

**This book contains the account
of the intense suffering of Job
and of God restoring him. We
call this book
Job**

Job and his family

¹ In the land named Uz, there was a man named Job. He was a very godly/righteous [DOU] man, who greatly respected/revered God and always avoided doing evil things. ² He had seven sons and three daughters. ³ He owned 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 1,000 oxen, and 500 female donkeys. He also had many servants. He was the richest man in all the area east *of the Jordan River*.

⁴ Each year, Job's sons made feasts *in their houses* to celebrate their birthdays. Whenever each one made a feast, he would invite *all his brothers and* his three sisters to come and eat together. ⁵ When each celebration ended, Job would summon them. He would get up early in the morning and kill animals and burn them on the altar as sacrifices, one for each of his children. He said to himself, "Perhaps *one of my sons* has sinned and said something evil about God in his heart."

Satan wanted to test Job

⁶ One day, the angels came and gathered together in front of Yahweh, and Satan came too.

⁷ Yahweh asked Satan, “Where have you come from?”

Satan replied, “I have come from the earth, where I been traveling back and forth, seeing what is happening.”

⁸ Yahweh said to Satan, “Have you ◀noticed/ thought about▶ my *faithful* servant Job? He is very godly/righteous [DOU], he greatly respects/ reveres me, and he always avoids doing evil things. There is no one else on the earth like him.” ⁹ Satan replied to Yahweh, “*What you say is true*, but Job greatly respects you *only* because of what you have done for him [RHQ]. ¹⁰ You have always [RHQ] protected [MET] him and his family and everything that he owns. You have made him very prosperous/rich. He has livestock all over this land. ¹¹ But if you take away [MTY] everything that he has, he will curse you openly. [IDM]”

¹² Yahweh replied to Satan, “◀All right/Okay▶, I will permit you to take away everything that he has. But do not harm him.”

Then Satan left, *and he prepared to cause many disastrous things to happen to Job.*

¹³ One day *after that*, Job’s sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the home of their oldest brother. ¹⁴ While they were doing that, a messenger arrived at Job’s home and said to him, “While your oxen were plowing *the fields* and the donkeys were grazing nearby, ¹⁵ a group of men from *the Sheba area* came and attacked us. They killed all your servants *who were working in the fields* and took away all

the oxen and donkeys! I am the only one who escaped to *come and* tell you what happened.”

¹⁶ While he was still talking to Job, another messenger arrived. He said to Job, “Lightning from the sky [MTY] struck and killed all the sheep and all the men who were taking care of the sheep! I am the only one who escaped to *come and* tell you *what happened.*”

¹⁷ While he was still talking to Job, another messenger arrived. He said to Job, “Three groups of *robbers/bandits* from Chaldea *land* came and attacked us. They stole all the camels and killed all the men who were taking care of them. I am the only one who escaped to *come and* tell you *what happened.*”

¹⁸ While he was still talking to Job, another messenger arrived and reported this to Job: “Your sons and daughters were feasting in the home of their oldest brother. ¹⁹ Suddenly a ◀very strong wind/tornado▶ came from the desert and struck the house. The house collapsed on your sons and daughters and killed them all! I am the only one who escaped to *come and* tell you *what happened.*”

²⁰ Job stood up, and tore his robe and shaved his head *because he was very sad/grieved*. Then he prostrated himself on the ground *to worship God*. ²¹ He said,

“When I was born, I had no clothes on.
When I die, I will not take any clothes with me.
Yahweh gave me *everything that I possessed*,
and *now* he has taken it all away.

But ◀we should/I will▶ always praise Yahweh
anyway! [MTY]”

²² In spite of all these *things that happened to Job*, *he* did not sin by saying that what God had done was wrong.

2

Satan wanted to test Job again

¹ On another day, the angels came again and gathered together in front of Yahweh, and Satan came too. ² Yahweh asked Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan replied, “I have come from the earth, where I have been traveling back and forth, seeing what is happening.”

³ Yahweh asked Satan, “Have you ◀noticed/ thought about▶ my *faithful* servant Job?

He is very godly/righteous [DOU], he greatly respects/reveres me, and he *always* avoids doing evil things. And he still acts in a very godly/righteous manner, even though you persuaded me to *let you* cause disastrous things to happen to him for no reason.”

⁴ Satan replied to Yahweh, “He praises you only because you bless him [IDM]. People will give up everything they have to save their own lives.

⁵ But if you harm his body [MTY], he will surely curse you openly [IDM]!”

⁶ Yahweh replied to Satan, “◀All right/Okay▶, you may do to him whatever you want to do, but do not cause him to die.”

⁷ So Satan left, and he caused Job to be afflicted with very painful boils, from the top of his head to the soles of his feet. ⁸ Job took a piece of

broken pottery and scraped the boils on his skin, and he sat in ashes *as people did when they were mourning for those who had died.*

⁹ His wife said to him, “Are you still trying to ◀be loyal to/faithfully trust in▶ God? You should curse God, and then you will die.”

¹⁰ But Job replied, “You talk like people who do not know God talk. ◀Should we accept only the good things that God *does for us?*/We should not accept only the good things that God *does for us.*▶ [RHQ] We should also accept bad things.” So in spite of all these *things that happened to Job, he* did not say anything against God.

Job's three friends came to comfort him

¹¹ Among Job's friends were Eliphaz from Teman *town*, Bildad from Shuah *land* and Zophar from Naamah *land*. When they heard about all the terrible things that had happened to Job, they left their home areas and went together to Job to console/comfort him [DOU]. ¹² When they saw Job from a distance, they almost did not recognize him. They wailed loudly, they tore their robes, and they threw dust over their heads *to show how sorry they were because of what had happened to Job.* ¹³ Then they sat on the ground with Job for seven days. None of them said anything to Job, because they saw that he was suffering greatly, *and they did not think that anything that they said would lessen his pain.*

3

Job spoke

¹ Finally, Job spoke, and he cursed the day that he was born. ² He said,

³ “I wish that the day when I was born could be eradicated,
and also the night when I was conceived.

⁴ I wish that the day when I was born would have been covered in darkness.

I wish that God who is in heaven [MTY] would have forgotten about that day,
and that the sun would not have shone on it.

⁵ I wish that thick/intense darkness would have filled that day,

and that a black cloud would have come over it
and blotted out all light
and caused people to be terrified.

⁶ I wish that the night when I was conceived would be erased from the calendar,
with the result that it would never again appear as one night in any month,
and that it would not be included in any calendar.

⁷ I wish that no child would again be conceived on that night of the month [MET],
and that no one would again be happy on that night.

⁸ I want those people who ◀curse/put evil spells on▶ days—those who know how to arouse/awaken the great sea monster—to curse that day.

⁹ I wish that the stars that shone early in the morning on that day *after I was conceived* will not shine again.

I want those stars to have wished in vain for light to shine;

and that they would not have shone on that day.

- 10 *That was an evil day* because my mother was able to conceive; instead, I was born, and I have now experienced all these terrible things.
- 11 “I wish that I had died [RHQ] when I was born—
at the time I emerged from my mother’s womb.
- 12 I wish that my mother had not [RHQ] allowed me to live.
I wish that she had not nursed me.
- 13 If I had died at the time when I was born,
I would be asleep, resting peacefully *in the place where the dead people are*.
- 14 I would be resting with kings whose *beautiful palaces* that they built are now in ruins (OR, who rebuilt *palaces* that had previously been destroyed),
and I would be resting with their officials *who have also died*.
- 15 I would be resting with princes who were wealthy,
whose palaces were filled with gold and silver.
- 16 I wish that I had been buried like a child who died in its mother’s womb
and never lived to see the light.
- 17 After wicked people die, they do not cause any more troubles;
those who are very tired now will rest.

- 18 Those who were in prison rest peacefully *after they die*;
they no longer have slave-drivers who curse them.
- 19 Rich people and poor people are alike after they die,
and those who were slaves are no longer controlled by their masters.
- 20 ◀“Why does God allow those who are suffering greatly *like me* to continue to remain alive?/I do not understand why God allows those who are suffering greatly *like me* to continue to remain alive.▶ [RHQ]
Why does he allow those who are very miserable/distressed to keep living [RHQ]?
- 21 They long/want to die, but they do not die.
They desire to die more than people desire to find a hidden treasure.
- 22 When they finally die and are buried, they are very happy.
- 23 Those who do not know where they are *eventually* going when they die [RHQ],
people whom God has forced [MET] to continue to live in misery,
◀it is not right that they continue to live./
why do they continue to live?▶ [RHQ]
- 24 I continually cry very much; as a result, I cannot eat;
and I can never stop groaning.
- 25 Things that I always worried might happen to me, have happened to me;

things that I always dreaded have happened to me.

²⁶ Now I have no peace *in my inner being*,
I have no peace;
I cannot rest;
instead, I have only troubles.”

4

Eliphaz replied to Job

¹ Then Eliphaz, from Teman, replied to Job. He said,

² “Will you please let me say something to you?
I am not [RHQ] able to remain silent *any longer*.

³ In the past, you have instructed/taught many people,
and you have encouraged those who were weak.

⁴ By what you said, you have helped those who ◀needed spiritual help/almost quit trusting in God▶ [MET],
and you have enabled them to become spiritually strong again [MET].

⁵ But now, when you experience disasters, you become discouraged.

The disasters hit you, and you are stunned.

⁶ You revere God; ◀does that not cause you to trust *in him*?/that should cause you to trust *in him*.▶ [RHQ]

If you were guiltless, you would [RHQ] be confident that *God* would not *have allowed* these disasters *to* happen to you!

- 7 Think about this: Do innocent people die *while they are still young* [RHQ]?
Does God get rid of godly people [RHQ]? *No!*
- 8 What I have experienced is this: *Just as* [MET] farmers who plant bad *seeds* do not harvest good *crops*,
just as those who start trouble for others,
later bring trouble on themselves.
- 9 They die when God angrily blows his breath on them,
when he is very angry with them.
- 10 *Even though wicked people may be very powerful like* young lions,
God will get rid of them [MET].
- 11 *They will die like* fierce lions that starve to death when there are no animals that they can kill and eat,
and *their children will be separated from each other like* young lions separate from each other *to find food.*"

Eliphaz says that he learned a secret

- 12 "I heard a message that someone came and whispered to me.
- 13 He spoke to me at night when I was having a bad dream that disturbed/frightened me while I was fast asleep.
- 14 It caused me to be afraid and tremble;
it caused all my bones to shake.
- 15 A ghost glided past my face
and caused the hair on *on the back of* my neck to stand straight up.
- 16 It stopped, but I could not see what form it had.

But *I could sense that* there was some being
in front of me,
and it said in a quiet voice,

17 ‘◀Does God consider anyone to be righteous?/
No human beings can be righteous in
God’s sight!▶ [RHQ]

◀Their creator cannot consider them to be pure./
Can their creator consider them to be
pure?▶ [RHQ]

18 God cannot be sure that his own angels *will
always do what is right*;
he declares that some of them have done
what is wrong.

19 So he certainly cannot trust human beings who
were made from dust and clay,
who are crushed as easily as moths are
crushed!

20 People are sometimes well in the morning, but
in the evening they are dead.
They are gone forever and do not even know
it (OR, and no one pays any attention to it).

21 They are like [MET] tents that collapse *sud-
denly*:
They die *suddenly* before they become
wise.’ ”

5

Eliphaz continued replying to Job

1 “Job, *it is okay that you* continue to cry out for
someone to help you,
but *I am certain that* [RHQ] no angel will
come to help you!

- ² Foolish people die because of being ◀resentful/
very angry at someone▶;
people who are easily deceived are de-
stroyed by their being jealous *of others*.
- ³ I have seen foolish people who seemed to be
successful/prosperous,
but suddenly *they experienced disaster/trou-
ble because* someone cursed their home.
- ⁴ Their sons are never safe;
they ◀lose their case/ are condemned▶
when someone ◀takes them to court/sues
them▶,
because there is no one to defend them.
- ⁵ Hungry people *steal* the crops that foolish
people harvest, *and eat those crops*;
they even steal the crops that grow among
thorns,
and greedy people take away the wealth of
foolish people.
- ⁶ But evil circumstances/sufferings are not pro-
duced by the soil;
troubles do not grow up from the ground.
- ⁷ People have troubles from the time that they
are born
just as surely as sparks shoot up *from a fire*.
- ⁸ *“If I were suffering like you are, I would ask God
for help*
and tell him ◀what I am complaining about/
about my suffering▶.
- ⁹ He does great things, things that we cannot
understand;
we cannot even count the marvelous things
that he does.

- 10 He sends rain on the ground;
he sends water on our fields.
- 11 He exalts those who are humble,
and causes those who mourn to be joyful
(OR, safe, prosperous).
- 12 He causes crafty/cunning people to not be able
to do what they plan to do,
with the result that they achieve nothing.
- 13 He causes people who *think that they* [IRO] are
wise to be trapped by the cunning things
they try to do,
with the result that they do not succeed.
- 14 *It is as though* even in the daytime they are
covered by darkness,
and grope around *trying to find the road* at
noontime like people do at night.
- 15 But God saves helpless people from being
harmed by what *wicked people* say [MTY],
he saves needy people from being injured by
[MTY] powerful people.
- 16 So, poor people confidently expect *that good
things will happen to them*
but God causes *wicked people* to stop talking.
- 17 “But those whom God corrects/rebukes are
happy;
so do not despise/dislike it when *God* who is
all-powerful disciplines you.
- 18 He wounds people, but then he puts bandages
on those wounds;
he hurts people, but he [SYN] also heals
them.

- 19 He will rescue you many times from your troubles,
with the result that nothing evil will happen to you.
- 20 When there is a famine, he will not allow you to die,
and when there is a war, you will not be killed [MTY].
- 21 God will protect you when people slander [MTY] you;
you will not be afraid when many things *around you* are destroyed.
- 22 You will *be able to* laugh/scoff when things are destroyed and when there is famine,
and you will not be afraid of wild animals.
- 23 You will not worry about *having big* rocks in your fields *that will make plowing difficult*,
and you will not worry about *being attacked* by wild animals there.
- 24 In your tent, you will know that things will go well for you,
and when you look at your livestock, you will see that ◀they are all there/none of them is missing▶.
- 25 You will be sure that you will have many descendants,
who will be as numerous as blades of grass.
- 26 You will become very old before you die,
like sheaves of grain continue to grow until it is time to harvest them.

27 “*My friends and I* have thought carefully about these things, and *we know that they are true*,
so pay attention to what I have said!”

6

Job refuted Eliphaz' claim

1 Then Job spoke again, saying to *Eliphaz*,
2 “If all my troubles and misery could be put on a scale and weighed,
3 they would be heavier than all the sands *on the shores of the oceans*.

That is why I spoke ◀very rashly/without thinking clearly▶ *about the day that I was born*.

4 *It is as though* Almighty God has shot me with arrows.

It is as though those arrows had poison on their tips, and that poison has gone into my spirit.

The things that God has done to me have terrified me.

5 Just like a wild donkey does not *complain by* braying when it has plenty of grass to eat, and an ox does not *complain by* bellowing when it has food to eat [MET],

I would not complain if you were really helping/comforting me.

6 People complain [RHQ] when they must eat food which has no salt or other tasteless food [MET],

and that is what your words are like, Eliphaz.

7 Just like I do not want to eat food *like that*, and I loathe/detests that kind of food [MET],

I do not appreciate what you have said to me.

8 “I wish that God would do for me what I have requested from him [DOU].

9 I wish that he would crush me *and let me die*.
I wish that he would reach out his hand and take away my life.

10 If he would do that, I would be comforted by knowing that in spite of the great pain that I have suffered,
I have always obeyed what *God*, the Holy One, has commanded.

11 But now I do not have [RHQ] enough strength to endure all these things.
And since I have nothing *to hope for* in ◀the future/this life▶,
it is difficult for me to be patient now [RHQ].

