth will dry up.
 If God lets the rain loose,
 it will flood the earth.
 16 God is strong and always wins.
 Winners and losers all belong to God!

- 17 God strips advisors of their wisdom
and makes leaders act like fools.
- 18 Kings might put people in prison,
but God sets those people free
and makes them powerful.
- 19 God strips priests of their power and
fires the bureaucrats who feel so secure
in their jobs.
- 20 God makes the trusted advisers be silent.
He takes away the wisdom
of old people.
- 21 God makes leaders not important.
He takes power away from rulers.
- 22 God knows even the darkest secrets.
He sends light into places that are
as dark as death.
- 23 God makes nations big and powerful,
and then he destroys them.
He makes nations grow large,
then he scatters their people.
- 24 God makes leaders foolish.
He makes them wander aimlessly
through the desert.
- 25 Those leaders are like a person
feeling his way in the dark.
They are like a drunk person
who doesn't know where he is going."

13 Job said, "I have seen all this before. I have already heard everything you say. I understand all of those things. ²I know as much as you do. I am as smart as you are. ³But I don't want to argue with you. I want to speak to God All-Powerful. I want to argue with God about my troubles. ⁴But you three men try to cover up your ignorance with lies. You are like worthless doctors that can't heal anyone. ⁵I wish you would just be quiet. That would be the wisest thing you could do.

- ⁶ "Now, listen to my argument.
Listen to what I have to say.
- ⁷ Will you speak lies for God?
Do you really believe your lies are what
God wants you to say?
- ⁸ Are you trying to defend God against me?
You are not being fair—
You are choosing God's side
simply because he is God.
- ⁹ If God checked you very closely,
would he show you are right?"

- Do you really think you can fool God
the same as you fool people?
- ¹⁰ You know God would criticize you
if you chose a person's side in court
simply because he was important.
- ¹¹ God's majesty (*importance*) scares you.
You are afraid of him.
- ¹² Your arguments are worth nothing.
Your answers are worthless.
- ¹³ "Be quiet and let me talk!
I accept whatever happens to me.
- ¹⁴ I will put myself in danger,
and take my life in my own hands.
- ¹⁵ I will continue to trust God
even if God kills me.*
But I will defend myself to his face.
- ¹⁶ And if God lets me live, it will be
because I was brave enough to speak.
No evil person would dare
meet God face to face.
- ¹⁷ Listen carefully to what I say.
Let me explain.
- ¹⁸ I am ready now to defend myself.
I will carefully present my arguments.
I know I will be shown to be right.
- ¹⁹ If any person can prove I am wrong,
then I will shut up immediately.
- ²⁰ "God, just give me two things,
and then I won't hide from you:
- ²¹ Stop punishing me,
and stop scaring me with your terrors.
- ²² Then call to me and I will answer you.
Or let me speak, and you answer me.
- ²³ How many sins have I done?
What have I done wrong?
Show me my sins and my wrongs.
- ²⁴ God, why do you avoid me,
and treat me like your enemy?
- ²⁵ Are you trying to scare me?
I am only a leaf blowing in the wind.
You are attacking a little piece of straw!
- ²⁶ God, you say bitter things against me.
Are you making me suffer
for the sins I did when I was young.
- ²⁷ You have put chains on my feet.
You watch every step I take.
You watch every move I make.

I will ... kills me Or, "If he decides to kill me, I have no hope."

28 So I am becoming weaker and weaker
like a piece of wood rotting away,
like a piece of cloth eaten by moths.”

14 ¹Job said, “We are all human beings.*
Our life is short and full of trouble.
²Man’s life is like a flower. He grows quickly,
and then dies away. Man’s life is like a
shadow that is here for a short time, and then it
is gone. ³That is true, but God, will you look at
me, a man? And will you come into court with
me and let us both give our arguments?”

4 “But what does something clean
have in common with something dirty?
Nothing!

5 Man’s life is limited.
God, you decide how long a man lives.
You set those limits for a man
and nothing can change them.

6 So God, stop watching us.
Leave us alone.
Let us enjoy our hard life
until our time is finished.

7 “There is hope for a tree.
If it is cut down, it can grow again.
It will keep sending out new branches.

8 Its roots might grow old in the ground
and its stump die in the dirt,
9 but with water it will grow again.
It will grow branches like a new plant.

10 But when man dies, he is finished!
When man dies, he is gone.

11 You could take all the water from the sea,
until the rivers all run dry,
¹and the man will still be dead!¹

12 When a person dies, he lies down
and he doesn’t get up.
The skies will all disappear
before a dead man will wake up.
No. People don’t wake up from that sleep.

13 “I wish you would hide me in my grave.
I wish you would hide me there,
until your anger is gone.
Then you could pick a time
to remember me.

14 If a person dies, will he live again?
I would wait as long as I must
until I could be set free.

15 God, you would call me
and I would answer you.
Then I, the person you made,
would be important to you.

16 You would still watch every step I take,
but you wouldn’t remember my sins.

17 You would tie up my sins in a bag,
seal it, ¹and throw it away!¹

18 “Mountains fall and crumble away.
Large rocks break loose and fall.

19 Water flowing over stones
wears them down.
Floods wash away the soil on the ground.
In the same way, God,
you destroy a person’s hope.

20 You defeat him completely
and then you leave.

You make him sad
and send him away forever
¹to the place of death.¹

21 If his sons are honored,
he never knows it.
If his sons do wrong,
he never sees it.

22 That man only feels the pain in his body,
and he cries loudly only for himself.”

Eliphaz Answers Job

15 Then Eliphaz from Teman answered
Job:

² “Job, if you were really wise,
you wouldn’t answer with
your worthless personal opinions!
A wise man would not be so full
of hot air.

3 Do you think a wise man would argue
with worthless words
and with speeches that mean nothing?

4 Job, if you had your way,
no person would respect God
and pray to him.

5 The things you say
clearly show your sin.
Job, you are trying to hide your sin
by using clever words.

6 I don’t need to prove to you that you
are wrong. Why?

human beings Literally, “born of woman.”

- The things you say with your own mouth
show that you are wrong.
Your own lips speak against you.
- 7 “Job, do you think you were the first
person ever to be born?
Were you born before the hills?
- 8 Did you listen to God’s secret plans?
Do you think you are the only
wise person?
- 9 Job, we know more than you do!
We understand things that you don’t.
- 10 The gray-haired men
and the old people agree with us.
Yes, even people older than your father
are on our side.
- 11 God tries to comfort you,
but that is not enough for you.
We have spoken God’s message to you
in a gentle way.
- 12 Job, why won’t you understand?
Why can’t you see the truth?
- 13 You are against God
when you say these angry words.
- 14 “A man can’t really be pure.
A person* can’t be more right than God!
- 15 God doesn’t even trust his angels.*
Compared to God
even the heavens are not pure.
- 16 Man is even worse.
Man is dirty and ruined.
He drinks up evil like water.
- 17 “Listen to me Job,
and I will explain it to you.
I will tell you what I know.
- 18 I will tell you the things
wise men have told me.
The wise men’s ancestors*
told them these things.
They didn’t hide any secrets from me.
- 19 They alone lived in their country.
There were no foreigners passing through.
└So no person told them strange ideas.┘
- 20 └These wise people said,┘
An evil person suffers all his life.
A cruel person suffers all his
numbered years.
- 21 Every noise scares him.
His enemy will attack him
when he thinks he is safe.
- 22 The evil person is very frustrated,
and there is no hope for him to
escape the darkness.
There is a sword somewhere
that is waiting to kill him.
- 23 He wanders here and there,
but his body will be food
for the vultures.
He knows that his death* is very near.
- 24 Worry and suffering make him afraid.
These things attack him like a king
ready to destroy him.
- 25 Why? Because the evil person refuses
to obey God—
He shakes his fist at God,
and tries to defeat God All-Powerful.
- 26 That evil person is very stubborn.
He tries to attack God with a thick,
strong shield.
- 27 “A person might be rich and fat
28 but his town will be ruined,
his home will be destroyed,
his house will be empty.
- 29 The evil person won’t be rich for long.
His wealth won’t last.
His crops won’t grow large.
- 30 The evil person won’t escape
the darkness.
He will be like a tree
whose leaves die from disease
and a wind blows them all away.
- 31 The evil person should not fool himself
when he trusts worthless things.
Why? He will get nothing.
- 32 Before his life is over,
the evil person will be old and dried up.
He will be like a dried branch,
never to be green again.

person Literally, “A man born of woman.”

angels Literally, “holy ones.”

ancestors Literally, “fathers,” meaning a person’s parents,
grandparents, and all the people they are descended from.

death Literally, “day of darkness.”

- 33 The evil person will be like a vine
that loses its grapes before they ripen.
That person will be like an olive tree that
loses its buds.
- 34 Why? Because people without God
have nothing.
People who love money
will have their homes destroyed by fire.
- 35 Evil people are always planning ways
to do evil and cause trouble.
They are always planning ways
to cheat people.”

Job Answers Eliphaz

- 16 Then Job answered,
“I have heard
2 all these things before.
You three men give me trouble,
not comfort.
3 Your long speeches never end!
Why do you continue arguing?
4 I also could say the same things you say,
if you had my troubles.
I could say wise things against you
and shake my head at you.
5 But I could encourage you
and give you hope
with the things I say.
6 “Nothing I say makes my pain go away.
But keeping quiet doesn’t help either!
7 Truly, God, you took away my strength.
You destroyed my whole family.
8 You have made me thin and weak,
and people think that means
I am guilty.
9 “God attacks me,
he is angry at me
and tears my body apart.
God grinds his teeth against me.
My enemy looks at me with hate.
10 People have crowded around me.
They make fun of me and slap my face.
11 God has given me to evil people.
He let wicked people hurt me.
12 Everything was fine with me,
but then God crushed me!
Yes, he took me by the neck
and broke me into pieces!
God used me for target practice.

