

JOB

Conversational Version

1¹Job lived in the land of Uz, **a blameless, godly man that respected God and shunned evil.** ²He had seven sons and three daughters; ³and owned 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys; and servants. ⁴His sons would hold feasts in each other's houses and invite their three sisters. ⁵When the feasting days had completed their cycle, Job would consecrate them, getting up early and offering burnt offerings for each one, *"Maybe my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts."*

⁶One day when the sons of God came to present themselves to the LORD, Satan came too. ⁷The LORD asked him,

"Where'd you come from?"

"From roaming around in the world."

⁸*"Have you noticed my servant Job? There's nobody in the world like him, **a blameless, godly man that respects me and shuns evil.**"*

⁹*"Does he respect you for nothing?"* ¹⁰*Haven't you planted a hedge around him, his home, and everything he owns? You've blessed his work, and his possessions have increased in the world.*

¹¹*Reach out and touch everything he has, and he'll curse you to your face."*

¹²*"Everything he has is under your authority. Just don't do anything to him."*

So Satan left.

Job 1:1-12

¹³One day when his sons and daughters were drinking wine and eating in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁴a messenger came to Job, *"The oxen were plowing, the donkeys were feeding alongside them, ¹⁵and the Sabeans attacked and stole them. They killed the servants with the sword. **I'm the only one that escaped to tell you.**"* ¹⁶While he was still talking, another servant came, *"God's fire fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants. **I'm the only one that escaped to tell you.**"* ¹⁷While he was still talking, another servant came, *"The Chaldeans formed three bands, and raided the camels, stole them, and killed the servants with the sword. **I'm the only one that escaped to tell you.**"* ¹⁸While he was still talking, another servant came,

*"Your sons and daughters were drinking wine and eating in their oldest brother's house. ¹⁹A violent gale from the desert demolished the house. It collapsed on the young people and killed them. **I'm the only one that escaped to tell you.**"*

Job 1:13-19

²⁰Job got up, tore his robe, and shaved his head; he fell on the ground and worshiped,

²¹ *"I came naked from my mother's womb,
and I'll leave naked.
The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away.
Bless the LORD."*

²²Through all that, Job didn't sin by blaming God.

Job 1:20-22

^{2:1}On another day when the sons of God came to present themselves to the LORD, Satan came with them. ²The LORD asked him,

*"Where'd you come from?"
"From roaming around in the world."*

³*"Have you noticed my servant Job? There's nobody like him in the world,
a blameless, godly man that respects me and shuns evil. He still maintains his
integrity, even though you incited me against him to ruin him for no reason."*

⁴*"Skin for skin! Everything mortals^m have they'll give for their life. ⁵Reach
out and touch his flesh and bone, and he'll curse you to your face."*

⁶*"He's under your authority. Just don't take his life."*

⁷Satan went out from the LORD and struck Job with sore boils from the top of his head to the sole of his feet. ⁸He was using a potsherd to scrape himself, sitting in ashes.

⁹His wife said, *"Do you still maintain your integrity? Curse God and die!"*

¹⁰But he told her, *"You talk like a foolish woman. Will we accept good from God and not adversity?"*

In all that, Job didn't sin in what he said.

Job 2:1-10

¹¹His three friends **Eliphaz** the Temanite, **Bildad** the Shuhite, and **Zophar** the Naamathite heard about all the terrible things that had happened to him. They made an appointment together to come and sympathize with him and comfort him. ¹²When they looked up from a distance and didn't recognize him, they wailed loudly, tore their robes, and threw dust over their heads. ¹³They sat down on the ground with him for seven days and nights without saying a word, because they saw he was in so much pain.

Job 2:11-13

3:1Afterward Job cursed the day he was born: [²]

³*"Perish the day I was born,
the night I was conceived.*

⁴*May that be a dark day;
let God above not care about it
or any light shine on it.*

⁵*Let darkness and gloom claim it,*

dark clouds cover it, and darkness make it terrifying.

⁶*Let darkness seize that night;
let it not celebrate among the days of the year
or be counted among the months.*

⁷*Let that night be barren,
and no joyful shout be heard in it.*

⁸*Let them curse it who curse the daytime,
who dare to arouse Leviathan.*

⁹*Let its morning stars be blacked out;
let it hope for light, but not get any,
or see the eyelids of the morning;*

¹⁰*because it didn't shut my mother's womb
or hide trouble from me.*

Job 3:1-10

¹¹*"Why didn't I die at birth—
just come out of the womb and die?*

¹²*Why did the knees receive me
and the breasts that nursed me?*

¹³*Then I would've lain down in peace;
I would've slept and been at rest*

¹⁴*with kings and advisors
that rebuilt ruins for themselves,*

¹⁵*with rulers that had gold
and filled their houses with silver.*

¹⁶*Why wasn't I a miscarriage that was discarded,
that never saw the light of day?*

¹⁷*Sinners stop raging in death,
and the weary rest.*

¹⁸*Captives are at ease together;
they don't hear a taskmaster.*

¹⁹*The least and the greatest are there;
slaves are free from their masters.*

Job 3:11-19

²⁰*"Why does light come to those who are suffering,
and life to the bitter;*

²¹*to people who long for death and it doesn't come,
who dig for it more than for hidden treasure;*

²²*who celebrate greatly,*

glad to find the grave?
²³*Why is light given to someone with no future,
 someone God has hemmed in with difficulties?*
²⁴*I sigh at the sight of food
 and pour out groans like water;*
²⁵*because what I'm afraid of comes at me,
 and what I dread happens to me.*
²⁶*I'm not at ease, I'm not at peace;
 I'm not at rest; only trouble is coming."* **Job 3:20-26**

4:¹Eliphaz the Temanite answered:

²*"Will you be offended if someone offers you advice?
 Who can help speaking up?*
³*You've admonished many people
 and encouraged the weak.*
⁴*What you've said has helped the tottering stand
 and weak knees hold firm.*
⁵*But now difficulty has come to you,
 and you're impatient and distressed.*
⁶*Isn't your reverence for God your confidence,
 and the integrity of your ways your hope?* **Job 4:1-6**

⁷*"Think now, who ever perished that was innocent?
 Where were the godly ever destroyed?*
⁸*In my experience, those who plow sin
 and sow trouble, reap it.*
⁹*They perish by God's breath;
 a blast of his anger consumes them.*
¹⁰*A lion roars; it can roar loud;
 but even the teeth of a young lion can be broken.*
¹¹*A lion perishes because there's no prey,
 and the cubs of a lioness scatter.* **Job 4:7-11**

¹²*"A message crept in quietly to me;
 I heard it whisper.*
¹³*In my dreams at night when deep sleep comes,
¹⁴dread overwhelmed me, and I trembled all over.*

¹⁵*A spirit glided by my face
and made my hair stand up.*
¹⁶*It stood still,
but I couldn't make out what it looked like;
a form hovered in front of me;
everything was quiet; then I heard a voice:*
¹⁷*'Can mortals be good in God's presence?
Can they be as pure as their Maker?*
¹⁸*God doesn't trust his own servants;
he even brings charges against his angels,*
¹⁹*much more those who live in clay houses,
whose foundations lie in dust,
who get crushed as easy as a moth!*
²⁰*In one day they're broken to pieces;
they perish forever without anyone noticing.*
²¹*Isn't their tent-rope pulled up inside them?
They die in ignorance.'* **Job 4:12-21**

^{5:1}*"Call out for help now; will anybody answer you?
Which of the angels will you turn to?*
²*Adversity slays the foolish;
anger kills the simpleminded.*
³*I've seen the foolish taking root
and having their progress immediately cursed.*
⁴*Their children are never safe,
they're oppressed in the courts,
and there's nobody to deliver them.*
⁵*The hungry eat up their harvest;
briers take over it;
schemers are eager to get their wealth;*
⁶*because adversity doesn't sprout from the dirt,
and trouble doesn't grow out of the ground.* **Job 5:1-6**
⁷*"Mortals are born for trouble
like sparks fly up from burning wood.*
⁸*"I would seek God;
I'd place my cause in front of him*

⁹*who does great, unsearchable things,
wonders without number.*

¹⁰*He sends rain
to water the fields.*

¹¹*He sets the humble up high
and lifts mourners to safety.*

¹²*He frustrates devious plots
so they can't succeed.*

¹³*He catches the wise in their own shrewdness
and quickly thwarts wily people's schemes.*

¹⁴*They run into darkness in the daytime
and grope at noon as at night.*

¹⁵*But he saves people from the sword
and the poor from the powerful.*

¹⁶*So the helpless have hope;
the sinful have to shut their mouths.*

Job 5:7-16

¹⁷*"How happy they are that God corrects;
so don't despise discipline by the Almighty,
¹⁸because he inflicts pain but gives relief,
he wounds in order to heal.*

¹⁹*He'll deliver you from six troubles;
even in seven, tragedy won't touch you.*

²⁰*In famine he'll redeem you from death;
in war he'll save you from the sword.*

²¹*He'll hide you from the scourge of the tongue;
you won't panic when violence comes.*

²²*You'll laugh at destruction and famine;
wild animals won't scare you.*

Job 5:17-22

²³*You'll be at peace with the rocks in the field;
the wild animals will be at peace with you.*

²⁴*You'll know your tent is secure;
you'll inventory your holdings and find nothing missing.*

²⁵*You'll have lots of children,
offspring like grass on the ground.*

²⁶*You'll come to your grave at a ripe old age,
like a bundle of wheat at harvest time.*

*²⁷We've examined this and found it's true;
listen to it for your own good."*

Job 5:23-27

6:¹Job answered:

*²"Oh that my adversity was properly weighed
in the balances with my sins!*

*³It would outweigh the sand by the seashore;
that's why I've been rash.*

*⁴The arrows of the Almighty are piercing me;
my spirit is absorbing their poison;
God's terrors are attacking me.*

*⁵Does a wild donkey bray when it has grass?
Does an ox bawl over its hay?*

*⁶Does anyone eat tasteless food without salting it?
Is there any flavor in egg whites?*

*⁷My mouth won't touch them;
they're disgusting to me.*

Job 6:1-7

*⁸"Oh that I could receive what I ask for,
that God would grant me what I long for!*

*⁹Oh that he'd be willing to crush me,
that he'd reach out and kill me!*

*¹⁰This is my consolation:
I can take comfort in my unsparing pain
because I haven't denied the words of the Holy One.*

*¹¹I don't have enough strength to endure.
What hope do I have that I should be patient?*

*¹²Am I as hard as rock?
Is my body as firm as bronze?*

*¹³I can't get any help from inside me;
I can't deliver myself.*

Job 6:8-13

*¹⁴"Friends should be kind to people in despair;
otherwise, they'll lose reverence for the Almighty.*

*¹⁵My brothers have been unreliable,
like water in wadis you can't depend on.*

¹⁶Now they're turbulent with melting ice and snow;

¹⁷*now they're dry and silent;
when it's hot, they stop running.*

¹⁸*Their course winds into wasteland and disappears.*

¹⁹*Caravans from Tema look for them;
travelers from Sheba hope to find them.*

²⁰*They're disappointed;
when they arrive, they're frustrated.*

²¹*You've been like that to me;
you see my misfortune and get scared.*

²²*Have I said, 'Give me something';
'pay a ransom for me from your wealth';*

²³*'deliver me from my adversary';
or 'ransom me from oppressors'?*

Job 6:14-23

²⁴*"Teach me and I'll be quiet;
show me where I'm wrong.*

²⁵*Honest words carry force,
but what does your criticism show?*

²⁶*Do you think you can rebuke me
by treating my despairing words like wind?*

²⁷*You'd cast lots for orphans
and barter your friend!*

²⁸*Look me in the eye;
am I'm lying to your face?*

²⁹*Just stop supposing I've done something wrong;
my good reputation is at stake here.*