12 I am not [RHQ] strong like rocks are,
and my body is not made of bronze.

13 So I am not able to help myself,
and *it seems that* there is no one to rescue me.”

Job’s friends were not helping him

14 “When a man has many troubles, his friends should be kind to him,
even if he stops revering Almighty *God*.

15 But *you*, my friends, are not dependable.
You are like streams: They spill over their banks *in the spring*

16 when *the melting* ice and snow make those streams overflow,

- 17 but when the dry season comes, there is no water flowing *in those streams*, and the channels dry up.
- 18 *The caravans of merchants* turn off the path to search for some water, but there is no water, so they die *in the desert*.
- 19 The men in those caravans search *for some water* because they are sure that they will find some.
- 20 But they do not find any, so they are very disappointed.
- 21 Similarly, you friends have not helped me at all!
You have seen that terrible things have happened to me, and you are afraid *that God might do similar things to you*.
- 22 *After I lost all my wealth*, did I ask any of you for money? [RHQ]
Did I plead with any of you to spend some of your money to help me [RHQ]?
- 23 Have I asked any of you to rescue me from my enemies [RHQ]?
Have I asked you to save me from those who ◀oppressed me/treated me badly▶ [RHQ]?
No!"
- Job insisted he had done no wrong*
- 24 "Answer me *now*, and *then* I will be quiet; tell me what wrong things I have done!
- 25 When people speak what is true, that will not hurt the person who hears it,

- but what you say, criticizing me, *is not true, so your saying it* proves nothing [RHQ]!
- 26 I am a man who has nothing to hope for, but you try to correct me, and you think what I say is nothing but wind [RHQ]!
- 27 You do not sympathize with me at all *for all that I am suffering. You are heartless!* You would even gamble to see who gets an orphan *as a prize!*
- 28 Please look at me! I will not [RHQ] lie to you.
- 29 Stop *saying that I have sinned, and stop* criticizing me unjustly!
You should realize that I have not done things that are wrong.
- 30 Do you think that I am lying?
No, I am not lying, because I know what is right and what is wrong [RHQ].”

7

Job complains to God

- 1 “People need to work hard on this earth, like soldiers do;
all during the time that we are alive, we work hard [RHQ], like laborers/servants do.
- 2 We are like [SIM] slaves who keep wanting to be in the cool shade,
and we are like [SIM] workers who are waiting to be paid.
- 3 God has given me many months *in which I think that it is useless to remain alive;*
he has allotted/given to me many nights during which I feel miserable.

- 4 When I lie down *at night* I say, 'How long will it be until morning?'
But nights are long, and I ◀toss/turn over and over▶ *on my bed* until dawn.
- 5 My body is covered with maggots and scabs;
pus oozes out of my open sores.
- 6 My days pass as quickly as a weaver's ◀shuttle/stick that takes the thread back and forth▶,
and they end without my confidently expecting *that things will be better the next day*.
- 7 God, do not forget that my life is *as short as a breath* [MET];
I *think that* I [SYN] will never again be happy.
- 8 God, you [SYN] see me now,
but *some day* you will not see me any more.
You will search for me, but I will be gone
because I will be dead.
- 9 Like [SIM] clouds ◀disperse/break up▶ and then disappear,
people *die and* descend to the place where dead people are, and they do not return;
- 10 they never return to their houses,
and people among whom they lived do not remember them any more.
- 11 So, I will not be silent;
while I am suffering I will speak;
I will complain *to God about what has happened to me*
because I [SYN] am very angry.

- 12 *God*, why do you watch closely what I am doing?
Do you think that I am a dangerous sea monster?
- 13 When *I lie down at night*, I think, 'I will be comforted here on my bed;
my pain will be less while I am sleeping.'
- 14 But then you give me dreams that cause me to be afraid;
you give me visions that terrify me,
- 15 with the result that I would prefer to be strangled to death
than to continue to *be alive* being only a bunch of bones.
- 16 I detest continuing to be alive; I do not want to live for many years [HYP].
Allow me to be alone, *because I will be alive* for only a very short remaining time [HYP].
- 17 "We human beings are not *very important*;
so, why do you pay a lot of attention to us [DOU]?"
- 18 You look at us every morning *to see what we are doing*,
and examine us every moment *to see if we are doing what is right*.
- 19 ◀When will you stop looking at me and leave me alone *for a little time*, long enough to swallow my spit?/Please stop looking at me and leave me alone *for a little time*, long enough to swallow my spit.▶ [RHQ]
- 20 *Why do you watch me constantly?*

If I sin, that certainly does not harm you!
 Why have you set me up like a target to shoot at?
 Do you consider me to be a heavy load that
 you are forced to carry?

²¹ *If I have sinned*, are you not able to forgive me
 for my sins—
 the things that I have done that are wrong?
 Soon I will lie in my grave;
 you will search for me, but *you will not find
 me because I will be dead and gone.*”

8

Bildad's first speech to Job

¹ Then Bildad, from *the Shuah area*, spoke to
 Job. He said,

² “Job, how much longer will you talk like this?
 What you say is *only* hot air.

³ Almighty God certainly never does [RHQ] what
 is unfair/unjust.

He always does [LIT] what is right/fair.

⁴ So, it is evident that your children have sinned
 against him,

therefore he has caused them to be punished
 for evil things that they have done.

⁵ But, if you will *now* earnestly request [DOU]
 Almighty *God* to help you,

⁶ and if you are pure and honest/righteous,
 he will surely do something good for you
 and reward you by giving your family back
 to you and enabling you to prosper.

⁷ And even though you *think that you* were not
 very prosperous/wealthy before,

during the last part of your life you will become very wealthy.

- 8 “I request you to think about what happened long ago
and consider what our ancestors found out.
- 9 *It seems as though* we were born only yesterday
and we know very little [HYP];
our time here on the earth *disappears quickly,*
like a shadow [MET].
- 10 So, why do you not allow your ancestors to
teach you and tell you something?
Allow them to tell you from what they
learned!
- 11 Papyrus can certainly not [RHQ] grow in places
where there is no marsh/swamp;
reeds certainly cannot [RHQ] flourish/grow
where there is no water.
- 12 *If they do not have enough water,* while they
are still blossoming,
they wither more quickly than other plants
wither.
- 13 Those who do not pay attention to what God
says are like those *reeds*;
godless people stop confidently expecting
that good things will happen to them.
- 14 The things they confidently expect to happen
do not happen;
things they trust *will help them* are *as fragile*
as [MET] a spider’s web.
- 15 If they lean against a house (OR, trust in their
wealth; OR, lean on a spider web), it does
not ◀endure/protect them▶ [LIT];

- they cling to things *to be protected*, but those things do not remain firm.
- 16 Godless people *are like plants* [MET] that are watered before the sun rises; their shoots spread all over the gardens.
- 17 The roots of those plants twist around piles of stones and cling tightly to rocks.
- 18 But if those plants are pulled out, *it is as though* the place where they were planted says "They were never here!" *And that is what happens to wicked people who do not heed what God says.*
- 19 Truly, evil people [MET] are not joyful [IRO] for a long time; other people come and take their places.
- 20 :So, *I tell you, Job*, God will not reject you if you are truly godly/righteous, but he does not help [IDM] evil people.
- 21 He will enable you [MTY] to continually laugh and to always shout *joyfully*.
- 22 But those who hate you will be very ashamed, and the homes of wicked people will disappear."

9

Job replied to Bildad

- 1 Then Job replied,
- 2 "Yes, I certainly know that *much of* what you said is true.
But ◀how can anyone say to God, 'I <am innocent/have not done what is wrong>

and prove it?'/no one can say to God 'I <am innocent/have not done what is wrong> and prove it.'► [RHQ]

- ³ If someone wanted to argue with God *about that*,
God could ask him 1,000 questions,
and that person would not be able to answer
any of them!
- ⁴ God is very wise [IDM] and very powerful;
no one who has tried to challenge God has
been able to win.
- ⁵ He even moves mountains, without them (OR,
anyone) knowing about it.
When he is angry, he turns them upside
down.
- ⁶ He sends earthquakes that shake the ground;
he causes the pillars that support the earth
to tremble.
- ⁷ *Some days* he speaks to the sun, and it does not
rise,
and *some nights* he prevents the stars from
shining.
- ⁸ He alone ◀stretched out/put in place► the sky;
he alone puts his feet on the waves (OR, on
the huge sea monster).
- ⁹ He put in their places *the clusters/groups
of stars that are called* The Dipper/Bear,
Orion, the Pleiades, and the stars in the
southern sky.
- ¹⁰ Only he does great things that we cannot
understand;
he does more marvelous things than we are
able to count.
- ¹¹ He passes by where I am, but I do not see him;

- he moves further on, but I do not see him go.
- 12 If he *wants to* snatch something away, no one [RHQ] can hinder him;
no one dares to ask him, ‘Why are you doing that?’ [RHQ]
- 13 God will not very easily stop being angry;
he defeated [MTY] those who *tried to* help Rahab, *the great sea monster*.
- 14 “So, if God took me to court,
what could I say [MTY] to answer him?
- 15 Even though I ◀would be innocent/would not have done what is wrong▶, I would not be able to answer him.
All I could do would be to request God, my judge/accuser, to act mercifully toward me.
- 16 If I summoned him to *come to the courtroom* and he said that he would come,
I would not believe that he would pay attention to what I would say.
- 17 He sends storms to batter me,
and he bruises me many times ◀without any reason to do that/even though I am innocent▶.
- 18 *It is as though* he will not let me get/catch my breath,
because he causes me to suffer all the time.
- 19 If I would try to ◀wrestle with/fight against▶ him, *there is no way that I could defeat him, because* he is stronger than I am.
If I would request him to appear in court,
there is no one who could [RHQ] force him to go there.

- 20 Even though I was innocent, what I would say would cause him to say that I must be punished [MTY]; even though I had not done anything wrong, he would prove that I am guilty.
- 21 “I have not done what is wrong, but that is not important.
I despise continuing to remain alive.
- 22 But it doesn’t matter,
because God will get rid of *all of us*, both those who are innocent and those who are wicked.
- 23 When people experience disaster and it causes them to suddenly die,
God laughs at it, even if they are innocent.
- 24 God has allowed wicked people to control *what happens* in the world.
It is as though he has caused judges to be blindfolded, *with the result that they cannot judge fairly*.
- If it is not God who has put wicked people in control,
who has done it?
- 25 “My days go by very quickly, like a fast runner;
it is as though they run away, and nothing good happens to me on those days.
- 26 My life goes by very rapidly, like a boat made from reeds sailing swiftly,
or like an eagle that swoops down to seize a small animal.

- 27 If I smile and say *to God*, 'I will forget what I am complaining about;
I will stop looking sad and try to be cheerful/happy,'
- 28 then I become afraid because of all that I am suffering,
because I know that God does not consider that I am innocent.
- 29 He will ◀condemn me/declare that I should be punished▶,
so why should I keep trying in vain *to defend myself*?
- 30 If I washed myself with snow
or cleansed my hands with lye/soap
to get rid of my guilt,
- 31 he would still throw me into a filthy pit;
as a result *it would be as though* even my clothes would detest me.
- 32 "God is not a human, as I am,
so there is no way that I could answer him
to prove that I am innocent
if we went together to have a trial *in a courtroom*.
- 33 There is no one to ◀mediate/hear us and decide who is right▶,
no one who has authority over both of us
[IDM].
- 34 I wish/desire that he would stop punishing
[MTY] me,
and that he would not continue to terrify me.
- 35 If he did that, I would declare *that I am innocent* without being afraid of him,

because I know that I really have not *done what is wrong like God thinks that I have.*"

10

Job again complained to God

- ¹ "I am tired of living.
And I will not be silent and stop saying what I am complaining about.
Instead, being very unhappy, I will speak [IDM].
- ² I will say to God, 'Do not say that I must be punished;
instead, tell me what wrong you are saying that I have done.
- ³ Does it seem to be good for you to oppress me, to abandon me, whom you created, and instead, to help wicked people to do the things that they plan to do?
- ⁴ Do you understand things the way that we humans do?
- ⁵ ◀Do you live for only a few years, like we do?/ You certainly do not live for only a few years, like we do.▶ [RHQ]
- ⁶ So, why do you [RHQ] continue to search for my faults?
Why do you hunt for my sins?
- ⁷ You know that I am not guilty,
and that no one can rescue me from your power [MTY].
- ⁸ "With your hands you created me and shaped/formed my body;

- but now you are *deciding that you should not have done that, and you are* destroying me.
- ⁹ Do not forget that you made me from *a piece of* clay;
are you going to cause me to become dirt again [RHQ]?
- ¹⁰ You certainly [RHQ] directed/controlled it when I was conceived,
and you formed me inside my mother's womb [MET].
- ¹¹ You fastened my bones together with sinews,
and *then* you covered them with flesh inside my skin.
- ¹² You have caused me to be alive, and you have faithfully loved me,
and you have carefully ◀preserved me/kept me alive▶.
- ¹³ “But you ◀kept secret/did not reveal▶ what *you were planning to do to me*;
I am certain that you were planning *to do these things to me*.
- ¹⁴ You were watching to see if I would sin,
in order that *if I sinned*, you would refuse to forgive me.
- ¹⁵ If I am a wicked man, I hope/wish that terrible things will happen to me.
But even if I am righteous, I still must bow my head *and feel ashamed*,
because I am very disgraced and feel miserable.
- ¹⁶ And if I am proud, you hunt me like [SIM] a lion hunts *for some animal to kill*,

- and you act powerfully to injure me.
- 17 You constantly find more witnesses *to testify that I have done what is wrong*, and you continually become more angry/perturbed with me.
It is as though you are always bringing new troops to attack me.
- 18 “God, why did you allow me to be born?
I wish/desire that I had died before anyone [SYN] saw me.
- 19 *I consider that* it would have been better if I had been carried directly from my mother’s womb to the grave than for me to live.
- 20 *I think that* [RHQ] there are only a few days for me to remain alive;
so ◀allow me to be alone/stop attacking me▶, in order that I may be a little cheerful
- 21 before I go to the place from which I will never return,
where it is always gloomy and very dark [DOU],
- 22 a place of darkness and dark shadows, where *everything* is confused/disordered,
where *even a small amount of* light there is like darkness (OR, there is no light, only darkness).’ ”

11

Zophar’s first speech to Job

¹ Then Zophar, from *the Naamah area*, said this to Job:

² “◀Should no one answer all that you have said?/Someone should certainly answer all that you have said.▶ [RHQ]

Just because you talk a lot, ▶should that cause us to declare that you <are innocent/have done nothing wrong>?/that should not cause us to declare that you <are innocent/have done nothing wrong>.▶ [RHQ]

³ Job, ▶should your babbling cause us to be silent?/your babbling should certainly not cause us to be silent.▶ [RHQ]

When you make fun of us, shall no one *rebuke you and* cause you to be ashamed?

⁴ You say, ‘What I say is true;

God knows that I am ▶innocent/without guilt▶.’

⁵ But I wish/desire that God would talk and say something [MTY] to answer you!

⁶ God knows everything about everything, so I wish/desire that he would tell you the secrets that he knows because he is wise. But you need to know that God is punishing you less than you deserve!

⁷ “*Tell me*, will you ever be able to find out the things about God that are very difficult to understand?

Will you be able to find out everything that there is to know about Almighty God?

⁸ *What there is to know about God* is greater than *the distance from earth to heaven*;

- so there is no way [RHQ] that you can *understand it all*.
 It is greater than *the distance from here to the place of the dead*;
 so it is impossible for you [RHQ] to know it all.
- 9 What there is to know about God is wider than the earth
 and wider than the ocean.
- 10 “If God comes to you and puts you in prison
 and then brings you to a court,
 ◀who can stop him?/no one can stop him.▶
 [RHQ]
- 11 He knows which people are worthless;
 and when he sees people doing wicked things,
 ◀will he ignore it?/he will certainly not ignore it!▶ [RHQ]
- 12 Stupid people *like you* will start to become wise
 [SAR]
 when wild donkeys *stop giving birth to wild donkeys*
 and start giving birth to tame donkeys.
- 13 “Job, repent [IDM];
 reach out your hands to seek God’s help.
- 14 If you have done evil things, stop doing them;
 and do not allow any people in your house
 to do wicked things.
- 15 If you do what I have said, surely you will
 lift up your head because you will not be
 ashamed;
 you will be strong, and not afraid of *anything*.