- 13 God’s archers* are all around me.
He shoots arrows in my kidneys.
He shows no mercy.
He spills my gall* on the ground.
- 14 Again and again God attacks me.
He runs at me like a soldier in battle.
- 15 “I am very sad,
so I wear these clothes of sadness.
I sit here in the dust and ashes,
and I feel defeated.
- 16 My face is red from crying.
There are dark rings around my eyes.
- 17 I was never cruel to anyone
but these bad things happened to me.
My prayers are right and pure.
- 18 “Earth, don’t hide the wrong things
that were done to me.
Don’t let my begging for fairness
be stopped.
- 19 Even now there is someone in heaven
that will speak for me.
There is someone above
that will testify for me.
- 20 My friend speaks for me
while my eyes pour out tears to God.
- 21 He speaks to God for me
like a person* arguing for his friend.
- 22 “In only a few years I will go to that
place of no return (*death*).
- 17 My spirit is broken;
I am ready to give up.
My life is almost gone,
the grave is waiting for me.
2 People stand around me
and laugh at me.
I watch them as they tease
and insult me.
3 “God, show me that you really support me.
No other person will support me.
4 You have closed my friends’ minds
and they don’t understand.
Please don’t let them win.

archers Soldiers that use bows and arrows in war.

gall The gall bladder is a pouch on the liver where bile or gall is stored. When the gall bladder is torn open, gall or bile comes out. Here this means having to endure something bitter and painful.

person Literally, "son of man."

5 You know what people say,
 ‘A man neglects his own children
 to help his friends.’*
 But my friends have turned against me.

6 God has made my name
 a bad word to everyone.
 People spit in my face.

7 My eyes have become almost blind
 because I am very sad and in great pain.
 My whole body has become very thin,
 like a shadow.

8 Good people are upset about this.
 Innocent people are upset at people
 that don’t care about God.

9 But good people continue to live right.
 Innocent people will become stronger.

10 “But come on, all of you,
 try to show me that it is all my fault.
 None of you are wise.

11 My life is passing away.
 My plans are destroyed.
 My hope is gone.

12 But my friends are all mixed up.
 They think night is day.
 They think darkness drives away
 the light.

13 “I might hope for the grave
 to be my new home.
 I might hope to make my bed
 in the dark grave.

14 I might say to the grave,
 ‘You are my father,’
 and to the worms,
 ‘My mother,’ or ‘My sister.’

15 But if that is my only hope
 then I have no hope at all.
 If that is my only hope
 then people have found me
 no hope at all.

16 [Will my hope die with me?]
 Will it also go down to the place of death?
 Will we go down into the dirt together?”

You know ... friends Literally, “He promises a share to his friends and his children’s eyes go blind.”

Bildad Answers Job

18 Then Bildad from Shuah answered:

2 “Job, when will you stop talking?
 Be quiet and listen.
 Let us say something.

3 Why do you think we are stupid
 like dumb cows?

4 Job, your anger is only hurting yourself.
 Should people leave the earth
 just for you?
 Do you think God will move mountains
 just to satisfy you?

5 “Yes, the evil person’s light will go out.
 His fire will stop burning.

6 The light in his house will become dark.
 The lamp next to him will go out.

7 His steps won’t be strong and fast again.
 But he will walk slowly and be weak.
 His own evil plans will make him fall.

8 His own feet will lead him into a trap.
 He will walk into a trap and be caught.

9 A trap will catch his heel.
 A trap will hold him tight.

10 A rope in the ground will trap him.
 A trap is waiting in his path.

11 Terror is waiting for him all around.
 Fears will follow every step he takes.

12 Bad troubles are hungry for him.
 Ruin and disaster are ready for him
 when he falls.

13 Terrible sickness will eat away his skin.
 It will rot his arms and legs.

14 The evil person will be taken away
 from the safety of his house.
 He will be led away to meet
 the king of terrors.

15 He will have nothing left in his house.
 Why? Burning sulfur will be scattered
 all through his home.

16 His roots below will dry up,
 and his branches above will die.

17 People on earth won’t remember him.
 No person remembers him anymore.

18 People will push him away from light
 into the darkness.
 They will chase him out of this world.

19 He will have no children or grandchildren.
 None of his family will be left alive.

- 20 People in the west will be shocked
when they hear what happened
to the evil person.
People in the east will be numb with fear.
21 That really will happen
to the evil person's home.
This is what will happen to the person
that does not care about God!"

Job Answers

- 19 Then Job answered:
2 "How long will you hurt me
and break me with words?
3 You have insulted me ten times now.
You show no shame when you attack me!
4 Even if I have sinned,
it is my problem.
It does not hurt you.
5 You just want to make yourselves look
better than me.
You say that my troubles
are my own fault.
6 But it is God who did wrong to me.
He set his trap to catch me.
7 I shout, 'He hurt me!'
But I get no answer.
Even if I call loudly for help,
no person hears my cry for fairness.
8 God has blocked my way
so I can't go through.
He has hidden my path in darkness.
9 God took away my honor.
He took the crown from my head.
10 God hits me from every side
until I am finished.
He takes away my hope
like a tree pulled up by the roots.
11 God's anger burns against me.
He calls me his enemy.
12 God sends his army to attack me.
They build attack towers around me.
They camp around my tent.
13 "God has made my brothers hate me.
I am a stranger to all my friends.
14 My relatives have left me.
My friends have forgotten me.
15 Visitors in my home
and my girl servants
look at me like I am
a stranger and a foreigner.

- 16 I call for my servant,
but he does not answer.
Even if I beg for help,
my servant will not answer.
17 My wife hates the smell of my breath.
My own brothers hate me.
18 Even little children make fun of me.
When I come near them,
they say bad things to me.
19 All my close friends hate me.
Even the people I love turned against me.
20 "I am so thin,
my skin hangs loose on my bones.
I have little life left in me.
21 "Pity me, my friends, pity me!
Why? Because God is against me.
22 Why do you persecute me like God does?
Don't you get tired of hurting me?
23 "I wish someone would remember
what I say and write it in a book.
I wish my words were written on a scroll.
24 I wish the things I say were carved
with an iron tool on lead
or scratched on a rock
so they would last forever.
25 I know there is someone to defend me.
I know he lives!
And in the end he will stand here on earth
and defend me.
26 After I leave my body
and my skin has been destroyed,
I know I will still see God.
27 I will see God
with my own eyes.
I myself, not someone else,
will see God,
And I can't tell you how excited
that makes me feel!
28 "Maybe you will say,
'We will bother Job.
We will find a reason to blame him!'
29 But you yourselves should be afraid
of the sword!
Why? Because God punishes guilty people.
God will use the sword to punish you.
Then you will know that
there is a time of judgment."

Zophar Answers

20 Then Zophar from Naamah answered:

- 2 “Job, you have troubled thoughts.
So I must answer you.
I must quickly tell you what
I am thinking.
- 3 You insulted us with your answers!
But I am wise, I know how to answer you.
- 4-5 “You know an evil person’s joy
doesn’t last long.
That has been true a long time,
from the time Adam was put on earth.
A person who doesn’t care about God
is happy for only a short time.
- 6 Maybe the evil person’s pride will
reach up to the sky,
and his head will touch the clouds.
- 7 But he will be gone forever,
like his own body waste.
People who know him will say,
‘Where is he?’
- 8 Like a dream, he will fly away
and no one will ever find him.
He will be forced away and forgotten
like a bad dream.*
- 9 The people that saw him,
won’t see him again.
His family will never look at him again.
- 10 The evil person’s children will give back
what he took from poor people.
The evil person’s own hands
must give back his wealth.
- 11 When he was young his bones were strong,
but, like the rest of his body,
they soon will lie in the dirt.
- 12 “Evil tastes sweet
in the bad person’s mouth.
He keeps it under his tongue
to enjoy it fully.
- 13 A bad person enjoys evil.
He hates to let it go.
It is like a sweet candy
he keeps in his mouth.
- 14 But that evil will become poison
in his stomach.

bad dream Or, “vision of the night.”

- It will be like bitter poison inside him,
like a snake’s poison.
- 15 The evil man has swallowed riches.
But he will vomit them out.
God will make the evil person
vomit them out.
- 16 The evil person’s drink will be
like the poison from snakes.
The snake’s fangs will kill him.
- 17 Then the evil person won’t enjoy
seeing the rivers that flow
with honey and cream.
- 18 The evil person will be forced
to give back his profits.
He won’t be allowed to enjoy
the things he worked for.
- 19 Why? Because the evil person
hurt poor people
and treated them wrong.
He didn’t care about them,
and he took their things.
He took houses someone else built.
- 20 “The evil person is never satisfied.
His wealth can’t save him.
- 21 When he eats,
there is nothing left.
His success won’t continue.
- 22 While the evil person has plenty,
he will become pressed down
with trouble.
His problems will come down on him!
- 23 When the evil person has eaten
all he wants,
God will throw his burning anger
against that person.
God will rain punishment
down on the evil person.
- 24 Maybe the evil person will run away
from an iron sword.
But a bronze arrow will shoot him down.
- 25 The bronze arrow will go
all the way through his body,
and stick out from his back.
Its shining point will pierce his liver,
and he will be shocked with terror.
- 26 All his treasures will be destroyed.
A fire will destroy him—
A fire that no human started.
The fire will destroy everything
left in his house.

- 27 Heaven will prove that the evil person
is guilty.
The earth will be a witness against him.
28 Everything in his house will be
carried away in the flood of
God's anger.
29 That is what God will do to evil people.
That is what God plans to give them."

