**The Book of Job**

**Job Chapter 1**

Job’s Character and Wealth

1There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and turned away from evil. 2There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. 3His possessions also were 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys and a very large number of slaves, so that this man was the greatest of all the children of the east. 4His sons used to hold a banquet, each in his house on his day, and they would send and call for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. 5And when the days of their banqueting had run their course, Job would send and have them ritually cleansed. And he rose up early in the morning and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, “It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.”[[1]](#footnote-30489) Job did this regularly.

Satan’s First Attack on Job

6And one day when the sons of God came to present themselves before Yahweh, Satan also came among them. 7Yahweh said to Satan, “Where have you come from?”

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

8Yahweh said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant, Job? For there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and an upright man, one who fears God and turns away from evil.”

9Then Satan answered Yahweh and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason? 10Haven’t you made a hedge around him on every side, and around his household and around all that he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his livestock has spread out over the land. 11But stretch out your hand now and touch all that he has, and surely he will curse you to your face.”

12So Yahweh said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only do not stretch out your hand against him.”

So Satan went out from the presence of Yahweh. 13Now one day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, 14a messenger came to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were feeding nearby them 15when the Sabeans attacked and took them away. Yes, they have struck down the servants with the mouth of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

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

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

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

20Then Job arose and tore his cloak and shaved his head, and dropped down onto the ground and worshiped. 21And he said,

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|  | “Naked I came out of my mother’s womb,  and naked I will return there.  Yahweh gave, and Yahweh has taken away.  Blessed be the name of Yahweh.” |

22In all this Job did not sin, nor did he charge God with wrongdoing.

**Job Chapter 2**

Satan’s Second Attack on Job

1And again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before Yahweh and Satan also came among them to present himself before Yahweh. 2And Yahweh said to Satan, “Where have you come from?”

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

3Then Yahweh said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? For there is none like him in the earth, a blameless and an upright man, one who fears God and turns away from evil. He still holds on to his integrity, although you incited me against him to ruin him without cause.”

4Satan answered Yahweh and said, “Skin for skin. Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. 5Stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.”

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

7So Satan went out from the presence of Yahweh and struck Job with painful sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. 8And he took a piece of broken pottery to scrape himself with, and he sat among the ashes. 9Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold on to your integrity? Curse God and die.”

10But he said to her, “You are speaking like one of the godless women would speak. What? Should we accept[[2]](#footnote-13613) good at the hand of God but not accept evil?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Job’s Three Friends

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

**Job Chapter 3**

Job’s Opening Lament

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

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| 3 | “Let the day perish in which I was born,  the night that said, ‘There is a boy conceived.’ |
| 4 | Let that day be darkness.  Do not let God from above care for it,  nor let the light shine on it. |
| 5 | Let darkness and the shadow of death claim it for their own.  Let a cloud settle over it.  Let all that makes the day black terrify it. |
| 6 | As for that night, let thick darkness seize on it.  Let it not rejoice among the days of the year.  Let it not come into the number of the months. |
| 7 | Behold, let that night be barren.  Let no joyful shout be heard in it. |
| 8 | Let those who curse the day curse it,  *those* who are ready to rouse up Leviathan. |
| 9 | Let the stars of its twilight be dark.  Let it look for light, but have none,  nor let it see the eyelids of the morning, |
| 10 | because it did not shut up the doors of my mother’s womb,  nor did it hide trouble from my eyes. |
| 11 | “Why did I not die from the womb?  Why did I not expire when my mother bore me? |
| 12 | Why did the knees receive me?  Or why the breast, that I should nurse? |
| 13 | For now I would have been lying down and been at peace.  I would be asleep, then I would have been at rest |
| 14 | with kings and counselors of the earth  who rebuilt ruins for themselves, |
| 15 | or with leaders who had gold,  who filled their houses with silver. |
| 16 | Or *why was I not* buried like a stillborn baby—I would not have been.  *Why was I not* like infants who never saw light? |
| 17 | There the wicked cease from turmoil.  There the weary are at rest. |
| 18 | There the prisoners are at ease together.  They do not hear the voice of the taskmaster. |
| 19 | The small and the great are there.  The slave is free from his master. |
| 20 | “Why is light given to him who is in misery,  life to those who are bitter in soul |
| 21 | who long for death, but it does not come;  and *who* dig for it[[3]](#footnote-26523) more than for hidden treasures, |
| 22 | who rejoice exceedingly and are glad  when they can find the grave? |
| 23 | Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden,  whom God has hedged in? |
| 24 | For my sighing comes before I eat.  My groanings are poured out like water. |
| 25 | For the fear I feared has come on me;  and that which I dreaded has come upon me. |
| 26 | I am not at ease, nor am I quiet,  nor do I have rest; and turmoil keeps coming.” |

**Job Chapter 4**

Eliphaz Speaks

1Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered,

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| 2 | “If someone ventures to talk with you, will you be offended?  But who can withhold himself from speaking? |
| 3 | Behold, you have instructed many,  you have strengthened the weak hands. |
| 4 | Your words have supported the one who was falling;  you have made firm the feeble knees. |
| 5 | But now it has come to you, and you are weary.  It touches you, and you are troubled. |
| 6 | Isn’t your fear *of God* your confidence?  Isn’t the integrity of your ways your hope? |
| 7 | “Consider now: who, being innocent, has ever perished?  Or where were the upright cut off? |
| 8 | According to what I have seen, those who plow iniquity  and sow trouble reap the same. |
| 9 | By the breath of God they perish.  By the blast of his anger are they consumed. |
| 10 | *Even* the roaring of the lion, and the voice of the fierce lion,  the teeth of the young lions are broken. |
| 11 | The old lion perishes for lack of prey.  The cubs of the lioness are scattered abroad. |
| 12 | “A word was brought to me in secret.  My ear caught *only* a whisper of it. |
| 13 | Amid disquieting thoughts from the visions of the night,  when deep sleep falls on men, |
| 14 | fear came on me, and trembling,  which made all my bones shake. |
| 15 | A spirit passed before my face.  The hair of my flesh stood up. |
| 16 | It stood still  but I could not discern its appearance.  A form was before my eyes.  *There was* silence, then I heard a voice: |
| 17 | ‘Can mortal man be more just than God?  Can a mighty man be more pure than his Maker? |
| 18 | Behold, he puts no trust in his servants;  he charges his angels with error. |
| 19 | How much more *is this true of* those who dwell in houses of clay,  whose foundation is in the dust,  who are crushed more easily than a moth! |
| 20 | Between morning and evening they are destroyed.  They perish forever without anyone paying attention to it. |
| 21 | Isn’t their tent cord plucked up from within them?  They die, and that without wisdom.’” |

**Job Chapter 5**

Eliphaz Continues

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| 1 | “Call now; is there any who will answer you?  To which of the holy ones will you turn? |
| 2 | For resentment kills the foolish man,  and jealousy kills the simple. |
| 3 | I have seen the foolish taking root,  but suddenly I cursed his dwelling. |
| 4 | His children are far from safety.  They are crushed in *court at* the *city* gate, and there is no one to rescue them. |
| 5 | The hungry eat up their harvest,  and even take it out from among the thorns,  and thirsty people pant for their wealth. |
| 6 | For affliction doesn’t come from the dust,  nor does trouble spring out of the ground; |
| 7 | but man is born to trouble,  as *surely as* the sparks fly upward. |
| 8 | “But if I were you, I would seek God.  I would commit my cause to God, |
| 9 | who does great things that cannot be fathomed,  marvelous things without number, |
| 10 | who gives rain on the earth  and sends waters on the fields; |
| 11 | so that he sets up on high those who are low,  those who mourn are exalted to safety. |
| 12 | He frustrates the devices of the crafty  so that their hands cannot achieve success. |
| 13 | He takes the wise in their own craftiness;  the counsel of the cunning is quickly brought to an end. |
| 14 | They meet with darkness in the day time,  and grope at noonday as in the night. |
| 15 | But he saves from the sword of their mouth,  even the needy from the hand of the mighty. |
| 16 | So the poor has hope,  and injustice shuts her mouth. |
| 17 | “Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects.  Therefore do not reject the discipline of *El* Shaddai. |
| 18 | For he wounds, and binds up.  He injures, and his hands make whole. |
| 19 | He will deliver you in six troubles;  yes, in seven no evil will touch you. |
| 20 | In famine he will redeem you from death;  in war, from the power of the sword. |
| 21 | You will be hidden from the scourge of the tongue,  nor will you be afraid of destruction when it comes. |
| 22 | At destruction and famine you will laugh,  nor will you be afraid of the animals of the earth. |
| 23 | For you will be allied with the stones of the field.  The animals of the field will be at peace with you. |
| 24 | You will know that your tent is in peace.  You will visit your fold, and will miss nothing. |
| 25 | You will know also that your seed will be great,  your offspring as the grass of the earth. |
| 26 | You will come to your grave in a full age,  like a shock of grain comes in its season. |
| 27 | “Look at this, we have searched it, so it is.  Hear it, and know it for your good.” |

**Job Chapter 6**

Job Replies to Eliphaz

1Then Job answered,

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| 2 | “Oh that my anguish could be weighed,  and all my calamity placed in the balances! |
| 3 | For now it would be heavier than the sand of the seas,  that is why my words have been rash. |
| 4 | For the arrows of *El* Shaddai are in me.  My spirit drinks up their poison.  The terrors of God set themselves in *battle* formation against me. |
| 5 | Does the wild donkey bray when he has grass?  Or does the ox low over his fodder? |
| 6 | Can that which has no flavor be eaten without salt?  Or is there any flavor in the white of an egg? |
| 7 | My soul refuses to touch them.  They are as loathsome food to me. |
| 8 | “Oh that I might have my request,  that God would grant the thing that I long for, |
| 9 | even that it would please God to crush me;  that he would let loose his hand, and cut me off! |
| 10 | Then I would still have this consolation,  yes, in pain that does not relent,  let me rejoice that I have not denied the words of the Holy One. |
| 11 | “What is my strength, that I should wait?  What is my end, that I should be patient? |
| 12 | Is my strength the strength of stones?  Or is my flesh of bronze? |
| 13 | Is it not that I have no help in me,  that wisdom is driven quite from me? |
| 14 | “To him who is ready to faint, kindness should be shown from his friend;  even to him who forsakes the fear of *El* Shaddai.[[4]](#footnote-23659) |
| 15 | My brothers have dealt deceitfully as a brook,  as the torrent of brooks that go away, |
| 16 | which are dark because of the ice  *and* in which the snow melts.[[5]](#footnote-18345) |
| 17 | In the dry season, they vanish.  When it is hot, they disappear from their place. |
| 18 | The caravans *that travel beside them* turn aside from their course.  They go up into the wasteland and perish. |
| 19 | The caravans of Tema looked.  The companies of Sheba waited for them. |
| 20 | They were distressed because they were confident.  They came there, and were confounded. |
| 21 | For now you are nothing.  You see a terror, and are afraid. |
| 22 | Did I say, ‘Give to me?’ or,  ‘Offer a present for me from your substance?’ |
| 23 | or, ‘Deliver me from the adversary’s hand?’  or, ‘Redeem me from the hand of the oppressors?’ |
| 24 | “Teach me, and I will hold my peace;  make me understand how I have erred. |
| 25 | How painful are honest words!  But your reproof, what does it reprove? |
| 26 | Do you consider *your* words as reproof,  but the speech of one who is in despair to be *only* as the wind? |
| 27 | Yes, you would even cast lots for the fatherless,  and make merchandise of your friend. |
| 28 | “Now therefore be pleased to look at me,  for surely I would not lie to your face. |
| 29 | Please reconsider. Do not be unjust.  Yes, reconsider. My cause is righteous. |
| 30 | Is there injustice on my tongue?  Is my taste not able to discern mischievous things?” |