- 16 You will forget all your troubles;
they will be like *the water of a flood* that has
all disappeared.
- 17 *Your troubles will be ended, like the darkness
ends at the dawn;*
it will be as though [MET] the sun is shining
brightly on you, like *it shines* at noon.
- 18 You will feel safe/secure, because you will
confidently expect *that good things will
happen to you;*
God will protect you and enable you to rest
safely *each night.*
- 19 You will lie down, and no one will cause you
to be afraid.
And many people will come and request you
to do things for them.
- 20 But wicked people [SYN] will not be able to
understand *why bad things are happening
to them;*
they will not have any way to escape *from
their troubles.*
The only thing that they will want to do is to
die. [EUP]"

12

Job replied to his three friends

- ¹ Then Job said *to his three friends,*
- ² "You ◀talk as though/You think▶ [SAR] that
you are the people *whom everyone should
listen to,*
and that when you die, there will be no more
wise people.
- ³ But I have as much good sense as you do;

I am ◀not less wise than/certainly as wise as
[LIT]▶ you.

Certainly everyone knows [RHQ] all that you
have said.

⁴ My friends all laugh at me now.

Previously I habitually requested God to help
me, and he answered/helped me.

I am righteous, a very godly man [DOU], but
everyone laughs at me.

⁵ Those *like you* who have no troubles make fun
of me;

they cause those *like me* who are already
suffering to have more troubles.

⁶ Bandits live peacefully,

and no one threatens those who cause God
to become angry;

their own strength is the god *that they
worship*.

⁷ “But ask the wild animals *what they know about
God*,

and *if they could speak* they would teach you.

If you could ask the birds,

they would tell you.

⁸ *If you could* ask the creatures *that crawl* on the
ground, or the fish in the sea,

they would tell you *about God*.

⁹ All of them certainly know [RHQ] that it is
Yahweh who has made them with his
hands.

¹⁰ He directs the lives of all living creatures;

- he gives breath to all *us* humans *to enable us to remain alive.*
- 11 And when we [SYN] hear what other people *like you* say,
we [RHQ] think carefully about what they say *to determine what is good and what is bad,*
like we [SYN] taste food *to determine what is good and what is bad.*
- 12 Old people are *often* very wise,
and because of having lived many years,
they understand much,
- 13 but God is wise and very powerful;
he has good sense and understands *everything.*
- 14 If he tears *something* down, no one can rebuild it;
if he puts someone in prison, no one can open *the prison doors to allow that person to escape.*
- 15 When he prevents rain from falling, everything dries up.
When he causes a lot of rain to fall, *the result is that* there are floods.
- 16 He is the one who is truly strong and wise;
he rules over those who deceive others and those whom they deceive.
- 17 He *sometimes* causes *the king's* officials to no longer be wise,
and he causes judges to become foolish.
- 18 He takes from kings the robes that they wear
and puts loincloths around their waists,
causing them to become slaves.

- 19 He takes from priests the sacred clothes that they wear, *with the result that they no longer can do their work*,
and takes power from those who rule others.
- 20 He *sometimes* causes those whom others trust to be unable to speak,
and he causes old men to no longer have good sense.
- 21 He causes those who have authority to be despised,
and he causes those who are powerful to no longer have any power/strength.
- 22 He causes things that are hidden in the darkness to be revealed.
- 23 He causes some nations to become very great,
and *later* he destroys them;
he causes the territory of some nations to become much larger,
and *later* he causes them to be defeated and their people to be scattered.
- 24 He causes *some* rulers to become foolish/stupid,
and then he causes them to wander around, lost, in an barren desert.
- 25 They grope around in the darkness, without any light,
and he causes them to stagger like [SIM] people who are drunk."

13

Job continued his reply

- 1 "Hey, I [SYN] have seen everything *that you have seen*,

- and I have heard and understood all *that you have said*.
- ² What you know, I also know;
I do ◀not know less than/know as much as▶ you.
- ³ But I would like to speak to Almighty God, *not to you*;
I would like to argue with him *and prove that I ◀am innocent/have not done things that are wrong▶*.
- ⁴ As for you, you do not allow people to know the truth about me,
like someone covers *up a bad surface of a wall* with whitewash [MET].
You are all like doctors [MET] *that give people useless medicines*.
- ⁵ I wish/desire that you would be silent;
that would be the wisest thing that you *could do*.
- ⁶ Listen to what I will say to you now;
listen while I am saying *what is true about myself*.
- ⁷ Are you telling lies about me to prove God is *just in causing me to suffer*?
Are you saying what is deceitful in order to benefit him?
- ⁸ Are you trying to defend him?
Are you trying to prove *as you would* in a court that he is innocent?
- ⁹ If he looks closely, will he find that everything that you have done is good?
Or can you deceive him, like you deceive other people?

- 10 If you secretly say/do things to cause God to act favorably toward you,
he will surely rebuke you.
- 11 He will certainly [RHQ] cause you to be terrified by his power/greatness;
you will become extremely afraid.
- 12 The things that you say *that you think are wise* are *as useless as* [MET] as ashes;
what you say to defend your opinions is no better than [MET] clay *that quickly crumbles*.
- 13 “So, be quiet and allow me to speak,
and then it will not matter what happens to me.
- 14 I am ready to endure anything;
I am *even* willing to risk being executed [IDM, DOU] *for what I will say*.
- 15 If God kills me, then I will not have anyone else whom I can confidently expect to help me,
but I am going to defend my behavior in his presence *anyway*.
- 16 No wicked/godless person would dare to stand in the presence of God,
but because I say that I have not done things that are wrong,
perhaps, if I can prove that to God, he will save me.”
- Job asks God to tell him what his charges are*
- 17 “God, listen very carefully to what I say [DOU].
- 18 I am ready to prove that I am innocent,
and I know that you also will declare that I am not guilty.

- 19 I certainly do not think [RHQ] that *you or anyone else* will say that what I say is not true;
if anyone did that, I would ◀be silent/stop talking▶ and die.
- 20 “I am requesting you to do two things for me;
if you do them, I will ◀not hide from you/come and stand in front of you▶ [LIT].
- 21 *The first thing that I request is that you stop punishing [IDM] me;*
and the second thing that I request is that you stop causing me to be very terrified.
- 22 You speak *first*, and then I will reply;
or allow me to speak first, and *then* you reply.
- 23 What have I done that is wrong? What sins have I committed?
Show me how I have disobeyed you.
- 24 Why ◀do you refuse to be friendly with/have you abandoned▶ me [IDM]?
Why do you ◀act toward me as though I am/consider me to be▶ your enemy?
- 25 I am *as insignificant as* [MET] a leaf that is blown by the wind;
why are you trying to cause me to be afraid [RHQ]?
- Why are you pursuing me?
Am I *useless, nothing more than a bit of dry chaff* [RHQ]?
- 26 *It seems that you are writing things to accuse me of doing things that are wrong,*

even recalling bad things that I did when I was young.

27 *It is as though* you have fastened my feet with chains *to prevent me from walking*, and you watch me wherever I walk; *It is as though* you even look closely at my footprints *to see where I have gone*.

28 *As a result*, my body is decaying like [SIM] rotten wood, like a piece of cloth that is eaten by *larvae of moths*."

14

Job prayed to God

1 "We humans are very frail.

We live only a short time, and we experience a lot of trouble.

2 We disappear quickly, like flowers that grow from the ground quickly and then wither and die [SIM].

We are like shadows that disappear *when the sun stops shining*.

3 *Yahweh*, why do you keep watching me *to see if I am doing something that is wrong* [RHQ]? Are you wanting to take me to court to judge me?

4 People are sinners from the time when they are born; who can cause them to be sinless? No one [RHQ]!

5 You have decided how long our lives will be. You have decided how many months we will live,

and we cannot live more months than the
◀limit/number of months▶ that you have
decided.

- 6 So please stop examining us, and allow us to be
alone,
until/while we finish our time *here on earth*,
like a man finishes his work *at the end of
the day*.

Job said that we all die

- 7 If someone cuts a tree down,
we hope that it will sprout again and grow
new branches.
- 8 Its roots in the ground may be very old,
and its stump may decay,
- 9 but if some water falls on it,
it may bud/sprout and send up shoots like a
young plant.
- 10 But when we people lose all our strength and
die,
we stop breathing and then we are gone
forever.
- 11 Just like water evaporates from the ocean,
or like a riverbed dries up,
- 12 people *lie down and die and* do not get up again.
Until the heavens disappear,
people who die [EUP] do not wake up,
and no one can wake them up.
- 13 “*Yahweh*, I wish that you would put me safely
in the place of the dead and forget about
me
until you are no longer angry with me.

- I wish that you would decide how much time I
would spend there,
and then remember *that I am there*.
- 14 When we humans die, we will certainly not
live again [RHQ].
If *I knew that* we would live again, I would
wait patiently,
and I would wait for you to release me *from
my sufferings*.
- 15 You would call me, and I would answer.
You would be eager to see me, one of the
creatures that you had made.
- 16 You would take care of [MET] me,
instead of watching me to see if I would sin.
- 17 *It is as though the record of my sins would be
sealed in a small bag,
and you would cover them up.*
- 18 “But, just like mountains crumble and rocks
fall down from a cliff,
19 and just like water slowly wears away the
stones, and just like floods wash away soil,
*you eventually destroy us; you do not allow
us to continue to ◀hope/confidently ex-
pect▶ that we will keep on living.*
- 20 You always defeat us, and then we die [EUP].
You cause our faces to look ugly after we die,
and you send us away.
- 21 *When we die* we do not know if our sons will
grow up and *do things that will cause them
to be honored.*
And if they become disgraced, we do not see
that, *either*.

- 22 We will feel our own pains; we will not feel anything else;
we will be sorry for ourselves, not for anyone else.”

15

Eliphaz rebuked Job again

- 1 Then Eliphaz replied to Job:
2 “If you were truly wise [RHQ], you would not have replied to us by claiming that you know a lot;
what you are saying is just a lot of hot air [MET].
3 You should not [RHQ] be saying things that do not benefit anyone,
using words that do no one any good.
4 By *what you say*, you show that you do not revere God,
and you are hindering people from meditating/thinking about God.
5 *It is as though* your sins are telling you what to say;
you talk like people who will not admit that they are wicked.
6 Everything that you say [MTY] shows that you should be punished;
so, it is not necessary for me to show that.
7 “*Tell me do you know more than everyone else because you think that you are the first person who was ever born? [SAR, RHQ]*
Were you born before the hills were created?

- 8 Were you listening when God made all his plans? [SAR, RHQ]
Or do you think that you are the only person who is wise?
- 9 ◀What do you know that we do not know?/ You do not know anything that we do not know.▶ [RHQ]
You do not understand [RHQ] anything that is not also clear to us.
- 10 My friends and I are also wise;
we acquired *wisdom* from old gray-haired people,
from people who were born before your father was born.
- 11 God wants to comfort you,
and to speak gently/kindly to you;
◀is that not enough for you/do you need more than that▶?
- 12 Why do you allow yourself to be ◀carried away/excited▶ by your emotions?
Why are you *very angry*, with the result that your eyes flash?
- 13 You are angry [IDM] with God,
and so you [MTY] are criticizing/denouncing him.
- 14 “◀How can any person, *including you*, be sinless?/No person, *including you*, can be sinless.▶ [RHQ]
◀How can anyone on the earth be *completely* righteous?/No one on the earth can be *completely* righteous.▶ [RHQ]
- 15 Hey, God does not even trust his angels;

- he does not consider even them to be *completely* pure.
- 16 So, he certainly does not *trust* abominable/
disgusting and depraved/corrupt people
who do evil things *as easily* as they drink
water [MET].
- 17 Job, listen to what I will tell you.
I will declare to you what I know,
- 18 things that wise men have told me,
truths that their ancestors did not keep
hidden.
- 19 God gave this land to those ancestors, who
were truly wise;
no one from another country caused them to
think wrongly [IDM].
- 20 It is wicked people who suffer with great pain
all the time that they are alive;
that is what happens to those who ◀oppress/
act violently toward▶ others.
- 21 They constantly hear sounds that terrify them;
while they are prospering, bandits attack
them.
- 22 Wicked people surely know that they will not
escape from darkness/death,
because *they are sure that someone* is waiting
to kill them with a sword.
- 23 They wander around, searching for food,
saying 'Where can I find some?'
And they know that they will soon experi-
ence disasters.
- 24 Because they are afraid of those things hap-
pening to them, they are afraid and worry

- that these things will come to them like
*the army of a king comes to attack their
enemies and cause them to suffer* [SIM].
- 25 *Those things happen to them* because they
◀shook their fists/dared to fight▶ against
Almighty God,
and thought that they were strong enough to
defeat him.
- 26 They stubbornly [IDM] rush to attack God
*as though they were carrying a strong shield
to protect themselves.*
- 27 They are so fat *that they are unable to fight.*
- 28 They will live in cities that have been aban-
doned,
cities which have become a heap of ruins.
- 29 But they will not remain rich very long;
Everything that they own will be taken from
them;
their possessions will all disappear.
- 30 They will not escape from the darkness *of
death*;
they will be like trees whose branches are
burned by fire
and whose blossoms are blown away by the
wind.
- 31 Since they are very foolish, with the result
that they trust in things that are really
worthless,
then things that are worthless will be all that
they get.
- 32 Before they are old, they will wither;
they will be like [MET] branches that wither
and never become green again.

- 33 They will be like [SIM] vines whose grapes fall off before they are ripe,
like olive trees whose blossoms fall off before they produce any fruit.
- 34 Wicked/godless people will not have any descendants,
and fires will completely burn up the homes of *those who built those homes using money they received from bribes.*
- 35 They plan to cause trouble and to do evil things,
and they are always preparing to deceive people.”

16

Job replied to the three friends again

- ¹ Job replied to *Eliphaz and the others*:
- ² “I have heard things like that before;
all of you, *instead of helping me*, are only causing me to feel more miserable.
- ³ Will your speeches, which are only hot air, never end [RHQ]?
Eliphaz, what bothers/irritates you so much that you continue replying to me?
- ⁴ If it were you *three and not I* who were suffering,
I could say the things that you are saying;
I could make great speeches *to criticize/condemn you*,
and I could shake my head at you *to ridicule you*.
- ⁵ But, *unlike all of you*, with what I said [MTY] I would encourage you

and try to cause your pain to be less.

⁶ “But now, if I talk, my pain does not decrease,
and if I am silent, my pain still certainly does
not [RHQ] go away.

⁷ God has now taken away all my strength,
and he has destroyed my family.

⁸ He has shriveled me up,
and people think that shows that I *am a
sinner*.

And people see that I am only skin and bones,
and they think that proves that I *am guilty*.

⁹ Because God is very angry with me and hates
me,
it is as though he is a wild animal that [MET]
has gnashed his teeth at me
because he is my enemy.

¹⁰ People gape/stare at me with their mouths
open *to sneer at me*;
they have struck me on the face/cheek to
ridicule me,
and they crowd around me to threaten me.

¹¹ *It is as though* God has handed me over to
ungodly people
and turned me over to the wicked [DOU].

¹² Previously, I was living peacefully,
but he crushed me;
it is as though he grabbed my neck and smashed
me to pieces.

It is as though [MET] he set me up like a
target;

¹³ people are surrounding me *and shooting ar-
rows at me*.