Job Answers

- 21** Then Job answered:
2 "Listen to what I say.
Let that be your way of comforting me.
3 Be patient while I speak.
Then after I have finished speaking,
you may make fun of me.
4 "I am not complaining against people.
There is a good reason
why I am not patient.
5 Look at me and be shocked.
Put your hand over your mouth,
and stare at me in shock!
6 When I think about what happened to me
I feel afraid, and my body shakes!
7 Why do evil people live long lives?
Why do they grow old and successful?
8 Evil people watch their children
grow with them.
Evil people live to see their grandchildren.
9 Their homes are safe
and they are not afraid.
God doesn't use a stick
to punish evil people.
10 Their bulls never fail to mate.
Their cows have baby calves,
and the baby calves don't die at birth.
11 Evil people send their children out
to play like lambs.
Their children dance around.
12 They sing and dance
to the sound of harps and flutes.
13 Evil people enjoy success
during their lives.
Then they die
and go to their grave without suffering.
14 But evil people say to God,
'Leave us alone!
We don't care what you want us to do!'

- 15 And the evil people say,
'Who is God All-Powerful?
We don't need to serve him!
It won't help to pray to him!'
16 "It is true, evil people don't make
their own success.
I can't follow their advice.
17 But, how often does God blow out
the light of evil people?
How often does trouble come
to the evil people?
When does God become angry at them
and punish them?
18 Does God blow the evil people away,
like the wind blows straw,
like strong winds blow the grain husks?
19 But you say,
'God punishes a child
for his father's sins.'
No! Let God punish the evil person
himself.
Then that evil person will know
he is being punished for his own sins!
20 Let the sinner see his own punishment.
Let him feel the anger
of God All-Powerful.
21 When the evil person's life is finished,
and he is dead,
he won't care about the family
he leaves behind.
22 "No person can teach knowledge to God.
God judges even people in high places.
23 One person dies after a full
and successful life.
He lived a life completely safe
and comfortable.
24 His body was well fed
and his bones were still strong.
25 But another person dies
after a hard life, with a bitter soul.
He never enjoyed anything good.
26 In the end, both of those people
will lie together in the dirt.
The worms will cover them both.
27 "But, I know what you are thinking,
and I know you want to hurt me.
28 You might say:
'Show me a good man's house.
Now, show me where evil people live.'

- 29 “Surely you have talked with travelers.
Surely you will accept their stories.
- 30 Evil people are spared
when disaster comes.
They survive when God shows his anger.
- 31 Nobody criticizes an evil person
to his face for the bad things he did.
No person punishes him for the evil he did.
- 32 When that evil person is carried to the grave,
a guard will stand near his grave.
- 33 So even the soil in the valley
will be pleasant for that evil person.
And thousands of people will join
the march to his grave.
- 34 “So you can’t comfort me
with your empty words.
Your answers don’t help at all!”

Eliphaz Answers

22 Then Eliphaz from Teman answered:

- 2 “Does God need our help? No!
Even a very wise person
isn’t really useful to God.
- 3 Does your living right help God? No!
Does God All-Powerful gain anything
if you follow him? No!
- 4 “Job, why does God punish
and blame you?
Is it because you worship him?
No, it is because you have sinned much.
Job, you never stop sinning!
- 6 Maybe you loaned a brother some money
and forced him to give you something
to prove he would pay it back.
Maybe you took some poor man’s clothes
as collateral* for a loan.
Maybe you did that for no reason.
- 7 Maybe you didn’t give water and food
to tired, hungry people.
- 8 Job, you have a lot of farm land.
And people respect you.
- 9 But maybe you sent widows* away
without giving them anything.
Job, maybe you cheated orphans.*

collateral Something to prove a person will pay back a loan. If he does not pay, the other person gets to keep the collateral.

widows Women whose husbands have died. Often these women had no one to care for them.

orphans Children without any parents to take care of them.

- 10 That is why traps are all around you,
and sudden trouble makes you afraid.
- 11 That is why it is so dark you can’t see,
and why a flood of water covers you.
- 12 “God lives in the highest part of heaven.
See how high the stars are.
God looks down on the highest stars.
- 13 But Job, you might say,
‘What does God know?
Can God see through the dark clouds
and judge us?’
- 14 Thick clouds hide him from us,
so he can’t see us as he walks
beyond the edge of the sky.’
- 15 “Job, you are walking on the old path
that evil people walked on long ago.
- 16 Those evil people were destroyed
before it was their time to die.
They were washed away by the flood.
- 17 Those people told God,
‘Leave us alone!
God All-Powerful can’t do
anything to us!’
- 18 And it was God who filled their houses
with good things!
No, I can’t follow the advice
of evil people.
- 19 Good people will see them destroyed
and those good people will be happy.
Innocent people laugh at the evil people.
- 20 “Truly our enemies are destroyed!
Fire burns up their wealth!’
- 21 “Now, Job, give yourself to God
and make peace with him.
Do this, and you will get many good things.
- 22 Accept his teaching.
Pay attention to what he says.
- 23 Job, come back to God All-Powerful,
and you will be restored.
But, you must remove the evil
from your house.
- 24 Think of your gold as nothing but dirt,
Think of your best gold*
as pebbles from a stream.
- 25 And let God All-Powerful be your gold.
Let him be your pile of silver.

best gold Literally, “Ophir.”

JOB 22:26–24:5

- 26 Then you will enjoy God All-Powerful.
Then you will look up to God.
- 27 You will pray to him,
and he will hear you.
And you will be able to do the things
you promised to do.
- 28 If you decide to do something,
it will be successful.
And your future will be bright indeed!
- 29 God makes proud people ashamed.
But God helps humble people.
- 30 Then you can help people
who make mistakes.
You will pray to God
and he will forgive those people.
Why? Because you will be so pure.”

Job Answers

- 23** Then Job answered:
- 2 “I am still complaining today.
Why? Because I am still suffering.
- 3 I wish I knew where to find God.
I wish I knew how to go to God!
- 4 I would explain to God my story.
My mouth would be full of arguments
to show I am innocent.
- 5 I want to know how God would
answer my arguments.
I want to understand God’s answers.
- 6 Would God use his power against me?
No, he would listen to me!
- 7 I am an honest man.
God would let me tell my story.
Then my Judge would set me free!
- 8 “But if I go to the east,
God is not there.
If I go to the west,
I still don’t see God.
- 9 When God is working in the north,
I don’t see him.
When God turns to the south,
I still don’t see him.
- 10 But God knows me.
He is testing me and he will see
that I am as pure as gold.
- 11 I have always lived the way God wants.
I have never stopped following God.

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- 12 I always obey God’s commands.
I love the words from God’s mouth
more than I love my food.
- 13 “But God never changes.
No person can stand against God.
God does anything he wants.
- 14 God will do what he planned to me.
And he has many other plans for me.
- 15 That is why I am afraid of God.
I understand these things.
That is why I am afraid of God.
- 16 God makes my heart weak,
and I lose my courage.
God All-Powerful makes me afraid.
- 17 The bad things that happened to me
are like a black cloud over my face.
But that darkness won’t keep me quiet.

24 “Why is it that God All-Powerful knows when [bad] things are going to happen to people, but his followers can’t predict when he is going to do something [about it]?”

- 2 “People move the property markers
to get more of their neighbor’s land.
People steal flocks and lead them
to other grasslands.
- 3 They steal the donkey
that belongs to children without
parents.
They take a widow’s* cow away from her
until she pays what she owes them.
- 9 Evil people take a nursing baby from its
mother.
They take a poor person’s child
as security* for a loan.
- 4 They force the poor people to wander
from place to place without a home.
All the poor people are forced to hide
from these evil people.
- 5 “Poor people are like wild donkeys
wandering in the desert
searching for food.

widow(s) Women whose husbands have died. Often these women had no one to care for them.

security Anything a person gives to show he will pay his loan. If the person does not pay back his loan, then the lender can keep that thing.

- They get up early in the morning
to search for food.
They work late into the evening
getting food for their children.
- 6 Poor people must work late into the night
cutting hay and straw in fields.
They must work for rich people*
gathering the grapes in their fields.
- 7 Poor people must sleep all night
without clothes.
They have no covers to protect them
from the cold.
- 8 They are soaked with rain
in the mountains.
They have nothing to protect them
from the cold.
So they huddle close to the large rocks.
- 10 Poor people have no clothes.
So they work naked.
They carry piles of grain for evil people,
but still they go hungry.
- 11 Poor people press out olive oil.
They walk on grapes in the winepress.*
But they have nothing to drink.
- 12 In the city you can hear
the sad sounds of the dying people.
Those hurt people cry out for help.
But God does not listen.
- 13 “Some people rebel against the light.
They don’t know what God wants.
They don’t live the way God wants.
- 14 A murderer gets up early in the morning,
and kills poor, helpless people.
And at night he becomes a thief.
- 15 The person that does adultery,*
waits for the night to come.
He thinks, ‘No person will see me.’
But still, he covers his face.
- 16 At night when it is dark, evil people
go out and break into peoples’ houses.
But during the daylight, they
lock themselves in their own homes
and avoid the light.
- 17 The darkest night is like morning
for those evil people.
Yes, they know the terrors of that
deadly darkness very well!
- 18 “But the evil people are taken away
like things carried away in a flood.
The land they own is cursed,*
so they won’t gather grapes
from their fields.
- 19 Hot, dry weather takes away their water
that came from the winter snows.
So those sinners will be carried
to the grave.
- 20 That evil person will die
and even his own mother
will forget him.
His sweetheart will be the worms
eating his body.
People will not remember him.
That evil person will be broken
like a rotten stick!
- 21 Evil people hurt women
who can’t have children.
And they refuse to help women
whose husbands are dead.
- 22 Evil people use their power
to ruin powerful men.
Evil people might become powerful
but they can’t be sure of their own lives.
- 23 Evil people might feel safe and secure
for a short time.
They might want to be powerful.
- 24 Bad people might be successful
for awhile,
but then they will be gone.
They will be cut down like grain,
just like everyone else.
- 25 “I swear (*promise*) these things are true!
Who can prove that I lied?
Who can show that I am wrong?”

rich people Or, “wicked people.”

winepress A place for squeezing the juice from grapes.
Sometimes this was only a shallow hole in a large rock in the
ground.

adultery Breaking the marriage promise by sexual sin.

curse(d) To ask for bad things to happen to someone or
something.