³⁰*Has there been anything false about what I've said?
Can't I distinguish guilt from disaster?*

Job 6:24-30

^{7:1}*"Aren't people forced into hard labor?
Aren't their days like those of a hired hand?*

²*Like a slave panting for shade,
like an employee waiting for wages,*

³*I've been allotted months of emptiness
and given restless nights.*

⁴*When I'm in bed, I say, 'When is morning ever going to get here?'
But night goes on and on, and I toss and turn till dawn.*

⁵*My body is covered with maggots and scabs;
my skin hardens and breaks open and festers.* **Job 7:1-5**

⁶*My days fly by faster than a weaver's shuttle
and end without hope.*

⁷*"Remember that my life is only a breath, God;
I won't see good times again.*

⁸*People won't see me for long
because I'll be gone.*

⁹*Like a dissipating cloud,
those who go down to Sheol don't come up again.*

¹⁰*They won't come home
or ever be seen again.* **Job 7:6-10**

¹¹*"So I won't hold back;
I'll speak with anguished spirit;
I'll complain from my bitter soul.*

¹²*Am I the sea or a sea monster
that you set a guard over me?*

¹³*If I say, 'My bed will comfort me,
my couch will ease my discomfort,'*

¹⁴*then you scare me with dreams
and terrify me with nightmares;*

¹⁵*so I'd have chosen strangulation
and death instead of these pains.*

¹⁶*I'm wasting away; I won't live forever;
leave me alone; my life is just a breath.* **Job 7:11-16**

¹⁷*"What are people that you pay so much attention to them,
that you concern yourself with them,*

¹⁸*that you examine them every morning
and test them all day?*

¹⁹*Won't you ever look the other way
or let me alone long enough to swallow?*

²⁰*Have I sinned? What have I ever done to you
that you keep hounding me?*

*Why do you target me
and burden yourself with me?*

²¹*Why don't you just pardon my sin
take away my guilt?
Soon I'll lie down in the ground and die;
you'll look for me, but I wouldn't be there."* **Job 7:17-21**

8:1 Bildad the Shuhite answered:

²*"How long will you talk like that?
You make your mouth a blustering wind?*
³*Does God pervert justice?
Does the Almighty twist the truth?*
⁴*When your children sinned against him,
he delivered them to the consequences of their sin.*
⁵*If you look for God and beg for mercy from the Almighty,
⁶if you're pure and just,
he'll certainly act on your behalf
and restore you to your good position.*
⁷*Though you started with little,
you'll end up with a lot.* **Job 8:1-7**

⁸*"Ask previous generations
and find out what the ancestors learned;
⁹we're only like yesterday and don't know much;
our short time on earth has been like a shadow.*
¹⁰*Won't they teach you
and offer their thoughts?* **Job 8:8-10**

¹¹*"Can papyrus grow where there's no marsh?
Can reeds grow without water?*
¹²*While they're still growing and not ready to be cut,
they wither sooner than grass.*
¹³*The paths of everyone that forgets God are like that;
the hopes of godless people perish.*
¹⁴*What they depend on breaks down;
what they trust is like a spider's web.*
¹⁵*They trust it, but it doesn't hold firm;
when they take hold of it, it mashes in their hand.*
¹⁶*It's like a lush plant that thrives in the sunshine
and spreads its shoots across the garden,*

¹⁷*whose roots twine around a rock pile
and grow among the stones.*

¹⁸*But if it's pulled loose,
you can't tell it was ever there.*

¹⁹*That's the extent of its 'joy';
others sprout up to replace it.*

Job 8:11-19

²⁰*"God doesn't reject blameless people
or give sinners a hand.*

²¹*Yet he'll fill your mouth with laughter,
your lips with shouting.*

²²*In the end, those who hate you he'll cover with disgrace;
the tents of sinners won't exist anymore."*

Job 8:20-22

9:¹ Job answered:

²*"I know that's true,
but how can anyone be innocent in God's sight?*

³*If you wanted to dispute with him,
you couldn't answer him once in a thousand times.*

⁴*He's so wise and powerful;
who has ever defied him and succeeded?*

Job 9:1-4

⁵*"It's God that moves mountains;
they don't know it when he overturns them in his anger.*

⁶*He can shake the earth and make its pillars tremble;
⁷he can tell the sun not to rise and the stars not to shine.*

⁸*He alone stretched out the sky
and tramped on the ocean waves.*

⁹*He made the Bear, Orion, the Pleiades,
and constellations in the southern hemisphere.*

¹⁰*He does great, unimaginable things,
countless amazing deeds.*

Job 9:5-10

¹¹*"If he passes by me, I don't see him;
if he goes by, I can't sense him.*

¹²*He snatches away; who can stop him?
Who can say to him, 'What are you doing?'*

¹³*God won't turn away his anger;
Rahab's helpers cower below him.* **Job 9:11-13**

¹⁴*"How then can I answer him
or argue with him?"*

¹⁵*Even if I were innocent, I couldn't answer him;
I'd have to appeal to my accuser for mercy.*

¹⁶*If I called and he answered me,
I wouldn't expect him to pay attention to me.*

¹⁷*He attacks me with a storm
and multiplies my wounds for no reason.*

¹⁸*He won't let me catch my breath,
but saturates me with bitterness.*

¹⁹*If it's a matter of power, look at him!
If it's a matter of justice, who can sue him?"*

²⁰*Though I'm good, my mouth will condemn me;
though I'm innocent, it'll pronounce me guilty.* **Job 9:14-20**

²¹*"I'm innocent, but it doesn't matter;
I despise my life.*

²²*Innocent and guilty are the same to him; so I say,
'He destroys the innocent with the guilty.'*

²³*When disaster brings sudden death,
he mocks innocent people's despair.*

²⁴*The earth has been turned over to sinners;
he blinds the eyes of judges.
If it's not him, who is it?* **Job 9:21-24**

²⁵*"Now my days go past faster than a runner;
they hurry away; they don't see anything good.*

²⁶*They slip by like a reed skiff,
like an eagle swooping on prey.*

²⁷*If I say, 'I'll forget about my complaint;
I'll leave my sad countenance and be cheerful,'*

²⁸*I'm afraid of my sufferings;
I know he won't declare me innocent.*

²⁹*He'll condemn me anyway;
why should I try for nothing?"*

³⁰*Even if I wash myself with snow
and clean my hands with lye,
³¹he'd still throw me into a pit;
even my clothes would abhor me.* **Job 9:25-31**

³²*"He's not a mortal like me that I can argue with,
that I could go to court against.
³³There's no mediator between us
that could hold us apart.
³⁴Let him take his rod away from me;
don't let my dread of him terrify me.
³⁵Then I'd speak without fearing him,
but I can't do that on my own.* **Job 9:32-35**

10:¹*"I detest my life;
so I'll fully vent my complaint
and speak out of my total frustration.
²I'll tell God, 'Don't just condemn me;
tell me why you're contending with me.
³Is it right for you to oppress me, to reject my toil,
to look favorably on sinners' schemes?
⁴Do you just have physical eyes
and only see like people see?
⁵Are your days like a mortal's,
your years like a human's,
⁶that you should look all around for my guilt
and search diligently for my every sin?
⁷You know I'm not guilty;
yet nobody can deliver me from you.* **Job 10:1-7**

⁸*"You fashioned me and made me;
now you want to kill me?
⁹Remember, you made me out of clay;
you want to turn me back to dust?
¹⁰Didn't you pour me out like milk,
curdle me like cheese,
¹¹dress me in skin and flesh,
knit me together with bones and tendons?*

¹²You've granted me enduring love
and preserved my spirit with your care;
¹³yet you hid other things in your heart too.
I know that was your real purpose. **Job 10:8-13**

¹⁴If I sin, you mark me
and won't acquit me.

¹⁵If I'm sinful, misfortune awaits me!
Even if I'm good, I dare not hold my head up
because I still feel ashamed and look miserable.

¹⁶If I do hold my head up, you hunt me down like a lion
and show me how powerful you are.

¹⁷You multiply your accusations against me;
you increase your anger at me
and bring hardship after hardship on me.

¹⁸Why let me be born?
I wish I'd died and nobody'd seen me!

¹⁹It would have been like I never existed,
carried from the womb to the tomb.' **Job 10:14-19**

²⁰“‘Couldn't you have left my few days alone
and stayed away from me so I could have a little cheer
²¹before I leave permanently
for the land of darkness and deep shadow,
²²the realm of gloom and doom,
where darkness is as intense as light at noon?’” **Job 10:20-22**

11:¹Zophar the Naamathite answered:

²“Should your barrage of words go unchallenged,
and you exonerate yourself by talking a lot?
³Will your babble shut people up?
Will you mock and nobody rebuke you?
⁴You claim your beliefs are pure
and you're innocent in God's presence;
⁵but I just wish God would speak out against you
⁶and disclose to you the secrets of wisdom,
because sound wisdom is not simple;
be assured that God doesn't remember
just one part of your sin. **Job 11:1-6**

- ⁷“Can you find out the deep things of God
or probe the limits of the Almighty?
⁸They’re higher than the sky—what can you do?
They’re deeper than Sheol—what can you know?
⁹They measure longer than the world
and wider than the sea.
¹⁰If he passes through or imprisons
or calls to judgment, who can stop him?
¹¹He knows worthless people;
he knows about their sin without having to investigate.
¹²A stupid man can no more become intelligent
than a wild donkey can have a baby. **Job 11:7-12**
- ¹³“If you set your heart right,
you can raise your hands and pray to him.
¹⁴If there’s sin in you, get rid of it;
don’t let it live in your house.
¹⁵Then you can hold your head up,
be steadfast and unafraid.
¹⁶You can forget your misery
and remember it like water gone by.
¹⁷Your life will become brighter than noonday;
darkness will be like morning.
¹⁸Then you’ll have confidence because of hope,
be protected, and rest in safety.
¹⁹You’ll lie down, and no one will disturb you;
others will ask for your blessing.
²⁰But the eyes of sinners will be blinded;
they can’t escape;
their only hope is death.” **Job 11:13-20**

12:¹Job answered:

- ²“No doubt, you’re the people,
and wisdom will die with you!
³But I’m as smart as you are;
I’m not your inferior.
Who doesn’t know things like that?