His arrows pierce my kidneys

- and cause the bile *from my liver* to spill onto the ground,
and God does not pity me at all.
- 14 *It is as though* [MET] I am a wall that he is breaking through;
he rushes at me like [SIM] a soldier *attacking his enemies*.
- 15 “*Because I am mourning*, I wear pieces of rough cloth that I have sewed together,
and I sit *here* in the dirt, very depressed/discouraged.
- 16 My face is red because I have cried very much,
and there are dark circles around my eyes.
- 17 *All this has happened to me* even though I have not acted violently *toward anyone*,
and I *always* pray sincerely/honestly *to God*.
- 18 *When I die*, I want the ground [APO] to *act as though I had been murdered* and cry out against those who killed me,
and I do not want anyone to stop me while I am demanding *that God act justly toward me*.
- 19 But even now, *I know that* there is someone in heaven who will testify for me,
and he will say that what I have done is right.
- 20 My *three* friends scorn/ridicule me,
but my eyes are full of tears *while I cry out to God*.
- 21 I pray that *the one who knows what I have done* would come to plead with God for me like people plead for their friends.

²² *I say this because within a few years I will die;*
 I will walk along the road to the grave from
 which I will never return.”

17

Job continued his reply

¹ “My ◀life/time to live▶ is almost ended; I have
 no strength left;
 my grave is waiting for me.
² Those who are around me are making fun of
 me;
 I [SYN] watch them while they ◀taunt/make
 fun of▶ me.”

Job pleads with God

³ “God, it is as though I am in prison;
 please pay the money in order that I may be
 released,
 because there is certainly no one else who
 will help me.
⁴ You have prevented my friends from under-
 standing *what is true about me*;
 do not allow them to triumph over me,
*saying that I have done things that are
 wrong.*
⁵ *Our ancestors often said, ‘It often happens that
 when someone betrays his friends in order
 to get some of their property,
 it is that person’s children who will be
 punished for it;’*
*so I desire/hope that will be true of these friends
 of mine who are lying about me.*

- 6 “But now people use that saying of our ancestors when they talk about me;
they spit in my face *to insult me*.
- 7 ◀My sight has become dim/I cannot see well▶
because I am extremely sad,
and my arms and legs are *very thin, with the result that they almost do not cast [MET] a shadow*.
- 8 Those who *say that they* are good/righteous are shocked *when they see what has happened to me*,
and people who *say that they* ▶are innocent/have not done anything that is wrong▶ say that I am wicked/godless and should be punished.
- 9 Those who *claim that they* are righteous will continue to do what *they think* is right,
and those *who say* they have not sinned will continue to become stronger.
- 10 “But even if all of those people came *and stood in front of me*,
I would not find anyone among them who is wise.
- 11 My ▶life/time to live▶ is almost ended; I have not been able to do the things that I confidently expected to do;
I have not been able to accomplish anything that I [SYN] desired.
- 12 My friends do not know when it is night and when it is day;
when it is night, they claim that it is daylight;

when it is becoming dark, they claim it is becoming light.

13 If my home will be the place where dead people are,
where will I sleep in the darkness?

14 I may say to the grave, 'You will be *like* a father to me,'
and say to the maggots *that will eat my body*, 'You will be *like* a mother or younger sisters to me *because you will be where I will always be.*'

15 But if I say those things, ◀will there be anything good that I can confidently expect to happen to me?/there will be nothing good that I can confidently expect to happen to me.▶ [RHQ]

◀Is there anyone who knows anything good that I can expect when I am in the grave?/No one knows anything good that I can expect when I am in the grave.▶ [RHQ]

16 After I descend to the place where the dead are, ◀will I be able to confidently expect anything good there?/I certainly will not be able to confidently expect anything good there.▶ [RHQ]

It will be as though [RHQ] I and the things I hope for will descend with me into the dust *where the dead are.*"

18

Bildad's second reply

¹ Then Bildad replied *again*:

² "When are you going to stop talking [RHQ]?"

- If you would stop talking and listen, we could tell you something.
- ³ Why do you think that we are *as stupid* as cattle? [DOU, RHQ]
- ⁴ By being *very* angry and hurting yourself, do you think that doing that will shake the earth, or cause the rocks in the mountains to move? [RHQ]?
- ⁵ “What will happen is that the lives of wicked people *like you* end *as quickly as we can* put out a light or extinguish the flame of a fire.
- ⁶ And when the lamps above them *in their tents* are extinguished, there will be no light in those tents.
- ⁷ *For many years* they walked confidently, but later *in life it was as though* they stumbled and fell, because *they themselves did not heed* the advice *that they gave to others*.
- ⁸ *It was as though* they walked into their own net or fell into a pit that they themselves have dug.
- ⁹ *It was as though* a trap grabbed their heels and held them fast [DOU],
- ¹⁰ *as though the noose of* a rope that was hidden on the ground, *whose other end was fastened to the limb of a tree*, seized them when they walked into it.
- ¹¹ Everywhere they went, there were things that caused them to be terrified;

- it was as though* those things were pursuing them and biting at their heels.
- 12 They became hungry, with the result that they had no strength.
They experienced disasters [PRS] constantly.
- 13 Diseases spread all over their skin/bodies; diseases that ◀caused their bodies to decay/destroyed their arms and legs▶.
- 14 *When they died*, they were snatched away from their tents and brought to the one who rules over the dead.
- 15 Now their tents will burn down, when burning sulfur rains down on those tents!
- 16 *Because those who died had no descendants*, they were *like trees whose roots have dried up and whose branches have all withered* [MET].
- 17 No one on the earth will remember them any more;
no one on any street will even remember their names [MTY].
- 18 They will be expelled from the earth where there is light, and they will be sent into the place where it is dark.
- 19 They will have no children or grandchildren, no descendants where they previously lived.
- 20 People from the east to the west *who hear about what happened to them*, will be shocked and horrified.
- 21 And that is what happens to ungodly/sinful people *like you*,

to people who ◀have no interest in/have rejected▶ God.”

19

Job replied again

- ¹ Then Job replied,:
- ² “How long will you *three* torment me
and crush my spirit by saying to me *that I am wicked?*
- ³ You have already insulted me many [HYP] times;
◀are you not ashamed for saying these things to me?/you should be ashamed for saying these things to me.▶ [RHQ]
- ⁴ Even if it were true that I have done things that are wrong,
I have not injured you!
- ⁵ If you truly think that you are better than I am,
and you think that my being miserable now proves that I ◀am guilty/have committed many sins▶,
- ⁶ you need to realize that it is God who has caused me to suffer.
It is as though he has trapped me with his net.
- ⁷ “I cry out, ‘Help me!’,
but no one answers me.
I call out loudly, but there is no one, *not even God*,
who acts fairly toward me.
- ⁸ *It is as though* [MET] God has blocked my way,
with the result that I cannot go where I want to;

it is as though he has forced me to try to find my way in the darkness.

⁹ He has ◀taken away my good reputation/caused people not to honor me any more▶;

it is as though he removed [MET] a crown from my head.

¹⁰ He batters me from every side, and I will soon die.

He has caused me to no longer confidently expect *him to do good things for me*.

¹¹ He attacks me because he is extremely angry with me [MET], and he considers that I am his enemy.

¹² *It is as though* he sends his army to attack me; they surround my tent, preparing to attack me.

¹³ “God has caused my brothers to abandon me, and all those who know me act like strangers to me.

¹⁴ All my relatives and good friends have left me.

¹⁵ The people who were guests in my house have forgotten me,

and my female servants consider that I am a stranger or that I am a foreigner.

¹⁶ When I summon my servants, they do not answer;

I plead with them to come *to help me, but they do not come*.

¹⁷ My wife does not want to come close to me because my breath *smells very bad*,

and even my brothers detest me.

¹⁸ Even young children despise me;

- when I stand up *to talk to them*, they laugh at me.
- 19 My dearest friends detest me,
and those whom I love *very much* have
turned against me.
- 20 My body is *only* skin and bones;
I am barely alive [IDM].
- 21 *"I plead with you, my three friends, pity me,
because God has ◀struck [EUP] me with his
hand/caused me to suffer greatly▶.*
- 22 Why do you cause me to suffer like God does?
Why do you continue to slander [MET] me?
- 23 *"I wish/desire that someone would take these
words of mine
and write them permanently in a book in
order that people can read them.*
- 24 Or else, I wish that he would carve them on a
rock with ◀a chisel/an iron tool▶
in order that they would last forever.
- 25 But I know that the one who vindicates/
defends me in court is alive,
and that some day he will stand *here* on
the earth *and make the final decision about
whether I deserve to be punished.*
- 26 And even after diseases have eaten away my
skin,
while I still have my body, I will see God.
- 27 I will see him myself;
I will see him with my own eyes!
I am overwhelmed *as I think about that!*

- 28 “If you three men say, ‘What more can we do to cause Job to suffer?’
and if you say, ‘He has caused his own troubles,’
29 you should be afraid that God will punish [MTY] you;
he punishes those *like you* with whom he is angry;
and when that happens, you will know that there is *someone who judges people.*”

20

Zophar replied again

- 1 Then Zophar replied,
2 “I am very perturbed about what you have said, so I want to reply very quickly.
3 By saying these things you have insulted me, but I know how (OR, because I understand very much) I can reply to you.
4 “Do you not know that from long ago,
ever since people were first put on the earth,
5 wicked people *like you* do not continue to rejoice for a long time,
ungodly people are happy only for a ◀mo-
ment/very short time▶ [HYP]?
6 *Even* though their reputation/pride reaches up to the sky
and their fame goes up as high as the clouds,
7 they will disappear forever, like their own dung,
and those who knew them will ask, ‘◀Where did they go/What happened to them▶?’
8 They will be forgotten like [SIM] a dream is,

and they will exist no more.

They will vanish, like visions *that people see* during the night.

⁹ Those who saw those people previously will never see them again; even their families [MTY] will not see them any more.

¹⁰ Their children will be forced to return the valuable things that those children stole from poor people [DOU].

¹¹ Previously their bodies were young and strong, but they will die and *their bodies will be* buried in the ground.

¹² “Doing wicked things was like having sweet food in their mouths, and they wanted to continue to taste it.

¹³ And they did not want to stop doing those things,

¹⁴ *but some day* the evil things that they enjoyed doing will become like food *that they swallow* and which becomes as bitter as snake venom.

¹⁵ Wicked people will not continue to keep the money they have accumulated, like people do not keep the food that they vomit.

God takes their wealth from them.

¹⁶ What wicked people do is *like* [MET] swallowing snake venom; it will kill them like [MET] the bite of a poisonous snake kills people.

- 17 They will not remain alive to see abundant blessings [IDM] *from God*, milk and olive oil and honey,
that are *so abundant they are* like [MET] a stream that flows by.
- 18 They will be forced to give back the things that they stole from the poor;
they will not be able to continue to enjoy those things.
- They will not remain happy because of what they got from their businesses,
- 19 because they oppressed poor people and refused to help them,
and they took other people's houses *by cheating them*.
- 20 "They were always greedy and never satisfied.
They just keep dreaming about owning more and more things.
- 21 When they finished eating their food, there was never anything left over *because they had greedily eaten it all*;
but now their prosperity will end.
- 22 When they are extremely prosperous/wealthy, they will suddenly experience a lot of trouble.
◀Misery will strike them and crush them [PRS]/They will suffer very greatly▶.
- 23 When the wicked people are filling their stomachs,
God will show that he is very angry with them and punish them;

- the punishment *that he gives them* will be like [MET] rain falling on them.
- 24 They will try to escape from *being killed by* iron weapons,
but arrows with bronze points will pierce them.
- 25 The arrows will *go completely through their bodies and* stick out of their backs;
the shiny points of the arrows will have blood dripping from them,
and those wicked people will be terrified.
- 26 Their valuable possessions will all be destroyed;
a fire that is not lit by humans, *but by God*, will burn them up
and also destroy the things that are left in their tents.
- 27 The *angels in* heaven [MTY] will reveal the sins that those wicked people have committed,
and *people on* earth will stand up and testify against them.
- 28 When God punishes [MTY] *people*,
all the possessions in the wicked people's houses will be carried away by a flood.
- 29 That is what will happen to wicked people *like you*;
that is what God has decided will happen to them."

21

Job replied again

- ¹ Then Job replied,
² "Listen to what I say, all *three* of you;

that is the only thing that you can do that will comfort me.

- ³ Be patient with me, and allow me to speak.
Then, after I am finished speaking, you can continue to make fun of me.
- ⁴ “It is certainly not [RHQ] people against whom I am complaining, *but God*
And it is certainly [RHQ] right for me to be impatient!
- ⁵ Look at me! Does what you see not cause you to be appalled
and to put your hands over your mouths *and say no more?*
- ⁶ When I think about *what has happened to me*,
I am frightened and my entire body shakes.
- ⁷ “*But let me ask this: ‘Why do wicked people continue to live,
and become prosperous, and not die until they are very old?’*
- ⁸ They have their children around them,
and they watch them while they *grow up and*
start to live in their own houses,
and they enjoy their grandchildren.
- ⁹ Wicked people live in their own houses without being afraid,
and God does not punish [MTY] them.
- ¹⁰ Their bulls always mate with the cows successfully,
and the cows give birth to calves and never miscarry.

- 11 Wicked people send their young children
outside *to play*,
and the children play *happily* like [SIM]
lambs *in a pasture*.
- 12 Some children dance and sing, while others
shake tambourines and play lyres,
and they are happy when they hear people
playing flutes.
- 13 Wicked people enjoy having good things all the
time that they are alive,
and they die quietly/peacefully and go down
to the place of the dead.
- 14 While they are alive, they say to God, 'Do not
bother us;
we do not want to know how you want us to
conduct our lives!
- 15 Why do you, Almighty God, think that we
should serve you?
◀What advantage do we get if we pray to
you?/It is useless for us to pray to you.▶
[RHQ]'
- 16 Think about it: Wicked people think that it is
because of what they have done that they
have become prosperous,
but I do not understand why they think like
that.
- 17 ◀“How often does it happen that wicked
people die [MET] before they are old?/Very
seldom do wicked people die [MET] before
they are old.▶ [RHQ]
◀Do they ever experience disasters?/They
seldom experience disasters.▶ [RHQ]

- ◀Does God ever punish them because of being very angry with them?/God never punishes them because of being very angry with them.▶ [RHQ]
- 18 *He does not blow* them away like wind blows away straw;
they are never carried off by a whirlwind.
- 19 You say, 'When people have committed sins, God waits and punishes their children because of those sins;'
but *I say that* God should punish those who sin, *not their children,*
in order that the sinners will know *that it is because of their own sins that they are being punished.*
- 20 I hope/wish that wicked people will experience themselves being destroyed,
that they will experience being punished by an angry Almighty God.
- 21 After wicked people are dead,
they are not at all concerned [RHQ] about what happens to their families [MTY].
- 22 "Since God judges *everyone*, even those that are in heaven,
◀who can teach God anything?/certainly no one can teach God anything.▶ [RHQ]
- 23 Some people die while they are very healthy, while they are peaceful, when they are not afraid of anything.
- 24 Their bodies are fat;
their bones are strong.
- 25 Other people die being very miserable;

- they have never experienced good things happening to them.
- 26 But both rich and poor people die and are buried,
and maggots eat their bodies.
Everyone dies, so it is clear that dying is not always the punishment for being wicked.
- 27 “Listen, I know what you *three* are thinking.
I know the evil things that you plan to do to me.
- 28 You say, ‘What happened to the tents in which wicked people were living?
The houses of evil rulers have been destroyed!’
- 29 But have you never inquired of people who travel much?
Do you not believe their reports about what they have seen,
- 30 that wicked people usually do not suffer at the time when there are great disasters;
that wicked people are the ones who are rescued when God is angry *and punishes people* [MTY]?
- 31 There is no one [RHQ] who accuses wicked people,
and there is no one who ◀pays them back/
gives them the punishment that they deserve▶ for all the evil things that they have done.
- 32 The corpses of wicked people are carried to their graves,
and people are put there to guard those graves.