Bildad Answers Job

25 Then Bildad from Shuah answered:

- 2 “God is the ruler.
He makes people fear and respect Him.
He keeps peace in his kingdom above.
- 3 No person can count his stars.*
God’s sun rises on all people.
- 4 Compared to God, no person is good.
No human being* can really be pure.
- 5 In Gods eyes,
even the moon is not pure and bright,
even the stars are not pure.
- 6 People are much less pure.
People are like maggots,*
like worthless worms!”

Job Answers Bildad

26 Then Job answered:

- 2 “Bildad, Zophar, and Eliphaz,
you have really been a big help
for this tired, weary man!
Oh yes, you have really been an
encouragement,
you have really made my weak arms
strong again!
- 3 Yes, you have given wonderful advice
to the person with no wisdom!
You have really shown
how wise you are!*
- 4 Who helped you say these things?
Whose spirit inspired you?
- 5 “The spirits of dead people shake with fear
in the waters under the earth.
- 6 But God can see clearly into
that place of death
Death* is not hidden from God.

his stars Or, “his troops.” This means God’s heavenly army. It could be all the angels or all the stars in the sky.

human being Literally, “No one born from woman.”

maggots An insect that looks like a small worm and becomes a fly. It is usually found in dead bodies and decaying things.

Verses 2–3 Job doesn’t really mean what he is saying here. Job is being sarcastic—he is saying these things in a way that shows he doesn’t really mean it.

Death Or, “Abaddon, Destruction.” See Rev. 9:11.

- 7 God stretched the northern sky over
empty space.
God hung the earth on nothing.
- 8 God fills the thick clouds with water.
But God doesn’t let that heavy weight
break the clouds open.
- 9 God covers the face of the full moon.
He spreads his clouds over it
and hides it.
- 10 God drew the horizon on the ocean,
like a circle
where light and darkness meet.
- 11 The foundations that hold up the sky
shake with fear
when God threatens them.
- 12 God’s power makes the sea calm.
God’s wisdom destroyed Rahab’s*
helpers.
- 13 God’s breath makes the skies clear.
God’s hand destroyed the snake
that tried to get away.*
- 14 These are only a few
of the amazing things that God does.
We only hear a small whisper from God.
No person can really understand
how great and powerful God is.”

27 Then Job continued telling his story.
Job said,

- 2 “Truly, God lives.
And just as truly as God lives,
He has truly been unfair with me.
God All-Powerful made my life bitter.
- 3 But as long as life is in me
and God’s breath of life is in my nose,
4 then my lips will not speak evil things,
and my tongue will never tell a lie.
- 5 I will never admit that you men are right.
I will continue saying I am innocent
until the day I die.
- 6 I will hold tightly
to the right things I did.
I will never stop living right.
My conscience will never bother me
as long as I live.

Rahab A dragon or sea monster. People thought Rahab controlled the sea. Rahab is often a symbol for God’s enemies or for anything evil.

snake ... get away Or, “the escaping monster.” This might be another name for Rahab. See Isa. 27:1.

7 “People have stood against me.
I hope my enemies are punished
like bad men should be punished.

8 If a person does not care about God,
then there is no hope for that person
when he dies.
That person has no hope
when God takes his life away.

9 That evil person will have troubles,
and he will cry to God for help.
But God won’t listen to him!

10 That person should have enjoyed
[talking with] God All-Powerful.
That person should have prayed to God
all the time.

11 “I will teach you about God’s power.
I will not hide God All-Powerful’s plans.

12 You have seen God’s power
with your own eyes.
So why do you say such useless things?

13 This is what God planned for evil people.
This is what cruel people will get
from God All-Powerful:

14 An evil person might have many children.
But his children will be killed in war.
The children of an evil person
will not have enough to eat.

15 All of his children will die,
and his widow will not be sad.

16 An evil person might get so much silver
that it is like dirt to him.
He might have so many clothes
that they are like piles of clay.

17 But a good person will get his clothes
Innocent people will get his silver.

18 An evil man might build a house,
but it will not last a long time.
It will be like a spider’s web
or a watchman’s tent.

19 An evil person might be rich
when he goes to bed.
But when he opens his eyes,
all his riches will be gone.

20 He will be scared.
It will be like a flood,
like a storm came
and carried everything away.

21 The east wind will carry him away,
and he will be gone.

The storm will sweep him
out of his home.

22 The evil person might try to run away
from the power of the storm.
But the storm will hit him without mercy.

23 Men will clap their hands
as the evil person runs away.
They will whistle at that evil person
as he runs from his home.

28 “There are mines where people get silver
and places where people
melt gold to make it pure.

2 Men dig iron from the ground.
Copper is melted from the rocks.

3 Workers carry lights into the caves.
They search deep into the caves.
They look for rocks in the deep darkness.

4 Workers dig deep into the ground,
following the veins of ore.
They go deep down into the ground
far away from where people live,
down where no person has been before.
They hang [from ropes far below ground],
far away from other men.

5 Food grows on the ground above.
But underground, [it is different]—
as if everything were melted by fire.

6 Underground there are sapphires*
and grains of pure gold.

7 Wild birds know nothing about
the paths under the ground.
No falcon* has ever seen those dark paths.

8 Wild animals haven’t walked those paths.
Lions haven’t traveled that way.

9 Workers dig the hardest rocks.
Those workers dig away at the mountains
and make them bare.

10 Workers cut tunnels through the rocks.
They see all the rock’s treasures.

11 The workers make dams to stop the water.
They bring hidden things out into the light.

12 “But where can a person find wisdom?
Where can we go to find understanding?

13 We don’t know how valuable wisdom is.
People on earth [can’t dig in the ground]
and find wisdom.

sapphires A very rare and expensive stone.

falcon A kind of bird, like a hawk.

14 The deep ocean says,
 ‘Wisdom is not here with me.’
 The sea says,
 ‘Wisdom is not here with me.’
 15 You can’t buy wisdom
 with even the purest gold.
 There isn’t enough silver in the world
 to buy wisdom.
 16 You can’t buy wisdom with
 gold from Ophir or precious onyx*
 or sapphires.*
 17 Wisdom is worth more
 than gold or crystal.
 Expensive jewels set in gold
 can’t buy wisdom.
 18 Wisdom is worth more
 than coral* and jasper.*
 Wisdom is more precious than rubies.
 19 The topaz* from the country of Ethiopia
 is not as precious as wisdom.
 You can’t buy wisdom with pure gold.
 20 “So, where does wisdom come from?
 Where can we find understanding?
 21 Wisdom is hidden from every living thing
 on earth.
 Even birds in the sky can’t see wisdom.
 22 Death and destruction* say,
 ‘We haven’t found wisdom
 We have only heard rumors about it.’
 23 “Only God knows the way to wisdom.
 Only God knows where wisdom is.
 24 God can see to the very ends of the earth.
 God sees everything under the sky.
 25 God gave the wind its power.
 God decided how big to make the oceans.
 26 God decided where to send the rain,
 and where the thunderstorms should go.
 27 At that time God saw wisdom
 and thought about it.

onyx A semiprecious stone with many layers of blue or gray.

sapphires A very rare and expensive stone.

coral A mineral found in the ocean. It is from the skeletons of tiny sea animals. Coral is often pink, red, or black.

jasper A semiprecious stone that is often dark green.

topaz A semiprecious stone that is usually yellow.

Death and destruction Literally, “Abaddon.” The Hebrew word for “death and destruction,” or “destroyer,” or “place of destruction.”

God saw how much wisdom was worth.
 And God approved of wisdom.

28 And God said to people,
 “Fear and respect the Lord—
 that is wisdom.
 Don’t do evil things—
 that is understanding.”

Job Continues His Talk

29 Job continued telling his story.
 Job said:

2 “I wish my life was like it was
 a few months ago.
 At that time God watched over me
 and cared for me.
 3 At that time, God’s light shined above me
 so I could walk through the darkness—
 [God showed me the right way to live].
 4 I wish for the days when I was successful,
 and God was my close friend.
 In those days God blessed my home.
 5 I wish for the time when
 God All-Powerful was still with me,
 and my children were all around me.
 6 Life was very good then.
 I washed my feet in cream,
 and I had plenty of the finest oils.*
 7 “Those were the days
 when I went to the city gate
 and sat with the elders of the city
 in the public meeting place.
 8 All the people there respected me!
 The young men stepped out of my way
 when they saw me coming.
 And the old men got up.
 They stood to show they respected me.
 9 The leaders of the people stopped talking
 and put their hand to their mouth
 [to make other people be quiet].
 10 Even the most important leaders
 lowered their voices when they spoke.
 Yes, it seemed like their tongues
 stuck to the roof of their mouths.

I had plenty of the finest oils Literally, “Around the anointed rock near me were streams of oil.” This probably means that Job had so much olive oil that there were streams of oil running down the altar from the part that Job gave as a gift to God.

11 People listened to what I said
and then said good things about me.
People watched what I did,
and then they praised me.

12 Why? Because when the poor person
cried out for help, I helped.
And I helped the child that had no parents
and no one to care for him.

13 The person that was dying blessed me.
I helped widows* that were in need.

14 Right living was my clothing.
Fairness was like my robe and turban.*

15 I was the eyes for blind people.
┌I led them where they wanted to go.┐
I was the feet for crippled people.
┌I carried them where they wanted to go.┐

16 I was like a father for poor people.
I helped people I didn't even know
win their arguments in court.

17 I stopped evil people abusing their power
and saved innocent people from them.*

18 "I always thought I would live a long life,
growing old with my family around me.

19 I thought I would be healthy and virile
like a healthy plant with
roots that have plenty of water
and branches that are wet with dew.

20 I thought each new day
would be bright and full of new and
exciting possibilities.*

21 "In the past, people listened to me.
They were quiet while they waited
for my advice.

22 After I had finished speaking,
the people listening to me
didn't have anything else to say.
My words fell gently into their ears.

widow(s) Women whose husbands have died. Often these women had no one to care for them.

turban A head covering made by wrapping a long piece of cloth around the head or around a cap worn on the head.