- ⁴*I'm a laughingstock to my friends,
one who called on God and he answered,
a just and blameless man;
yet I'm a laughingstock.*
- ⁵*In the thoughts of people at ease,
there's contempt for disaster;
they're ready to give a shove to those whose feet are slipping.*
- ⁶*Destroyers prosper;
those who provoke God may feel secure,
but he'll bring them under his control.* **Job 12:1-6**
- ⁷*"Ask the animals, they'll teach you;
the birds will explain.*
- ⁸*Speak to the earth; it will inform you;
have the fish in the sea tell you.*
- ⁹*Who among them doesn't know
that the **LORD** has brought this disaster on me?*
- ¹⁰*The life of every living thing lies in his hand,
including the breath of each person.*
- ¹¹*Doesn't the ear test words
like the palate tastes food?*
- ¹²*Old people have wisdom;
long life brings insight.* **Job 12:7-12**
- ¹³*"He has wisdom and power;
counsel and insight lie in him.*
- ¹⁴*He tears down, and no one can rebuild;
he shuts people in, and nobody can release them.*
- ¹⁵*If he withholds water, things dry up;
if he sends it, the land floods.*
- ¹⁶*Strength and sound wisdom lie in him;
deceived and deceiver are under his control.*
- ¹⁷*He makes advisors walk barefoot
and makes fools out of judges.*
- ¹⁸*He takes off kings' belts
and binds their waists with a rope.* **Job 12:13-18**
- ¹⁹*He makes priests walk barefoot
and overthrows those who feel secure.*

²⁰*He silences the ones that people trust
and takes away the discernment of elders.*
²¹*He pours contempt on nobles
and disarms the strong.*
²²*He reveals what's deep in the dark
and brings darkness into light.*
²³*He makes nations great, then destroys them;
he enlarges nations, then lets them go into exile.*
²⁴*He takes away understanding from the chiefs of the people
and makes them wander in pathless desolation.*
²⁵*They grope in the dark with no light;
he makes them stagger like drunks.* **Job 12:19-25**

13:¹*"I've seen that;
I've heard it and understand it.*
²*What you know, I know too;
I'm not more ignorant than you.* **Job 13:1-2**

³*"But I'm willing to speak to the Almighty himself;
I want to argue with God.*
⁴*You men are smearing me with things that aren't true;
you're untrained doctors.*
⁵*Oh that you'd just be quiet
and show your wisdom that way!*
⁶*Hear me out;
listen to what I'm arguing.*

⁷*Will you lie to defend God?
Will you speak deceitfully on his behalf?*
⁸*Will you favor him by how you testify?
Will you argue his case for him?* **Job 13:3-8**
⁹*How will you fare when he examines you?
Will you try to deceive him like you deceive people?*
¹⁰*He'll rebuke you for sure
if you secretly skew your testimony to favor him.*
¹¹*Doesn't his majesty terrify you,
and the dread of him fall on you?*

¹²*Old people have wisdom;
long life brings insight.* **Job 12:7-12**

¹³*“He has wisdom and power;
counsel and insight lie in him.*
¹⁴*He tears down, and no one can rebuild;
he shuts people in, and nobody can release them.*
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and makes fools out of judges.*
¹⁸*He takes off kings’ belts
and binds their waists with a rope.* **Job 12:13-18**
¹⁹*He makes priests walk barefoot
and overthrows those who feel secure.*
²⁰*He silences the ones that people trust
and takes away the discernment of elders.*
²¹*He pours contempt on nobles
and disarms the strong.*
²²*He reveals what’s deep in the dark
and brings darkness into light.*
²³*He makes nations great, then destroys them;
he enlarges nations, then lets them go into exile.*
²⁴*He takes away understanding from the chiefs of the people
and makes them wander in pathless desolation.*
²⁵*They grope in the dark with no light;
he makes them stagger like drunks.* **Job 12:19-25**

13:¹*“I’ve seen that;
I’ve heard it and understand it.*
²*What you know, I know too;
I’m not more ignorant than you.* **Job 13:1-2**

³*“But I’m willing to speak to the Almighty himself;
I want to argue with God.*
⁴*You men are smearing me with things that aren’t true;*

you're untrained doctors.

⁵*Oh that you'd just be quiet
and show your wisdom that way!*

⁶*Hear me out;
listen to what I'm arguing.*

⁷*Will you lie to defend God?
Will you speak deceitfully on his behalf?*

⁸*Will you favor him by how you testify?
Will you argue his case for him?*

Job 13:3-8

⁹*How will you fare when he examines you?
Will you try to deceive him like you deceive people?*

¹⁰*He'll rebuke you for sure
if you secretly skew your testimony to favor him.*

¹¹*Doesn't his majesty terrify you,
and the dread of him fall on you?*

¹²*Your memorable sayings are proverbs made of ashes,
defenses made of clay.*

Job 13:9-12

¹³*"Be quiet so I can talk;
then let come on me what may.*

¹⁴*Why should I bite my body
and take my life in my hands?*

¹⁵*Even if he kills me, I'll trust him;
but I'll still defend myself to him.*

¹⁶*That will also be to my salvation
because godless people can't approach him.*

¹⁷*Listen carefully to what I'm saying;
let what I'm claiming fill your minds.*

¹⁸*I've prepared my case;
I know I'll be acquitted.*

¹⁹*Will you defeat me in this argument?
If so, I'll shut up and die.*

Job 13:13-19

²⁰*"Just grant me two things, God;
then I can face you:*

²¹*don't remove your hand from me
or let my dread of you terrify me.*

²²*Then call and I'll answer;
 or let me speak, then reply to me.*
²³*How many iniquities do I have?
 Tell me what my rebellions are.*
²⁴*Why do you hide from me
 and treat me like your enemy?*
²⁵*Do you make a driven leaf tremble
 or chase dry chaff?*
²⁶*You list bitter accusations against me
 and charge me with sins from my youth.*
²⁷*You put my feet in shackles
 and hover over the path as I walk.*
You set a boundary for where I could go
²⁸*while I was decaying like something rotten,
 like a moth-eaten shirt.*

Job 13:20-28

^{14:1}*"Mortals born of women
 are short-lived and filled with turmoil.*
²*They come out and wither like a flower;
 they pass away like a shadow and don't last.*
³*You keep your eyes open at them
 and bring them under your judgment.*
⁴*Who can make unclean into clean?
 Nobody!*
⁵*Since their days are set,
 you determine the number of their months
 and set limits they can't pass.*
⁶*Turn your gaze away so they can relax
 and finish their day in peace like a hired hand.*

Job 14: 1-6

⁷*"There's hope for a tree when it's cut down
 that it will sprout again and grow new branches.*
⁸*Though its roots grow old in the ground
 and its stump dies in the dry soil,
⁹at the scent of water it revives
 and puts out new sprouts like a plant.*
¹⁰*But people die and just lie there;
 they expire; where are they?*

¹¹*As water evaporates from the sea
and a river dries up,
¹²people lie down and don't get up.
Until the sky ceases to be,
they don't wake up.*

Job 14:7-12

¹³*"Oh that you'd hide me in Sheol,
that you'd conceal me till your anger's over,
that you'd set a limit on it for me and remember me!*

¹⁴*Can the dead live again?
I'd have hope, then, all the days I struggle
till my release came.*

¹⁵*You'd call and I'd answer;
you'd look forward to what I'd do,*

¹⁶*because then you'd number my steps
instead of counting my sins.*

¹⁷*You'd seal up my sin in a bag
and wrap up my iniquity.*

Job 14:13-17

¹⁸*"Like a mountain crumbles and falls
and a rock slides from its place,*

¹⁹*like water erodes stone
and its torrents wash away soil,
so you destroy people's hope.*

²⁰*You overpower them and they pass away;
you disfigure them and send them off.*

²¹*If their offspring achieve honor, they don't know it;
if they're insignificant, they're not aware of it.*

²²*They feel only the pains in their own body
and mourn only for themselves."*

Job 14:18-22

15:¹Eliphaz the Temanite answered:

²*"Should you answer with empty talk
and fill yourself with the east wind?*

³*Should you argue with useless speech,
with words that do no good?*

⁴*You're losing reverence for God
and hindering meditation in front of him.*

⁵*Your sin is telling you what you say,
and you're choosing misleading language.*

⁶*You condemn yourself; I don't;
you're testifying against yourself.*

Job 15:1-6

⁷*"Were you the first person ever born?
Were you brought forth before the hills?*

⁸*Can you hear God's secret counsel?
Do you think you're the only one that's wise?*

⁹*What do you know that we don't know?
What do you understand that we don't?*

¹⁰*There are gray-haired, aged men around here
that are older than your father.*

¹¹*Are God's consolations too small for you
or spoken too gently to you?*

Job 15:7-11

¹²*Why does your heart carry you away?
Why do your eyes flash*

¹³*that you turn against God,
and say such things?*

¹⁴*Can mortals be pure?
Who born of women can be good?*

¹⁵*God doesn't even trust his angels absolutely
or regard the sky as perfectly pure.*

¹⁶*How much less someone disgusting and corrupt
that drinks sin like water!*

Job 15:12-16

¹⁷*"Listen, I'll tell you something;
I'll tell you what I've seen—*

¹⁸*what the wise have said,
and their ancestors haven't kept to themselves,*

¹⁹*people the land was given to
and no foreigners passed through—*

²⁰*the sinful writhe in pain their whole life;
the ruthless have a limited number of years.*

²¹*They hear terrifying sounds coming;
while they're at peace, destroyers attack them.*

²²*They don't expect to come back from darkness;*

they feel destined for the sword.
²³*They wander around asking for food;*
they know darkness is on its way. **Job 15:17-23**
²⁴*Distress and anguish terrify them*
like a king preparing for battle,
²⁵*because they shake their fists at God*
and defy the Almighty.
²⁶*They attack him with abandon,*
with reinforced shields.
²⁷*They're stout in face and thigh,*
²⁸*but they'll live in desolate towns,*
in houses nobody wants to occupy,
homes destined for demolition.
²⁹*They won't get rich, their wealth won't last;*
their grain won't be so heavy it bends over.
³⁰*They won't escape from darkness;*
the hot sun will wither their roots;
the wind will blow away their blossoms. **Job 15:24-30**
³¹*They shouldn't trust in emptiness and deceive themselves;*
emptiness will be their payback.
³²*It will be paid in full before their time;*
their palm fronds won't turn green again.
³³*Their unripe grapes will fall from the vine;*
their olive trees will lose their blossoms.
³⁴*The godless live in barren company;*
fire consumes the tents of those who bribe.
³⁵*They conceive schemes and give birth to evil;*
their mind prepares deceit." **Job 15:31-35**

16:¹Job answered:

²*"I've heard a lot of things like that;*
you're miserable comforters.
³*Is there no end to windy words?*
What's your problem that you answer me like that?
⁴*I could talk to you like you're talking if I was in your place.*
I could string out words and shake my head at you.
⁵*Or, I could encourage you*

so my comfort could lessen your pain.

Job 16:1-5

⁶*“If I speak, it doesn’t take away my pain;
if I don’t speak, how much of it goes away?*

⁷*God has worn me out;
he’s taken away my family.*

⁸*He has made me skin and bones
and used it as a witness against me.
My haggard body shows in my gaunt face.*

⁹*His anger hunts me down and tears me up;
he gnashes his teeth at me;
my adversary glares at me.*

¹⁰*People gape at me with their mouth
and slap me on the cheek in their contempt;
they gang up on me.*

Job 16:6-10

¹¹*God has handed me over to ungodly people
and thrown me away to sinners.*

¹²*I was at ease, but he tore me apart;
he grabbed me by the neck and dashed me to pieces.*

¹³*His arrows have pierced me all over;
he’s slashed open my kidneys without mercy
and poured out my gall on the ground.*

¹⁴*He’s broken me down time after time
and charged at me like a soldier.*

¹⁵*I sewed burlap on my skin
and laid my strength in the dust.*

¹⁶*My face is flushed from crying;
I have dark circles around my eyes
¹⁷although I haven’t been violent,
and my prayer is pure.*

Job 16:11-17

¹⁸*“Earth, don’t cover up my blood;
don’t let my outcry cease.*

¹⁹*Even now my witness is in heaven;
my Advocate is on high.*

²⁰*My friends make fun of me;
I shed my tears to God.*

²¹*Oh that I could plead with him*

like a person does with his friend!