**Job Chapter 7**

Job Continues His Response to Eliphaz

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| 1 | “Isn’t a man forced to labor on earth?  Aren’t his days like the days of a hired hand? |
| 2 | Like a servant who earnestly desires the shadow,  like a hireling who looks for his wages, |
| 3 | so I am made to possess months of misery,  wearisome nights are appointed to me. |
| 4 | When I lie down, I say, ‘When will I arise and the night be gone?’  I toss and turn until the dawning of the day. |
| 5 | My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of dust.  My skin hardens, then breaks out afresh. |
| 6 | My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle,  and are spent without hope. |
| 7 | “Oh remember that my life is *but* a breath.  My eyes will never again see good. |
| 8 | The eye of him who sees me will see me no more.  Your eyes will be on me, but I will not be. |
| 9 | As the cloud is consumed and vanishes away,  so he who goes down to Sheol will come up no more. |
| 10 | He will return no more to his house,  nor will his place know him any more. |
| 11 | “Therefore I will not keep silent.  I will speak in the anguish of my spirit.  I will complain in the bitterness of my soul. |
| 12 | Am I a sea, or a sea monster,  that you put a guard over me? |
| 13 | When I say, ‘My bed will comfort me.  My couch will ease my complaint;’ |
| 14 | then you scare me with dreams,  and terrify me through visions: |
| 15 | so that my soul chooses strangling,  death rather than my bones. |
| 16 | I loathe my life. I do not want to live forever.  Leave me alone, for my days are but a breath. |
| 17 | “What is man, that you should magnify him,  that you should set your mind on him, |
| 18 | that you should visit him every morning,  and test him every moment? |
| 19 | How long until you look away from me?  Will you not leave me alone long enough to swallow my spit? |
| 20 | If I have sinned, what do I do to you,  you watcher of men?  Why have you set me as a mark for you,  so that I am a burden to myself? |
| 21 | Why do you not pardon my disobedience,  and take away my iniquity?  For now will I lie down in the dust.  You will seek me diligently, but I will not be.” |

**Job Chapter 8**

Bildad Speaks: Job Should Repent

1Then Bildad the Shuhite answered,

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| 2 | “How long will you speak these things?  Will the words of your mouth be a mighty wind? |
| 3 | Does God pervert justice?  Or does *El* Shaddai pervert righteousness? |
| 4 | If your children have sinned against him,  he has delivered them into the hand of their disobedience. |
| 5 | If you want to seek God diligently,  make your supplication to *El* Shaddai. |
| 6 | If you were pure and upright,  surely now he would awaken for you,  and make the habitation of your righteousness prosperous. |
| 7 | Though your beginning was small,  yet your latter end would greatly increase. |
| 8 | “Please inquire of past generations.  Find out about the learning of their fathers. |
| 9 | (For we are but of yesterday, and know nothing,  because our days on earth are a shadow.) |
| 10 | Will they not teach you, tell you,  and utter words out of their heart? |
| 11 | “Can the papyrus grow up without mire?  Can the rushes grow without water? |
| 12 | While it is yet in its greenness, not cut down,  it withers before any other reed. |
| 13 | So are the paths of all who forget God.  The hope of the godless man will perish, |
| 14 | whose confidence will break apart,  whose trust is a spider’s web. |
| 15 | He will lean on his house,  but it will not stand.  He will cling to it,  but it will not endure. |
| 16 | He is a well-watered plant before the sun.  His shoots go out over its garden. |
| 17 | His roots are wrapped around the rock pile.  He sees the place of stones. |
| 18 | If he is destroyed from his place,  then it will deny him, saying, ‘I have not seen you.’ |
| 19 | Behold, this is the joy of his way:  out of the earth, others will spring. |
| 20 | “Behold, God will not cast away a blameless man,  nor will he uphold the evildoers. |
| 21 | He will still fill your mouth with laughter,  your lips with shouting. |
| 22 | Those who hate you will be clothed with shame.  The tent of the wicked will be no more.” |

**Job Chapter 9**

Job Replies to Bildad

1Then Job answered,

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| 2 | “Truly I know that it is so,  but how can man be just with God? |
| 3 | If he is pleased to contend with him,  he cannot answer him one time in 1,000. |
| 4 | God who is wise in heart and mighty in strength;  who has hardened himself against him and prospered? |
| 5 | He removes the mountains,  and they do not know it,  when he overturns them in his anger. |
| 6 | He shakes the earth out of its place.  Its pillars tremble. |
| 7 | He commands the sun,  and it doesn’t rise,  and seals up the stars. |
| 8 | He alone stretches out the heavens  and treads on the waves of the sea. |
| 9 | He makes the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades,  and the rooms of the south. |
| 10 | He does great things past finding out;  yes, marvelous things without number. |
| 11 | Behold, he goes by me, and I do not see him.  He passes on also, but I do not perceive him. |
| 12 | Behold, he snatches away. Who can hinder him?  Who will ask him, ‘What are you doing?’ |
| 13 | God will not withdraw his anger.  The helpers of Rahab stoop under him. |
| 14 | “How much less can I answer him,  and choose my words to argue with him? |
| 15 | Though I were righteous, yet I would not answer him.  I would make supplication to my judge. |
| 16 | If I had called, and he had answered me,  yet I would not believe that he listened to my voice. |
| 17 | For he breaks me with a storm  and multiplies my wounds without cause. |
| 18 | He will not allow me to catch my breath,  but fills me with bitterness. |
| 19 | If it is a matter of strength, behold, he is mighty!  If of justice, ‘Who,’ says he, ‘will summon me?’ |
| 20 | Though I am righteous, my own mouth will condemn me.  Though I am blameless, it will prove me perverse. |
| 21 | “I am blameless.  I do not respect myself.  I despise my life. |
| 22 | It is all the same. Therefore I say  he destroys the blameless and the wicked. |
| 23 | If the scourge kills suddenly,  he will mock at the trial of the innocent. |
| 24 | The earth is given into the hand of the wicked.  He covers the faces of its judges.  If not he, then who is it? |
| 25 | “Now my days are swifter than a runner.  They flee away, they see no good, |
| 26 | They have passed away as the swift ships,  as the eagle that swoops on the prey. |
| 27 | If I say, ‘I will forget my complaint,  I will put off my sad face, and cheer up,’ |
| 28 | I am afraid of all my sorrows,  I know that you will not hold me innocent. |
| 29 | I will be condemned.  Why then do I labor in vain? |
| 30 | If I wash myself with snow  and cleanse my hands with lye, |
| 31 | yet you will plunge me in a ditch  and my own clothes will abhor me. |
| 32 | “For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him,  that we should come together in judgment. |
| 33 | There is no arbiter between us,  that might lay his hand on us both. |
| 34 | Let him take his rod away from me.  Let his terror not make me afraid; |
| 35 | then I would speak, and not fear him,  for I am not so in myself.” |

**Job Chapter 10**

Job Continues His Response to Bildad

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| 1 | “My soul is weary of my life.  I will give free course to my complaint.  I will speak in the bitterness of my soul. |
| 2 | I will tell God, Do not condemn me.  Show me why you contend with me. |
| 3 | Is it good to you that you should oppress,  that you should despise the work of your hands  and smile on the counsel of the wicked? |
| 4 | Do you have eyes of flesh?  Or do you see as man sees? |
| 5 | Are your days as the days of mortals,  or your years as man’s years, |
| 6 | that you inquire about my iniquity  and search for my sin? |
| 7 | Although you know that I am not wicked,  there is no one who can deliver out of your hand. |
| 8 | “Your hands have framed me and fashioned me altogether,  yet you destroy me. |
| 9 | Remember, I beg you, that you have fashioned me as clay.  Will you bring me into dust again? |
| 10 | Haven’t you poured me out like milk  and curdled me like cheese? |
| 11 | You have clothed me with skin and flesh  and knit me together with bones and sinews. |
| 12 | You have granted me life and loving kindness.  Your visitation has preserved my spirit. |
| 13 | “Yet you hid these things in your heart.  I know that this is with you: |
| 14 | if I sin, then you mark me.  You will not acquit me from my iniquity. |
| 15 | If I am wicked, woe to me.  If I am righteous, I still cannot lift up my head,  being filled with disgrace,  and conscious of my affliction. |
| 16 | If my head is held high, you hunt me like a lion.  Again you show yourself powerful to me. |
| 17 | You renew your witnesses against me,  and increase your indignation on me.  Changes and warfare are with me. |
| 18 | “Why, then, have you brought me forth out of the womb?  I wish I had died and no eye had seen me. |
| 19 | I should have been as though I had not been.  I should have been carried from the womb to the grave. |
| 20 | Aren’t my days few? So stop!  Leave me alone, so that I may find a little comfort |
| 21 | before I go—and I will not return—to the land of darkness and of the shadow of death; |
| 22 | the land dark as midnight;  of the shadow of death, without any order,  where the light is as midnight.” |

**Job Chapter 11**

Zophar Addresses Job

1Then Zophar the Naamathite answered,

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| 2 | “Shouldn’t the multitude of words be answered?  Should a man full of talk be justified? |
| 3 | Should your boastings make men hold their peace?  When you mock, should no man make you ashamed? |
| 4 | For you say, ‘My doctrine is pure.  I am clean in your eyes.’ |
| 5 | But oh that God would speak,  and open his lips against you, |
| 6 | that he would show you the secrets of wisdom!  For true wisdom has two sides.  Know therefore that God exacts of you less than your iniquity deserves. |
| 7 | “Can you fathom the mystery of God?  Or can you probe the limits of *El* Shaddai? |
| 8 | They are high as heaven. What can you do?  They are deeper than Sheol. What can you know? |
| 9 | Its measure is longer than the earth  and broader than the sea. |
| 10 | “If he passes by, or confines,  or convenes a court, then who can oppose him? |
| 11 | For he knows false men.  He sees iniquity also, even though he doesn’t consider it. |
| 12 | An empty-headed man becomes wise  when a man is born as a wild donkey’s colt. |
| 13 | “If your heart is firm,  stretch out your hands toward him. |
| 14 | If iniquity is in your hand, put it far away.  Do not let unrighteousness dwell in your tents. |
| 15 | Surely then you will lift up your face without spot;  Yes, you will be steadfast, and will not fear, |
| 16 | for you will forget your misery.  You will remember it as waters that are passed away. |
| 17 | Life will be clearer than the noonday.  Though there is darkness, it will be as the morning. |
| 18 | You will be secure, because there is hope.  Yes, you will search, and will take your rest in safety. |
| 19 | “Also you will lie down, and none will make you afraid.  Yes, many will court your favor. |
| 20 | But the eyes of the wicked will fail.  They will have no way to flee.  Their hope will be the giving up of the spirit.” |