I stopped ... from them Literally, "I shattered the teeth of the crooked and snatched the victims from their teeth."

thought ... possibilities Literally, "My Glory is new with me and my bow in my hand renewed." 'Glory' and 'bow' might both refer to a rainbow—the promise of good weather after a storm. Or this might be understood as, "My soul feels new every day, my hand always strong enough to shoot a new bow."

23 People waited for me to speak,
like they waited for rain.
People drank in my words,
as if they were rain in the spring time.

24 I laughed with those people,
and they couldn't believe it.
My smile made them feel better.

25 I chose to be with those people,
even though I was their leader.
I was like a king in camp with his troops,
comforting the people who were sad.

30 But now, even the men who are younger
than I am are making fun of me.
And their fathers were so worthless
that I wouldn't put them with the dogs
guarding my sheep.

2 The fathers of those young men
are too weak to help me.
They are old and tired—their muscles
are not hard and strong any more.

3 They are like dead men—
They are starving with nothing to eat.
So they eat the dry dust of the desert.

4 They pull up salt plants in the desert.
They eat the roots from the broom tree.

5 They are forced away from other people.
People shout at them like they are thieves.

6 They must live in the dry river beds,
hillside caves and holes in the ground.

7 They howl in the bushes,
and huddle together under thorn bushes.

8 They are a group of worthless people
with no names who were forced
to leave their country!

9 "Now those men's sons
sing songs about me to make fun of me.
My name has become a bad word to them.

10 Those young men hate me,
they stand away from me,
they think they are better than me.
They even spit in my face!

11 God has taken the string
from my bow and made me weak.
Those young men don't stop themselves
but turn against me with all their anger.

12 They attack me at my right side.
They knock my feet out from under me.
┌I feel like a city being attacked:┐
They build dirt ramps against my walls
to attack and destroy me.

13 They guard the road so I can't escape.
They succeed in destroying me.
They don't need anyone to help them.

14 They break a hole in the wall.
They come rushing through it,
and the crashing rocks fall on me.

15 I am shaking with fear.
Those young men chase away my honor
like the wind blows things away.
My safety disappears like a cloud.

16 "Now my life is almost gone,
and I will soon die.
Days of suffering have grabbed me.

17 All my bones ache at night.
Pain never stops chewing on me.

18 God grabbed the collar of my coat
and twisted my clothes out of shape.

19 God threw me into the mud,
and I become like dirt and ashes.

20 "God, I cry out to you for help,
but you don't answer.
I stand up and pray,
but you don't pay attention to me.

21 God, you are mean to me.
You use your power to hurt me.

22 God, you let the strong wind blow me away.
You throw me around in the storm.

23 I know you will lead me to my death.
Every living person must die.

24 "But, surely no one will hurt a person
that is already ruined and crying for help.

25 God, you know that I have cried for
people in trouble.
You know that my heart was very sad for
poor people.

26 But when I looked for good things,
bad things came instead.
When I looked for light, darkness came.

27 I am torn up inside.
The suffering never stops.
And the suffering has just started.

28 I am always sad and depressed,
without relief.
I stand up in the assembly
and yell for help.

29 I am all alone like the wild dogs
and ostriches _{in the desert}.

30 My skin is burnt and peeling away.
My body is hot with fever.

31 My harp is tuned to play sad songs.
My flute makes sounds like sad crying.

31 "I made an agreement with my eyes
not to look at a girl in a way
that would make me want her.

2 What does God All-Powerful
do to people?
How does God pay people back from his
home high in heaven?

3 God sends trouble and ruin
to wicked people,
and disaster to people that do wrong.

4 God knows everything I do,
and he sees every step I take.

5 "I have not lied and tried to cheat people!

6 If God would use accurate scales,*
then he would know that I am innocent.

7 _{Then God would know}
if I walked off the the right path,
if my eyes led my heart to do evil,
or if my hands are dirty with sin,

8 Then _{it would be right for other people}
to eat the crops I planted
and to pull up the plants I grew.

9 "If I have desired another woman
or waited at my neighbor's door
to sin with his wife,
then let my wife cook another man's food,
and let other men sleep with her.

11 Why? Because sexual sin is shameful.
It is a sin that must be punished.

12 Sexual sin is like a fire that burns
until it destroys everything!
It could ruin everything I have ever done.

13 "If I refuse to be fair to my slaves
when they have a complaint against me,
then what will I do when I must face God?
What will I say when God asks me
to explain what I did?

15 God made me in my mother's body.
And God also made my slaves.
God shaped us all inside our mothers.

16 "I have never refused to help poor people.
I always gave widows what they needed.

accurate scales Literally, "scales of righteousness." As a word play, this could mean either "accurate scales" or "scales that show a person is good."

- 17 I have never been selfish with my food.
I always gave food to orphans.
- 18 All my life,
I have been like a father
to children that had no father.
All my life,
I have taken care of widows.
- 19 When I found people suffering
because they didn't have clothes,
or a poor man with no coat,
- 20 I always gave them clothes.
I used the wool from my own sheep
to make them warm.
And they blessed me with all their heart.
- 21 I never shook my fist at an orphan
when I saw him at the gate
asking for help.*
- 22 If I ever did that, then may my arm
be pulled from its socket
and fall from my shoulder!
- 23 But I didn't do any of those bad things.
I am afraid of God's punishment.
His majesty (*importance*) scares me.*
- 24 "I have never trusted in my riches.
I always trusted God to help me.
I never said to pure gold,
'You are my hope.'
- 25 I have been wealthy.
But that didn't make me proud!
I earned a lot of money.
But that is not what made me happy!
- 26 I have never worshiped the bright sun,
or the beautiful moon.
- 27 I was never foolish enough
to worship the sun and the moon.
- 28 That is also a sin that must be punished.
If I had worshiped those things,
then I would have been unfaithful
to God All-Powerful.
- 29 "I have never been happy
when my enemies were destroyed.
I have never laughed at my enemies
when bad things happened to them.
- 30 I have never let my mouth sin
by cursing* my enemies,
and wishing for them to die.
- 31 All the people in my house know that
I have always given food to strangers.
- 32 I always invited strangers into my home
so they would not have to sleep
in the streets at night.
- 33 Other people try to hide their sins.
But I have not hidden my guilt.
- 34 I have never been afraid
of what people might say.
That fear never made me keep quiet.
It never made me refuse to go outside.
I am not afraid of people's hate for me.
- 35 "Oh, I wish someone would listen to me!
Let me explain my side.
I wish God All-Powerful
would answer me.
I wish he would write down
what he thinks I did wrong.
- 36 Then I would wear that sign
around my neck.
I would put it on my head
like a crown.
- 37 If God did that, then I could explain
everything that I have done.
I could come to God like a leader
with my head held high.
- 38 "I didn't steal my land from anyone.
No one can accuse me of stealing it.
- 39 I always paid the farmers for the food
that I got from the land.
And I never tried to take land away from
the person who owned it.
- 40 If I ever did any of those bad things,
then let thorns and weeds
grow in my fields
instead of wheat and barley*!"
- Job's words are finished.

Elihu Adds to the Argument

32 Then Job's three friends gave up trying to answer Job. They gave up because Job was so sure that he himself was truly

Verse 21 Or, "I never threatened an orphan, even when I saw that I was supported in court."

His majesty ... me Or, "I couldn't stand before his majesty."

cursing Asking for bad things to happen to someone.

barley A kind of grain.

innocent. ²But there was a young man there named Elihu son of Barakel. Barakel was a descendant* of a man named Buz. Elihu was from the family of Ram. Elihu became very angry with Job. Why? Because Job was saying that he himself was right. Job was saying that he was more fair than God. ³Elihu was also angry with Job's three friends. Why? Because Job's three friends could not answer Job's questions. They could not prove that Job was wrong. ⁴Elihu was the youngest person there, so he had waited until everyone was finished talking. Then he felt like he could begin to talk. ⁵But then Elihu saw that Job's three friends had nothing more to say. So he became angry. ⁶So Elihu began to talk. He said:

- "I am only a young man.
And you are old men.
That is why I was afraid
to tell you what I think.
7 I thought to myself,
'Older people should speak first.
Older people have lived many years.
So they have learned many things.'
8 But God's Spirit makes a person wise.
That 'breath' from God All-Powerful
makes people understand.
9 Old men are not the only wise people.
Old people are not the only people
that understand what is right.
10 "So please listen to me!
And I will tell you what I think.
11 I waited patiently while you men talked.
I listened to the answers
that you gave to Job.
12 I listened carefully to the things you said.
Not one of you criticized Job.
Not one of you answered his arguments.
13 You three men can't say
that you have found wisdom.
God must answer Job's arguments,
not people.
14 Job did not present his arguments to me.
So I won't use the arguments
you three men have used.

- 15 "Job, these men lost the argument.
They don't have anything more to say.
They don't have any more answers.
16 Job, I waited for these men to answer you.
But now, they are quiet.
They have stopped arguing with you.
17 So now, I will give you my answer.
Yes, I will tell you what I think.
18 I have so much to say,
that I am about to explode.
19 I am like a bottle of new wine
that hasn't been opened.
I am like a new wineskin
that is ready to break open.
20 So I must speak.
Then I will feel better.
I must speak and answer Job's arguments.
21 I must treat Job the same
as I would treat any other person.
I will not try to say nice things to him.
I will say what I must say.]
22 I can't treat one person
better another person!
If I did that,
then God would punish me!
33 "Now, Job, listen to me.
Listen carefully to the things I say.
2 I am ready to speak.
3 My heart is honest,
so I will speak honest words.
I will speak the truth
about the things I know.
4 God's Spirit made me.
My life comes from [God]
All-Powerful.
5 Job, listen to me,
and answer me if you can.
Get your answers ready,
so you can argue with me.
6 You and I are the same
in front of God.
God used clay to make both of us.
7 Job, don't be afraid of me.
I won't be hard on you.
8 "But Job, I heard what you said.
9 You said:
'I am pure.
I am innocent
I did nothing wrong.
I am not guilty!

descendant(s) A person's children and their future families.