- 33 A huge number [HYP] of people go to the grave site.
 Some go in front of the procession and some come behind.
 And the clods of dirt thrown on the graves of those wicked people who have died are like a nice blanket.
- 34 “So how can you console me by talking nonsense?
 Every reply that you make is full of lies!”

22

Eliphaz replied again

- 1 Then Eliphaz replied,
- 2 “◀Can anyone be useful to God?/Certainly no one can be useful to God.▶ [RHQ]
 Even people who are wise cannot be helpful to God.
- 3 If you were righteous, ◀would that benefit Almighty God?/that certainly would not benefit Almighty God.▶ [RHQ]
 If you had ◀lived a perfect life/never done anything that is wrong▶, would that help him?
- 4 “Is it because you have an awesome respect for God that he punishes you?
 Is that the reason that he puts you on trial?
- 5 No, it certainly must be [RHQ] because you are extremely wicked.

- It must be that the evil things that you have done are so many that no one can count them!
- 6 You must have lent money to others and wrongly forced them to give you things to guarantee that they would pay that money back to you;
you must have taken all their clothes and left them with nothing to wear.
- 7 You must not have given water to those who were thirsty,
and you must have refused to give food to those who were hungry.
- 8 Because you were very powerful, you *must have* taken over all the people's land,
and then, being very respected, you have begun to live on that land.
- 9 *When widows came to you for help, you must have sent them away without giving them anything,*
and you must have oppressed orphans.
- 10 Because of all that, now there are pits around you for you to fall into,
and suddenly there are things that terrify you and cause you to tremble.
- 11 *It is as though* it has become very dark, with the result that you cannot see anything,
and *it is as though* [MET] a flood covers you.
- 12 *"But consider this, Job: God lives [RHQ] high up in the heavens.
From there he [RHQ] looks down on the highest stars.*

- 13 So why do you say, 'What does God know *about what we are doing?*
He is hidden from us by dark clouds, so ◀how can he judge us?/he certainly cannot judge us.▶ [RHQ]'
- 14 *Do you think that while he walks on the dome that covers the sky, there are thick clouds around him, with the result that he cannot see what we do?*
- 15 Will you continue to conduct your life the old way
that evil people have done *for many years?*
- 16 They suddenly died while they were still young;
they disappeared *like everything disappears when there is a flood [MET].*
- 17 They kept saying to God, 'Do not bother us,'
and they also said *defiantly*, 'Almighty God can do nothing [RHQ] to *harm us!*'
- 18 But it was God who filled their houses with good things,
so I cannot at all understand why wicked people think like they do.
- 19 "But when God punishes wicked people, and righteous people see that, they are glad,
and they laugh, ridiculing the wicked people.
- 20 They say, 'Now our enemies have been destroyed,
and all *their possessions* that were left have been burned in a fire.'
- 21 "So, *Job*, be reconciled to God and make peace with him;

- if you do that, good things will happen to you.
- 22 Allow him to teach you,
and keep thinking about what he has told you.
- 23 If you humble yourself and return to God,
if you stop doing all the evil things that you
have been doing in your house,
- 24 if you throw away your gold,
even the fine gold from the dry stream beds
in Ophir *land*,
- 25 and if you allow Almighty *God* to be *as precious
to you as your gold and your silver have
been*,
- 26 you will be happy because of your close
relationship with God,
and you will be able to approach him [IDM]
confidently.
- 27 You will pray to him, and he will do what you
request him to do;
you will do the things that you promised him
that you would do.
- 28 Everything that you decide to do will be
successful;
it will be as though a light is shining on the
road in front of you.
- 29 God humbles those who are proud,
but he saves those who are downcast/dis-
couraged.
- 30 God rescues those who ◀are innocent/have not
done things that are wrong▶,

so he will rescue you if you ◀start doing things that are right/are not guilty [IDM] of doing things that are wrong▶.”

23

Job replied again

- ¹ Then Job replied again,
² “Today I am again complaining bitterly/strongly to God;
 I *continue* groaning, but he [SYN] *continues to* ◀punish me/cause me to suffer▶.
³ I ◀wish that I knew/want to know▶ where I could meet/talk with him,
 so that I could go to the place where he lives.
⁴ If I could do that, I would tell him why *I know that* I am innocent;
 I would tell [MTY] to him all my ◀arguments/evidence to show that I have not done what is evil▶.
⁵ Then I would find out what he would reply to me [DOU].
⁶ Would he use his great power to argue with me? No, he would listen to me carefully.
⁷ I am ◀an honest/a righteous▶ man; so I would be able to discuss things with him *fairly*, and then he would declare that I am innocent, *and that decision would endure forever*.
⁸ “But, I have gone to the east, and he is not there; I have gone to the west, but I have not found him there.
⁹ I have gone north and I have gone south, but I have not seen him anywhere.

- 10 But he knows how I have conducted my life;
and when he has finished testing me, *he will see that I am as pure as [SIM] gold whose impurities have all been burned out.*
- 11 I [SYN] have faithfully walked on the path that he showed me;
I have not stopped *obeying* him.
- 12 I have always obeyed what he [SYN] commanded;
I have treasured the words that he has spoken.
- 13 “He never changes. There is no one who can [RHQ] stop him *from doing what he desires*.
Whatever he wants to do, he does.
- 14 And he will finish doing for me the things that he has planned for me;
and I am sure that he has thought about doing many things for me.
- 15 So I am terrified in his presence;
when I think *about what he can do*, I am very afraid [DOU].
- 16 Almighty God has caused me [SYN] to feel terrified [DOU].
- 17 *It is as though* there is only thick darkness in front of me,
but it is God that I am afraid of, not the darkness.”

24

Job continued his reply

- 1 “◀Why does Almighty *God* not set a time when he will judge *evil people*?/I do not

understand why Almighty *God does* not set a time when he will judge *evil people*.▶
[RHQ]

Those who know him never [RHQ] see him do that!

- 2 *Some evil people* remove the markers of boundaries of *other people's* land, in order to steal their land;
they seize/steal *other people's* sheep and put them in their own pastures.
- 3 *Some* ◀take away/steal▶ the donkeys that belong to orphans,
and they take widow's oxen to guarantee that the widows will pay back the money that they loaned to those widows.
- 4 *Some* shove poor people off the road (OR, prevent poor people from ◀obtaining their rights/being treated justly▶),
and they force poor people to find places to hide from them.
- 5 The result is that poor people have to search for food in the desert like wild donkeys do.
- 6 The poor people harvest left-over grain in other people's fields,
and gather grapes from vineyards that belong to wicked men.
- 7 During the night they have nothing to cover their bodies,
nothing to keep them warm.
- 8 When it rains on the mountains, the poor people become very wet,

- so they huddle under the rock ledges to be protected *from the rain*.
- 9 *Some evil men* snatch infants away from their widowed mothers [SYN],
and they say 'I will return your babies to you when you repay the money that I lent to you.'
- 10 But the poor people walk around with no clothes on;
they are hungry while they are working to carry *other people's* bundles of grain *to the places where their grain will be threshed*.
- 11 Poor people press olives to make *olive oil*;
they tread on grapes *to make juice for wine*,
but *they are not allowed to drink any of it when they become thirsty*.
- 12 In the cities, people who are wounded and dying cry out *to God for help*,
but God does not heed their prayers.
- 13 Some wicked people avoid the light *because they do evil things in the dark*;
they do not walk on roads that are lighted.
- 14 Murderers steal things during the night,
and then they arise before dawn in order that they may *go out again and kill needy [DOU] people*.
- 15 Those who want to commit adultery wait for twilight/evening;
they say 'I do not want anyone to see me,' so they keep their faces covered.
- 16 It is during the night that robbers break into houses *to steal things*,

but during the day they hide because they want to avoid *being seen* in the light.

- 17 All of those *people* want to do their evil things at night, not in the morning *when it is light*, because they are not afraid of *the things that happen during the night* that terrify others.”

(Final speech by Zophar)

- 18 “*But it is wicked people* who are swept/carried away by floods, and God curses the land that they own, and no one goes to work in their vineyards.
- 19 Just like the snow melts away when it is hot and there is no rain, those who have sinned disappear into the place where dead people are.
- 20 Not even their mothers remember them now; wicked people are destroyed like trees that are cut down, and maggots eat their corpses.
- 21 They mistreat women who have been unable to give birth to children and women who no longer have children *to take care of them*, and they never do good things for widows.
- 22 But God, by his power, gets rid of mighty/influential people. God acts and causes the wicked people to die.
- 23 God allows them to think that they are secure and safe, but he is watching [MTY] them all the time.
- 24 They prosper for a little while, and then *suddenly* they are gone;

they disappear like weeds wither and die;
 they are like [SIM] stalks of grain that have
 been cut off.

- 25 If this is not true, is there [RHQ] anyone who
 will show that I am a liar
 and prove that what I have said is not true?"

25

Bildad's final reply

- 1 Then Bildad *also* replied,
 2 "God is very powerful; everyone should have
 an awesome respect for him;
 he causes everything to be peaceful high up
 in heaven.
 3 ◀Can anyone count the angels who are in his
 army *in heaven*?/No one can count the
 angels who are in his army *in heaven*.▶
 [RHQ]
 ▶Is there any place where his light does not
 shine?/There is no place where his light
 does not shine.▶ [RHQ]
 4 So, ▶how can God consider anyone to be
 righteous?/God certainly cannot consider
 anyone to be righteous.▶ [RHQ]
 ▶How can any human being be truly pure?/
 No human being can be truly pure.▶
 [RHQ]
 5 Consider this: God does not even consider the
 full moon to be bright,
 and he does not consider the stars to be
 spotless.
 6 So, ▶what about humans?/he does not consider
 humans *to be important*.▶ [RHQ]

They are *as insignificant as* [MET] maggots.
*God does not think more highly of people than
 he thinks of worms."*

26

Job replied to Bildad again

- ¹ Job replied to Bildad, saying this *sarcastically*:
² "I am a very weak and helpless man;
 and ◀you *certainly* have not helped me [SAR]
 very much!/do you think that you have
 helped me [SAR] very much?▶ [RHQ]
³ ◀You certainly have counseled me well—I, who
 am not wise at all./Do you think that you
 have counseled me well—I, who am not
 wise at all?▶ [RHQ]
 ◀I'm sure you think that you have given a lot of
 very good advice to me. [RHQ]
⁴ Who helped you to say all those *great/wise*
 things?
 Who inspired you to speak like you did?"

Bildad replied

- ⁵ "Because the spirits of dead people *are afraid*,
 they tremble in the waters that are deep
 under the earth.
⁶ God knows all about *those who are in* the place
 of the dead;
 there is nothing down there that prevents
 God from seeing what is there.
⁷ God stretched out the earth over the huge
 empty space
 and caused the earth to have nothing to
support it.

- 8 He fills the thick/dense clouds with water
and prevents that water from bursting the
clouds.
- 9 He causes clouds to ◀obscure/prevent us from
seeing▶ the moon.
- 10 He separated the light from the darkness
and put the horizon to mark the place where
the night ends and the daytime begins.
- 11 When *he is angry*, *it is as though* he rebukes
the pillars that hold up the sky.
They are ◀shocked/very fearful▶, and they
tremble.
- 12 With his power he calmed the sea;
with his skill/wisdom he destroyed Rahab,
the huge sea monster.
- 13 With his breath he caused the sky to be bright/
clear;
with his hand he killed the great dragon in
the sea.
- 14 But those events show only a small amount of
his power;
it is as though we are hearing only whispers
of his powerful voice.
When we hear thunder, *we say*, ‘◀Who can
really understand *how great* his power is/
No one can *really* understand *how great*
his power is!▶ [RHQ]’ ”

27

Job replied one more time

- ¹ Job replied again *to his three friends*,
- ² “Almighty God has refused to treat me justly/
fairly.

He has caused me to feel bitter/resentful.
But *just as surely* as he lives,

- ³ as long as God's Spirit enables me to breathe,
⁴ I will not lie;
 I [SYN] will not say anything to deceive anyone.
⁵ I will never admit that what you *three* have said is true;
 until the day that I die, I will insist that I have not done things that are wrong.
⁶ I will say that I am innocent, and never ◀say anything different/change what I say▶;
 my conscience will never reproach me as long as I live.
⁷ "I want my enemies to be *punished* like all wicked *people are punished*;
 I want *God to punish* those who oppose me like *he punishes all unrighteous people*.
⁸ When *it is time for God to get rid of godless/wicked people and to cause them to die*, there is absolutely nothing good [RHQ] that they can confidently expect *to happen to them*.
⁹ When they experience troubles, ◀will God hear them call *out to him for help?*/God certainly will not hear them call out *to him for help*.▶ [RHQ]
¹⁰ ◀Will they be happy about what Almighty *God does?*/They certainly will not be happy about what Almighty *God does*.▶ [RHQ]

◀Will they *begin to pray to him frequently?*
 They certainly will not *begin to pray to him*
frequently.▶ [RHQ]
Certainly not!

- 11 “I will teach you *three* something about the
 power [MTY] of Almighty God [MTY];
 I will reveal what he is thinking.
- 12 But you *three* have seen for yourselves *what*
God has done;
 so ◀why are you saying such nonsense?/
 you should not be saying such nonsense.▶
 [RHQ]
- 13 “I will tell you what Almighty God does to
 wicked people,
 the things that he does to people who op-
 press others.
- 14 *Even* if they have many children, *many of* those
 children will die in wars [MTY],
 and their *other* children will *die because they*
do not have enough food to eat.
- 15 Their children who are still alive will die from
 diseases,
 and their widows will not *even* mourn for
 them.
- 16 Sometimes *wicked people* accumulate a huge
 amount [SIM] of silver
 and pile up clothes like [SIM] those clothes
 were a pile of clay,
- 17 but *those wicked people will die, and then*
 righteous people will wear those clothes,
 and honest/innocent people will get their
 silver and divide it *among themselves.*

- 18 The houses that they build are *as frail/fragile* as [SIM] spider webs,
or they are like flimsy huts that watchmen live in *while they guard people's fields*.
- 19 Wicked people are rich when they lie down *at night*,
but when they wake up *in the morning*, they *find out that* their money has disappeared.
- 20 "Things that terrify them [PRS] strike them like a flood [SIM];
during the night a whirlwind carries them away.
- 21 *It is as though* the wind from the east picks them up and carries them away from their homes,
and they disappear.
- 22 That wind strikes them without pitying them while they are running away, trying to escape from its force/power [MTY].
- 23 That wind *is like someone* clapping his hands [MET] at them *to ridicule them*,
howling at them wherever they run to."

28

Job states some general truths about God's wisdom

- 1 "It is true that there are places where men dig to find silver,
and there are places where people refine/purify gold *that they have dug*.
- 2 People dig iron *ore* out of the ground,

- and they ◀smelt copper ore/heat copper ore
to get the copper from it▶.
- ³ Men use lamps while they work far down under
the ground
to search for the ore inside the mines
where it is very dark.
- ⁴ They dig ◀shafts/narrow holes very deep down
into the ground▶ in places that are far
from where people live,
where travelers do not go.
They work far away from *other* people,
swinging back and forth on ropes *as they
descend into the mine shafts*.
- ⁵ Food grows on the surface of the ground,
but down under the ground, *where there is
no food*, the miners make fires to break
apart the rocks.
- ⁶ The stones *that are dug from under the ground*
contain ◀sapphires/very valuable blue
stones▶,
and the dirt contains bits of gold.
- ⁷ *Some birds have very good eyes*,
but even hawks do not know *where the mines are*,
and falcons/vultures have not seen those
places.
- ⁸ Lions or *other* proud wild animals have not
walked on the roads near those mines.
- ⁹ Miners tear apart [MTY] very hard rock;
it is as though they turn the mountains
upside down *to get the ore*.
- ¹⁰ They cut tunnels through the rocks,
and they find ◀precious/very valuable▶
things.