**Job Chapter 12**

Job Replies to Zophar

1Then Job answered,

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| 2 | “No doubt, but you are the people,  and wisdom will die with you. |
| 3 | But I have understanding as well as you;  I am not inferior to you.  Yes, who doesn’t know such things as these? |
| 4 | “I am like one who is a joke to his neighbor,  I, who called on God, and he answered.  The just, the blameless man is a joke. |
| 5 | In the thought of him who is at ease there is contempt for misfortune.  It is ready for them whose foot slips. |
| 6 | The tents of robbers prosper.  Those who enrage God are secure,  who carry their god in their hands. |
| 7 | “But ask the animals, now, and they will teach you;  the birds of heaven, and they will tell you. |
| 8 | Or speak to the earth, and it will teach you.  The fish of the sea will declare to you. |
| 9 | Who doesn’t know that in all these,  the hand of Yahweh has done this, |
| 10 | in whose hand is the life of every living thing  and the breath of all humankind? |
| 11 | Doesn’t the ear test words,  just as the palate tastes its food? |
| 12 | With aged men is wisdom,  in length of days understanding. |
| 13 | “With God is wisdom and might.  He has counsel and understanding. |
| 14 | Behold, he breaks down, and it cannot be built again.  He imprisons a man, and there can be no release. |
| 15 | Behold, he withholds the waters, and they dry up.  Again, he sends them out, and they overturn the earth. |
| 16 | With him is strength and wisdom.  The deceived and the deceiver are his. |
| 17 | He leads counselors away stripped.  He makes judges fools. |
| 18 | He loosens the bond of kings.  He binds their waist with a belt. |
| 19 | He leads priests away stripped,  and overthrows the mighty. |
| 20 | He removes the speech of those who are trusted  and takes away the understanding of the elders. |
| 21 | He pours contempt on nobles  and loosens the belt of the strong. |
| 22 | He uncovers deep things out of darkness  and brings out to light the shadow of death. |
| 23 | He increases the nations, and he destroys them.  He enlarges the nations, and he leads them captive. |
| 24 | He takes away understanding from the chiefs of the people of the earth  and causes them to wander in a trackless wilderness. |
| 25 | They grope in the dark without light.  He makes them stagger like a drunken man.” |

**Job Chapter 13**

Job Continues His Response to Zophar

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | “Behold, my eye has seen all this.  My ear has heard and understood it. |
| 2 | What you know, I know also.  I am not inferior to you. |
| 3 | Surely I would speak to *El* Shaddai.  I desire to reason with God. |
| 4 | But you are forgers of lies.  You are all physicians of no value. |
| 5 | Oh that you would be completely silent!  Then you would be wise. |
| 6 | “Hear now my reasoning.  Listen to the pleadings of my lips. |
| 7 | Will you speak unrighteously for God,  and talk deceitfully for him? |
| 8 | Will you show partiality to him?  Will you contend for God? |
| 9 | Is it good that he should search you out?  Or as one deceives a man, will you deceive him? |
| 10 | He will surely reprove you  if you secretly show partiality. |
| 11 | Wouldn’t his majesty make you afraid,  and his dread fall on you? |
| 12 | Your memorable sayings are proverbs of ashes,  your defenses are defenses of clay. |
| 13 | “Be silent, leave me alone, that I may speak.  Let come on me what will. |
| 14 | Why should I take my flesh in my teeth,  and put my life in my hand? |
| 15 | Behold, he will kill me. I have no hope.  Nevertheless, I will maintain my ways before him. |
| 16 | This also will be my salvation,  that a godless man will not come before him. |
| 17 | Hear diligently my speech.  Let my declaration be in your ears. |
| 18 | See now, I have set my cause in order.  I know that I am righteous. |
| 19 | Who is he who will contend with me?  For then would I hold my peace and breathe my last! |
| 20 | “Only do not do two things to me;  then I will not hide myself from your face: |
| 21 | withdraw your hand far from me;  and do not let your terror make me afraid. |
| 22 | Then call, and I will answer;  or let me speak, and you answer me. |
| 23 | How many are my iniquities and sins?  Make me know my disobedience and my sin. |
| 24 | Why hide you your face,  and hold me for your enemy? |
| 25 | Will you harass a driven leaf?  Will you pursue the dry stubble? |
| 26 | For you write bitter things against me,  and make me inherit the iniquities of my youth: |
| 27 | You also put my feet in the stocks and mark all my paths.  You set a bound to the soles of my feet, |
| 28 | “Though I am decaying like a rotten thing,  like a garment that is moth-eaten.” |

**Job Chapter 14**

Job Continues His Response to Zophar

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | “Man, who is born of a woman,  is of few days and full of trouble. |
| 2 | He comes forth like a flower and is cut down.  He also flees like a shadow, and doesn’t continue. |
| 3 | Do you open your eyes on such a one,  and bring me into judgment before you? |
| 4 | Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean?  No one. |
| 5 | Seeing his days are determined,  the number of his months is with you,  and you have made limits that he cannot pass. |
| 6 | Look away from him, that he may rest,  so he can enjoy,[[6]](#footnote-12228) like a hired *man*, his day. |
| 7 | “For there is hope for a tree,  if it is cut down, that it will sprout again,  that the tender branch of it will not cease. |
| 8 | Though its root grows old in the earth,  and its stock dies in the ground, |
| 9 | yet through the scent of water it will bud,  and put forth boughs like a plant. |
| 10 | But man dies and is laid low.  Yes, man breathes his last *breath*, and where is he? |
| 11 | As the waters disappear from the sea  and the river wastes away and dries up, |
| 12 | so a man lies down and does not rise.  Until the heavens are no more they will not awake,  nor be roused out of their sleep. |
| 13 | “Oh that you would hide me in Sheol,  that you would keep me secret until your wrath is past,  that you would appoint me a set time,  and remember me! |
| 14 | If a man dies, will he live again?  All the days of my warfare would I wait,  until my release should come. |
| 15 | You would call, and I would answer you.  You would have a desire to the work of your hands. |
| 16 | But now you number my steps.  Do you not watch over my sin? |
| 17 | My disobedience is sealed up in a bag.  You fasten up my iniquity. |
| 18 | “But the mountain falling comes to nothing.  The rock is removed out of its place. |
| 19 | The waters wear the stones.  The torrents of it wash away the dust of the earth.  So you destroy the hope of man. |
| 20 | You forever prevail against him, and he departs.  You change his face and send him away. |
| 21 | His sons come to honor, and he doesn’t know it.  They are brought low, but he doesn’t perceive it of them. |
| 22 | But his flesh on him has pain,  and his soul inside him mourns.” |

**Job Chapter 15**

Eliphaz’ Second Address to Job

1Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2 | “Should a wise man answer with vain knowledge  and fill himself with the east wind? |
| 3 | Should he reason with unprofitable talk,  or with speeches with which he can do no good? |
| 4 | Yes, you do away with fear,  and hinder devotion before God. |
| 5 | For your iniquity teaches your mouth,  and you choose the language of the crafty. |
| 6 | Your own mouth condemns you, and not I.  Yes, your own lips testify against you. |
| 7 | “Are you the first man who was born?  Or were you brought forth before the hills? |
| 8 | Do you listen in on the secret council of God?  Do you limit wisdom to yourself? |
| 9 | What do you know that we do not know?  What do you understand that is not in us? |
| 10 | With us are both the gray-headed and the very aged men,  much elder than your father. |
| 11 | Are the consolations of God too small for you,  even the word that is gentle toward you? |
| 12 | Why does your heart carry you away?  Why do your eyes flash, |
| 13 | so that you turn your spirit against God,  and let such words go out of your mouth? |
| 14 | “What is man, that he should be clean?  What is he who is born of a woman, that he should be righteous? |
| 15 | Behold, he puts no trust in his holy ones.  Yes, the heavens are not pure in his eyes; |
| 16 | how much less one who is abominable and corrupt,  a man who drinks iniquity like water! |
| 17 | “I will show you, listen to me;  what I have seen I will declare: |
| 18 | (Which wise men have told by their fathers,  and have not hidden it; |
| 19 | to whom alone the land was given,  and no stranger passed among them) |
| 20 | the wicked man writhes in pain all his days,  even the number of years that are laid up for the oppressor. |
| 21 | A sound of terrors is in his ears.  In prosperity the destroyer will come on him. |
| 22 | He doesn’t believe that he will return out of darkness.  He is waited for by the sword. |
| 23 | He wanders abroad for bread, saying, ‘Where is it?’  He knows that the day of darkness is ready at his hand. |
| 24 | Distress and anguish make him afraid.  They prevail against him as a king ready to the battle. |
| 25 | Because he has stretched out his hand against God  and behaves himself proudly against *El* Shaddai; |
| 26 | he runs at him with a stiff neck,  with the thick shields of his bucklers; |
| 27 | because he has covered his face with his fatness  and gathered fat on his thighs. |
| 28 | He has lived in desolate cities,  in houses that no one inhabited,  that were ready to become heaps. |
| 29 | He will not be rich, neither will his substance continue,  neither will their possessions be extended on the earth. |
| 30 | He will not depart out of darkness.  The flame will dry up his branches.  By the breath of God’s mouth he will go away. |
| 31 | Let him not trust in emptiness, deceiving himself;  for emptiness will be his reward. |
| 32 | It will be accomplished before his time.  His branch will not be green. |
| 33 | He will shake off his unripe grape as the vine,  and will cast off his flower as the olive tree. |
| 34 | For the company of the godless will be barren,  and fire will consume the tents of bribery. |
| 35 | They conceive mischief and bring forth iniquity.  Their heart prepares deceit.” |

**Job Chapter 16**

Job Replies to his ‘Miserable Comforters’

1Then Job answered,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2 | “I have heard many things like these.  You are all miserable comforters! |
| 3 | Do *your* empty words have an end?  Or what compels you that you answer? |
| 4 | I also could speak like you do.  If your soul were in my soul’s place,  I could join words together against you,  and shake my head at you, |
| 5 | but *instead* I would strengthen you with my mouth.  The solace of my lips would relieve you. |
| 6 | “Though I speak, my pain is not relieved.  And if I hold back, what *pain* leaves me? |
| 7 | But now, God, you have surely worn me out.  You have devastated all my group *of loved ones*. |
| 8 | You have shriveled me up. It has become a witness against me.  My infirmity rises up against me. It testifies to my face. |
| 9 | He has torn me in his wrath and persecuted me.  He has gnashed on me with his teeth.  My adversary sharpens his eyes on me. |
| 10 | They have gaped on me with their mouth.  They have struck me on the cheek with contempt.  They have massed themselves together against me. |
| 11 | God delivers me to the ungodly  and casts me into the hands of the wicked. |
| 12 | I was at ease, and he broke me apart.  Yes, he has taken me by the neck and dashed me to pieces.  He has also set me up for his target. |
| 13 | His archers surround me.  He splits my kidneys apart and does not spare.  He pours out my gall on the ground. |
| 14 | He breaks me with breach on breach.  He runs at me like a warrior. |
| 15 | “I have sewed sackcloth over my skin  and have thrust my horn into the dust. |
| 16 | My face is red with weeping.  Deep darkness is on my eyelids, |
| 17 | although there is no violence in my hands,  and my prayer is pure. |
| 18 | “Earth, do not cover my blood,  and may my cry have no *resting* place. |
| 19 | Even now, behold, my witness is in heaven,  and he who vouches for me is on high. |
| 20 | My friends scoff at me.  My eyes pour out tears to God, |
| 21 | that he would maintain the right of a man with God,  of a son of man with his neighbor! |
| 22 | For when a few years have come,  I will go the way of no return.” |

**Job Chapter 17**

Job Continues His Response

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | “My spirit is broken.  My days are extinct,  and the grave is ready for me. |
| 2 | Surely there are mockers with me.  My eye dwells on their provocation. |
| 3 | “Now give a pledge, be collateral for me with yourself.  Who is there who will strike hands with me? |
| 4 | For you have hidden their heart from understanding,  Therefore you will not exalt them. |
| 5 | He who denounces his friends for a prey,  even the eyes of his children will fail. |
| 6 | “But he has made me a byword of the people.  They spit in my face. |
| 7 | My eye also is dim by reason of sorrow.  All my members are as a shadow. |
| 8 | Upright men will be astonished at this.  The innocent will stir up himself against the godless. |
| 9 | Yet will the righteous hold on his way.  He who has clean hands will grow stronger and stronger. |
| 10 | But as for you all, come on again;  I will not find a wise man among you. |
| 11 | “My days are over, my plans are broken off,  as are the desires of my heart. |
| 12 | They change the night into day,  saying, ‘The light is near’ *but are* in the midst of darkness. |
| 13 | If I look for Sheol to be my house,  if I spread out my bed in the darkness, |
| 14 | if I say to the pit, ‘You are my father;’  to the worm, ‘My mother,’ and ‘my sister;’ |
| 15 | where then is my hope?  And as for *any* hope for me, who can see it? |
| 16 | Will it go down with me to the gates of Sheol?  Will we descend together into the dust?” |