- 10 I did nothing wrong,
but God is against me!
God treated me like an enemy.
- 11 God put chains on my feet.
God watches everything I do.’
- 12 “But Job, you are wrong about this.
And I will prove you are wrong.
Why? Because God knows more
than any person.*
- 13 Job, you are arguing with God!
You think God should explain
everything to you.
- 14 But maybe God does explain
what he does.
Maybe God speaks in ways that
people don’t understand.
- 15–16 Maybe God speaks to people in a dream,
or in a vision* at night,
when they are in a deep sleep.
Then they become very afraid
when they hear God’s warnings.
- 17 God warns people to stop them
from doing wrong things,
and to stop them from becoming proud.
- 18 God warns people so he can save them
from going to the place of death.*
God does that to save a person
from being destroyed.
- 19 “Or, a person might hear God’s voice
when that person is in bed
and suffering from God’s punishment.
God is warning that person with pain.
That person is in so much pain
that all his bones hurt.
- 20 Then that person can’t eat.
That person has so much pain
that he hates even the best food.
- 21 His body wastes away until
he becomes very thin
and all his bones stick out.
- 22 That person is near the place of death.*
And his life is close to death.
- 23 “God has thousands of angels.
Maybe one of those angels
is watching over that person.
That angel might speak for that person
and tell about the good things he did.
- 24 Maybe that angel will be kind to that
person and say ^lto God_j,
‘Save this person from the place of death!
I have found a way to pay for his _jsin.’
- 25 Then that person’s body
will become young and strong again.
That person will be the same
as when he was young.
- 26 That person will pray to God,
and God will answer his prayer.
That person will shout with joy
and worship God.
He will live a good life again.
- 27 Then that person will confess to people.
He will say,
‘I sinned.
I changed good into bad.
But God didn’t give me
the punishment I deserved!
- 28 God saved my soul from going down
to the place of death.
Now I can enjoy life again.’
- 29 “God does all these things
again and again for that person.
- 30 Why? To warn that person and to save
his soul from the place of death*
so that person can enjoy his life.
- 31 “Job, pay attention to me.
Listen to me.
Be quiet and let me talk.
- 32 But Job, if you want to disagree with me,
then go ahead and talk.
Tell me your argument,
because I want to correct you.
- 33 But Job, if you have nothing to say,
then listen to me.
Be quiet, and I will teach you wisdom.”

34 Then Elihu continued talking.
He said:

- ² “Listen to the things I say,
you wise men.
Pay attention to me,
you smart men.

God ... person Or, “God is much greater than any person.”

vision Something like a dream that God used to speak to people.

place of death Literally, “the Pit,” the place where people go when they die.

3 Your tongue tastes the food it touches.
 And your ear tests the words it hears.
 4 So, let us test these arguments
 and decide for ourselves what is right.
 Together we will learn what is good.
 5 Job says,
 ‘I, Job, am innocent.
 And God is not fair to me.
 6 I am innocent,
 but the judgment against me
 says that I am a liar.
 I am innocent,
 but I have been hurt very badly.’
 7 “Is there any other person like Job?
 Job does not care if you insult him.
 8 Job is friends with bad people.
 Job likes to be with evil people.
 9 Why do I say that?
 Because Job says,
 ‘A person will gain nothing
 if he tries to please God.’
 10 “You men can understand,
 so listen to me.
 God would never do what is evil!
 God All-Powerful would never do wrong!
 11 God will pay a person back
 for the things that person has done.
 God gives people what they deserve.
 12 This is the truth,
 God won’t do wrong.
 God All-Powerful will always be fair.
 13 No person chose God to be
 in charge over the earth.
 No one gave God responsibility
 for the whole world.
 14 God created everything
 and he has always been in control.
 15 If God decided to take his spirit
 and his breath of life away from people,
 then all the people on earth would die.
 All people would become dust again.
 16 “If you men are wise,
 then you will listen to what I say.
 17 A person that hates to be fair
 can’t be a ruler.
 Job, God is strong and good.
 Do you think you can judge him guilty?

18 God is the One who says to kings,
 ‘You are worthless!’
 God says to leaders,
 ‘You are evil!’
 19 God does not love leaders
 more than other people.
 And God does not love rich people
 more than poor people.
 Why? Because God made every person.
 20 People can suddenly die,
 in the middle of the night.
 People become sick and pass away.
 Even powerful people die
 for no apparent reason.
 21 “God watches what people do.
 God knows every step a person takes.
 22 There is no place dark enough
 for evil people to hide from God.
 23 God does not need to pick a time
 to test people some more.
 God does not need to bring people
 in front of him to be judged.
 24 If even powerful people do bad things
 God does not need to ask questions.
 God will simply destroy those people,
 and choose other people to be leaders.
 25 So God knows what people do.
 That is why God will defeat evil people
 over night and destroy them.
 26 God will punish the bad people
 because of the evil things they did.
 And God will punish those people
 where other people can see it happen.
 27 Why? Because the bad people
 stopped obeying God.
 And those bad people didn’t care
 about doing what God wants.
 28 Those bad people hurt poor people,
 and made them cry to God for help.
 And God hears that cry for help.
 29 But if God decides not to help them,
 then no person can judge God guilty.
 If God hides himself from people,
 then no person can find him.
 God is the ruler over people and nations.
 30 And if a ruler causes people to sin,
 then God will remove him from power.
 31 That will happen unless he says to God,
 ‘I am guilty.
 I won’t sin any more.’

32 God, even if I can't see you,
 please teach me
 the right way to live.
 If I have done wrong,
 I won't do it again.'

33 "Job, you want God to reward you.
 But you refuse to change.
 Job, it is your decision, not mine.
 Tell me what you think.
 34 A wise person would listen to me.
 A wise person would say,
 35 'Job talks like an ignorant person.
 The things Job says don't make sense!'
 36 I think Job should be punished even more!
 Why? Because Job answers us
 the way an evil person would answer.
 37 Job adds rebellion to his other sins.
 Job sits there in front of us and insults us
 and makes fun of God!"

35 Elihu continued talking.
 He said:

2 "Job, it is not fair for you to say,
 'I am more right than God.'
 3 And Job, you ask God,
 'What will a person gain
 if he tries to please God?
 What good will it do me
 if I don't sin?'"
 4 "Job, I (*Elihu*) want to answer you
 and your friends here with you.
 5 Job, look up at the sky.
 Look up at the clouds
 that are higher than you.
 6 Job, if you sin,
 it does not hurt God.
 If you have many sins,
 that does nothing to God.
 7 And Job, if you are good,
 that does not help God.
 God gets nothing from you.
 8 Job, the good and bad things you do
 affect only other people like yourself.
 [They do not help or hurt God.]
 9 "If [bad] people are being hurt,
 then they will cry out for help.
 They go to powerful people
 and beg them to help them.
 10 But those bad people
 will not ask God for help.

They will not say,
 'Where is the God who made me?
 God helps people
 when they are depressed.
 So where is he?

11 God makes us wiser
 than the birds and animals.
 [So where is he?]'
 12 "Or, if those bad people ask God for help
 then God will not answer them.
 Why? Because those people are too proud.
 They still think they are too important.
 13 It is true, God won't listen
 to their worthless begging.
 God All-Powerful won't
 pay attention to them.
 14 So Job, God won't listen to you
 when you say that you don't see him.
 You say you are waiting for your chance
 to meet with God and prove
 that you are innocent.

15 "Job thinks that God
 does not punish bad people,
 He thinks that God
 does not pay attention to sin.
 16 So Job continues his worthless talking.
 Job is acting like he is important.
 It is easy to see that Job does not
 know what he is talking about."

36 Elihu continued talking.
 He said:

2 "Be patient with me a little longer.
 God has a few more words
 that he wants me to say.
 3 I will share my knowledge with everyone.
 God made me and I will prove
 that God is fair.
 4 Job, I am telling the truth.
 I know what I am talking about.
 5 "God is very powerful,
 but he doesn't hate people.
 God is very powerful,
 but he is also very wise.
 6 God won't let evil people live.
 God always treats poor people fairly.
 7 God watches over people who live right.
 He lets good people be rulers.
 God gives good people honor forever.

8 So if people are punished,
if they are tied with chains and ropes
then they did something wrong.
9 And God will tell them what they did.
God will tell him that they sinned.
God will tell him that they were proud.
10 God will force those people
to listen to his warning.
He will command them to stop sinning.
11 If those people listen to God, and obey him,
then God will make them successful
and they will live a happy life.
12 But if those people refuse to obey God,
then they will be destroyed.
They will die like fools.
13 “People that don’t care about God
are always bitter.
Even when God punishes them,
they refuse to pray to God for help.
14 Those people will die
when they are still young,
like the male prostitutes.*
15 But God will humble people
from their troubles.
God uses those troubles
to make people wake up
and listen to him.
16 “Job, God wants to help you.
God wants to get you out of trouble.
God wants to make life easy for you.
God wants to put plenty of food
on your table.
17 But now, Job, you were judged guilty.
So you were punished like an evil man.
18 Job, don’t let riches fool you.
Don’t let money change your mind.
19 Your money can’t help you now.
And powerful people can’t help
you either!
20 Don’t wish for the night to come.
People try to disappear into the night.
They think they can hide from God.†
21 Job, you have suffered a lot.
But don’t choose evil.
Be careful not to do wrong.

male prostitutes Men that sold their bodies for sexual sin, often with other men. This was often part of the Canaanite worship of the false gods.

Verses 19–20 This is very hard to understand in Hebrew.