- 11 They dam up small streams in order that water does not flow,
and they bring up into the light valuable things that are hidden *in the ground and in the streams*.
- 12 “But wisdom: Where can people find that?
Where can we find out how to truly understand things?
- 13 Humans do not know where to find it;
no one can find it *here on this earth* where they are living.
- 14 *It is as though* water that is deep *inside the earth* and *water that is in the seas* say [PRS],
‘Wisdom is not here!’
- 15 *People* cannot buy wisdom
by paying for it with silver or gold.
- 16 Wisdom is worth much more than fine gold
from *Ophir land*
or other very valuable stones.
- 17 It is worth much more than gold or beautiful glass,
worth more than vases made from fine gold.
- 18 Wisdom is worth more than coral or crystal/
pure quartz;
the price of wisdom is higher/more than the price of pearls.
- 19 The prices of ◀topaz/very valuable yellow stones▶ from Ethiopia and of pure gold
are lower/less than the price of wisdom.
- 20 “So, where does wisdom come from?”

Where can we find out how to truly understand things?

- 21 No living humans can see it [MTY];
and birds cannot see it while they are flying
[MTY].
- 22 *It is as though* the places where people go after
they die say [PRS],
'We have only heard rumors about *where to
find wisdom.*'
- 23 *God is the only one who* knows how to find
wisdom;
he knows where it is,
- 24 because he can see things even in the most
remote/distant places on the earth;
he can see everything that is below the sky.
- 25 When he decided how strongly the winds
should blow,
and how much rain would be in the clouds,
- 26 and when he decided where rain *should fall*,
and what path lightning should take *from the
clouds down to the ground*,
- 27 at that time he saw wisdom and decided that
it is extremely valuable.
He examined it and ◀approved it/said that it
was very good▶.
- 28 And *then* he said to humans, 'Listen! To have
an awesome respect for me is *what will
enable you to become wise*;
and to truly understand everything, you
must first turn away from doing what is
evil.' "

29

Job's final speech

- ¹ Job spoke again,
- ² "I wish/desire that I could be like I was previously,
during the years when God took care of me.
- ³ During those years, *it was as though* God's lamp [MET] shone on me
and gave me light while I walked in the darkness.
- ⁴ At that time I was young and strong,
and because God was my friend, *he protected* [PRS] my tent.
- ⁵ Almighty *God* was with me during those years
when all my children were around me.
- ⁶ My *herds* provided me with plenty of milk,
and streams of oil flowed from the rock
where my olives were pressed.
- ⁷ "Whenever I went to *the place where the elders gathered* at the city gate,
I sat down with them,
- ⁸ and when the young men saw me, they stepped
aside *respectfully*,
and the old men *also* stood *respectfully*.
- ⁹ The leaders of the people stopped talking [DOU],
- ¹⁰ and even the most important men became
quiet
and ceased talking [MTY] *in order to hear me speak to them*.
- ¹¹ When they [SYN] all heard *what I told them*,
they said good things about me.

- When they [SYN] saw me (OR, what I had done),
they commended me,
12 because I had helped the poor people when
they cried out for help
and I aided/helped orphans who had no one
else to help them.
- 13 Those who were suffering and about to die
praised [PRS] me,
and I caused widows [SYN] to sing joyfully,
because of my helping them.
- 14 I always acted justly;
my continually doing that was like [MET] a
robe that I wore and a turban *that was
wrapped around my head.*
- 15 *It was as though* [MET] I was eyes for blind
people
and feet for people who were lame.
- 16 I was *like* [MET] a father to poor people,
and in courts I defended those who were
strangers.
- 17 My causing wicked people *to be unable to
continue oppressing others was like* [MET]
breaking the fangs of fierce wild animals
and forcing them to drop from their teeth/
mouths the animals that they had caught/
seized.
- 18 “At that time I thought, ‘Surely I will live
securely, until I am very old [SIM],
and I will die at home *with my family.*’
- 19 I was *like a tree* [MET] whose roots reach down
into the water

- and whose branches become wet with dew
each night.
- 20 People always honored me,
and I was always *strong like* [MET] a new
bow.
- 21 “When I spoke, people waited to hear *what I
would say*
and remained silent until I advised them
what they should do.
- 22 After I finished speaking, they did not say any
more;
it was as though [MET] my words fell on their
ears *like refreshing drops of rain*.
- 23 They waited for me *to speak* like they wait for
rain;
they *appreciated what I said* like [MET]
farmers appreciate the final rain in the
spring *before the dry season*.
- 24 When they were discouraged, I smiled at them
to encourage them;
they became encouraged when they saw that
I approved of them.
- 25 I was their leader, and I decided what things
would be good for them to do;
I was among them like [SIM] a king who is
among his troops;
I was like someone who comforts *others* who
are mourning.”

30

Job ridicules the fathers of young men

- 1 “But now men who are younger than I am make fun of me—
men whose fathers I greatly despised,
with the result that I would not even have allowed them to help my dogs guard my sheep.
- 2 They were men who were old and ◀weak/worn out▶;
so ◀what could I gain from them working for me?/I would have gained nothing from them working for me.▶ [RHQ]
- 3 They were very poor and hungry,
with the result that they chewed on roots *at night*
in dry and desolate places.
- 4 They pulled up plants in the desert *and ate them*
and warmed themselves by *burning* the roots of broom trees.
- 5 Everyone shouted at them as though they were thieves
and expelled them *from their areas*.
- 6 They were forced to live in caves in the hills,
in holes in the ground, and in the sides of cliffs.
- 7 In the bushes they howled *like animals because they were hungry*,
and they huddled together under thorn-bushes.
- 8 They were people without good sense,
whose names no one knows;
they have been expelled from the land *where they were born*.

Job stated how he was despised

- 9 “And now their *children* sing songs to make fun of me.
They tell jokes about me.
- 10 They are disgusted with me, and they *usually* stay away from me,
but when they see me, they are happy to spit in my face.
- 11 Because *it is as though* [MET] God has cut my bowstring, *he has caused me to be unable to defend myself*, and he has humbled me, and my enemies have done to me whatever they wanted.
- 12 ◀Gangs/Groups of violent youths▶ attack me and force me to run away;
they prepare to destroy me.
- 13 They prevent me from escaping,
and they *do not need* anyone to help them
(OR, there is no one to help me).
- 14 *It is as though I am a city wall and* [SIM] they have broken through the wall,
and they have come crashing down on me.
- 15 I am very terrified;
My dignity/honor has been taken away as though [SIM] *it has been* blown away by the wind,
and my prosperity has disappeared like [SIM] clouds disappear.
- Job stated that God also mistreated him*
- 16 “And now I [SYN] am about to die [IDM];
I suffer every day.
- 17 My bones ache during the night,
and the pain that torments me never stops.

- 18 *It is as though God* seizes my clothes
and chokes me with the collar of my coat.
- 19 He has thrown me into the mud;
I am *not worth anything more than* dust and
ashes.
- 20 “I cry out to God, but he does not answer/help
me;
I stand up *and pray*, but he does not pay any
attention.
- 21 He acts very cruelly toward me;
with all of his power [MTY] he causes me to
suffer.
- 22 He *allows* the wind to lift me up and blow me
away,
and he tosses me up and down in a violent
storm.
- 23 I know that he will cause me to die,
which is what happens to everyone [MTY]
who is alive.
- 24 “When people experience disasters,
and they sit on a pile of ruins and cry out for
help,
others surely [RHQ] reach out their hand to
help them.
- 25 *That is what I did previously.* I wept for people
who were experiencing troubles,
and I felt sorry for poor/needful people.
- 26 But when I expected good things *to happen to*
me, evil things happened;
when I waited for light/happiness, all I experi-
enced was darkness/unhappiness [MET].
- 27 I am very distressed [IDM], all the time;

- I suffer every day.
- 28 I go about very discouraged;
I stand up and plead for people to help me.
- 29 My wailing sounds as sad as [MET] the cries of
jackals/foxes and ostriches.
- 30 My skin has become dark/black and is peeling
off,
and I have a fever *which causes my body to
feel like it is burning.*
- 31 Previously, I played joyful music on my harp
and with my flute,
but now I play only the sad music of those
who mourn.”

31

Job stated his innocence

- 1 “I solemnly promised myself
that I would not look at a young woman with
a desire *to have sex with her.*
- 2 *If I did not do what I promised,*
what would God who is in heaven [MTY] do
to me [RHQ]?
Almighty *God* would certainly not [RHQ] give
me any reward!
- 3 *Previously I thought that* surely [RHQ] it was
unrighteous people who would experience
calamities,
and that it was those who do what is wrong
who would experience disasters.
- 4 God certainly sees [RHQ] everything that I do,
so why is he causing me to suffer?
It is as though he counts every step that I
take.

- 5 *"I solemnly declare that I have never acted wickedly
and have never tried to deceive people.*
- 6 I request only that God judge me fairly [MET],
and if he does that, he will know that I ◀am
innocent/have not done what is wrong▶.
- 7 *If it were true that I have stopped living
righteously,
or that I [SYN] have desired the things that I
look at [MTY],
or that I am guilty of any other sin,*
- 8 *then I hope/wish that when I plant seeds,
someone else will harvest the crops and eat
them
and that others will uproot the fruit trees that
I planted.*
- 9 *"If it were true that I [SYN] have been attracted
by some other man's wife,
or that I have hidden myself and waited
outside the door to her house,*
- 10 I hope/desire that my wife will become the
servant/slave of another man
and have sex [EUP] with him.
- 11 *For me to do that would be a terrible sin,
and the judges would decide that I should be
punished.*
- 12 *My committing adultery would produce in me
a fire like [MET] the fire that burns people
in hell,
and it would burn up everything that I own.*
- 13 *"And, if it were true that I have ever refused to
listen to one of my male or female servants*

when they complained to me about something,

14 God would arise *and declare that he would punish me;*

and when he would do that, what would I do?

If he would ask me *about what I have done,*
 ◀what would I answer?/I would not be able to answer.▶ [RHQ]

15 God, who created me, certainly also created my servants [RHQ];

surely he is the one who formed them and me in our mothers' wombs [RHQ];

so we all should behave toward each other equally.

16-18 "I have guided orphans from the time that they were born;

I have taken care of them since they were young.

So, if *it were true that* I ate all my food myself and did not share some of it with orphans,

or *that* I refused to give poor people the things that they wanted,

or *that* I caused widows to live ◀in despair/without hope *that they would receive any help from anyone*▶,

19 or *that* I had seen people die *from cold* because they had no clothes,

or *that* I had seen poor people who did not have clothes *to keep them warm,*

20 and they were not able to become warm *from clothes made from the wool of my sheep*

- with the result that they thanked me for
giving them clothes,
- 21 or if *it were true that* I threatened to strike any orphan
because I knew that the elders at the city gates would ◀decide in my favor▶;
- 22 *if those things were true about me,* I hope/desire that my shoulder blade would be torn out and my arm be torn from my shoulder.
- 23 I always feared that God would cause me to experience a great disaster *if I did any of those evil things,*
and I would not have been able to endure the powerful *things that he would do to punish me.*
- 24 “If *it were true that* I trusted in my gold/money [DOU],
- 25 or that I rejoiced because I had acquired many things
and had become very rich,
- 26 or that I looked at the sun when it was shining
or looked at the beautiful moon
- 27 and I [SYN] had been tempted *to worship them*
by kissing my hand to revere them,
- 28 those things also would be sins for which the judges would say that I must be punished,
because I would have been rejecting God *by doing those things.*
- 29-30 “*It is not true that* I [SYN] sinned by requesting God to curse people who hated me

with the result that God would cause them to die.

It is also not true that I was glad when they were ruined
or that I rejoiced when they experienced disasters [DOU].

31-32 *It is also not true that* I never welcomed travelers to stay in my tent
or that I did not open my doors to them, but *forced them to* sleep in the streets.
All the men who work for me certainly know that [RHQ]!

33 Some people try to hide their sins,
but I have never done that;

34 and I never remained silent and refused to go outside of my home
because I was very ◀afraid of/ worried about▶ what people would say *about me*,
and that they would hate/scorn me.

35 “I wish/desire that there was someone who would hear what I am saying!
I solemnly declare *that all that I have said is true*.

I wish that those who oppose me would write down *on a scroll* the evil things that they say that I did.

36 *If they did that*, I would wear that scroll on my shoulder, or wear it on top of my head, *in order that everyone could see it*.

37 I would tell *God* everything that I have done,
and I would approach him *confidently*, like a ruler would.

- 38 *If it were true that I have stolen land,*
with the result that *it was as though* its
furrows cried out to accuse me of stealing;
- 39 *or if it were true that I have eaten the crops*
that grew in someone else's fields
without paying *for those crops*,
with the result that those farmers who grew
those crops died *from hunger*;
- 40 then I wish/desire that thorns would grow *in*
my fields instead of wheat.
May bad weeds grow instead of barley!"

That is the end of what Job said *to his three friends*.

32

Elihu replied to Job and his three friends

¹ Then those three men stopped answering Job, because *they could not convince Job that he was wrong in claiming that he had not done anything that was wrong.* ² Then Elihu, the son of Barachel, a descendant of Buz, from the clan of Ram, became very angry at Job. He was angry because Job continued to claim that he was righteous/innocent, and that God was wrong *to punish him.* ³ He was also angry with Job's three friends, because they had declared that Job must have done many things that were wrong, but they were unable to convince Job *that what they said was true.* As a result, *it seemed to Elihu that God did what was wrong by punishing Job.* ⁴ Elihu was younger than the others, so he waited

until they had finished speaking before he replied to Job. ⁵ But when Elihu realized that the three men had no more to say [MTY] to Job, he became angry.

⁶ And this is what he said:

“I am young, and you all are much older than I am.

So, I was timid, and I was afraid to tell you what I was thinking.

⁷ I thought, ‘Let those [PRS] who are much older speak,

because older people *should be able to say things that are wise.*’

⁸ But the Spirit of Almighty *God* is within people, and it is he who enables them to be wise.

⁹ It is not people becoming old that enables them to be wise;

not *all* old people understand what is right.

¹⁰ “So, I say, ‘Listen to me, and allow me to say what I think.’

¹¹ I waited for you all to speak;

I wanted to hear the wise things that you would say.

I waited while you thought carefully about what *would be the right things* to say.

¹² I paid attention carefully,

but surprisingly, none of you were able to prove that what Job said was wrong.

¹³ So, do not say *to yourselves*, ‘We have discovered what is wise!’

It is God who must ◀refute Job/show that what Job said was wrong▶, because you three have not been able to do that.

- 14 Job was replying to you, *not to me*,
but I will not reply to him by saying what
you three said.
- 15 “You three are dismayed *because you have
not been able to convince him that he was
wrong*,
so you are not saying any more to him [DOU].
- 16 But because you do not speak, I certainly will
not wait any longer [RHQ];
you merely stand there and do not reply any
more.
- 17 So *now* I also will reply *to Job*
and say what I think.
- 18 I have plenty to say,
and my spirit compels me to say it.
- 19 My inner being is like [SIM] a ◀wineskin/bag
that has <new/fermenting> wine in it▶,
and it will soon burst.
- 20 I must speak [MTY], in order that I do not have
to keep holding what I want to say;
I must say something [MTY] to reply *to you
all*.
- 21 I will speak *fairly*, not favoring any of you,
and I will not try to flatter anyone.
- 22 I *really* do not know how to flatter people;
and if I did that, God would soon get rid of
me.”

33

Elihu challenged Job

- 1 “But now, Job, listen carefully
to all that I am going to say [DOU].