**Job Chapter 18**

Bildad Speaks

1Then Bildad the Shuhite answered,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2 | “How long will you hunt for words?  Consider, and afterwards we will speak. |
| 3 | Why are we counted as animals  that have become unclean in your eyes? |
| 4 | You who tear yourself in your anger,  will the earth be forsaken for you?  Or should the rock be removed out of its place? |
| 5 | “Yes, the light of the wicked will be put out,  The spark of his fire will not shine. |
| 6 | The light will be dark in his tent.  His lamp above him will be put out. |
| 7 | The steps of his strength will be shortened.  His own counsel will cast him down. |
| 8 | For he is cast into a net by his own feet,  and he wanders into its mesh. |
| 9 | A snare will take him by the heel.  A trap will catch him. |
| 10 | A noose is hidden for him in the ground,  a trap for him in the way. |
| 11 | Terrors will make him afraid on every side  and will chase him at his heels. |
| 12 | His strength will be famished.  Calamity will be ready at his side. |
| 13 | The members of his body will be devoured.  The firstborn of death will devour his members. |
| 14 | He will be rooted out of his tent where he trusts.  He will be brought to the king of terrors. |
| 15 | In his tent will live those which are not his;  sulfur is scattered over his habitation. |
| 16 | His roots will be dried up beneath.  Above will his branch be cut off. |
| 17 | His memory will perish from the earth.  He will have no name in the street. |
| 18 | He will be driven from light into darkness  and chased out of the world. |
| 19 | He will have neither son nor grandson among his people,  nor any remaining where he lived. |
| 20 | Those who come after will be astonished at his day  as those who went before were frightened. |
| 21 | Surely such are the dwellings of the unrighteous.  This is the place of him who does not know God.” |

**Job Chapter 19**

Job Replies: My Redeemer Lives

1Then Job answered,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2 | “How long will you torment me  and crush me with words? |
| 3 | You have reproached me ten times.  You aren’t ashamed that you attack me. |
| 4 | If it is true that I have erred,  my error remains with myself. |
| 5 | If indeed you will magnify yourselves against me  and plead against me my reproach, |
| 6 | know now that God has subverted me,  and has surrounded me with his net. |
| 7 | “Behold, I cry out of wrong, but I am not heard.  I cry out for help, but there is no justice. |
| 8 | He has walled up my way so that I cannot pass  and has set darkness in my paths. |
| 9 | He has stripped me of my glory  and taken the crown from my head. |
| 10 | He has broken me down on every side, and I am gone.  My hope he has plucked up like a tree. |
| 11 | He has also kindled his wrath against me.  He counts me among his adversaries. |
| 12 | His troops come on together,  build a siege ramp against me  and encamp around my tent. |
| 13 | “He has put my brothers far from me.  My acquaintances are wholly estranged from me. |
| 14 | My relatives have gone away.  My familiar friends have forgotten me. |
| 15 | Those who dwell in my house, and my maids, count me for a stranger.  In their eyes I am a foreigner. |
| 16 | I call to my servant, and he gives me no answer.  I beg him with my mouth. |
| 17 | My breath is offensive to my wife.  I am loathsome to the children of my own mother. |
| 18 | Even young children despise me.  If I arise, they speak against me. |
| 19 | All my familiar friends abhor me.  They whom I loved have turned against me. |
| 20 | My bones stick to my skin and to my flesh.  I have escaped by the skin of my teeth. |
| 21 | “Have pity on me, have pity on me, you my friends;  for the hand of God has touched me. |
| 22 | Why do you persecute me as God,  and are not satisfied with my flesh? |
| 23 | “Oh that my words were now written!  Oh that they were inscribed in a book! |
| 24 | That with an iron pen and lead  they were engraved in the rock forever! |
| 25 | But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives.  In the end, he will rise up over the dust. |
| 26 | After my skin is destroyed,  then in my flesh I will see God, |
| 27 | Whom I, even I, will see on my side.  My eyes will see, and not as a stranger.  My heart is consumed inside me. |
| 28 | “If you say, ‘How we will persecute him!’  because the root of the matter is found in me, |
| 29 | be afraid of the sword,  for wrath brings the punishments of the sword,  that you may know there is a judgment.” |

**Job Chapter 20**

Zophar Addresses Job

1Then Zophar the Naamathite answered,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2 | “This is why my thoughts give answer to me,  and because of my haste that is in me. |
| 3 | I have heard the reproof that insults me,  and the spirit of my understanding makes me answer. |
| 4 | “Do you not know this from old,  since man was placed on earth, |
| 5 | that the triumphing of the wicked is short,  the joy of the godless is but for a moment? |
| 6 | Though his lofty *pride* mounts up to the heavens  and his head reaches to the clouds, |
| 7 | yet he will perish forever like his own dung.  Those who have seen him will say, ‘Where is he?’ |
| 8 | He will fly away as a dream and will not be found.  Yes, he will be chased away like a vision of the night. |
| 9 | The eye that saw him will see him no more,  neither will his place any more see him. |
| 10 | His children will seek the favor of the poor.  His hands will give back his wealth. |
| 11 | His bones are full of his youth,  but youth will lie down with him in the dust. |
| 12 | “Though wickedness is sweet in his mouth,  though he hide it under his tongue, |
| 13 | though he spare it, and will not let it go,  but keep it still inside his mouth; |
| 14 | yet his food in his bowels is turned.  It is cobra venom inside him. |
| 15 | He has swallowed down riches, and he will vomit them up again.  God will cast them out of his belly. |
| 16 | He will suck cobra venom.  The viper’s tongue will kill him. |
| 17 | He will not look at the rivers,  the flowing streams of honey and butter. |
| 18 | That for which he labored he must restore, and will not swallow it down.  According to the substance that he has gotten, he does not rejoice. |
| 19 | For he has oppressed and forsaken the poor.  He has violently taken away a house, and he did not build it up. |
| 20 | “Because he knew no quietness within him,  he does not save anything of that in which he delights. |
| 21 | There was nothing left that he didn’t devour,  therefore his prosperity will not endure. |
| 22 | In the fullness of his sufficiency, distress will overtake him.  The hand of everyone who is in misery will come on him. |
| 23 | When he is about to fill his belly,  God will cast the fierceness of his wrath on him.  It will rain on him while he is eating. |
| 24 | He will flee from the iron weapon.  The bronze arrow will strike him through. |
| 25 | He draws it forth, and it comes out of his body.  Yes, the glittering point comes out of his liver.  Terrors are on him. |
| 26 | All darkness is laid up for his treasures.  An unfanned fire will devour him.  It will consume what is left in his tent. |
| 27 | The heavens will reveal his iniquity.  The earth will rise up against him. |
| 28 | The increase of his house will depart.  They will rush away in the day of his wrath. |
| 29 | This is the portion of a wicked man from God,  the heritage appointed to him by God.” |

**Job Chapter 21**

Job’s Reply to Zophar

1Then Job answered and said,

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| --- | --- |
| 2 | “Listen, yes, listen to my speech.  Let this be the consolation you give me. |
| 3 | Bear with me and I will speak,  then after I have spoken, mock on. |
| 4 | “As for me, is my complaint to a man?  Why should I not be impatient? |
| 5 | Look at me, and be astonished.  Lay your hand on your mouth. |
| 6 | When I remember, I am troubled.  Horror takes hold of my flesh. |
| 7 | Why do the wicked keep on living, becoming old,  and also yes, and grow mighty in power? |
| 8 | Their descendants are established with them before their face,  and their offspring before their eyes. |
| 9 | Their houses are safe from fear,  nor is the rod of God upon them. |
| 10 | Their bulls breed without fail.  Their cows calve and do not miscarry. |
| 11 | They send forth their little boys like a flock.  Their children dance. |
| 12 | They sing to the tambourine and harp  and rejoice to the sound of the pipe. |
| 13 | They spend their days in prosperity,  and go down to Sheol in peace. |
| 14 | Yet they say to God, ‘Depart from us,  for we have no desire to know your ways. |
| 15 | Who is *El* Shaddai that we should serve him?  And what profit will we have if we pray to him?’ |
| 16 | *But* behold, their prosperity is not in their hand.  The counsel of the wicked is far from me. |
| 17 | “How often is it that the lamp of the wicked is put out,  or that calamity comes upon them,  or pain that God distributes in his anger? |
| 18 | How often is it that they are as stubble before the wind,  as chaff that the storm carries away? |
| 19 | You say, ‘God lays up his iniquity for his children.’  Let him repay the sinner so that he will know it. |
| 20 | Let his own eyes see his destruction.  Let him drink of the wrath of *El* Shaddai. |
| 21 | For what does he care for his house after him,  when the number of his months is cut off? |
| 22 | “Can anyone teach God knowledge,  since he judges those who are on high? |
| 23 | One dies in his full strength,  being wholly at ease and quiet. |
| 24 | His pails are full of milk.  The marrow of his bones is moistened. |
| 25 | Another dies in bitterness of soul  and never tastes of good. |
| 26 | They lie down alike in the dust.  The worm covers them. |
| 27 | “Behold, I know your thoughts,  and the schemes by which you would wrong me. |
| 28 | For you say, ‘Where is the house of the noble?  Where is the tent in which the wicked lived?’ |
| 29 | Have you not asked wayfaring men?  Do you not know their testimony, |
| 30 | that the evil man is reserved to the day of calamity,  that they are led forth to the day of wrath? |
| 31 | Who would declare his way to his face?  Who would repay him what he has done? |
| 32 | Yet he will be borne to the grave.  Men will keep watch over the tomb. |
| 33 | The clods of the valley will be sweet to him.  All men will draw after him,  as there were innumerable before him. |
| 34 | “So how can you comfort me with nonsense,  because in your answers there remains only falsehood?” |

**Job Chapter 22**

Eliphaz Addresses Job

1Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2 | “Can a man be profitable to God?  Surely he who is wise is profitable to himself. |
| 3 | Is it any pleasure to *El* Shaddai that you are righteous?  Or does it benefit him that you make your ways perfect? |
| 4 | “Is it for your piety that he reproves you,  that he enters with you into judgment? |
| 5 | Isn’t your wickedness great?  Neither is there any end to your iniquities. |
| 6 | For you have taken pledges from your brother for nothing,  and stripped the naked of their clothing. |
| 7 | You haven’t given water to the weary to drink,  and you have withheld bread from the hungry. |
| 8 | But as for the mighty man, he had the earth.  The honorable man, he lived in it. |
| 9 | You have sent widows away empty,  and the arms of the fatherless have been broken. |
| 10 | Therefore snares are around you.  Sudden fear troubles you, |
| 11 | or darkness, so that you cannot see,  and floods of waters cover you. |
| 12 | “Isn’t God in the heights of heaven?  See the height of the stars, how high they are! |
| 13 | You say, ‘What does God know?  Can he judge through the thick darkness? |
| 14 | Thick clouds are a covering to him, so that he doesn’t see.  He walks on the vault of heaven.’ |
| 15 | Will you keep the old way  that wicked men have walked, |
| 16 | who were snatched away before their time,  whose foundation was poured out as a stream, |
| 17 | who said to God, ‘Depart from us;’  and, ‘What can *El* Shaddai do for us?’ |
| 18 | Yet he filled their houses with good things,  but the counsel of the wicked is far from me. |
| 19 | The righteous see it, and are glad.  The innocent ridicule them, |
| 20 | saying, ‘Surely those who rose up against us are cut off.  The fire has consumed their remnant.’ |
| 21 | “Acquaint yourself with him, now, and be at peace.  By it good will come to you. |
| 22 | Please receive instruction from his mouth,  and lay up his words in your heart. |
| 23 | If you return to *El* Shaddai, you will be built up,  if you get rid of unrighteousness from your tents. |
| 24 | Lay your treasure in the dust,  the gold of Ophir among the stones of the brooks. |
| 25 | *El* Shaddai will be your treasure,  and precious silver to you. |
| 26 | For then you will delight yourself in *El* Shaddai  and will lift up your face to God. |
| 27 | You will make your prayer to him, and he will hear you.  You will pay your vows. |
| 28 | You will also decree a thing, and it will be established to you.  Light will shine on your ways. |
| 29 | When they cast down, you will say, ‘be lifted up.’  He will save the humble person. |
| 30 | He will even deliver him who is not innocent.  Yes, he will be delivered through the cleanness of your hands.” |