22 “Look, God’s power makes him great!
God is the greatest teacher of all.
23 No person can tell God what to do.
No person can say to God,
‘God, you have done wrong.’
24 “Remember to praise God
for the things he did.
People have written many songs
praising God.
25 Every person can see what God did.
People in faraway countries
can see those things.
26 Yes, God is great.
But we can’t understand his greatness.
We don’t know how long God has
lived.
27 “God takes up water from the earth
and changes it into mist and rain.
28 So the clouds pour out the water,
and the rain falls on many people.
29 No person can understand
how God spreads the clouds out
or how the thunder rumbles in the sky.
30 Look, God spread the lightning
over the earth and covered
the deepest part of the ocean.
31 God uses them to control the nations
and to give them plenty of food.
32 God grabs the lightning with his hands,
and commands it to hit where he wants.
33 The thunder warns that a storm is coming.
So even the cattle know it is coming.

37 “The thunder and lightning frighten me,
my heart pounds in my chest.
2 Listen everyone!
God’s voice sounds like thunder.
Listen to the thundering sound
that comes from God’s mouth.
3 God sends his lightning
to flash across the whole sky.
It flashed all over the earth.
4 Then after the lightning flashes,
God’s roaring voice can be heard.
God thunders with his wonderful voice!
While the lightning flashes,
God’s voice thunders.
5 God’s thundering voice is wonderful!
He does great things
that we can’t understand.

6 God says to the snow,
 ‘Fall on the earth.’
 And God says to the rain,
 ‘Pour down on the earth.’

7 God does that so all of the people
 that God has made
 will know what he can do.
 That is his proof.

8 The animals run into their dens
 and stay there.

9 Whirlwinds come from the south.
 The cold winds come from the north.

10 God’s breath makes ice,
 and freezes the oceans.

11 God fills the clouds with water,
 and scatters those thunderclouds.

12 God orders the clouds
 to blow all around the earth.
 The clouds do whatever God commands.

13 God brings the clouds
 to bring floods to punish people
 or to bring water to show his love.

14 “Job, stop for a minute and listen.
 Think about the wonderful things
 God does.

15 Job, do you know how God
 controls the clouds?
 Do you know how God
 makes his lightning flash?

16 Do you know how the clouds
 hang in the sky?
 Clouds are just one example
 of the wonderful things God made.
 And God knows everything about them.

17 But Job, you don’t know these things.
 All you know is that you sweat,
 your clothes stick to you,
 and everything is still and quiet
 when the heat wave comes
 from the south.

18 Job, can you help God spread out the sky,
 and make it shine like polished brass?

19 “Job, tell us what we should say to God!
 We can’t think of what to say
 because of our ignorance.*

We can’t ... ignorance Literally, “We can’t arrange [our thoughts] because of the darkness”

20 I wouldn’t tell God
 that I wanted to talk to him.
 That would be like asking
 to be destroyed.

21 A person cannot look at the sun.
 It is very bright and shiny in the sky
 after the wind blows the clouds away.

22 [And God is like that too!]
 God’s golden glory shines
 from the Holy Mountain.*
 There is a bright light around God.

23 God All-Powerful is great!
 We can’t understand God!
 God is very powerful,
 but he is also good and fair to us.
 God doesn’t want to hurt us!

24 That is why people respect God.
 But God doesn’t respect proud people
 that think they are wise.”

God Speaks to Job

38 Then the Lord spoke to Job from a
 whirlwind. God said:

2 “Who is this ignorant person
 that is saying these foolish things?”*

3 Job, brace yourself*
 and get ready to answer the questions
 that I will ask you.

4 “Job, where were you
 when I made the earth?
 If you are so smart,
 then answer me.

5 If you are so smart,
 Who decided how big
 the world would be?
 Who measured the world with
 a measuring line?

6 What is the earth resting on?
 Who put the first stone in its place?

7 The morning stars sang together
 and the angels* shouted with joy
 when that was done!

Holy Mountain Or, “the north” or “Zaphon”.

Who ... things Or, “Who is this person darkening (*hiding*) advice with ignorant words.”

brace yourself Literally, “gird yourself like a man (*soldier*).” This means, “get ready for battle.”

angels Literally, “sons of God.”

- 8 “Job, who closed the gates to stop the sea
when it flowed from deep in the earth?
9 At that time I covered it with clouds,
and wrapped it in darkness.
10 I set the limits for the sea
and put it behind locked gates.
11 I said to the sea,
‘You can come this far, but no farther.
This is where your proud waves
will stop.’
12 “Job, did you ever in your life
command the morning to start
or the day to begin?
13 Job, did you ever tell the morning light
to grab the earth
and shake the evil people
out of their hiding places?
14 The morning light makes the hills
and the valleys easy to see.
When the daylight comes to the earth,
the shapes of those places stand out
like the folds of a coat.
Those places take shape like soft clay
that is pressed with a stamp.
15 Evil people don’t like the daylight.
When it shines bright, it stops them
from doing their bad things.
16 “Job, have you ever gone
to the deepest parts of the sea
where the sea begins?
Have you ever walked
on the ocean bottom?
17 Job, have you ever seen the gates
leading to the world of the dead?
Have you ever seen the gates
leading to that dark place of death?
18 Job, do you really understand
how large the earth is?
Tell me, if you know all this.
19 “Job, where does light come from?
Where does darkness come from?
20 Job, can you take light and dark
back to the place they came from?
Do you know how to go to that place?
21 Surely you know these things, Job.
You are very old and wise.

You were alive when I made those things,
weren’t you?*

- 22 “Job, have you ever gone into
the storerooms where I keep
the snow and the hail?
23 I save the snow and the hail
for times of trouble,
for the times of war and battle.
24 Have you ever gone to the place
where the sun comes up,
where it makes the east wind blow
all over the earth?*
- 25 Who dug ditches in the sky
for the heavy rain?
Who made a path for the thunderstorm?
26 Who makes it rain
even in places where no people live?
27 That rain gives plenty of water
to that empty land
and grass begins to grow.
28 Does the rain have a father?
Who produces the drops of dew?
29 Does ice have a mother?
Who gives birth to the hail?
30 Water freezes as hard as a rock.
And even the ocean freezes over!
31 “Job, can you tie up the Pleiades?*
- Can you unfasten the belt of Orion?*
- 32 Can you bring out the constellations*
at the right times?
Or can you lead out the Bear*
with its cubs?

Verses 19–21 God doesn’t really mean this. This kind of talking is called sarcasm. It is saying something that is not true in a way that everyone knows it is not true.

Verse 24 Or, “Where is the place that the fog disperses and the place where the east wind scatters it all over the earth?”

Pleiades A famous constellation (*group of stars*). It is often called, “The Seven Sisters.”

Orion A famous constellation (*group of stars*). It looks like a hunter or powerful soldier.

constellations Groups in the night sky. Here this probably means the twelve constellations of the Zodiac. They seem to pass through the sky so that a new constellation is in a certain part of the sky each month.

Bear A famous constellation (*group of stars*). It looks like a bear. It is often called, “the Big Dipper.” Near it is a smaller constellation that looks like a small bear. It is often called, “the Little Dipper.”

- 33 Do you know the laws
that control the sky?
Can you make them rule over the earth?
- 34 “Job, can you shout at the clouds
and command them to cover you
with rain?
- 35 Can you give a command to the lightning?
Will it come to you and say,
‘Here we are.
What do you want, sir?’
Will it go wherever you want it to go?
- 36 “Job, who makes people wise?
Who puts wisdom deep inside of them?
- 37 Who is wise enough to count the clouds
and tip them over to pour out their rain?
- 38 So the dust becomes mud
and the clods of dirt stick together.
- 39 “Job, do you find food for the lions?
Do you feed their hungry babies?
- 40 Those lions lie down in their caves,
they crouch down in the grass
└ready to attack their prey┘.
- 41 Who feeds the ravens
when their babies yell out to God
and wander around without food?
- 39** “Job, do you know when
the mountain goats are born?
Do you watch when the mother deer
has her baby?
- 2 Do you know how many months
the mountain goat and the deer
must carry their babies?
Do you know when it is the right time
for them to be born?
- 3 Those animals lie down
they feel their birth pains
and their babies are born.
- 4 Those baby animals grow strong
in the fields.
Then they leave their mothers
and never come back.
- 5 “Job, who let the wild donkeys go free?
Who untied their ropes
and let them loose?
- 6 I (*God*) let the wild donkey
have the desert for a home.
I gave the salt lands to them
for a place to live.
- 7 Wild donkeys laugh at the noisy towns.
And no person can control them.
- 8 Wild donkeys live in the mountains.
That is their pasture.
That is where they look for food to eat.
- 9 “Job, will a wild bull
agree to serve you?
Will he stay in your barn at night?
- 10 Will a wild bull
let you put ropes on him
so you can plow your fields?
- 11 A wild bull is very strong!
But can you trust him to do your work?
- 12 Can you trust him
to gather your grain and bring it
to your threshing* place?
- 13 “An ostrich gets excited
and flaps his wings.
└But an ostrich can’t fly.┘
Its wings and feathers are not like
the wings of a stork.
- 14 An ostrich lays her eggs on the ground
and they become warm in the sand.
- 15 The ostrich forgets
that someone might walk on her eggs
or that some wild animal might
break them.
- 16 An Ostrich leaves her little babies.
She treats them like they are not hers.
If her babies die, she doesn’t care
that all her work was for nothing.
- 17 Why? Because I (*God*) didn’t give
wisdom to the ostrich.
The ostrich is foolish,
and I made her that way.
- 18 But when the ostrich gets up to run,
she laughs at the horse and its rider,
because she can run faster
than any horse.
- 19 “Job, did you give the horse its strength?
Did you put the mane* on his neck?
- 20 Did you make the horse able to
jump far like a locust?

threshing Beating or walking on grain to remove the hulls from the grain.

mane The hair on a horse’s neck.

The horse snorts* loudly,
and it scares people.