²²*In a few years, I'll go the way of no return.*

^{17:1}*My spirit's broken; my days are snuffed out;
people have already dug my grave.*

²*Mockers sit around
and taunt me to my face.*

Job 16:18-17:2

³*"God, sign a pledge for me;
who else will put up security for me?*

⁴*You've kept them from understanding;
so don't let them triumph.*

⁵*They inform against their friends
to get a share of their property;
so let their children pass out from hunger.*

Job 17:3-5

⁶*"God has made me a byword among people;
I'm someone they spit at.*

⁷*My sight is blurry from grieving;
my neighbors look like shadows.*

⁸*Godly people are appalled at such a thing;
innocent people oppose the godless.*

⁹*The righteous hold onto their way;
the ones with clean hands grow stronger.*

Job 17:6-9

¹⁰*"All of you, if you come again,
I still won't find a wise man among you.*

¹¹*My days are done;
my hopes are dashed;
my heart's desires are gone.*

¹²*You friends claim night is day and say,
'Light amounts to darkness.'*

¹³*If I look for the grave to be my house
and spread my couch in the darkness,*

¹⁴*if I say to the pit, 'My mother,'
or 'My sister,'*

¹⁵*where's my hope?
Who even cares about my hope?*

¹⁶*It'll go down to Sheol with me;
we'll go down in the ground together."* **Job 17:10-16**

18:¹Bildad the Shuhite answered:

²*"How long will you stumble around for words?
Make some sense so we can talk.*

³*Why do you treat us like animals?
You think we're stupid?*

⁴*Are you going to tear yourself to pieces in your anger?
Are we supposed to leave the world for fear of you?
Should ledge rocks quake out of place?*

⁵*"The light of the wicked goes out;
their flame stops giving light.*

⁶*Their tent is dark inside;
the lamp above them has gone out.*

⁷*Their long strides have shortened;
their schemes have tripped them up.* **Job 18:1-7**

⁸*They get caught in a net by their feet
when they step on its mesh.*

⁹*A trap seizes them by the heel;
a snare snaps shut on them.*

¹⁰*A noose for them is hidden on the ground;
a trap lies on their path.*

¹¹*Panic all around terrifies them
and nips at their heels.*

¹²*Their strength is famished;
disaster is ready to knock them down.*

¹³*Disease eats away at their skin;
their rigid limbs are the first signs of death.*

¹⁴*They're torn from their secure tent
and taken to the king of terrors.*

¹⁵*Nothing of theirs stays in their tent;
sulfur rains on their houses.* **Job 18:8-15**

¹⁶*Their roots have dried up below;
their branches break off above.*

¹⁷*The memory of them fades from the land;
they don't have a name people keep in mind.*

- ¹⁸*They've been driven from light into darkness
and chased out of the world.*
- ¹⁹*They don't have any offspring among their people,
no survivors where they used to live.*
- ²⁰*People to the west are appalled at their fate;
those to the east are gripped with horror.*
- ²¹*Surely that's the kind of house ungodly people have;
such is the place of those who don't know God."* **Job 18:16-21**

19:¹ Job answered:

- ²*"How long are you going to torment me
and shatter me with a barrage of words?*
- ³*You've insulted me ten times over;
aren't you ashamed of treating me wrong?*
- ⁴*Even if I did make mistakes,
that's on me.*
- ⁵*If you're acting superior to me
and using my humiliation to argue against me,
⁶know that God is the One that's put me in the wrong
and closed his net around me.* **Job 19:1-6**
- ⁷*"I cry out, 'Violence!' but I don't get an answer;
I call for help, but justice doesn't come.*
- ⁸*He has blocked my way so I can't go on;
he's darkened my path.*
- ⁹*He has stripped me of my honor
and taken off my crown.*
- ¹⁰*He has destroyed me on every side; I'm finished;
he's uprooted my hope like a tree.*
- ¹¹*He has flashed his anger at me
and considered me his enemy.*
- ¹²*His troops have come at me in force;
they've camped around my tent
and thrown siege works up against me.* **Job 19:7-12**
- ¹³*"He has taken my brothers away from me;
my acquaintances are alienated.*
- ¹⁴*My relatives are gone;*

- my friends have forgotten me.*
- ¹⁵*The ones who live in my house
consider me a stranger;
I'm a foreigner to my maids.*
- ¹⁶*When I call to my servant, he doesn't answer me;
I have to beg him.*
- ¹⁷*My breath is repulsive to my wife;
my own brothers detest me.*
- ¹⁸*Even kids despise me
and contradict me when I stand up.*
- ¹⁹*My associates abhor me;
the ones I love have turned against me.* **Job 19:13-19**
- ²⁰*I'm skin and bones;
my skin is sloughing off;
my teeth are coming loose.*
- ²¹*Show me some mercy, friends;
God's hand has struck me.*
- ²²*Do you have to harass me like he does?
Haven't you chewed on me enough?* **Job 19:20-22**
- ²³*"Oh that my words were written down,
inscribed in a scroll!*
- ²⁴*Oh that they were engraved permanently on a rock
with an iron chisel and inlaid with lead!*
- ²⁵*I know my Redeemer's alive,
and in the end he'll stand on the earth.*
- ²⁶*Even after my skin decays,
without my body I'll see God.*
- ²⁷*I'll see him myself;
the thought of that overwhelms me.*
- ²⁸*If you say, 'Can we find a way to harass him?'
What pretext can we use for a case against him?'*
- ²⁹*fear the sword
because wrath punishes with a sword;
you'll find out there's a judgment!"* **Job 19:23-29**

20:¹ Zophar the Naamathite answered:

²*"My thoughts make me answer*

because I'm in turmoil inside.

³*I've listened to your insults,
and I'm answering from what I understand.*

⁴*Don't you know from of old—
from the time God put people on earth—*

⁵*that the triumph of sinners is short-lived;
the joy of the godless is temporary.* **Job 20:1-5**

⁶*Though they're as tall as the sky,
though their heads are in the clouds,
⁷they'll perish forever like their own feces;
people that saw them before will say, 'Where'd they go?'*

⁸*They'll fly away like a dream,
and nobody will find them;
they'll vanish like a nightmare.*

⁹*People that saw them before won't see them again;
their family won't have them around anymore.*

¹⁰*Their offspring will have to give back
the wealth they'd confiscated
and beg from the poor*

¹¹*They may have youthful health,
but it'll lie down with them in the dust.* **Job 20:6-11**

¹²*“Though evil is sweet in their mouth
and they hide it under their tongue,*

¹³*though they like the taste of it
and won't spit it out,*

¹⁴*yet the food in their stomach will ferment
into the venom of asps.*

¹⁵*Though they swallow wealth, they'll vomit it up;
God will purge it from their stomach.*

¹⁶*They'll suck the poison of asps;
the viper's tongue will slay them.*

¹⁷*They won't admire the streams
that flow with honey and curds.*

¹⁸*They'll lose everything they worked for and couldn't swallow;
they won't even enjoy the profits from their trading,*

¹⁹*because they've oppressed the poor
and seized houses they didn't build.* **Job 20:12-19**

- ²⁰ *“Since their greed is never satisfied,
they won’t keep anything they enjoy.*
- ²¹ *There won’t be anything left for them to devour;
their prosperity won’t last.*
- ²² *They’ll have so much stuff they can’t move;
the full force of their misery will stack up against them.*
- ²³ *While they’re filling their stomach,
God will be sending his fierce anger at them
and raining it on them.*
- ²⁴ *They may escape an iron weapon
only to have a bronze arrow point run them through.*
- ²⁵ *It’s thrust will come out of their back;
the glittering point will puncture their gall;
death-terrors will descend on them.* **Job 20:20-25**
- ²⁶ *Their treasures are destined for total darkness;
unfanned flames will consume them;
whatever’s left in their tent will burn up.*
- ²⁷ *Sky will reveal their sin;
earth will condemn them.*
- ²⁸ *Others will carry off what’s in their house
at the time when God demonstrates his anger.*
- ²⁹ *That’s sinful people’s plight,
the inheritance God decrees for them.”* **Job 20:26-29**

21:¹ Job answered:

- ² *“Listen carefully;
let this be your consolation.*
- ³ *Bear with me;
after I’ve spoken, you can mock me.*
- ⁴ *Am I just complaining about people?
Why shouldn’t I be impatient?*
- ⁵ *Be appalled at the way I look;
put your hand over your mouth in shock.*
- ⁶ *When I think about it,
I get scared and shaky.*
- ⁷ *Why do bad people keep on living
and become so powerful?* **Job 21:1-7**

- ⁸*Their descendants are secure in their presence;
their offspring are near them.*
- ⁹*They have safe houses,
and God's not beating them with a rod.*
- ¹⁰*Their bulls breed without fail,
and their cows don't miscarry.*
- ¹¹*They let out their little ones like a flock
to skip around and play.*
- ¹²*They sing to the accompaniment of tambourines and harps
and celebrate with a flute.*
- ¹³*They're prosperous their whole life
and go down to Sheol in peace.*
- ¹⁴*They tell God, 'Get away!
We don't want you telling us what to do.'*
- ¹⁵*'Who is the Almighty that we should serve him anyway?'
'What good would it do to pray?'*
- ¹⁶*They think they produce their own prosperity;
I won't have anything to do with such thinking. **Job 21:8-16***
- ¹⁷*"Yet how often do sinful people's lamps get put out,
does calamity fall on them,
does God measure out destruction in his anger,
¹⁸and they're like straw in the wind,
like chaff in a storm?"*
- ¹⁹*You say, 'Well, God stores up their sins for their children.'
Let him pay it back to the parents so they know it's happening.*
- ²⁰*Let them experience their own destruction
and drink the Almighty's wrath themselves. **Job 21:17-20***
- ²¹*What do they care about their families after they die,
when they can't talk anymore?*
- ²²*Can anybody teach God anything
since he judges even the most powerful?*
- ²³*They die in full strength,
completely at ease and satisfied.*
- ²⁴*Their bodies are healthy;
their bone marrow is moist,
²⁵while others die in bitterness*

without tasting anything good.