**Job Chapter 23**

Job Responds to Eliphaz

1Then Job answered,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2 | “Even today my complaint is rebellious.  His hand is heavy in spite of my groaning. |
| 3 | Oh that I knew where I might find him!  That I might come even to his seat! |
| 4 | I would set my cause in order before him  and fill my mouth with arguments. |
| 5 | I would know the words that he would answer me,  and understand what he would tell me. |
| 6 | Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power?  No, but he would listen to me. |
| 7 | There the upright might reason with him,  so I should be delivered forever from my judge. |
| 8 | “If I go east, he is not there;  if west, I cannot find him; |
| 9 | He works to the north, but I cannot see him.  He turns south, but I cannot catch a glimpse of him. |
| 10 | But he knows the way that I take.  When he has tried me, I will come forth like gold. |
| 11 | My foot has held fast to his steps.  I have kept his way and not turned aside. |
| 12 | I haven’t gone back from the commandment of his lips.  I have treasured up the words of his mouth more than my necessary food. |
| 13 | “But he stands alone, and who can oppose him?  What his soul desires, even that he does. |
| 14 | For he performs what is appointed for me.  Many such things are with him. |
| 15 | Therefore I am terrified at his presence.  When I consider, I am afraid of him. |
| 16 | For God has made my heart faint.  *El* Shaddai has terrified me. |
| 17 | Because I was not cut off before the darkness,  neither did he cover the thick darkness from my face.” |

**Job Chapter 24**

Job Continues His Response to Eliphaz

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | “Why aren’t times laid up by *El* Shaddai?  Why do not those who know him see his days? |
| 2 | There are people who remove the landmarks.  They violently take away flocks, and feed them. |
| 3 | They drive away the donkey of the fatherless,  and they take the widow’s ox for a pledge. |
| 4 | They turn the needy out of the way.  The poor of the earth all hide themselves. |
| 5 | Behold, as wild donkeys in the desert they go out to their work,  seeking diligently for food.  The wilderness yields them bread for their children. |
| 6 | They cut their provender in the field.  They glean the vineyard of the wicked. |
| 7 | They lie all night naked without clothing  and have no covering in the cold. |
| 8 | They are wet with the showers of the mountains  and embrace the rock for lack of a shelter. |
| 9 | There are those who pluck the fatherless from the breast  and take a pledge of the poor, |
| 10 | So that they go around naked without clothing.  Being hungry, they carry the sheaves. |
| 11 | They make oil inside the walls of these men.  They tread wine presses and suffer thirst. |
| 12 | From out of the populous city, men groan.  The soul of the wounded cries out,  yet God doesn’t regard the folly. |
| 13 | “These are of those who rebel against the light.  They do not know its ways,  nor stay in its paths. |
| 14 | The murderer rises with the light.  He kills the poor and needy.  In the night he is like a thief. |
| 15 | The eye also of the adulterer waits for the twilight,  saying, ‘No eye will see me.’  He disguises his face. |
| 16 | In the dark they dig through houses.  They shut themselves up in the daytime.  They do not know the light. |
| 17 | For the morning is to all of them like thick darkness,  for they know the terrors of the thick darkness. |
| 18 | “They are foam on the surface of the waters.  Their portion is cursed in the earth.  They do not turn into the way of the vineyards. |
| 19 | Drought and heat consume the snow waters,  so does Sheol those who have sinned. |
| 20 | The womb will forget him.  The worm will find him sweet.  He will no longer be remembered.  Unrighteousness will be broken as a tree. |
| 21 | He devours the barren who do not bear.  He shows no kindness to the widow. |
| 22 | Yet God preserves the mighty by his power.  He rises up who has no assurance of life. |
| 23 | God gives them security, and they rest in it.  His eyes are on their ways. |
| 24 | They are exalted; yet a little while, and they are gone.  Yes, they are brought low, they are taken out of the way as all others,  and are cut off as the tops of the ears of grain. |
| 25 | “If it isn’t so now, who will prove me a liar  and make my speech worth nothing?” |

**Job Chapter 25**

Bildad Speaks

1Then Bildad the Shuhite answered,

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| --- | --- |
| 2 | “Dominion and fear are with him.  He makes peace in his high places. |
| 3 | Can his armies be counted?  On whom does his light not arise? |
| 4 | How then can man be just with God?  Or how can he who is born of a woman be clean? |
| 5 | Behold, even the moon has no brightness,  and in his eyes the stars are not pure; |
| 6 | How much less man, who is a worm,  the son of man, who is a worm!” |

**Job Chapter 26**

Job Replies to Bildad

1Then Job answered,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2 | “How have you helped him who is without power!  How have you saved the arm that has no strength! |
| 3 | How have you counseled him who has no wisdom,  and plentifully declared sound knowledge! |
| 4 | To whom have you uttered words?  Whose spirit came out from you? |
| 5 | “Those who are deceased tremble,  those beneath the waters and all that live in them. |
| 6 | Sheol is naked before God,  and Abaddon has no covering. |
| 7 | He stretches out the north over empty space  and hangs the earth on nothing. |
| 8 | He binds up the waters in his thick clouds,  and the cloud is not burst under them. |
| 9 | He encloses the face of his throne  and spreads his cloud on it. |
| 10 | He has described a boundary on the surface of the waters,  and to the confines of light and darkness. |
| 11 | The pillars of heaven tremble  and are astonished at his rebuke. |
| 12 | He stirs up the sea with his power,  and by his understanding he strikes through Rahab. |
| 13 | By his spirit the heavens were made fair.  His hand has pierced the fleeing serpent. |
| 14 | Behold, these are but the outskirts of his ways.  How small a whisper do we hear of him!  But the thunder of his power who can understand?” |

**Job Chapter 27**

Job Continues

1Job again took up his parable, and said,

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| --- | --- |
| 2 | “As God lives, who has deprived me of justice,  *El* Shaddai, who has made my soul bitter, |
| 3 | as long as my breath is still in me  and the spirit of God is in my nostrils, |
| 4 | surely my lips will not speak unrighteousness,  neither will my tongue utter deceit. |
| 5 | Far be it from me that I should justify you.  Until I die I will not deny my integrity. |
| 6 | I hold fast to my righteousness and will not let it go.  My heart will not reproach me so long as I live. |
| 7 | “Let my enemy be as the wicked.  Let him who rises up against me be as the unrighteous. |
| 8 | For what is the hope of the godless when he is cut off,  when God takes away his life? |
| 9 | Will God hear his cry  when trouble comes on him? |
| 10 | Will he delight himself in *El* Shaddai,  and call on God at all times? |
| 11 | I will teach you about the hand of God.  What is with *El* Shaddai I will not conceal. |
| 12 | Behold, all of you have seen it yourselves;  why then have you become altogether vain? |
| 13 | “This is a wicked man’s portion from God,  and the heritage that oppressors receive from *El* Shaddai. |
| 14 | If his children are multiplied, it is for the sword.  His offspring will not be satisfied with bread. |
| 15 | Those who remain of him will be buried in death.  His widows will make no lamentation. |
| 16 | Though he heap up silver as *abundant as* the dust  and prepare clothing as *abundant as* the clay, |
| 17 | he may prepare it, but the righteous will put it on,  and the innocent will divide the silver. |
| 18 | He builds his house like the moth,  like a booth that the watchman makes. |
| 19 | He lies down rich, but he will not do so again.  He opens his eyes, and he is not. |
| 20 | Terrors overtake him like waters.  A storm steals him away in the night. |
| 21 | The east wind carries him away, and he departs.  It sweeps him out of his place. |
| 22 | For it hurls at him, and does not spare  as he flees away from his hand. |
| 23 | Men will clap their hands at him  and will hiss him out of his place.” |

**Job Chapter 28**

Job Contemplates Wisdom

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | “Surely there is a source for silver,  and a place where gold is refined. |
| 2 | Iron is taken out of the dust,  and copper is smelted from the stone. |
| 3 | Men put an end to the darkness  and search out to the furthest limit,  the rock in gloom and deep shadow. |
| 4 | He breaks open a shaft far from where people live,  forgotten by the foot.  Far from other people,  they hang and they swing back and forth. |
| 5 | As for the earth, out of it comes food;  but underneath it is overturned as by fire. |
| 6 | Its rocks are the place of lapis lazuli,  and it has dust of gold. |
| 7 | No bird of prey knows that path,  nor has the falcon’s eye seen it. |
| 8 | The proud animals have not walked it,  nor has the fierce lion passed by there. |
| 9 | Man puts out his hand to the flinty rock  and he overturns the mountains by the roots. |
| 10 | He cuts out channels among the rocks,  and his eye sees every precious thing. |
| 11 | He binds the streams so that they do not trickle,  and the thing that is hidden he brings out to the light. |
| 12 | “But where can wisdom be found?  Where is the place *to find* understanding? |
| 13 | Humans do not know its worth,  nor is it found in the land of the living. |
| 14 | The deep says, ‘It is not in me.’  The sea says, ‘It is not with me.’ |
| 15 | It cannot be obtained *in exchange* for solid gold,  nor can silver be weighed for its price. |
| 16 | It cannot be weighed *in the balances* with the gold of Ophir,  with the precious onyx, or the lapis lazuli. |
| 17 | Neither gold nor glass can equal it,  nor can it be exchanged for articles of fine gold. |
| 18 | Coral or crystal are not worth mentioning,  the price of wisdom is above jewels. |
| 19 | The topaz of Ethiopia can not equal it,  nor can it be weighed *in a balance* with pure gold. |
| 20 | “Where then does wisdom come from?  Where is the place *to find* understanding? |
| 21 | She is hidden from the eyes of all living  and concealed from the birds of the air. |
| 22 | Destruction[[7]](#footnote-21406) and Death say,  ‘We have heard a report about her with our ears.’ |
| 23 | God understands the way to her,  and it is he who knows her place, |
| 24 | because he looks to the ends of the earth  and sees everything under the heavens. |
| 25 | When he made the wind have its weight,  and meted out the waters by measure, |
| 26 | when he made a decree for the rain  and a path for the thunderstorm, |
| 27 | then he saw *wisdom* and appraised her,  established her, and searched her out. |
| 28 | And he said to humankind,  ‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom,  and to turn away from evil is understanding.’” |