21 A horse is happy that he is so strong.
He scratches the ground with his foot
and runs quickly into battle.

22 The horse laughs at fear.
He is not afraid!
He won't run away from a battle.

23 The soldier's quiver* shakes
on the horse's side.
The spear and weapons his rider carries
shine in the sun.

24 The horse is very excited!
He runs fast over the ground.*
When the horse hears the trumpet blow
he can't stand still.

25 When the trumpet sounds,
the horse shouts, 'hurray!'
He smells the battle from far away.
He hears the commanders shouting orders
and all the other sounds of the battle.

26 "Job, did you teach the hawk
how to spread his wings and fly south.*

27 Are you the one who told the eagle*
to fly high into the sky.
Did you tell him to build his nest
high in the mountains?

28 The eagle lives on a cliff.
The cliff is the eagle's fortress.*

29 An eagle watches for his food
from high in his fortress.
An eagle can see food that is far away.

30 Eagles will gather where the dead bodies
are.
And the babies will drink the blood."

40 The Lord answered Job and said to him:

2 "Job, you argued with God All-Powerful.
You judged me guilty of doing wrong.
Now, will you admit that you are wrong?
Will you answer me!"

snorts The sound a horse makes.

quiver A container in which arrows are kept.

runs fast over the ground Literally, "swallows up the ground."

south Or "to Teman."

eagle Or "vulture."

fortress A building or city with tall, strong walls for protection.

3 Then Job answered God and said:
4 "I am too insignificant to speak!
What can I say to you?
I can't answer you!
I will put my hand over my mouth.

5 I spoke once,
but I won't speak again.
I spoke twice,
but I won't say anything more."

6 Then the Lord spoke to Job again from the
storm. The Lord said:

7 "[Job,] brace yourself*
and get ready to answer the questions
that I will ask you.

8 "Job, do you think that I am not fair?
You say that I am guilty of doing wrong
so that you will appear innocent!

9 Are your arms as strong as God's arm?
Do you have a voice like God's voice
that can sound loud like thunder?

10 If you are like God,
then you can be proud.
If you are like God
then you can wear glory and honor
like clothes.

11 If you are like God,
then you can show your anger
and punish proud people.
Make those proud people humble.

12 Yes, Job! Look at those proud people
and make them humble.
Crush evil people where they stand.

13 Bury all the proud people in the dirt.
Wrap their bodies up
and put them in their graves."

14 Job, if you can do all these things,
then even I will praise you.
And I will admit that you are able
to save yourself with your own power.

15 "Job, look at the behemoth.*
I (*God*) made the behemoth
and I made you.
The behemoth eats grass like a cow.

brace yourself Literally, "gird yourself like a man (*soldier*)."
This means, "get ready for battle."

behemoth We are not sure what this animal is. It might be a
hippopotamus or an elephant.

- 16 The behemoth has much strength
in his body.
The muscles in his stomach are
very powerful.
- 17 The behemoth's tail stands strong
like a cedar tree.
His leg muscles are very strong.
- 18 The behemoth's bones are strong
like bronze.
His legs are like iron bars.
- 19 The behemoth is the most amazing animal
that I (*God*) made.
But I can defeat him.
- 20 The behemoth eats the grass
that grows on the hills
where the wild animals play.
- 21 The behemoth lies under the lotus plants.*
The behemoth hides in the reeds
in the swamp.
- 22 The lotus plants hide the behemoth
in their shade.
He lives under the willow trees
that grow near the river.
- 23 If the river floods,
the behemoth will not run away.
He is not afraid
if the Jordan River splashes on his face.
- 24 No person can blind the behemoth's eyes
and catch him in a trap.
- 41** "Job, can you catch Leviathan*
with a fishhook?
Can you tie his tongue with a rope?
2 Can you put a rope through his nose,
or a hook through his jaw?
3 Will Leviathan beg you to let him go free?
Will he speak to you with gentle words?
4 Will Leviathan
make an agreement with you
and promise to serve you forever?
5 Will you play with Leviathan
like you would play with a bird?
Will you put a rope on him
so your servant girls can play with him?
6 Will fishermen try to buy
Leviathan from you?
- Will they cut him in pieces
and sell him to the merchants?*
- 7 Can you throw spears
into Leviathan's skin or head?
- 8 "Job, if you ever lay a hand on Leviathan,
you will never do it again!
Just think about the battle that would be!
- 9 Do you think you can defeat Leviathan?
Well, forget it!
There is no hope!
Just looking at him will scare you!
- 10 No person is brave enough
to wake him up and make him angry.
- "Well, no person can stand against
me either!*
- 11 I (*God*) owe no person anything.
Everything under heaven belongs to me.*
- 12 "Job, I will tell you about Leviathan's legs,
his strength and graceful shape.
- 13 No person can pierce his skin.
His skin is like armor!*
- 14 No person can force Leviathan
to open his jaws.
The teeth in his mouth scare people.
- 15 Leviathan's back has
rows of shields tightly sealed together.
- 16 The shields are so close to each other
that no air can pass between them.
- 17 The shields are joined to each other.
They hold together so tightly
that they can't be pulled apart.
- 18 When Leviathan sneezes,
it is like lightning flashing out.
His eyes shine like the light of dawn.
- 19 Burning torches come out from his mouth.
Sparks of fire shoot out.
- 20 Smoke pours from Leviathan's nose
like burning weeds under a boiling pot.
- 21 Leviathan's breath
makes coals burn,
and flames shoot from his mouth.

lotus plants A kind of tree. Its leaves give much shade.

Leviathan We are not sure what this animal is. It might be a crocodile or a giant sea monster.

merchant(s) A person who earns his living by buying and selling things.

And no person can stand against me either Or "No person can stand and fight him."

I ... me Or, "No person has come near to Leviathan and survived—no one under heaven!"

His skin is like armor Or, "No one can approach him with a bridle."

22 Leviathan's neck is very powerful,
 People are afraid and run away from him.
 23 There is no soft spot in his skin.
 It is hard like iron.
 24 Leviathan's heart is like a rock,
 he has no fear.
 It is hard like a lower millstone.*
 25 When Leviathan gets up,
 strong people are afraid.
 They run away
 when Leviathan swings his tail.
 26 Swords, spears, and darts hit Leviathan,
 but they only bounce off.
 Those weapons don't hurt him at all!
 27 Leviathan breaks iron as easily as straw.
 He breaks bronze like rotten wood.
 28 Arrows don't make Leviathan run away.
 Rocks bounce off of him like straw.
 29 When a wood club hits Leviathan,
 it feels like a piece of straw to him.
 He laughs when men throw spears at him.
 30 The skin on Leviathan's belly
 is like sharp pieces of broken pottery.
 He leaves tracks in the mud
 like a threshing board.*
 31 Leviathan stirs up the water
 like a boiling pot.
 He makes it bubble like
 a pot of boiling oil.
 32 When Leviathan swims,
 he leaves a path behind himself.
 He stirs up the water,
 and leaves white foam behind him.
 33 No animal on earth is like Leviathan.
 He is an animal made without fear.
 34 Leviathan looks down
 on the proudest animals.
 He is king over all the wild animals.
 ¶And I, the Lord, made Leviathan!"]

lower millstone A flat rock for grinding grain. Another stone was put on top of this flat rock. Then the grain was ground into flour between the stones.

threshing board A board with many pieces of sharp stones or pieces of metal. Farmers pulled these boards over grain to break the hulls away from the grain.

Job Answers the Lord

42 Then Job answered the Lord.
 Job said,
 2 "Lord, I know you can do everything.
 You make plans, and nothing
 can change or stop your plans.
 3 Lord, you asked this question:
 'Who is this ignorant person
 that is saying these foolish things?'"*
 Lord, I talked about things
 that I didn't understand.
 I talked about things that were
 too amazing for me to understand.
 4 "Lord, you said to me,
 'Listen Job, and I will speak.
 I will ask you questions,
 and you will answer me.'
 5 Lord, in the past, I heard about you,
 but now I have seen you
 with my own eyes.
 6 And Lord, I am ashamed of myself.
 Lord, I am so sorry.
 As I sit in the dust and ashes,*
 I promise to change my heart
 and my life."

The Lord Gives Job's Wealth Back

7After the Lord finished talking to Job, he spoke to Eliphaz from Teman. The Lord said to Eliphaz, "I am angry at you and your two friends. Why? Because you didn't say right things about me. But Job is my servant. Job said right things about me. 8So now Eliphaz, get seven bulls and seven rams. Take them to my servant Job. Kill them and offer them as a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will answer his prayer. Then I won't give you the punishment that you deserve. You should be punished because you were very foolish. You didn't say right things about me. But my servant Job said right things about me."

Who ... things Or, "Who is this person darkening (*hiding*) advice with ignorant words?"

dust and ashes People sat in dust and ashes to show that they were very sad about something.

⁹So Eliphaz from Teman, and Bildad from Shuah, and Zophar from Naamah obeyed the Lord. Then the Lord answered Job's prayer.

¹⁰Job prayed for his friends. And the Lord made Job successful again. God gave Job twice as much as he had before. ¹¹Then all of Job's brothers and sisters and all of the people that knew Job before came to his house. They all ate a big meal with Job. They comforted Job. They were sorry that the Lord had brought so much trouble to Job. Each person gave Job a piece of silver* and a gold ring.

¹²The Lord blessed Job with even more things than he had in the beginning. Job got 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 2,000 cows, and

1,000 female donkeys. ¹³Job also got seven sons and three daughters. ¹⁴Job named the first daughter Jemimah. Job named the second daughter Keziah. And Job named the third daughter Keren Happuch. ¹⁵Job's daughters were among the most beautiful women in all the country. And Job even gave part of his property to his daughters—they each got a share of the property*, just like their brothers.

¹⁶So, Job lived for 140 years more. He lived to see his children, his grandchildren, his great-grandchildren, and his great-great-grandchildren. ¹⁷Job lived to be a very old man who had lived a good long life.

piece of silver Literally, "a Keshitah." This was a measure that was used in the time of the Patriarchs. See Gen. 33:19 and Josh. 24:32.

Job ... property Usually a person's property was divided only among the sons, but here even Job's daughters also got part of his property.