²⁶*They all lie down in the ground the same way
with maggots all over them.*

Job 21:21-26

²⁷*“I know what you’re thinking about:
schemes for doing me wrong.*

²⁸*You say, ‘Where’s the nobleman’s house?
Where are the tents sinners live in?’*

²⁹*Haven’t you asked travelers?
Don’t you believe what they tell you?*

Job 21:27-29

³⁰*Sinners are reserved for disaster,
to be led out into the fury when it comes.*

³¹*Who confronts them openly about their sins?
Who repays them for what they do?*

³²*When they’re carried to their graves,
an honor guard keeps watch over their tombs.*

³³*The soil in the valley gives them sweet repose;
a countless throng precedes and follows them,
paying their respects.*

³⁴*Do you think you can comfort me with clichés?
Your explanations don’t make any sense.”*

Job 21:30-34

22:¹Eliphaz the Temanite answered:

²*“What benefit can a mortal be to God?
Aren’t even the wise only useful to themselves?*

³*Is the Almighty delighted if you’re good?
What good is it to him if you’re perfect?*

⁴*Surely it’s not because you revere him that he’s reproving you,
that he’s bringing judgment against you.*

⁵*Isn’t it more likely that you’re sinful,
that your sins are endless?*

⁶*Maybe you’ve exacted pledges from your friends
and stripped off their clothes as security.*

⁷*Maybe you’ve withheld water from the fainting
and food from the hungry.*

⁸*Maybe you think the land belongs to the powerful,
that only you honorable types have a right to live in it.*

⁹*Maybe you've sent widows away with nothing
and crushed the fatherless.*

¹⁰*So, there are traps everywhere around you,
and panic overwhelms you.*

¹¹*Your light's so dim you can't see,
and a flood is surging over you.*

Job 22:1-11

¹²*"Isn't God high in the sky,
higher than the stars?"*

¹³*But you say, 'So how can he see what I'm doing?
Can he judge through such darkness?'*

¹⁴*Dark clouds wrap around him so he can't see;
he walks on the vaulted sky.'*

¹⁵*Will you stay on the ancient way
that sinful people have walked,*

¹⁶*people snatched away before their time,
whose foundations a river washed away?*

¹⁷*They tell God, 'Get away!'
'What good is the Almighty to us?'*

¹⁸*Yet he's filled their houses with good things—
(but I stay away from sinners' counsel).*

¹⁹*Good people are glad to see the wicked get destroyed;
the innocent laugh and say,*

²⁰*'Our adversaries are destroyed;
fire has consumed their wealth.'*

Job 22:12-20

²¹*"Submit to God; make peace with him,
and good things will happen to you.*

²²*Accept his instruction;
take his words to heart.*

²³*If you come back to the Almighty, he'll restore you;
if you remove sinfulness far from your home,*

²⁴*if you throw your gold in the dust,
the gold of Ophir among the stones in the wadis,*

²⁵*then the Almighty will be your gold;
he'll become your choice silver.*

²⁶*Then you'll delight in the Almighty*

and look up at God.
²⁷*You'll pray to him, and he'll hear you;*
and you'll keep your vows.
²⁸*When you decide something, it'll happen;*
light will shine on your path.
²⁹*When people put you down, you'll still be confident*
because he saves the humble.
³⁰*He delivers innocent people;*
so you'll be delivered because you have clean hands."

Job 22:21-30

23:¹ Job answered:

²*"My complaint is still bitter;*
God's hand weighs heavily on me despite my groaning.
³*If only I knew where to find him*
so I could go to his courtroom!
⁴*I'd present my case*
and offer my arguments.
⁵*I'd find out what he'd answer*
and understand what he'd say.
⁶*Would he oppose me with his great power?*
No, he'd listen!
⁷*Someone godly would be reasoning with him,*
and my Judge would acquit me permanently. **Job 23:1-7**
⁸*"I go east, but he's not there;*
I go west, but I can't find him.
⁹*When he acts in the north, I can't see it;*
when he turns to the south, he's hidden there too.
¹⁰*But he knows where I'm going;*
when he tests me, I'll come out like pure gold.
¹¹*I've stayed close to his steps*
and kept to his ways without turning aside.
¹²*I haven't veered off from his commands;*
I've treasured up what he says more than food.
¹³*But once he's made up his mind, who can change it?*
He'll go ahead and do to me what he wants.
¹⁴*He'll do fulfill his plans;*

he has intentions for my whole destiny.

¹⁵*So I'm intimidated by him;
when I think about all this, it scares me.*

¹⁶*It's God that's made my heart faint,
the Almighty that's terrified me.*

¹⁷*Yet the darkness doesn't silence me
or the deep gloom that covers me.*

Job 23:8-17

24:¹*"Why doesn't the Almighty maintain
a regular court schedule for judging?
Why do those who know him wait for him in vain?*

²*Some remove landmarks,
seize flocks and eat them,
³drive away donkeys that belong to the fatherless,
take widows' oxen for pledges.*

⁴*They run the needy off the road;
the poor people have to hide from them.*

⁵*Like wild donkeys in the desert,
the poor labor at foraging for food,
looking for prey in the wild to feed their children.*

⁶*They gather fodder in the field
and glean sinners' vineyards.*

⁷*They spend the night without enough clothes
to protect them against the cold.*

⁸*They're soaked from mountain rain
and huddle in the rocks for lack of shelter.*

Job 24:1-8

⁹*"Others snatch the fatherless from the breast
and take pledges against the poor.*

¹⁰*They make the naked go without clothes
and take away sheaves from the hungry.*

¹¹*They press out oil between the olive rows
and tread winepresses for others yet suffer thirst.*

¹²*From the city, the people groan,
the wounded cry out for help,
but God ignores their prayers.*

Job 24:9-12

¹³*"Others rebel against the light;*

they refuse to know its ways or stay on them.

¹⁴*A murderer gets up at dawn
to kill the poor and needy;
at night he's a thief.*

¹⁵*An adulterer waits for twilight and says,
'Nobody will see me';
he disguises himself.*

¹⁶*In the dark they break into houses
and sleep in the daytime;
they're not accustomed to light.*

¹⁷*Morning is the same to them as dense darkness;
they're allies with the terrors of deep gloom. **Job 24:13-17***

¹⁸*"But they're swiftly carried away like foam on a creek;
their land is cursed;
they're afraid to go in their own vineyards.*

¹⁹*Sheol consumes sinners
like drought and heat consume snow.*

²⁰*Their mothers forget about them,
maggots feed on them till they're not remembered;
they're blown over like trees in a windstorm.*

²¹*They prey on barren and childless women
and fail to help needy widows.*

²²*But God uses his power to drag away the rich;
they may get established,
but they have no guarantee of life*

²³*He may let them live in security,
but he keeps an eye on their progress in life.*

²⁴*They're honored for a little while; then they're gone;
they're brought low and fade away like everything else,
cut off like heads of grain.*

²⁵*If that's not so, who can prove me wrong
and make my speech pointless?" **Job 24:18-25***

25:¹Bildad the Shuhite answered:

²*"Dominion and awe belong to God,
who establishes order high in his sky.*

³*Who can count his troops?*

Who doesn't his light rise on?

⁴*How can anyone be innocent in his presence?*

How can anyone born of woman be pure?

⁵*If the moon isn't bright*

and the stars aren't pure to God,

⁶*how much less people—like maggots,*

and their offspring—mere worms.”

Job 25:1-6

26:¹Job answered:

²*“What a help you are to the weak!*

How you've saved arms with no strength!

³*What counsel you've given me in my stupidity!*

What brilliant insight you've provided!

⁴*Who've you been talking to?*

Whose spirit has been speaking through you?! **Job 26:1-4**

⁵*“The departed spirits tremble*

below the water and its inhabitants.

⁶*Sheol is naked in front of him;*

Abaddon has no covering before him.

⁷*He stretches out the north over empty space*

and hangs the earth on nothing.

⁸*He wraps up water in his clouds,*

and they don't burst under its weight.

⁹*He shrouds the full moon in clouds.*

¹⁰*He has set the horizon between the water above and below*

and put a boundary between light and darkness.

¹¹*The mountains, pillars of the sky, tremble*

and shudder at his rebuke.

¹²*He calms the sea monster with his power*

and breaks Rahab in pieces with his intelligence.

¹³*He clears clouds from the sky with his breath*

and wounds the celestial fleeing Serpent with his hand.

¹⁴*These are just fringes of what he does:*

his faint whisper!

his loud thunder!

Who can comprehend his power?"

Job 26:5-14

27:¹Job continued his comments:

²*"As God lives, who has taken away my rights,
the Almighty, who has made me bitter,
³as long as I'm alive and God's breath is in me,
⁴I won't speak wickedness or lie.*

⁵*I'll never concede that you're right;
I'll defend my integrity till I die.*

⁶*I'll hold onto my claim about my goodness,
and my conscience won't accuse me for it.*

Job 27:1-6

⁷*"May my enemies be like the wicked;
may my attackers be like the sinful.*

⁸*What hope do the godless have when God cuts them off,
when he takes their life away?*

⁹*Will he listen to their outcry
when they get in trouble?*

¹⁰*Will they be able to delight in the Almighty
and call on him at any time?*

¹¹*Let me teach you about God's power;
I won't conceal anything about the Almighty.*

¹²*You've all seen that;
so why are you saying such foolish things to me?* **Job 27:7-12**

¹³*"This is sinful people's lot from God,
the fate tyrants receive from the Almighty:*

¹⁴*their many sons he destines for the sword;
their descendants won't have enough to eat;*

¹⁵*disease buries the ones that outlive them;
their widows won't feel like crying.*

¹⁶*Though sinners pile up silver like dust
and make clothes as plentiful as clay,*

¹⁷*the good are the ones that will wear them;
the innocent will divide up their silver.*

¹⁸*The house they build is as fragile as a spider's web
or a watchman's hut.*

- ¹⁹*They go to bed rich, but only once;
when they open their eyes, their wealth is gone.*
- ²⁰*Panic overwhelms them like a flood;
a tornado carries them off at night.*
- ²¹*The east wind picks them up
and sweeps them away;*
- ²²*it whirls around them without sparing
though they try to escape its power.*
- ²³*People will clap their hands and jeer at them. Job 27:13-23*

- 28:**¹ *“There’s a mine for silver
and a refinery for gold.*
- ²*Iron comes out of the ground,
and people can smelt copper.*
- ³*They use a torch in the darkness
and go in as far they can,
searching for the ore in gloom and deep shadow.*
- ⁴*They sink mine shafts far from where people live
and go down them, dangling on ropes,
swinging back and forth.*
- ⁵*People grow food on top of the ground;
but far below, the ground melts as if by fire. Job 28:1-5*
- ⁶*Its rocks yield lapis lazuli,
whose flecks glitter like gold.*
- ⁷*Birds of prey can’t get to it;
no falcon has seen it.*
- ⁸*Proud animals don’t set foot in it;
fierce lions don’t prowl there.*
- ⁹*Miners find flint
and tear down mountains to get at it.*
- ¹⁰*They chisel out tunnels in the rock
to discover precious stones.*
- ¹¹*They dam up trickling streams
and bring hidden treasure out to light. Job 28:6-11*
- ¹² *“But where can people discover wisdom?
Where is intelligence located?*

- ¹³People don't know what it's worth;
they can't find it where people live.
- ¹⁴The deep says, 'It's not here';
the sea says, 'It's not inside me.'
- ¹⁵Pure gold doesn't exchange for it;
silver doesn't weigh out equal to its price.
- ¹⁶Its value can't be calculated in the gold from Ophir,
in precious onyx or lapis lazuli. **Job 28:12-16**
- ¹⁷Gold or crystal can't match it;
it can't be traded for articles made from fine gold.
- ¹⁸Coral and crystal can't be mentioned with it;
acquiring wisdom is more important than buying pearls.
- ¹⁹The topaz in Nubia can't compare to it;
it can't be measured in terms of pure gold.
- ²⁰Where then does wisdom come from?
Where's it located?
- ²¹Nothing alive can see it;
it's hid from the birds in the sky.
- ²²Abaddon and Death say,
'We haven't heard any report about it.' **Job 28:17-22**
- ²³"God knows where it is
and understands how to get to it.
- ²⁴He can see all the way to the end of the earth
and everything that's under the sky.
- ²⁵When he decided how hard the wind should blow
and how much rain should fall,
- ²⁶when he decreed the way rain should form
and the course a thunderbolt should follow,
- ²⁷then he looked at wisdom and appraised it;
he put it in place and tested it.
- ²⁸He told humanity, 'Respecting the Lord shows wisdom;
getting away from sin brings insight.'" **Job 28:23-28**

29:¹ Job took up his discourse again:

- ²"Oh that I could be like I was just a few months ago
when God was watching over me,

³when his lamp shined above my head
 and I walked through darkness by his light,
⁴while I was in the prime of life
 and his friendship hovered above my tent,
⁵when the Almighty was still with me
 and my children were around me,
⁶when my feet were drenched with cream
 and the millstone poured out streams of olive oil for me!
⁷when I went to the city gate
 and took my seat in the town square. **Job 29:1-7**

⁸Young men saw me and stepped aside,
 old men stood up,
⁹officials stopped talking
 and put their hands over their mouths;
¹⁰nobles' voices got quiet
 and put their tongues against their palates.
¹¹When people heard me, they praised me;
 when they saw me, they spoke well of me
¹²because I helped the poor that asked for it
 and the orphan that had no advocate.
¹³People about to die blessed me;
 I made widows sing for joy.