**Job Chapter 29**

Job's Summary Defense

1Job again took up his parable and said,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2 | “Oh that I were as in the months of old,  as in the days when God watched over me; |
| 3 | when his lamp shone on my head,  and by his light I walked through darkness, |
| 4 | as I was in the ripeness of my days,  when the friendship of God was in my tent, |
| 5 | when *El* Shaddai was yet with me  and my children were around me, |
| 6 | when my steps were washed with butter  and the rock poured out streams of oil for me, |
| 7 | “When I went forth to the city gate,  when I prepared my seat in the street. |
| 8 | The young men saw me and hid themselves.  The aged rose up and stood. |
| 9 | The officials refrained from talking  and laid their hand on their mouth. |
| 10 | The voice of the nobles was hushed  and their tongue stuck to the roof of their mouth. |
| 11 | For when the ear heard me, then it blessed me,  and when the eye saw me, it commended me, |
| 12 | Because I delivered the poor who cried out,  and the fatherless also who had none to help him, |
| 13 | the blessing of him who was ready to perish came on me,  and I caused the widow’s heart to sing for joy. |
| 14 | I put on righteousness, and it clothed me.  My justice was as a cloak and a diadem. |
| 15 | I was eyes to the blind  and feet to the lame. |
| 16 | I was a father to the needy.  The cause of him who I didn’t know, I searched out. |
| 17 | I broke the jaws of the unrighteous  and plucked the prey out of his teeth. |
| 18 | “Then I said, ‘I will die in my own house,  I will number my days as the sand. |
| 19 | My root is spread out to the waters.  The dew lies all night on my branch. |
| 20 | My glory is fresh in me.  My bow is renewed in my hand.’ |
| 21 | “Men listened to me, waited,  and kept silence for my counsel. |
| 22 | After my words they didn’t speak again.  My speech fell on them. |
| 23 | They waited for me as for the rain.  They opened their mouths as for the spring rain. |
| 24 | I smiled on them when they had no confidence.  They didn’t reject the light of my face. |
| 25 | I chose out their way, and sat as chief.  I lived as a king in the army,  as one who comforts the mourners.” |

**Job Chapter 30**

Job Continues His Defense

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | “But now those who are younger than I  have me in derision,  whose fathers I would have disdained  to put with my sheep dogs. |
| 2 | Of what use is the strength of their hands to me,  men in whom ripe age has perished? |
| 3 | They are gaunt from lack and famine.  They gnaw the dry ground  in the gloom of waste and desolation. |
| 4 | They pluck salt herbs by the shrubs.  The roots of the broom are their food. |
| 5 | They are driven out from the midst of men.  They cry out after them as after a thief, |
| 6 | so that they dwell in frightful valleys  and in holes of the earth and of the rocks. |
| 7 | Among the bushes they bray,  and under the nettles they are gathered together. |
| 8 | They are children of fools, yes, children of base men.  They were flogged out of the land. |
| 9 | “Now I have become their *mocking* song.  Yes, I am a byword to them. |
| 10 | They abhor me, they stand aloof from me  and do not hesitate to spit in my face. |
| 11 | For he has untied his cord and afflicted me,  and they have thrown off restraint before me. |
| 12 | On my right hand rise the rabble.  They thrust aside my feet,  they cast up against me their ways of destruction. |
| 13 | They mar my path,  they set forward my calamity  without anyone’s help. |
| 14 | As through a wide breach they come,  in the midst of the ruin they roll themselves in. |
| 15 | Terrors have turned on me.  They chase my honor as the wind.  My welfare has passed away as a cloud. |
| 16 | “Now my soul is poured out within me.  Days of affliction have taken hold on me. |
| 17 | In the night season my bones are pierced in me,  and the pains that gnaw me take no rest. |
| 18 | By great force is my garment disfigured.  It binds me about as the collar of my coat. |
| 19 | He has cast me into the mire.  I have become like dust and ashes. |
| 20 | “I cry out to you, and you do not answer me.  I stand up, and you gaze at me. |
| 21 | You have turned to be cruel to me.  With the might of your hand you persecute me. |
| 22 | You lift me up to the wind and drive me with it.  You dissolve me in the storm. |
| 23 | For I know that you will bring me to death,  to the meeting house for all the living. |
| 24 | “However doesn’t one stretch out a hand in his fall?  Or in his calamity therefore cry out for help? |
| 25 | Did I not weep for him who was in trouble?  Was not my soul grieved for the needy? |
| 26 | When I looked for good, then evil came;  when I waited for light, there came darkness. |
| 27 | My heart is troubled and does not rest.  Days of affliction have come on me. |
| 28 | I go about blackened, but not by the sun.  I stand up in the assembly and cry out for help. |
| 29 | I am a brother to jackals,  and a companion to ostriches. |
| 30 | My skin grows black and peels from me.  My bones are burned with heat. |
| 31 | Therefore my harp has turned to mourning  and my pipe into the voice of those who weep.” |

**Job Chapter 31**

Job's Final Appeal

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | “I cut a covenant with my eyes,  how then should I look lustfully at a young woman? |
| 2 | For what is the portion from God above  and the heritage from *El* Shaddai on high? |
| 3 | Is it not calamity to the unrighteous  and disaster to the workers of iniquity? |
| 4 | Doesn’t he see my ways  and number all my steps? |
| 5 | “If I have walked with falsehood  and my foot has hurried to deceit |
| 6 | (let me be weighed in an honest balance,  that God may know my integrity), |
| 7 | “If my step has turned aside from the *right* way,  if my heart has walked after my eyes,  if any stain has stuck to my hands, |
| 8 | then let me sow and let another eat,  and let the produce of my field be rooted out. |
| 9 | “If my heart has been enticed by a woman,  or I have lain in wait at my neighbor’s door, |
| 10 | then let my wife grind for another,  and let others bow down upon her. |
| 11 | For that would be a heinous crime.  Yes, it would be an iniquity to be punished by the judges: |
| 12 | For it is a fire that consumes to destruction,  and would root out all my increase. |
| 13 | “If I have despised the cause of my male servant  or of my female servant when they contended with me, |
| 14 | what then should I do when God rises up?  When he visits, what should I answer him? |
| 15 | Didn’t he who made me in the womb make him?  Didn’t one fashion us in the womb? |
| 16 | “If I have withheld the poor from their desire  or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail |
| 17 | or have eaten my morsel alone,  and the fatherless has not eaten of it |
| 18 | (no, from my youth he grew up with me as with a father,  her have I guided from my mother’s womb), |
| 19 | if I have seen any perish for lack of clothing,  or that the needy had no covering; |
| 20 | if his heart hasn’t blessed me,  if he hasn’t been warmed with my sheep’s fleece; |
| 21 | if I have lifted up my hand against the fatherless  because I saw my help in the gate, |
| 22 | then let my shoulder fall from the shoulder blade  and my arm be broken from the bone. |
| 23 | For calamity from God is a terror to me.  Because his majesty, I can do nothing. |
| 24 | “If I have made gold my hope  and have said to the fine gold, ‘You are my confidence,’ |
| 25 | If I have rejoiced because my wealth was great  and because my hand had gotten much; |
| 26 | if I have seen the sun when it shined  or the moon moving in splendor, |
| 27 | and my heart has been secretly enticed,  and my hand threw a kiss from my mouth, |
| 28 | this also would be an iniquity to be punished by the judges;  for I should have denied the God who is above. |
| 29 | “If I have rejoiced at the destruction of him who hated me,  or lifted up myself when evil found him; |
| 30 | (yes, I have not allowed my mouth to sin  by asking his life with a curse) |
| 31 | if the men of my tent have not said,  ‘Who can find one who has not been filled with his meat?’ |
| 32 | (the foreigner has not lodged in the street,  but I have opened my doors to the traveler); |
| 33 | if like Adam I have covered my transgressions  by hiding my iniquity in my heart |
| 34 | because I feared the great multitude,  and the contempt of families terrified me,  so that I kept silence, and didn’t go out of the door— |
| 35 | “Oh that I had one to hear me!—  (behold, here is my signature,)  let *El* Shaddai answer;  let the accuser write my indictment! |
| 36 | Surely I would carry it on my shoulder  and I would bind it to me as a crown. |
| 37 | I would declare to him the number of my steps.  As a ruler would I go near to him. |
| 38 | “If my land cries out against me  and its furrows weep together, |
| 39 | if I have eaten its fruit without paying  or have caused its owners to lose their life, |
| 40 | let briars grow instead of wheat,  and stinkweed instead of barley.” |

The words of Job are ended.

**Job Chapter 32**

Elihu Rebukes Job's Three Friends

1So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes. 2Then the wrath of Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, was kindled against Job. His wrath was kindled because he justified himself rather than God. 3Also his wrath was kindled against his three friends, because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job. 4Now Elihu had waited to speak to Job because they were elder than he. 5When Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, his wrath was kindled.

6Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered,

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| --- | --- |
|  | “I am young,  and you are very old.  Therefore I held back  and didn’t dare show you my opinion. |
| 7 | I said, ‘Days should speak,  and multitude of years should teach wisdom.’ |
| 8 | But there is a spirit in man,  and the breath of *El* Shaddai gives them understanding. |
| 9 | It is not the great who are wise,  nor the aged who understand justice. |
| 10 | Therefore I said, ‘Listen to me,  I also will show my opinion.’ |
| 11 | Behold, I waited for your words  and I listened for your reasoning  while you searched out what to say. |
| 12 | Yes, I gave you my full attention,  but there was no one who convinced Job  or who answered his words among you. |
| 13 | Beware lest you say, ‘We have found wisdom,  God may refute him, not man,’ |
| 14 | for he has not directed his words against me,  and I will not answer him with your speeches. |
| 15 | “They are amazed. They answer no more.  They do not have a word to say. |
| 16 | Should I wait, because they do not speak,  because they stand still and answer no more? |
| 17 | I also will answer my part,  and I also will show my opinion. |
| 18 | For I am full of words.  The spirit within me constrains me. |
| 19 | Behold, my breast is as wine that has no vent;  like new wineskins it is ready to burst. |
| 20 | I will speak, that I may be refreshed.  I will open my lips and answer. |
| 21 | Please do not let me respect any man’s person,  nor will I give flattering titles to any man. |
| 22 | For I do not know how to give flattering titles,  or else my Maker would soon take me away.” |

**Job Chapter 33**

Elihu Confronts Job

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | “However, Job, please hear my speech,  and listen to all my words. |
| 2 | See now, I have opened my mouth.  My tongue has spoken in my mouth. |
| 3 | My words will utter the uprightness of my heart.  What my lips know they will speak sincerely. |
| 4 | The Spirit of God has made me,  and the breath of *El* Shaddai gives me life. |
| 5 | If you can, answer me.  Set your words in order before me, and stand forth. |
| 6 | Behold, I am toward God even as you are.  I am also formed out of the clay. |
| 7 | Behold, my terror will not make you afraid,  neither will my pressure be heavy on you. |
| 8 | “Surely you have spoken in my hearing,  I have heard the voice of your words, saying, |
| 9 | ‘I am clean, without disobedience.  I am innocent, neither is there iniquity in me. |
| 10 | Behold, he finds occasions against me.  He counts me for his enemy. |
| 11 | He puts my feet in the stocks.  He marks all my paths.’ |
| 12 | “Behold, I will answer you.  In this you are not righteous, for God is greater than humans. |
| 13 | Why do you contend against him  because he does not answer any of a person’s words? |
| 14 | For God speaks one way and in a second way,  though man pays no attention. |
| 15 | In a dream, in a vision of the night,  when deep sleep falls on men in slumbering on the bed; |
| 16 | then he opens the ears of men,  and seals their instruction, |
| 17 | that he may withdraw man from his purpose  and hide pride from man. |
| 18 | He keeps back his soul from the pit  and his life from perishing by the sword. |
| 19 | He is also disciplined with pain on his bed,  with regular strife in his bones, |
| 20 | so that his life abhors bread,  and his soul dainty food. |
| 21 | His flesh is so consumed away that it cannot be seen.  His bones that were not seen stick out. |
| 22 | Yes, his soul draws near to the pit,  and his life to the destroyers. |
| 23 | If there is beside him an angel,  an interpreter, one among 1,000  to show to man what is right for him, |
| 24 | then God is gracious to him and says,  ‘Deliver him from going down to the pit,  I have found a ransom.’ |
| 25 | His flesh will be fresher than a child’s.  He returns to the days of his youth. |
| 26 | He prays to God, and he is favorable to him,  so that he sees his face with joy.  He restores to man his righteousness. |
| 27 | He sings before men and says,  ‘I have sinned and perverted what was right,  and it didn’t profit me. |
| 28 | He has redeemed my soul from going into the pit.  My life will see the light.’ |
| 29 | Behold, God works all these things,  twice, yes three times, with a man |
| 30 | to bring back his soul from the pit,  that he may be enlightened with the light of the living. |
| 31 | Mark well, Job, and listen to me.  Hold your peace, and I will speak. |
| 32 | If you have anything to say, answer me.  Speak, for I desire to justify you. |
| 33 | If not, listen to me.  Hold your peace, and I will teach you wisdom.” |