- 2 I am ready to tell you [MTY, DOU] *what I think*.
3 I know that I am speaking honestly
and that I am speaking [MTY] sincerely.
4 Almighty God has created me *as well as you*,
and his breath has caused me to live.
5 So, answer *what I say* if you can;
think carefully *about how you will reply to me*.
- 6 “God considers that you, and I are both *equal*;
he formed both of us from clay.
7 So you do not need to be afraid of me;
I will not crush/oppress you *by what I say*
[MTY].
8 I have heard you [DOU] speaking,
and this is what you have said:
9 ‘I am innocent; I have not committed any sins;
I am pure; I have not done things that are
wrong.
10 But God finds reasons to accuse me,
and he considers that I am his enemy.
11 *It is as though* he has put my feet ◀in stocks/
between wooden blocks to prevent me
from walking away▶,
and he watches everything that I do.’ [MTY]
- 12 But what you have said is wrong,
and I will tell you *what you have said that is wrong*.
God is much greater than any human.
13 So, ◀why are you arguing against God, saying
‘He never answers my questions’?/you
should not be arguing against God, saying
‘He never answers my questions.’▶ [RHQ]

- 14 God does speak *to us* in various ways,
but we do not pay any attention to what he says.
- 15 *Sometimes he speaks to us* at night in dreams
and visions,
when we are on our beds, asleep [DOU].
- 16 He reveals things [MTY] to us
and terrifies us by the things he warns us
about.
- 17 He tell us those things in order that we stop
doing *evil* things
and to prevent us from becoming proud.
- 18 He does not want us to be destroyed [MTY];
he wants to prevent us from dying [MTY]
while we are still young.
- 19 God also *sometimes* corrects us by forcing us
to lie on our beds suffering much pain
and with fever/aching in our bones.
- 20 The result is that we do not desire any food,
not even very special food.
- 21 Our bodies become very thin, with the result
that we look like skeletons [HYP],
and our bones stick out.
- 22 *We know that we will soon die*
and go to the place where dead people are.
- 23 “But sometimes an angel *may come to one of us*,
one of the thousands of angels who come to
intervene between us and God,
to tell us what are the right things for us *to do*.
- 24 The angel is kind to us and says to God,
‘Release that person,

so that he does not descend to the place where
dead people are!

Do that because I have found the money to
pay so that he can be released!

25 Allow his body to be strong again;
allow him to be strong like he was when he
was a youth!

26 When that happens, that person will pray to
God, and God will accept/answer him;
he will ◀enter God's presence/worship God▶
joyfully,
and then he will tell others how God saved
him *from dying*.

27 He will sing as he tells everyone,
'I sinned, and I did things that were not right,
but God did not punish me in the way that I
deserved.

28 He has saved me from dying and going to the
place where dead people are,
and I will continue to enjoy being alive.'

29 God does all these things for us many times;

30 he keeps us [SYN] from *dying and* going to the
place where the dead are,
in order that we can continue to enjoy being
alive [IDM].

31 So Job, listen to me;
do not say anything more; just allow me to
speak.

32 *After I speak*, if you have something more that
you want to say to me,

say it, because I would like to find a way to declare that you ◀are innocent/have not done what is wrong▶.

³³ But if you have nothing more that you want to say, then just listen to me, and I will teach you how to become wise."

34

Elihu continued his challenge

¹ Then Elihu continued:

² "You *three* men who *think that you* [SAR] are very wise, hear me; listen to what I am saying, you men who say *that you know so much.*

³ When we [SYN] hear what other people *like you* say, we [RHQ] think carefully about what they say *to determine what is good and what is bad,* like we [SYN] taste food *to determine what is good.*

⁴ We need to decide *who is saying* what is right and to determine among ourselves what is good/best.

⁵ Job has said, 'I am innocent, but God has refused to judge me fairly/justly.

⁶ Even though I have always done what is right, he is lying about me.

Even though I have not done what is wrong, he has caused me to suffer, and I will certainly die.'

⁷ ◀Is there any person like Job, who insults others as easily as people accept a drink

of water?/There is no person like Job, who insults others as easily as people accept a drink of water.► [RHQ]

8 He habitually associates with people who do what is evil and spends time with wicked people.

9 He has said, 'It is useless for people to try to please God.'

10 "So, you men who *claim that you* understand everything, listen to me!

Almighty God would never consider doing anything that is wicked or wrong [DOU]!

11 He ◀pays back/punishes▶ people for what they have done; he gives them what they deserve for the way that they have conducted their lives.

12 Truly, Almighty God never does what is wicked; he always [LIT] does what is fair/just.

13 The authority that he has to rule everything on the earth, no one [RHQ] gave it to him; no one [RHQ] put him in control of the whole world.

He has always had that authority.

14 If he would take his spirit back to himself,

15 everyone would die *immediately*, and their corpses would soon become dirt again.

16 "So, *Job*, if you say that you understand everything, listen to what I am saying.

- 17 God could certainly not [RHQ] govern the world if he hated doing what is fair/just. So, will you condemn God, who is righteous and powerful, *saying that what he has done is wrong?*
- 18 He tells *some* kings that they are worthless, and he says to *some* officials that they are wicked.
- 19 He does not favor rulers *more than he favors others*;
he does not favor rich people more than poor people,
because he created all of them.
- 20 People *often* die suddenly;
he strikes them at midnight and they die;
he even gets rid of mighty people without the help of any humans [SYN].
- 21 “He sees [MTY] everything that people do;
when we walk, he watches every step that we take.
- 22 There is no gloom or darkness [DOU] that is so dark
that sinners can hide *from him* in that darkness.
- 23 God does not *need* to set a time
when we will stand in front of him in order that he may judge us.
He can judge us whenever he wants to.
- 24 He destroys mighty people without *needing* to investigate *what they have done*,
and he appoints others to take their places.
- 25 Because he *already* knows what they have done,

- he removes them at night and gets rid of them.
- 26 Where *many* people can see it,
he strikes/punishes them because of the wicked things that they have done;
- 27 he strikes them because they turned away from doing what he wanted them to do and did not pay attention to any of his commands.
- 28 They *mistreated* the poor people,
with the result that those poor people cried out to God *for help*,
and he heard those afflicted people when they cried out *to him*.
- 29 But if God decides to do nothing *to punish wicked people*,
no one can criticize/condemn him.
If a godless/wicked man rules a nation,
a man who tricks/deceives the people,
- 30 and if *God* hides his face *with the result that he does not see that ruler or punish him*,
no one will be able to prevent that ruler *from doing those things*.
- 31 “Job, have you or anyone else ever said to God,
‘I have been punished *for my sins*,
and I will not sin any more;
- 32 so teach/show me what *sins I have committed*;
if I have done anything that is evil,
I will not do it any more’?
- 33 *Job*, you object to what God has done to you,
but do you think that he will do what you want him to do?

It is you who must choose *what you say to God*,
not I;
so tell me what you are thinking about this.

³⁴ “People who have good sense, those who are
wise and who listen to what I say,
will say to me,

³⁵ ‘Job is speaking ignorantly;
what he says is nonsense.’

³⁶ I think that Job should be taken to a court and
◀put on trial/judged▶,
because he answers *us his friends* like wicked
men would answer.

³⁷ To add to the *other* sins that he has committed,
he is rebelling *against God*;
he shows us that he does not respect God
[IDM],
making long speeches *saying that God has
punished him unjustly.*”

35

Elihu continued his challenge

¹ Then Elihu also said this:

² “*Job*, do you think that what you said is right/
correct?

You say, ‘God knows that I am innocent,’

³ and you say *to God*, ‘What good have I received
for not sinning?

What benefit have I received from that?’
[DOU, RHQ]

⁴ *Well*, I will answer you,
and I will answer your three friends, too.

- 5 “*Job*, look up at the sky;
look at the clouds that are high above you
and realize *that God is far above everything*.
- 6 If you have sinned, that does not [RHQ] harm
God at all.
If many times you do things that are wrong,
that certainly does not [RHQ] affect him
[DOU].
- 7 And if you are righteous, does that help God?
No, he is not benefited by anything that you
do [DOU].
- 8 It is other people who suffer because of the
wicked things that you do,
but by doing good things for people, you help
them.
- 9 “People cry out because of the many things that
people do to others to ◀oppress them/treat
them cruelly▶;
they call for help because of the things that
powerful people do [MTY] to them.
- 10 But ◀no one/none of them▶ calls out *to God*,
saying ‘Why does God, my creator, *not help
me?*
He *should* enable me to sing *joyful* songs,
instead of very sad songs, during the night.
- 11 He *should be able to* teach us more than all the
wild animals do;
he *should* enable us to become wiser than *all*
the birds are!’
- 12 People cry out *for help*,
but God does not answer them,
because those who cry out are proud and
evil people.

- 13 It is useless for them to cry out,
because God, the Almighty One, does not pay
any attention to what they say.
- 14 So, when you complain that you cannot see
God,
and you tell him that you are waiting for
him *to decide whether or not you should
be punished for what you have done*,
God will not listen to you, either!
- 15 Furthermore, *you say that* because he does not
pay attention when people commit sins,
he does not become angry and punish them.
- 16 You say things that are useless;
you say a lot of things without knowing *what
you are talking about.*"

36

Elihu's final speech

- ¹ Elihu *finished by* saying this:
- ² "*Job*, be patient with me a little longer,
because I have something else to teach you.
I have something else to say that God *wants
you to know*.
- ³ I will tell you what I have learned from many
sources,
in order to show that God, my creator, is just/
fair.
- ⁴ I am not saying anything to you that is false;
I, who am standing in front of you, am
someone who understands things ◀very
well/perfectly▶ [HYP].

- 5 “Hey, God is *very* powerful, and he does not despise anyone,
and he understands everything.
- 6 He does not allow wicked people to remain alive,
and he always acts justly toward those who are poor.
- 7 He always watches over [MTY] those who are righteous;
he allows them to sit on thrones *and rule* with kings,
and they are honored forever.
- 8 But if people *who commit crimes* are caught,
they *are thrown into prison and* are caused to suffer by being fastened with chains.
- 9 When that happens, God shows them what they have done;
he shows them the sins that they have committed,
and he shows them that they have been proud/arrogant.
- 10 He causes them to listen [MTY] to what he is warning them,
and he commands them to turn away from *doing what is evil*.
- 11 If they ◀listen to/heed▶ him and serve him,
after they get out of prison
they will prosper for all the years that they are alive and be peaceful/happy.
- 12 But if they do not ◀listen/pay attention▶ to him,
they will die violently,
not knowing *why God is causing them to die*.

- 13 “Godless/Wicked people continue being angry,
and they do not cry out for help,
even when God is punishing them.
- 14 They die while they are still young,
disgraced because of their very immoral
behavior [EUP].
- 15 But God teaches people by causing them to
suffer;
by afflicting them, he causes them to listen
to [MTY] what he is telling them.
- 16 “And Job, *I think that God wants to bring you
out of your troubles
and allow you to live without distress;
he wants your table to be full of very nice
food.*
- 17 But now, you are being punished [MTY] as
wicked people are punished;
*God [PRS] has been punishing you ◀justly/as
you deserve▶.*
- 18 So be careful that you are not deceived by
desiring to acquire money
or that you are not ruined by *accepting* large
bribes.
- 19 *If you are deceived by those things,* it certainly
will not [RHQ] help you to cry out when
you are distressed;
all of your strength will not help you.
- 20 Do not wish that it would be nighttime *in order
that God will not see you and punish you,*
because night is the time when *even* people-
groups are destroyed!
- 21 Be careful not to *begin doing* evil things,

because *God* has caused you to suffer to prevent you from doing evil.

- 22 “Hey, God is extremely powerful;
there is certainly [RHQ] no teacher who teaches like he does.
- 23 No one has [RHQ] told him what he should do, and no one has [RHQ] said to him, ‘You have done what is wrong!’
- 24 People have *always* sung to praise him, so you also should never forget to praise him for what he has done.
- 25 Everyone has seen *what he has done*, but *sometimes* we can see it only from far away.
- 26 “Hey, God is very great, and we are not able to know how great he is, and we do not know how old he is.
- 27 He draws water up *from the earth and puts it in clouds* and causes it to become rain.
- 28 The rain pours down from the sky/clouds; God causes abundant showers to fall on everyone.
- 29 No one can [RHQ] understand how the clouds move *across the sky* or how it thunders in the sky where God lives.
- 30 He causes lightning to flash all around him, but he causes the bottom of the oceans to remain dark.
- 31 By providing plenty of rain for us, he enables us to have abundant food.

- 32 *It is as though* he holds the lightning in his hands,
and *then* he commands it to strike where he wants it to.
- 33 When we hear his thunder, we know that there will be a storm,
and the cattle know it, too.”

37

Elihu continued his final speech

- 1 “My heart pounds [DOU] when *I think about* that.
- 2 Listen, all of you, to the thunder,
which is like God’s voice [DOU].
- 3 He causes thunder to be heard all across the sky,
and he causes lighting to flash to the most distant places on the earth.
- 4 After *the lightning flashes*, we hear the thunder which is like [MET] God’s majestic voice;
he does not restrain the lightning when he speaks.
- 5 When God speaks, it is awesome, like thunder;
he does amazing things which we cannot *fully* understand.
- 6 He commands the snow to fall on the ground,
and *sometimes* he causes it to rain very hard.
- 7 And *when God does that*, it prevents people [SYN] from working,
in order that all people may know that he is the one who has done that (OR, what he can do).

- 8 *When it rains, animals go into their hiding places,
and they remain there until the rain stops.*
- 9 *The storms/hurricanes come from the place in the south where they start,
and the cold wind comes from the north.*
- 10 *In the ◀winter/cold season▶, the cold north wind is like God's breath that causes [MET] water to freeze;
he causes the lakes/streams to become ice.*
- 11 *God fills the clouds with moisture/hail,
and lightning flashes from the clouds.*
- 12 *He guides the clouds and causes them to move back and forth
in order that they may accomplish all that he commands them to do, all over the world.*
- 13 *Sometimes God sends rain to punish us,
and sometimes he sends rain to show us that he acts kindly toward us.*
- 14 *“Job, listen to this;
stop and think about the wonderful things that God does.*
- 15 *◀Do you know how God commands the lightning to flash down from the clouds?/
We do not know how God commands the lightning to flash down from the clouds.▶
[RHQ]*
- 16 *Only God knows everything perfectly;
so ◀do you know how he causes the clouds to <move/float> <amazingly/wonderfully>
across the sky?/you certainly do not know how he causes the clouds to <move/float>*

<amazingly/wonderfully> across the sky!►
[RHQ]

- 17 No, you just sweat there in your clothes;
it is very oppressive when the *hot* wind stops
blowing from the south and *all the leaves*
on the trees ◀become still/do not move▶.
- 18 ◀Can you stretch out the skies like God does
and make them as hard as [SIM] a sheet
of polished brass?/You certainly cannot
stretch out the skies like God does and
make them as hard as [SIM] a sheet of
polished brass!► [RHQ]
- 19 “Job, tell us(exc) what we should say to God;
we do not know anything [IDM].
As a result, we do not know what to say to
him to defend ourselves.
- 20 Should I tell God that I want to speak to him?
No, because *if I did that*, he might destroy
me.
- 21 Now, people cannot look *directly* at the sun
when it shines brightly in the sky after the
wind has blown the clouds away;
so, we certainly cannot look at the brightness
of God.
- 22 God comes out of the north with a light *that*
shines like gold;
his glory causes us to be afraid.
- 23 Almighty God is very powerful,
and we cannot come near to him.
He always acts righteously,
and he will never oppress us.
- 24 That is the reason that we have an awesome
respect for him;

he does not pay attention to those who proudly, *but wrongly*, think that they are wise."

38

Yahweh replied to Job

¹ Then Yahweh spoke to Job from inside a great windstorm. He said to him,

² "◀Who are you to question what I plan to do?/ You have no right/authority to question what I plan to do.▶ [RHQ]
You are speaking ignorantly!

³ I want to ask you *some* questions, so, just like men prepare themselves for a difficult task [MET], prepare to answer my questions.

⁴ ▶◀"Where were you/Were you there with me▶ *long ago* when I ▶laid the foundations of/ created▶ the earth?
Since you know so much, tell me *where you were at that time*.

⁵ Do you know how I decided how large the earth would be?
Do you know who stretched a measuring tape around the earth?
Surely *since you think that you know so much*, you should know that!