¹⁴I dressed in goodness;
 justice covered me like a robe and turban. **Job 29:8-14**

¹⁵I served as eyes for the blind and feet for the lame.

¹⁶I became a father to the needy
 and helped strangers I didn't know.

¹⁷I broke the jaws of the wicked
 and snatched the prey from their teeth.

¹⁸Then I supposed, 'I'll die in my nest
 and multiply my days like sand.

¹⁹My roots reach out to the water;
 dew lies all night on my branches.

²⁰My honor is always fresh;
 my bow stays new in my hand.' **Job 29:15-20**

²¹"They listened to me, waited,

and kept quiet to hear my advice.
²²*When I spoke, they had nothing to add;*
what I said was sufficient for them.
²³*They waited for me like spring rain*
and drank in my words like fresh showers.
²⁴*I smiled at them when they weren't sure what to do;*
they valued my approval.
²⁵*I told them what course of action to take*
and sat as their chief;
I lived like a king among his troops,
like somebody that comforted mourners.

Job 29:21-25

^{30:1}*“But now people younger than me make fun of me,*
people whose fathers I wouldn't let
run with my sheep dogs.
²*What good was their strength to me,*
fellows whose vigor was gone?
³*They were haggard from hunger and want*
and clawed the dry ground in the wastelands.
⁴*They picked wild greens from among the bushes*
and ate the roots of broom shrubs.
⁵*People drove them away;*
they shouted at them like they were thieves.
⁶*So they lived in ravines, caves, and rocks;*
⁷*they sounded like animals in the bushes*
and huddled together under the nettles.
⁸*A senseless, unnamed bunch,*
they were outcasts from society.

Job 30:1-8

⁹*“Now their sons mock me with songs*
and use my name as a byword.
¹⁰*They're appalled at me and shrink back;*
they don't hesitate to spit in my face.
¹¹*Because God has removed my bowstring and cast me down,*
people don't hesitate to argue with me.
¹²*This rabble opposes me,*
drives me out, lays traps for me.
¹³*They tear up my road and profit from my misfortune;*

nobody restrains them.

¹⁴*They come at me as if through a wide breach;
they roll in like a storm.*

¹⁵*They terrorize me
and chase my honor like the wind;
my prosperity dissipates like a cloud.*

Job 30:9-15

¹⁶*“My life ebbs out of me;
depression has taken hold of me.*

¹⁷*At night my bones ache,
and soreness gnaws at me.*

¹⁸*My clothes are tattered from violence;
they hang on me like a coat.*

Job 30:16-18

¹⁹*“You’ve thrown me in the mud;
you’ve made me like dust and ashes.*

²⁰*I call out to you, but you don’t answer;
I stand up, but you turn your attention elsewhere.*

²¹*You’ve become cruel
and use your power to persecute.*

²²*You pick me up and blow me around in the wind;
you destroy me in the storm.*

²³*I know you’re going to bring me to death,
the destiny of all the living.*

Job 30:19-23

²⁴*“Don’t people in a pile of ruins hold out their hands
and in their misery call out for help?*

²⁵*Haven’t I cried for people whose life is hard?
Wasn’t I grieved for the needy?*

²⁶*When I expected good, evil came;
when I needed light, darkness arrived.*

²⁷*I’m in turmoil inside; I can’t relax;
days of misery lie ahead of me.*

²⁸*I go around mourning without comfort;
I stand up in the assembly and call out for help.*

²⁹*I’ve become a brother to jackals,
a companion of owls.*

³⁰*My skin is ashen,*

and I'm burning up with fever.

³¹*My harp plays music for mourning;
my flute moans with those who weep.*

Job 30:24-31

^{31:1}*"I've made a covenant with my eyes
not to look with lust at a young woman?*

²*What is our portion from God above,
our inheritance from the Almighty on high?*

³*Isn't it misfortune for the unjust,
disaster for sinners?*

⁴*Doesn't he see everything I do
and count every step I take?*

⁵*"If I've supposedly conducted myself falsely
and tried to deceive,*

⁶*let him weigh me with accurate scales
and he'll find out my integrity.*

⁷*If I've strayed off the road,
if my heart has lusted for what my eyes have seen,
if any other blemish has stuck to me,*

⁸*let somebody else eat what I sow;
let them uproot my crops.*

Job 31:1-8

⁹*"If a woman enticed me,
if I've lurked at my neighbor's doorway,*

¹⁰*may my wife grind for somebody else,
and let others sleep with her.*

¹¹*That would be shameful,
a crime judges would punish.*

¹²*a fire that would consume all the way to Abaddon
and completely burn up everything I own.*

Job 31:9-12

¹³*"If I've denied claim by my male or female servants,
complaints they filed against me,*

¹⁴*how could I face God?
What could I say when he questioned me?*

¹⁵*Didn't the One that made me in the womb make the accuser too?
Didn't the same One make us both?*

Job 31:13-15

¹⁶ “If I’ve withheld from the poor what they needed
 or stifled widows’ hopes,
¹⁷ if I’ve eaten my morsel alone
 and a fatherless child hadn’t shared it
 (¹⁸ from my youth I reared him like a father,
 and from infancy I guided her),
¹⁹ if I’ve seen anybody perish for lack of clothing
 or the needy go without clothes,
²⁰ if their loins haven’t thanked me
 and been warmed with wool from my sheep,
²¹ if I’ve mistreated the fatherless
 because I knew the courts would support me—
²² pull my shoulder out of its socket
 and break off my arm at the elbow,
²³ because calamity from God scares me,
 because I can’t resist his majesty. **Job 31:16-23**

²⁴ “If I’ve put confidence in gold
 and called fine gold my trust,
²⁵ if I’ve gloated because I was wealthy
 and had secured so much,
²⁶ if I’ve looked at the shining sun
 or the moon moving in splendor,
²⁷ and became secretly enticed
 and threw it a kiss—
²⁸ that too would’ve been a sin the judges punish,
 because I’d have been disloyal to God above. **Job 31:24-28**

²⁹ “Have I celebrated my enemy’s ruin
 or been happy when disaster fell on him?
³⁰ No, I haven’t let my mouth sin
 by asking for his life in a curse.

³¹ “Haven’t the ones in my tent said
 there’s no one he’s let go hungry?
³² No foreigner has had to lodge outside;
 I’ve opened my doors to travelers. **Job 31:29-32**

³³ “Have I covered up my sins like people do
 by hiding my iniquity in my heart,
³⁴ because I was afraid of the big crowd
 and the contempt of families terrified me,
 so I kept quiet and didn’t go outside?
³⁵ Oh that somebody would listen!
 Here’s my signature on my defense;
 let the Almighty answer me!
 Oh that my adversary would write out my indictment;
³⁶ I’d carry it openly on my shoulder
 or wear it proudly like a crown.
³⁷ I’d declare to God every step I’d taken
 and approach him confidently like a prince. **Job 31:33-37**

³⁸ “If my land cries out against me
 and my furrows are all wet with tears,
³⁹ if I’ve eaten more than my share of the crops
 or broken the spirit of its tenants—
⁴⁰ let briars grow on my land instead of wheat,
 stinkweeds in place of barley.”

Job’s words end here.

Job 31:38-40

32:¹The three men stopped replying to Job, because he was certain he was innocent. ²Then Elihu son of Barachel the Buzite from the family of Ram, was mad at Job because he’d justified himself to God. ³He was mad at his three friends because they couldn’t answer *Job* but still condemned him. ⁴Elihu had waited to speak because they were years older than he was. ⁵When he saw they didn’t provide an answer, his anger burned inside him. ⁶So he spoke up:

*“I’m young and you’re old;
 so I’ve been reluctant to tell you what I believed.
⁷I thought age should speak
 because wisdom should come with age.
⁸But it’s the spirit in a person
 and the breath of the Almighty that give insight.
⁹Abundant years may not bring wisdom;
 elders may not understand what’s just.
¹⁰So listen and I’ll say what I think too.*

Job 32:1-10

- ¹¹ *“I waited for your words;
I listened to your reasoning
while you thought about what to say.*
- ¹² *I paid careful attention;
none of you refuted Job
or answered his arguments.*
- ¹³ *Don’t say, ‘We’ve found him too wise for us;
God alone will have to refute him, not mortals.’*
- ¹⁴ *Job hasn’t been arguing with me;
but I wouldn’t have answered him with your arguments.*
- Job 32:11-14**
- ¹⁵ *“You’re discredited;
you don’t have anything else to say.*
- ¹⁶ *Should I keep waiting
when you’re not speaking anymore?*
- ¹⁷ *I’ll give my answer too
and express my opinion.*
- ¹⁸ *I have so many things I want to say;
my spirit constrains me to speak.*
- ¹⁹ *My stomach is like an unvented wine cask;
it’s about to burst like a new wineskin.*
- ²⁰ *I have to say something so I can get relief;
let me answer.*
- ²¹ *I won’t show partiality to anybody
or flatter anyone.*
- ²² *I don’t know how to flatter;
otherwise, my Maker would put an end to me.”* **Job 32:15-22**

- 33:**¹ *“But now, Job, listen to what I have to say;
hear me out.*
- ² *I’m opening my mouth now;
the tongue in my mouth is speaking.*
- ³ *What I’m saying expresses my uprightness;
my lips declare knowledge sincerely.*
- ⁴ *The Spirit of God has made me;
the breath of the Almighty gives me breath.*
- ⁵ *Answer me if you can;*

state your case; take your stand.