**Job Chapter 34**

Elihu Continues

1Moreover Elihu answered,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2 | “Hear my words, you wise men.  Give ear to me, you who have knowledge. |
| 3 | For the ear tries words  as the palate tastes food. |
| 4 | Let’s choose for us what is right.  Let’s know among ourselves what is good. |
| 5 | For Job has said, ‘I am righteous,  God has taken away my right; |
| 6 | notwithstanding my right I am considered a liar.  My wound is incurable, though I am without disobedience.’ |
| 7 | What man is like Job,  who drinks scorn like water, |
| 8 | who goes in company with the workers of iniquity  and walks with wicked men? |
| 9 | For he has said, ‘It profits a man nothing  that he should delight himself with God.’ |
| 10 | “Therefore listen to me, you men of understanding:  far be it from God that he should do wickedness,  from *El* Shaddai,[[8]](#footnote-25308) that he should commit iniquity. |
| 11 | For he will repay a person according to his work,  and cause every person to have consequences according to his ways. |
| 12 | Yes surely God will not do wickedly,  neither will *El* Shaddai pervert justice. |
| 13 | Who put him in charge of the earth?  Or who has appointed him over the whole world? |
| 14 | If he set his heart on himself,  if he gathered to himself his spirit and his breath, |
| 15 | all flesh would die together  and man would turn again to dust. |
| 16 | “If now you have understanding, hear this.  Listen to the voice of my words. |
| 17 | Could even one who hates justice govern?  Will you condemn him who is righteous and mighty? |
| 18 | Who says to a king, ‘Vile!’  or to nobles, ‘Wicked!’? |
| 19 | Who doesn’t respect the persons of officials,  nor respects the rich more than the poor;  for they all are the work of his hands. |
| 20 | In a moment they die, even at midnight.  The people are shaken and pass away.  The mighty are taken away without a hand. |
| 21 | “For his eyes are on the ways of a man.  He sees all his goings. |
| 22 | There is no darkness nor thick gloom  where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves. |
| 23 | For he doesn’t need to consider a man further,  that he should go before God in judgment. |
| 24 | He breaks in pieces mighty men in ways past finding out,  and sets others in their place. |
| 25 | Therefore he takes knowledge of their works.  He overturns them in the night so that they are destroyed. |
| 26 | He strikes them as wicked men  in the open sight of others, |
| 27 | because they turned aside from following him  and would not pay attention to any of his ways, |
| 28 | so that they caused the cry of the poor to come to him.  He heard the cry of the afflicted. |
| 29 | When he gives quietness, who then can condemn?  When he hides his face, who then can see him?  Alike whether to a nation or to a man, |
| 30 | that the godless man may not reign,  that there be no one to ensnare the people. |
| 31 | “For has any said to God,  ‘I am guilty, but I will not offend any more. |
| 32 | Teach me what I do not see.  If I have done iniquity, I will do it no more’? |
| 33 | Should his recompense be as you desire,  that you refuse it?  For you must choose, and not I.  Therefore speak what you know. |
| 34 | Men of understanding will tell me,  yes, every wise man who hears me: |
| 35 | ‘Job speaks without knowledge.  His words are without wisdom.’ |
| 36 | I wish that Job were tried to the end,  because of his answering like wicked men. |
| 37 | For he adds rebellion to his sin.  He claps his hands among us  and multiplies his words against God.” |

**Job Chapter 35**

Elihu Continues

1Moreover Elihu answered,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2 | “Do you think this to be your right,  or do you say, ‘My righteousness is more than God’s,’ |
| 3 | That you ask, ‘What advantage will it be to you?  What profit will I have, more than if I had sinned?’ |
| 4 | I will answer you,  and your companions with you. |
| 5 | Look to the heavens, and see.  See the skies that are higher than you. |
| 6 | If you have sinned, what effect do you have against him?  If your transgressions are multiplied, what do you do to him? |
| 7 | If you are righteous, what do you give him?  Or what does he receive from your hand? |
| 8 | Your wickedness may hurt a man as you are,  and your righteousness may profit a son of man. |
| 9 | By reason of the multitude of oppressions they cry out.  They cry out for help by reason of the arm of the mighty. |
| 10 | But none says, ‘Where is God my Maker  who gives songs in the night, |
| 11 | who teaches us more than the animals of the earth  and makes us wiser than the birds of the heavens?’ |
| 12 | There they cry out, but he does not answer  because of the pride of evildoers. |
| 13 | Surely God will not hear an empty cry;  *El* Shaddai will not take notice of it. |
| 14 | How much less when you say you do not see him.  The cause is before him, and you wait for him! |
| 15 | But now, because he has not visited in his anger,  neither does he greatly regard arrogance. |
| 16 | Therefore Job opens his mouth with empty talk,  and he multiplies words without knowledge.” |

**Job Chapter 36**

Elihu Extols God’s Greatness

1Elihu also continued and said,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2 | “Bear with me a little, and I will show you,  for I still have something to say on God’s behalf. |
| 3 | I will get my knowledge from afar  and will ascribe righteousness to my Maker. |
| 4 | For truly my words are not false.  One who is perfect in knowledge is with you. |
| 5 | “Behold, God is mighty and doesn’t despise anyone.  He is mighty in strength of understanding. |
| 6 | He doesn’t preserve the life of the wicked,  but gives to the afflicted their right. |
| 7 | He doesn’t withdraw his eyes from the righteous,  but with kings on the throne he sets them forever,  and they are exalted. |
| 8 | “If they are bound in fetters  and are taken in the cords of afflictions, |
| 9 | then he shows them their work and their transgressions,  that they have behaved themselves proudly. |
| 10 | He also opens their ears to instruction  and commands that they return from iniquity. |
| 11 | If they listen and serve him,  they will spend their days in prosperity  and their years in pleasures. |
| 12 | But if they do not listen,  they will perish by the sword;  they will die without knowledge. |
| 13 | “But those who are godless in heart lay up anger.  They do not cry out for help when he binds them. |
| 14 | They die in youth.  Their life perishes among the male cult prostitutes. |
| 15 | He delivers the afflicted by their affliction  and opens their ear in oppression. |
| 16 | “Yes, he would have allured you out of distress,  into a wide place where there is no restriction.  That which is set on your table would be full of fatness. |
| 17 | But you are full of the judgment of the wicked.  Judgment and justice take hold of you. |
| 18 | Do not let riches entice you to wrath,  and do not let the great size of a bribe turn you aside. |
| 19 | Would your wealth sustain you in distress,  or all the might of your strength? |
| 20 | Do not desire the night,  when people are cut off in their place. |
| 21 | Take heed, do not regard iniquity,  for you have chosen this rather than affliction. |
| 22 | “Behold, God is exalted in his power.  Who is a teacher like him? |
| 23 | Who has prescribed his way for him?  Or who can say, ‘You have committed unrighteousness?’ |
| 24 | Remember that you magnify his work,  whereof men have sung. |
| 25 | All men have looked on it.  Man sees it afar off. |
| 26 | Behold, God is great, and we do not know him.  The number of his years is unsearchable. |
| 27 | For he draws up the drops of water  that distill in rain from his mist, |
| 28 | that the skies pour down  and that drop on man abundantly. |
| 29 | Yes, can any understand the spreading of the clouds  and the thunderings of his pavilion? |
| 30 | Behold, he spreads his light around him.  He covers the bottom of the sea. |
| 31 | For by these he judges the people.  He gives food in abundance. |
| 32 | He covers his hands with the lightning  and commands it to strike the mark. |
| 33 | Its noise tells about him,  and the livestock also concerning the storm that comes up.” |

**Job Chapter 37**

Elihu Proclaims God’s Majesty

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | “Yes, at this my heart trembles  and is moved out of its place. |
| 2 | Hear, oh, hear the noise of his voice,  the sound that goes out of his mouth. |
| 3 | He sends it forth under the whole heavens  and his lightning to the ends of the earth. |
| 4 | “After it a voice roars.  He thunders with the voice of his majesty.  He doesn’t hold back anything  when his voice is heard. |
| 5 | God thunders marvelously with his voice.  He does great things that we cannot comprehend. |
| 6 | For he says to the snow, ‘Fall on the earth;’  likewise to the shower of rain and to the showers of his mighty rain. |
| 7 | He seals up the hand of every man,  that all men whom he has made may know it. |
| 8 | Then the animals take cover  and remain in their dens. |
| 9 | Out of its room comes the storm,  and cold out of the north. |
| 10 | By the breath of God ice is given,  and the expanse of the waters is frozen. |
| 11 | Yes, he loads the thick cloud with moisture.  He spreads abroad the cloud of his lightning. |
| 12 | It is turned around by his guidance,  that they may do whatever he commands them  on the surface of the habitable world, |
| 13 | Whether it is for correction or for his land  or for loving kindness that he causes it to come. |
| 14 | “Listen to this, Job.  Stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God. |
| 15 | Do you know how God controls them  and causes the lightning of his cloud to shine? |
| 16 | Do you know the workings of the clouds,  the wondrous works of him who is perfect in knowledge? |
| 17 | You whose clothing is warm,  when the earth is still by reason of the south wind? |
| 18 | Can you, with him, spread out the sky,  which is strong as a cast metal mirror? |
| 19 | Teach us what we should tell him,  for we cannot make our case by reason of darkness. |
| 20 | Should it be told him that I would speak?  Or should a man wish that he were swallowed up? |
| 21 | Now men do not see the light  that is bright in the skies,  but the wind passes and clears them. |
| 22 | Out of the north comes golden splendor.  With God is awesome majesty. |
| 23 | We are not able to reach *El* Shaddai. He is exalted in power.  In justice and great righteousness he will not oppress. |
| 24 | Therefore men revere him.  He does not regard any who are wise of heart.” |