- ⁶*I belong to God like you do;
I've been formed out of clay too.*
- ⁷*I shouldn't be a threat to you;
I won't come down hard on you.*

Job 33:1-7

- ⁸*"You've spoken where I could hear you;
I've heard what you said:*
- ⁹*I'm pure, without sin,
innocent, not guilty of anything.*
- ¹⁰*He invents pretexts against me
and considers me his enemy.*
- ¹¹*He puts my feet in stocks
and watches my paths.'*

Job 33:8-11

- ¹²*"Let me tell you, you're not right in this,
because God is greater than you are.*
- ¹³*Why do you complain
that he won't account for everything he does?*
- ¹⁴*God speaks in one way, maybe two;
though people don't notice it—*
- ¹⁵*in a dream, in a vision at night,
when people are sound asleep in bed.*
- ¹⁶*Then he opens their ears and warns them,
¹⁷so he can turn them aside from doing wrong
and keep them from their pride.*
- ¹⁸*He holds them back from the Pit
and their lives from death by the sword.*

Job 33:12-18

- ¹⁹*"God disciplines people with pain on their beds,
with constant aching in their bones;*
- ²⁰*so they lose their appetites
and even their favorite food disgusts them.*
- ²¹*Their bodies waste away,
and their bones show.*
- ²²*Then they draw near the Pit;
they come close to the angels that bring death.*

Job 33:19-22

²³ “If there’s an angel to mediate for some people—
 one out of a thousand—
 to say what’s right about them,
²⁴ then let him be gracious to them and say,
 ‘Deliver them from the Pit;
 I’ve found a ransom for these lives.’
²⁵ Let their bodies become fresh with youth
 and return to their youthful vigor.
²⁶ Then they’ll pray to God, and he’ll accept them
 so they can see his face with joy
 and restore their good standing.
²⁷ They’ll sing to other people and say,
 ‘I sinned and perverted what’s right,
 but he didn’t hold it against me.
²⁸ He’s rescued me from the Pit,
 and I’ll see the light.’

Job 33:23-28

²⁹ “God does these things more than once for people;
³⁰ he brings them back from the Pit
 so they can see the light of life.
³¹ Pay attention, Job; listen;
 keep quiet and let me talk.
³² Then if you have anything to say, you can answer me,
 because I want to see you justified.
³³ If not, listen, and I’ll teach you wisdom.”

Job 33:29-33

34:¹ Elihu continued:

² “Listen, you wise men;
 pay attention, you that ‘know’;
³ the ear tests words
 like the palate tastes food.
⁴ Let’s choose what’s right;
 let’s determine for ourselves what’s good;
⁵ because Job has said, ‘I’m good,
 but God has disregarded my goodness.
⁶ Should I lie about my goodness?
 I have a wound that won’t heal,
 but I haven’t done anything wrong.’

⁷*Who is like Job*

that drinks scorn like water,

⁸*that pals around with sinners,*

that associates with bad people—

⁹*because he said, ‘What good does it do
to try to please God’?*

Job 34:1-9

¹⁰*“So, listen, you that ‘understand.’*

God would not sin;

the Almighty would never do what’s wrong.

¹¹*He pays everyone according to what they’ve done
and treats them the way their living deserves.*

¹²*God doesn’t act wickedly;
the Almighty won’t pervert justice.*

¹³*Who gave him authority over the earth?
Who laid the whole world on him?*

¹⁴*If he’d take back his spirit,
if he’d gather his breath to himself,*

¹⁵*everybody would die;
mortals would return to dust.*

Job 34:10-15

¹⁶*“But if you understand,
listen to what I’m saying.*

¹⁷*Would God be ruling if he hated justice?
Will you condemn someone great that’s good,*

¹⁸*who tells kings, ‘You’re worthless,’
or nobles, ‘You’re corrupt,’*

¹⁹*who doesn’t show deference to officials
or care more about the rich than the poor?
They’re all God’s work.*

²⁰*They die quickly;
at midnight they shudder and pass away;
the powerful are taken away without human hand.* **Job 34:16-20**

²¹*“He watches what people do;
he sees their every step.*

²²*There’s no darkness or deep shadow
where sinners can hide.*

- ²³*He doesn't have to investigate anyone
and bring them in to find out what they've done.*
- ²⁴*He brings the mighty to ruin without an investigation
and replaces them with others.*
- ²⁵*He knows what they've done;
he overthrows them at night and destroys them. Job 34:21-25*
- ²⁶*He strikes them down openly for their sinfulness*
- ²⁷*because they've turned aside from following him
and don't care about his ways;*
- ²⁸*they've made the poor cry out to him,
so he hears the call of the oppressed—*
- ²⁹*if he does keep quiet, who can condemn him?
when he hides, who can see him,
whether individual or nation?—*
- ³⁰*so the godless won't rule
or become a snare to other people. Job 34:26-30*
- ³¹*"Has anybody told God,
'I've been disciplined; I won't offend anymore';*
- ³²*or, 'Show me what I didn't notice;
if I've sinned, I won't do it again'?*
- ³³*Will God punish in a way that suits you
when you're the one that rejected him?
You have to make the choice, not me;
say what you know.*
- ³⁴*People with insight say to me—
the wise, who listen to me—*
- ³⁵*'Job doesn't know what he's talking about;
his words don't make sense.*
- ³⁶*He deserves the maximum penalty
because of the sinful way he answers.*
- ³⁷*He's adding rebellion to his sins;
he scornfully claps his hands at us
and multiplies his words against God.'"* **Job 34:31-37**

35:¹Elihu continued:

- ²*"Do you think it's righteous
for you to say you're upright before God?*

³You say, *'What advantage will I have?
What benefit will I get more than if I'd sinned?'*
⁴I'll answer you and your friends.
⁵Look at the sky;
the clouds are higher than you are.
⁶If you've sinned, what do you gain against God?
if you have lots of sins, what harm are you doing to him?
⁷If you're good, what good are you doing for him?
What good does he get out of you?
⁸Your goodness is for other people like you. **Job 35:1-8**

⁹*"They cry out because they're oppressed;
they call for help against powerful people.*
¹⁰*But nobody says, 'Where's God my Maker,
who gives songs at night,*
¹¹*who teaches us more than the animals on the ground
and makes us wiser than the birds in the sky?'*
¹²*There bad people call out, but he doesn't answer
because they're arrogant.*
¹³*Indeed, God will ignore empty cries;
the Almighty doesn't pay any attention to them.*
¹⁴*How much less when you say you don't see him;
he has your case,
but you're having to wait for him to give notice!*
¹⁵*Now, since he hasn't visited in his anger
and acknowledged sin enough,*
¹⁶*you open your mouth with empty talk, Job,
not knowing what you're talking about."* **Job 35:9-16**

36:¹Elihu continued:

²*"Bear with me a little longer, and I'll show you
what I have to say on God's behalf.*
³*I'll bring my knowledge from afar
and credit goodness to my Maker.*
⁴*What I'm saying is true;
I know perfectly well what I'm talking about.*
⁵*God is powerful, but he doesn't despise anybody;*

- he's mighty in his power to understand.*
- ⁶*He doesn't keep sinners alive,
but gives justice to the oppressed.*
- ⁷*He doesn't take his eyes off of good people,
but enthrones them with kings
and exalts them permanently.*
- ⁸*If they're bound in chains
and held tight in a web of difficulties,
⁹he tells them the reason:
it's because they've acted arrogantly.*
- ¹⁰*He opens their ears to instruction
and commands them to turn away from sin. **Job 36:1-10***
- ¹¹*If they listen and serve him,
they'll end their days in prosperity,
their years in pleasantness.*
- ¹²*But if they ignore him,
they'll perish by the sword and die ignorant.*
- ¹³*But the godless in heart store up anger;
they don't call out for help when he restrains them.*
- ¹⁴*They die young;
their life perishes among the cult prostitutes.*
- ¹⁵*He delivers the afflicted by their afflictions
and opens their ears with adversity. **Job 36:11-15***
- ¹⁶*So he's luring you with distress
into a safe space that's not crowded
and has set delicious food on your table.*
- ¹⁷*"But you've become obsessed with condemning sinners,
obsessed with judgment and justice.*
- ¹⁸*Be careful that anger doesn't lure you into scoffing;
don't let the great cost of the ransom turn you aside.*
- ¹⁹*Will your wealth or strength
keep you away from troubles?*
- ²⁰*Don't long for the cover of night
when people disappear unnoticed.*
- ²¹*Make sure not to turn to evil,
which you've preferred to affliction.*

²²*God is honored by his power;
who can teach like him?*
²³*Who has prescribed his conduct
or said, 'You've done something wrong'?* **Job 36:16-23**

²⁴*"Remember to extol his work
that people sing about.*
²⁵*Everybody has seen it;
they can look at it from a long way off.*
²⁶*God is so great we don't understand him;
we can't find out how old he is.*
²⁷*He evaporates water drops
and distills his mist into rain,*
²⁸*which the clouds
pour down on people abundantly.* **Job 36:24-28**

²⁹*Can anyone understand how clouds spread out
or how thunder claps in his pavilion?*
³⁰*He spreads out lightning all around him
and covers the depths of the ocean.*
³¹*They're how he governs nations
and supplies food abundantly.*
³²*He fills his hands with lightning bolts
and hurls them at their marks.*
³³*Thunder announces his presence
and warns livestock that a storm is coming.* **Job 36:29-33**

37:¹*"My heart pounds when I think about this;
it feels like it's out of place.*
²*Listen closely to his thundering,
the rumbling that comes from his mouth.*
³*He unleashes his lightning under the whole sky;
it travels to the horizon in every direction.*
⁴*After it his roars;
he thunders with his majestic voice
and doesn't hold anything back.*
⁵*God thunders wondrously
and does extraordinary things we can't comprehend.*

⁶*He tells the snow to fall on the ground
and the rain to be heavy.*

⁷*He stops everyone's labor
so they can watch his work.*

Job 37:1-7

⁸*Animals head for their dens
and stay in their lairs.*

⁹*The stormy wind comes from its rooms,
and the driving winds bring the cold.*

¹⁰*God's breath makes ice,
and the wide expanse of water freezes.*

¹¹*He loads up dark clouds with moisture;
they disperse his lightning flashes.*

¹²*They change direction by his guidance;
they do whatever he commands across the world.*

¹³*He makes these things happen either to punish his people
or to water the earth and show his love.*

Job 37:8-13

¹⁴*"Listen, Job,
stop and think about God's wondrous works.*

¹⁵*Do you know how he controls the clouds
or makes lightning flash in them?*

¹⁶*Can you explain the layers of dark clouds,
the wonders of One that knows everything,*

¹⁷*you whose clothes are hot
because the south wind isn't blowing?*

¹⁸*Can you spread out the sky like he does,
as hard as a bronze mirror?*

¹⁹*Teach us what to say to him;
we can't draw up our case without your help!*

²⁰*Should somebody let him know I want to speak?
Does anyone ever want to be destroyed?*

²¹*"We can't look at the bright light in the sky
after the wind has cleared it.*

²²*Golden splendor comes from the north;
awesome majesty surrounds God.*

²³*We can't imagine how extremely powerful the Almighty is;*

yet he doesn't violate justice and abundant goodness.

²⁴So people everywhere revere him

because he doesn't value people that are wise in their own conceit."

Job 37:14-24

38:¹God answered Job out of the whirlwind:

*²"Who is this that confuses my counsel
with ignorant words?*

³Gird up like a man;
I'll ask you some questions, and you answer me.*

*⁴Where were you when I laid the foundation for the earth?
Tell me if you have any idea.*

*⁵Who specified its measurements
or stretched out a line on it?
Surely you know!*

*⁶What did its pylons rest on?
Who laid its cornerstone
⁷when the morning stars sang together
and all God's angels shouted for joy?*

Job 38:1-7

*⁸"Who shut the ocean in boundaries,
when it came bursting out of the womb,*

*⁹when I clothed it with clouds
and swaddled it with deep darkness,*

*¹⁰when I set its boundaries,
bolted its doors,*

*¹¹and said, 'You can't go beyond this point;
here's where your proud waves stop'?*

Job 38:8-11

*¹²"Have you ever commanded the morning
and made dawn happen*

*¹³so it can spread to the ends of the earth
and bring to an end night's evil?*

*¹⁴The earth is stamped like clay under a seal;
its features stand out like folds in a robe.*

*¹⁵Light is withheld from sinners,
and their uplifted arm is broken.*

Job 38:12-15

¹⁶"Have you traveled to the springs of the ocean

or walked in the recesses of the deep?

¹⁷*Have the gates of death been revealed to you;
have you seen the doors into deep darkness?*

¹⁸*Do you have any idea how big the earth is?
Tell me if you know that.*

Job 38:16-18

¹⁹*“Where’s the road to where light lives?*

Where’s the place for darkness,

²⁰*so you can take it to its territory
and make out the paths to its home?*

²¹*You know because you were born there, right!
and you’ve lived so long!*

²²*Have you entered the storehouses for snow
or seen where I keep the hail*

²³*I reserve for troubled times,
for the time of war and battle?*

²⁴*Where’s the road to the source of light
or where the east wind scatters over the earth? **Job 38:19-24***

²⁵*“Who carved a channel for the flood
or laid out the course of a thunderbolt*

²⁶*to bring rain on land with no people—
on a vacant desert—*

²⁷*to satisfy desolate land
and make grass sprout?*

²⁸*Does rain have a father?
Who has begotten the drops of dew?*

²⁹*Whose womb did ice come out of?
Who gave birth to frost from the sky?*

³⁰*Water gets as hard as rock;
its surface freezes over and imprisons the deep. **Job 38:25-30***

³¹*“Can you tie up the chains of the Pleiades
or untie the cords of Orion?*

³²*Can you lead out the signs of the Zodiac in their seasons
and guide the Bear with her cubs?*

³³*Do you know the laws of the sky
or manage the earth with them?*

³⁴“Can you shout to the clouds
to get enough water to cover you?
³⁵Do you send out lightning bolts on their way?
Do they report to you, ‘We’re here’?” **Job 38:31-35**

³⁶“Who endowed the heart with wisdom
or gave intelligence to the mind?
³⁷Who can count the clouds
or tip over the water jars in the sky
³⁸when dust hardens into clumps
and forms clods?” **Job 38:36-38**

³⁹“Can you stalk prey for a lion
or satisfy the appetite of young lions
⁴⁰when they crouch in their dens
and lie in wait in their lairs?
⁴¹Who fixes feed for the ravens
when their young call out to God
and wander around with nothing to eat?” **Job 38:39-41**

39:¹“Do you know when mountain goats give birth?
Do you ever see a deer calving?
²Can you count the months of their gestation
or learn when they have their fawns?
³They crouch down to deliver their young.
⁴Their offspring grow strong out in the open;
they leave home and never return.” **Job 39:1-4**

⁵“Who turned the wild donkey loose?
Who untied its ropes?
⁶I gave it the open country for a home,
desert land to live in?
⁷It scorns city turmoil
and doesn’t have to listen to a driver shout at it.
⁸It roams the mountains for pasture,
looking for anything green.” **Job 39:5-8**

⁹“Will a wild ox consent to serve you

and spend the night at your manger?
¹⁰*Can you harness it to plow in a furrow?*
Will it harrow your fields?
¹¹*Will you depend on it because it's strong*
and leave your work for it to do?
¹²*Will you trust it to bring your grain home*
and deliver it to your threshing floor? **Job 39:9-12**

¹³*"The ostrich's wings flap happily,*
but they don't compare
with the wings and feathers of a stork.
¹⁴*She abandons her eggs in the ground*
to stay warm in the sand.
¹⁵*She forgets that a foot may crush them*
or a wild ox may tramp on them.
¹⁶*She's harsh toward her young as if they weren't hers;*
though her work may be pointless, she doesn't care,
¹⁷*because God hasn't made her wise*
or given her intelligence.
¹⁸*When she jumps up to run,*
she laughs at a horse and its rider. **Job 39:13-18**

¹⁹*"Do you give a horse its strength*
or cover its neck with a mane?
²⁰*Can you make it leap like a locust?*
Its majestic snorting is terrifying!
²¹*It paws in the valley and frolics in its strength*
and charges out to battle.
²²*It mocks fear and*
doesn't shy away from the sword.
²³*The quiver rattles against it,*
the flashing spear and javelin too.
²⁴*It doesn't stand still when the bugle signals;*
with trembling rage, it races over the ground.
²⁵*As often as the bugle blows, it says, 'Aha!'*
It smells a battle a long way off,
the captain's thundering, and the battle cry. **Job 39:19-25**

- ²⁶“Does a hawk soar because you’re so smart
as it stretches its wings toward the south?
²⁷Does an eagle mount up at your command
and build its nest up high?
²⁸It lives and lodges on the cliffs,
in inaccessible places on the rocky crag.
²⁹From there it spies out prey
that it can see from far away.
³⁰Even its young gulp down blood;
they’re right there when the kill goes down. **Job 39:26-30**

40:¹The LORD said to Job,

- ²“Will a faultfinder spar with the Almighty?
Let the one that argues with God answer that.”

³Job said,

- ⁴“I’m insignificant; what kind of answer can I give?
I’ve put my hand over my mouth.
⁵I’ve spoken once or twice; that’s enough;
I don’t have anything else to say.” **Job 40:1-5**

⁶The LORD answered him out of the storm:

- ⁷“Gird up* like a man;
I’ll ask you some questions, and you answer me.
⁸Will you really try to discredit me to justify yourself?
⁹Do you have an arm like mine?
Can you thunder like me? **Job 40:6-9**

- ¹⁰“Go ahead and put on eminence and dignity;
dress yourself with honor and majesty.
¹¹Pour out your overflowing anger;
look at everybody that’s proud and humble them.
¹²Look down on everybody that’s arrogant;
walk on sinners where they stand.
¹³Bury them in the dust together;
imprison them in the hidden place.
¹⁴Then I’ll acknowledge to you
that your own right hand can save you. **Job 40:10-14**

- ¹⁵“Look at Behemoth, which I made as well as I did you;
it eats grass like an ox.
- ¹⁶It has strong loins
and powerful muscles in its stomach.
- ¹⁷It swings its tail like a cedar beam;
the sinews in its thighs intertwine.
- ¹⁸Its bones are like bronze tubes;
its limbs, like iron bars. **Job 40:15-18**
- ¹⁹It’s a prime example of my what I’ve created;
only the One that made it need bring his sword!
- ²⁰The mountains produce its food,
where wild animals play.
- ²¹It lies down under the lotus plants
and hides among the reeds in the marsh.
- ²²The lotus plants give it shade;
the willows by the stream surround it.
- ²³It doesn’t care if the river rages
or worry if the Jordan rushes at its mouth.
- ²⁴Can anyone capture it when it’s awake?
Can anybody trap it and put a ring in its nose? **Job 40:19-24**

- 41**¹“Can you pull Leviathan in on a fishhook
or muzzle it with a noose?
- ²Can you tie it up with a rope in its nose
or pierce its jaw with a hook?
- ³Will it beg you for mercy
or speak to you softly?
- ⁴Will it agree to work for you
like a slave for life?
- ⁵Will you make a pet out of it like a bird
or put it on a leash for your little girls?
- ⁶Will traders bid on it
or divide it up among the merchants’ shops?
- ⁷Can you hurt its hide with harpoons
or its head with fishing spears? **Job 41:1-7**
- ⁸Put your hands on it, and you’ll remember the fight!

You won't do that again!

⁹*Anything you try to do with it is useless;
the very sight of it is overpowering.*

¹⁰*Nobody is fierce enough to dare to disturb it;
who then can stand against me?*

¹¹*Who has given to me that I should repay?
Whatever's under the sky is already mine.*

Job 41:8-11

¹²*"I won't fail to mention its limbs,
its great strength or graceful frame.*

¹³*Who can strip off its outer armor
or penetrate its double coat of mail?*

¹⁴*Who can pry its jaws open?
Its teeth are terrifying!*

¹⁵*It's proud of its hard scales
that fit together like a seal,*

¹⁶*one so close to the other
that air can't get between them.*

¹⁷*They interlock with one another
and can't be separated.*

¹⁸*When it sneezes, it flashes out light;
its eyes are red like the rays of dawn.*

Job 41:12-18

¹⁹*Burning torches blaze out of its mouth;
sparks fly from it.*

²⁰*Smoke pours out of its nostrils
as from a boiling pot or burning reeds.*

²¹*Flames burst out of its mouth;
its breath lights coals.*

²²*It has a strong neck
that strikes panic wherever goes.*

²³*The folds of its flesh fit tightly together,
firm and unmovable.*

²⁴*Its heart is as hard as rock,
like a lower millstone.*

²⁵*When it stands up, mighty men scramble
and retreat at its thrashing.*

²⁶*No sword can hurt it;*

neither can a spear, dart, or javelin. **Job 41:19-26**

²⁷*They glance off like straws;
it deflects bronze weapons like rotten sticks.*

²⁸*Arrows can't chase it away;
sling stones amount to wads of sod.*

²⁹*Clubs do no more harm to it than stubble;
it laughs at rattling javelins.*

³⁰*Sharp scales like potsherds cover its underbelly;
it leaves grooves in the dirt like a threshing sledge.*

³¹*It makes deep water roil like a boiling pot;
it stirs up the sea like a pot of ointment.*

³²*The water in its wake foams behind it;
you'd think the deep had gray hair.*

³³*There's nothing like it on earth;
it's not afraid of anything.*

³⁴*It stares down at everything tall;
it's king over everything arrogant."* **Job 41:27-34**

42:¹Job answered the LORD:

²*"I know you can do anything
and nobody can thwart what you do.*

³*You asked, 'Who is this that darkens my counsel with ignorance?'
So I admit I don't understand;
these things are too awesome for me to look into.*

⁴*You said, 'Listen; I'll talk;
I'll ask; you instruct me.'*

⁵*I'd only heard about you before,
but now I see you.*

⁶*So I take back what I've said
and repent in dust and ashes."* **Job 42:1-6**

⁷After the LORD addressed Job, he told Eliphaz the Temanite,

"I'm aggravated with you and your two friends because you haven't said about me what's right like Job has. ⁸So take 7 bulls and 7 rams to him and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves. He'll pray for you, and I'll accept him so I won't do to you what you deserve, because you haven't said about me what's right like he has."

⁹Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar did what the LORD said, and he accepted Job.

Job 42:7-9

¹⁰When Job prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes and doubled what he had before. ¹¹Then his brothers, sisters, and acquaintances that knew him before, came to eat with him in his house. They consoled him for the misfortunes the LORD had let come on him. Each one gave him one piece of money and a gold ring. ¹²The LORD blessed Job's later life more than its beginning. He had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys. ¹³He had 7 sons and 3 daughters. ¹⁴He named the first^f Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. ¹⁵In the whole land there weren't any women as beautiful as his daughters. Their father gave them an inheritance alongside their brothers. ¹⁶After that, Job lived 140 years and saw his grandsons and great-grandsons, four generations. ¹⁷He died an old man that had lived a full life.

Job 42:10-17

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