**Job Chapter 38**

Yahweh Answers Job

1Then Yahweh answered Job out of the whirlwind,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2 | “Who is this who darkens  counsel by words without knowledge? |
| 3 | Tuck your cloak under your belt like a man,  for I will question you,  then you answer me! |
| 4 | “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?  Declare, if you have understanding. |
| 5 | Who determined its measures, if you know?  Or who stretched the line on it? |
| 6 | On what were its bases sunk?  Or who laid its cornerstone |
| 7 | while the morning stars sang together  and all the sons of God shouted for joy? |
| 8 | “Or who shut up the sea with doors  when it broke forth from the womb, |
| 9 | when I made clouds its garment  and wrapped it in thick darkness, |
| 10 | marked out for it my bound,  set bars and doors |
| 11 | and said, ‘Here you may come, but no further.  Here your proud waves will be stayed’? |
| 12 | “Have you commanded the morning in your days  and caused the dawn to know its place, |
| 13 | that it might take hold of the ends of the earth  and shake the wicked out of it? |
| 14 | It is changed like clay under the seal  and stands forth as a garment. |
| 15 | From the wicked their light is withheld.  The high arm is broken. |
| 16 | “Have you entered into the springs of the sea?  Or have you walked in the recesses of the deep? |
| 17 | Have the gates of death been revealed to you?  Or have you seen the gates of the shadow of death? |
| 18 | Have you understood the earth in its *vast* expanse?  Tell *me*, if you know all this. |
| 19 | “What is the way to the dwelling of light?  As for darkness, where is its place, |
| 20 | that you should take it to its bound,  that you should discern the paths to its house? |
| 21 | Surely you know, for you were born then,  and the number of your days is great! |
| 22 | Have you entered the treasuries of the snow,  or have you seen the treasures of the hail |
| 23 | that I have reserved against the time of trouble,  against the day of battle and war? |
| 24 | By what way is the lightning distributed,  or the east wind scattered on the earth? |
| 25 | “Who has cut a channel for the flood water  or the path for the thunderstorm, |
| 26 | to cause it to rain on a land where no man is;  on the wilderness where there is no man, |
| 27 | to satisfy the waste and desolate ground,  to cause the tender grass to spring forth? |
| 28 | Does the rain have a father?  Or who fathers the drops of dew? |
| 29 | Out of whose womb came the ice?  The gray frost of heaven, who has given birth to it? |
| 30 | The waters become hard like stone  when the surface of the deep is frozen. |
| 31 | “Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades  or loosen the cords of Orion? |
| 32 | Can you lead forth the constellations in their season?  Or can you guide the Bear with her cubs? |
| 33 | Do you know the laws of the heavens?  Can you establish its dominion over the earth? |
| 34 | Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,  that abundance of waters may cover you? |
| 35 | Can you send forth lightnings, that they may go?  Do they report to you, ‘Here we are?’ |
| 36 | “Who has put wisdom in the inward parts?  Or who has given understanding to the mind? |
| 37 | Who can number the clouds by wisdom?  Or who can pour out the bottles of heaven |
| 38 | when the dust runs into a mass  and the clods of earth stick together? |
| 39 | “Can you hunt the prey for the lioness,  or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, |
| 40 | when they crouch in their dens  and lie in wait in the thicket? |
| 41 | Who provides for the raven his prey  when his young ones cry out to God  and wander for lack of food?” |

**Job Chapter 39**

Yahweh Continues

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | “Do you know the time when the mountain goats give birth?  Do you watch when the doe bears fawns? |
| 2 | Can you number the months that they fulfill?  Or do you know the time when they give birth? |
| 3 | They bow themselves, they bring forth their young,  they end their labor pains. |
| 4 | Their young ones become strong. They grow up in the open field.  They go out, and do not return again. |
| 5 | “Who has set the wild donkey free?  Or who has loosened the bonds of the swift donkey, |
| 6 | whose home I have made the wilderness  and the salt land his dwelling place? |
| 7 | He scorns the tumult of the city,  neither does he hear the shouting of the driver. |
| 8 | The range of the mountains is his pasture,  He searches after every green thing. |
| 9 | Will the wild ox be content to serve you?  Or will he stay by your feeding trough? |
| 10 | Can you hold the wild ox in the furrow with his harness?  Or will he till the valleys after you? |
| 11 | Will you trust him, because his strength is great?  Or will you leave to him your labor? |
| 12 | Will you confide in him, that he will bring home your seed  and gather the grain of your threshing floor? |
| 13 | “The wings of the ostrich wave proudly;  but are they the feathers and plumage of love? |
| 14 | For she leaves her eggs on the earth,  warms them in the dust, |
| 15 | and forgets that the foot may crush them  or that the wild animal may trample them. |
| 16 | She deals harshly with her young ones as if they were not hers.  Though her labor is in vain, she is without fear, |
| 17 | because God has deprived her of wisdom,  neither has he imparted to her understanding. |
| 18 | When she lifts up herself on high,  she scorns the horse and his rider. |
| 19 | “Have you given the horse might?  Have you clothed his neck with a quivering mane? |
| 20 | Have you made him to leap as a locust?  The glory of his snorting is awesome. |
| 21 | He paws in the valley and rejoices in his strength.  He goes out to meet the armed men. |
| 22 | He mocks at fear and is not dismayed,  neither does he turn back from the sword. |
| 23 | The quiver rattles against him,  the flashing spear and the javelin. |
| 24 | He eats up the ground with fierceness and rage,  nor does he stand still at the sound of the shofar. |
| 25 | As often as the shofar sounds he snorts, ‘Aha!’  He smells the battle from afar,  the thunder of the captains and the shouting. |
| 26 | “Is it by your wisdom that the hawk soars  and stretches her wings toward the south? |
| 27 | Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up  and makes his nest on high? |
| 28 | On the cliff he dwells and makes his home,  on the point of the cliff and the stronghold. |
| 29 | From there he spies out the prey.  His eyes see it afar off. |
| 30 | His young ones also suck up blood.  Where the slain are, there he is.” |

**Job Chapter 40**

1Moreover Yahweh answered Job,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2 | “Will he who argues contend with *El* Shaddai?  He who argues with God, let him answer it.” |

Job Promises Silence

3Then Job answered Yahweh,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 4 | “Behold, I am of small account. What can I answer you?  I lay my hand on my mouth. |
| 5 | I have spoken once, and I will not answer;  yes, twice, but I will proceed no further.” |

Yahweh Challenges Job

6Then Yahweh answered Job out of the whirlwind,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 7 | “Now tuck your cloak under your belt like a man.  I will question you,  and you will answer me. |
| 8 | Will you even annul my judgment?  Will you condemn me, that you may be justified? |
| 9 | Or do you have an arm like God?  Can you thunder with a voice like him? |
| 10 | “Now deck yourself with excellency and dignity.  Array yourself with honor and majesty. |
| 11 | Pour out the fury of your anger.  Look at everyone who is proud, and bring him low. |
| 12 | Look at everyone who is proud,  and humble him. Crush the wicked in their place. |
| 13 | Hide them in the dust together.  Bind their faces in the hidden place. |
| 14 | Then I will also admit to you  that your own right hand can save you. |
| 15 | “See now, behemoth, that I made as well as you.  He eats grass as an ox. |
| 16 | Look now, his strength is in his thighs.  His force is in the muscles of his belly. |
| 17 | He moves his tail like a cedar.  The sinews of his thighs are knit together. |
| 18 | His bones are like tubes of bronze.  His limbs are like bars of iron. |
| 19 | He is the chief of the ways of God.  He who made him gives him his sword. |
| 20 | Surely the mountains produce food for him  where all the animals of the field play. |
| 21 | He lies under the lotus trees,  in the covert of the reed and the marsh. |
| 22 | The lotuses cover him with their shade.  The willows of the brook surround him. |
| 23 | Behold, if a river overflows, he doesn’t tremble.  He is confident, though the Jordan swells even to his mouth. |
| 24 | Can any take him when he is on the watch,  or pierce through his nose with a snare?” |

**Job Chapter 41**

Yahweh Continues

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | “Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook,  or press down his tongue with a cord? |
| 2 | Can you put a rope into his nose  or pierce his jaw through with a hook? |
| 3 | Will he make many petitions to you,  or will he speak soft words to you? |
| 4 | Will he cut a covenant with you,  that you should take him for a servant forever? |
| 5 | Will you play with him as with a bird?  Or will you bind him for your girls? |
| 6 | Will traders barter for him?  Will they divide him up among the merchants? |
| 7 | Can you fill his skin with barbed irons  or his head with fish spears? |
| 8 | Lay your hand on him.  Remember the battle, and do so no more. |
| 9 | Behold, the expectation concerning him is in vain.  Won’t one be laid low even at the sight of him? |
| 10 | None is so fierce that he dare stir him up.  Who then is he who can stand before me? |
| 11 | Who has first given to me, that I should repay him?  Everything under the heavens is mine. |
| 12 | “I will not keep silence concerning his limbs,  nor his mighty strength, nor the beauty of his structure. |
| 13 | Who can strip off his outer garment?  Who can come inside his jaws? |
| 14 | Who can open the doors of his face?  Around his teeth is terror. |
| 15 | Strong scales are his pride,  shut up together with a close seal. |
| 16 | One is so near to another  that no air can come between them. |
| 17 | They are joined one to another.  They stick together so that they cannot be pulled apart. |
| 18 | His sneezing flashes out light.  His eyes are like the eyelids of the morning. |
| 19 | Out of his mouth go burning torches.  Sparks of fire leap forth. |
| 20 | Out of his nostrils a smoke goes  as of a boiling pot over a fire of reeds. |
| 21 | His breath kindles coals.  A flame goes forth from his mouth. |
| 22 | There is strength in his neck.  Terror dances before him. |
| 23 | The flakes of his flesh are joined together.  They are firm on him. They cannot be moved. |
| 24 | His heart is as firm as a stone,  yes, firm as the lower millstone. |
| 25 | When he raises himself up, the mighty are afraid.  They retreat before his thrashing. |
| 26 | If one attacks him with the sword, it cannot prevail;  nor the spear, the dart, nor the pointed shaft. |
| 27 | He counts iron as straw  and bronze as rotten wood. |
| 28 | The arrow cannot make him flee.  Sling stones are like chaff to him. |
| 29 | Clubs are counted as stubble.  He laughs at the rushing of the javelin. |
| 30 | His undersides are like sharp potsherds,  leaving a trail in the mud like a threshing sledge. |
| 31 | He makes the deep to boil like a pot.  He makes the sea like a pot of ointment. |
| 32 | He makes a path shine after him.  One would think the deep had white hair. |
| 33 | On earth there is not his equal,  that is made without fear. |
| 34 | He sees everything that is high.  He is king over all the sons of pride.” |

**Job Chapter 42**

Job Responds to Yahweh

1Then Job answered Yahweh,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2 | “I know that you can do all things,  and that no purpose of yours can be restrained. |
| 3 | You asked, ‘Who is this who obscures counsel, *being* without knowledge?’  Surely I have uttered that which I did not understand,  things too wonderful for me, that I didn’t know. |
| 4 | You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak;  I will question you,  and you will answer me.’ |
| 5 | I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,  but now my eye sees you. |
| 6 | Therefore I take back *what I said*  and repent in dust and ashes.” |

Yahweh Rebukes Job’s Friends

7And it came about that after Yahweh had spoken these words to Job, Yahweh said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. 8Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves; and my servant Job will pray for you. For I will accept him, so that I do not deal with you according to your folly, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.” 9So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did what Yahweh commanded them, and Yahweh accepted Job’s prayer.

Yahweh Restores Job

10Yahweh turned the captivity of Job when he prayed for his friends. Yahweh gave Job twice as much as he had before. 11Then all his brothers came to him and all his sisters and all those who had been of his acquaintance before, and ate bread with him in his house. They comforted him and consoled him concerning all the evil that Yahweh had brought on him. Everyone also gave him a qisitah and a ring of gold.[[9]](#footnote-18757)

12So Yahweh blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning. And so he came to have 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen and 1,000 female donkeys. 13He had also seven sons and three daughters. 14He called the name of the first, Jemimah; and the name of the second, Keziah; and the name of the third, Keren-happuch. 15In all the land were no women found so beautiful as the daughters of Job. Their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers.

16After this Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons, and his sons’ sons, to four generations. 17So Job died, being old and full of days.

1. Or “thoughts” [↑](#footnote-ref-30489)
2. Or “receive” [↑](#footnote-ref-13613)
3. “Dig” is used idiomatically for “search.” [↑](#footnote-ref-26523)
4. Traditionally “the Almighty” [↑](#footnote-ref-23659)
5. Lit. “hides itself” [↑](#footnote-ref-18345)
6. Or “until he fulfills” [↑](#footnote-ref-12228)
7. The Hebrew is “Abaddon,” meaning “Destruction.” [↑](#footnote-ref-21406)
8. Traditionally “the Almighty” [↑](#footnote-ref-25308)
9. A qisitah is an unknown unit of money. [↑](#footnote-ref-18757)