⁶⁻⁷ What supports the pillars on which the earth rests?
When the stars *that shine early* in the morning sang together,

and someone put in place the stone that
causes the earth to stay in its place,
and all the angels shouted joyfully *when they
saw that happening*,
who laid that cornerstone? *Did you?*

8 “When the seas poured forth from inside the
earth,
who prevented the water from flooding over
the land?

9 It was I, *not you*, who caused clouds to come
over the seas
and caused it to become very dark *under
those clouds*.

10 I set limits for the seas,
and I put barriers *so that the water would
not come over the land*.

11 *I pointed to the shore* and said to the water,
‘I permit you to come up to here, but I do not
permit you to come any farther.
Your powerful waves must stop there!’

12 “Job, have you *ever* commanded the morning
to begin?

Have you *ever* told the dawn to start a new
day?

13 Have you *ever* told the dawn to spread out over
the whole earth,
with the result that wicked people run away
from the light?

14 When it becomes light after the dawn,
the hills and the valleys become clear like
the folds in a cloth.

- 15 When it becomes daylight, the wicked do not have the darkness *that they like*;
in the daylight they no longer are able to raise up their arms, ready to hurt people.
- 16 “*Job*, have you traveled to the springs *in the bottom of the ocean* from which the water in the seas comes?
Have you investigated/ explored the very bottom of the oceans?
- 17 Has someone shown you the gates to the place where dead people are,
the gates to the place where it is very dark?
- 18 Do you know how big the earth is?
Tell me, if you know all these things!
- 19 “Where is the road to the place where light comes from?
And *can you tell me* where darkness lives?
- 20 Can take me to its home?
Do you know where the road is that goes there?
- 21 I am sure that you know these things,
because you *talk as though you* were born before the time when all things were created;
you *must* be very old!
- 22 “Have you entered the place where I store the snow
and the place where I keep the hail?
- 23 I store the snow and the hail *in order that I can use them to help my people* when they have troubles,

- in times when *they are fighting* wars [DOU].
- 24 And where is the road to the place from which
I cause the lightning to flash?
Where is the place from where the east wind
begins to blow over all the earth?
- 25 Who created the channels in which the rain
comes down from the sky?
Who makes the roads for the thunder/light-
ning?
- 26 Who causes rain to fall in the desert,
in places where no one lives?
- 27 Who sends the rain that gives moisture/water
to areas where nothing has grown,
with the result that grass begins to grow
again?
- 28 Does the rain have a father?
Does the dew *also* have a father?
- 29 And from whose womb does ice come *in the*
◀*winter/cold season*►?
Who gives birth to the frost that comes down
from the sky?
- 30 *In the winter*, the water *freezes and* becomes
hard, like a rock,
and the surface of lakes becomes frozen.
- 31 “*Job*, can you fasten the chains that hold the
stars together in clusters/groups in the
sky?
- 32 Can you tell the stars when they should shine?
Can you guide *the stars in the groups in the*
northern sky whose names are the Big Bear
and the Little Bear?
- 33 Do you know the laws that the stars must obey?

Can you cause those same laws to rule
everything here on the earth?

34 “Can you shout to the clouds and cause rain to
pour down on you?

35 Can you cause flashes of lightning to come
down and strike where you want it to
strike?

Do those flashes say to you, ‘Where do you
want us to strike next?’

36 Who enables the clouds to know when they
should cause rain to fall?

37 And who is skilled/wise enough to be able to
count the clouds?

Who can tilt the jugs of water in the sky *to
cause the rain to fall,*

38 with the result that the dry ground becomes
hard

as the dry ◀clods/lumps of soil▶ *become wet
and stick together?*

39-40 “When a lioness and her cubs crouch in their
dens or hide in a thicket, *waiting for some
animal to pass by that they can kill,*

can you find animals for a lioness to kill
so that *she and* her cubs can *eat the meat and
not be hungry any more?*

41 Who provides dead animals for crows,
when the baby crows are calling out to me
for food,

when they are so weak because of their lack
of food *that they* ◀stagger around/can
hardly stand up▶ *in their nests?”*

39

Yahweh continued his reply to Job

- 1 *“Job, do you know at what time/season of the year the female mountain goats give birth? Have you watched the wild deer while their fawns were being born?*
- 2 *Do you know how many months pass from the time they become pregnant until their fawns are born?*
- 3 *When they give birth, they crouch down so that the fawns do not get hurt by falling to the ground when they are born.*
- 4 *The young fawns grow up in the open fields, and then they leave their mothers and do not return to them again.*

- 5 *“Who allows the wild donkeys to go wherever they want [DOU]?*
- 6 *I am the one who put them in the desert, in places where grass does not grow.*
- 7 *They do not like the noise in the cities; in the desert they do not have to listen to the shouts of those who force donkeys to work.*
- 8 *They go to the hills to find food; there they search for grass to eat.*

- 9 *:Will a wild ox agree to work for you? Will it allow you to keep it penned up at night in the place where you put feed for your animals?*
- 10 *And can you fasten it with a rope*

- so that it will plow furrows/trenches in your fields?
- 11 Since it is very strong, can you trust it to work for you?
Can you go away after you tell it what work it should do *and assume that it will do that work?*
- 12 Can you rely on it to come back *from the field*, bringing your grain to the place where you thresh it?
- 13 “*Think also about the ostriches. They joyfully flap their wings, but they do not have wing feathers that enable them to fly like storks do.*
- 14 Ostriches lay their eggs on top of the ground *and then walk away*, leaving the eggs to be warmed in the sand.
- 15 Ostriches do not worry that some wild animal may step on the eggs and crush them [DOU].
- 16 Ostriches act cruelly towards their chicks; they act as though the chicks belonged to some other ostrich.
They are not concerned if *their chicks die*, *and so the laying of the eggs was in vain.*
- 17 That is because I did not allow ostriches to be wise.
I did not enable them to be intelligent.
- 18 But, when they get up and begin to run, they scornfully laugh at horses with their riders
because the horses cannot run as fast as the ostriches!

- 19 And *think about* horses. *Job*, are you the one who caused horses to be strong?
Are you the one who put flowing ◀manes/
long hair▶ on their necks?
- 20 Are you the one who enabled them to leap forward like locusts?
When they ◀snort/blow loudly through their noses▶, they cause people to be afraid.
- 21 They paw the ground, rejoicing about being very strong,
as they prepare to rush into a battle.
- 22 *It is as if* they laugh at the thought of being afraid. They are not afraid of anything!
They do not run away when *the soldiers in the battle are fighting each other with swords*.
- 23 The quivers containing the riders' arrows rattle against the horses' sides,
and the spears and javelins flash *in the light of the sun*.
- 24 The horses paw the ground fiercely/excitedly,
wanting the battle to begin,
and they rush into the battle when the trumpet is blown.
- 25 They neigh *joyfully* when they hear someone blowing the trumpet.
They can smell a battle even when they are far away,
and they understand what it means when the commanders shout their commands *to their soldiers*.

- 26 “*And think about big birds. Are you the one who enabled hawks to spread their wings and fly to the south for the winter?*”
- 27 Do eagles fly high up *into the cliffs* to make their nests because you commanded them to do that?
- 28 They live in *holes in* those cliffs. They are safe in those high pointed rocks *because no animals can reach them there.*
- 29 As they watch carefully from there, they see far away the animals that they can kill (OR, dead bodies of animals).
- 30 After an eagle kills an animal, the baby eagles drink the blood of that animal.”

40

Yahweh continued his reply to Job

- 1 Then Yahweh said to Job,
- 2 “Do you still want to argue with me, the Almighty One?
Since you criticize me, ◀you should be able to answer my questions!/why are you not able to answer my questions?▶ [RHQ]”

Job replied to Yahweh

- 3 Then Job replied to Yahweh,
- 4 “*Now I realize that I am completely worthless. So ◀how could I answer those questions?/ I could not possibly answer those questions!▶ [RHQ]*
I will put my hand over my mouth *and not say anything.*”

⁵ I have already said more than I should have said,
so now I will say nothing more.”

Yahweh challenged Job

⁶ Then Yahweh *again* spoke to Job from inside the great windstorm. He said,

⁷ “I want to ask you some *more* questions.
So as men prepare themselves for a difficult task [MET],
prepare yourself again to answer some *more* questions.

⁸ “Are you going to accuse me and say that I am unjust?

Are you going to say that what I have done is wrong, in order that you can say that what you have done is right?

⁹ Are you as powerful [MTY] as I am?

Can your voice sound *as loud* as thunder, as mine can?

¹⁰ *If you can do that*, put on the robes that show that you are glorious and are greatly honored!

¹¹ Show that you are very angry;
show that you have the right/authority to humble people who are *very* proud!

¹² Humble those proud people *just* by looking at them *angrily*

Crush wicked people quickly!

¹³ Bury them in the ground!

Send them to the place where dead people are,
where they will not be able to get out!

- 14 After you do that, I will congratulate/praise you and say that *truly* you can save yourself by your own ability/power.
- 15 “Think *also* about the huge animals that live near the water.
I made you, and I made them also.
They eat grass, like oxen do.
- 16 Their legs/thighs are *very* strong,
and the muscles of their bellies are *very* powerful.
- 17 Their tails are stiff (OR, bend down) like the branches of a cedar tree.
The sinews/muscles of their thighs are close together.
- 18 Their *thigh* bones are *like* tubes *made* of bronze,
and the bones of their legs are like bars *made* of iron.
- 19 They are among the strongest of the animals that I made,
and I, who created them, am the only one who can kill them.
- 20 On the hills grows food [PRS] for them to eat while many [HYP] other wild animals play nearby.
- 21 They lie down *in the water* under the lotus plants;
they hide in *tall* reeds in the swamps.
- 22 Those huge animals find shade under the lotus plants,
and they are surrounded by poplar trees.

- 23 They are not disturbed by raging/swiftly-flowing rivers;
they are not even disturbed/frightened when
rivers like the Jordan River rush over them.
- 24 No one can [RHQ] catch them by blinding their eyes
or by piercing their noses with *the teeth of a trap!*”

41

Yahweh challenged Job to try to capture a crocodile

- 1 “*Think also about* ◀crocodiles/great sea dragons▶.
Can you catch them with a fishhook
or fasten their jaws with a rope?
- 2 Can you put ropes through their noses *to control them*
or thrust hooks through their jaws?
- 3 Will they plead with you to act mercifully toward them
or ◀use sweet talk/speak to you nicely▶ *in order that you will not harm them?*
- 4 Will they make an agreement with you to work for you,
to be your slaves as long as they live?
- 5 Can you cause them to become pets like you cause birds to become your pets?
Can you put a leash/rope around their *necks*
so that your servant girls *can play with them?*
- 6 Will merchants try to buy them *in the market?*

Will they cut them up into pieces and sell the meat?

7 Can you pierce their skins by throwing fishing spears at them?

Can you pierce their heads with a harpoon?

8 If you grab one of them with your hands, it will fight you in a way that you will never forget, and you will never try to do it again!

9 It is useless to try to subdue them.

Anyone who tries to subdue one of them will lose his courage.

10 No one dares/tries to ◀arouse them/cause them to be angry▶.

So, *since I am much more powerful than they are*, ◀who would dare to cause me to be angry?/no one would dare to cause me to be angry!▶ [RHQ]

11 Also, everything on the earth is mine.

Therefore, no one [RHQ] is able to give anything to me and require me to pay *money* for it!

12 I will tell you about *how strong* crocodiles' legs *are* and how strong their well-formed bodies are.

13 ◀Can anyone strip off their hides?/No one is able to strip off their hides.▶ [RHQ]

◀Can anyone try to put bridles on them?/No one can try to put bridles on them.▶ [RHQ] (OR, Can anyone pierce their very thick hides?)

- 14 ◀Can anyone pry open their jaws, which have terrible teeth in them?/No one can pry open their jaws, which have terrible teeth in them!▶ [RHQ]
- 15 They have rows of scales on their back which are as hard as a rock (OR, tightly fastened together).
- 16 The scales are very close together, with the result that not even air can get between them.
- 17 The scales are joined very closely to each other, and they cannot be separated.
- 18 When crocodiles sneeze, *the tiny drops of water that come out of their noses* sparkle in the sunlight.
Their eyes are red like the rising sun.
- 19 *It is as though* sparks of fire pour out of their mouths [DOU].
- 20 Smoke pours out of their nostrils/noses like steam comes out of a pot that is put over a fire made from dry reeds.
- 21 Their breath can cause coals to blaze, and flames shoot out from their mouths.
- 22 Their necks are very strong; wherever they go, they cause people to be very afraid.
- 23 The folds in their flesh are very close together and are very hard/firm.
- 24 *They are fearless, because* the inner parts of their bodies are as hard as a rock, as hard as the lower millstone *on which grain is ground*.

- 25 When they rise up, they cause *even* very strong people to be terrified.
As a result, people ◀fall back/run away▶ when crocodiles thrash around.
- 26 *People* [PRS] cannot injure them with swords, and spears or darts or javelins cannot injure them, either.
- 27 They *certainly are not afraid of weapons made of straw or rotten wood,*
but *they are not even afraid of weapons made of iron or bronze!*
- 28 *Shooting arrows at them* does not cause them to run away.
Hurling stones at them from a sling is like hurling bits of chaff at them.
- 29 They are not afraid of clubs *any more than they would be afraid of men throwing bits of straw at them,*
and they laugh when they hear the whirl/sound of javelins *being thrown at them .*
- 30 Their bellies are covered with scales that are as sharp as broken pieces of pottery.
When they drag themselves through the mud,
their bellies tear up the ground like a plow.
- 31 They stir up the water and cause it to foam *as they churn/swim through it.*
- 32 As they go through the water, the ◀wakes/trails in the water behind them▶ glisten.
People *who see it* would think that the foam in those wakes had become white hair.
- 33 There are no creatures on earth that are as fearless as crocodiles.
- 34 They are the proudest of all the creatures;

it is as though they rule like kings over all the other wild animals."

42

Job replied to Yahweh

- ¹ Then Job replied to Yahweh. *He said,*
² "I know that you can do everything
 and that no one can stop you from doing
 what you want to do.
³ *You asked me, '◀Who are you, who by speaking
 ignorantly, question what I plan to do?/You
 have no right to question what I plan to do
 by speaking ignorantly.▶' [RHQ]*
 It is true that I spoke about things that I did
 not understand,
 things that are very wonderful/marvelous,
 and therefore I am not able to know them.
⁴ You said to me, 'Listen while I talk to you.
 I want to ask you some questions,
 so prepare yourself to answer them.'
⁵ I had heard about you previously,
 but now *it is as though* I have seen you with
 my own eyes.
⁶ Therefore I *◀am ashamed of/withdraw▶* what
 I said,
 and I sit in dust and ashes to show that I am
 sorry *for what I said."*

Yahweh said he disapproved of what Job's three friends said

⁷ After Yahweh said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz, "I am angry with you and your two friends, *Bildad and Zophar*, because what my servant Job said about me was right/true, but

what you have spoken about me was not right/true. ⁸ So now you must take to Job seven young bulls and seven rams and *kill them and burn them* on the altar as a sacrifice for yourselves. Then Job will pray for you, and I will do what he requests me to do, *and I will forgive you for speaking wrongly about me.* I will not punish you, even though you deserve to be punished, because what you said about me was not right/true, but what Job said about me was right/true.”

⁹ So Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar did what Yahweh commanded them to do, and Yahweh did what Job requested him to do *for the three of them.*

Yahweh blessed Job again

¹⁰ After Job prayed for his three friends, Yahweh *healed him and* caused him to become rich again. Yahweh gave him twice as many things as he had before. ¹¹ Then all his brothers and sisters, and all the people who had known him before, came to his house, and they ate a meal together. They consoled/comforted [DOU] him because of all the troubles that Yahweh had allowed him to experience.

¹² Then Yahweh blessed Job in the second half of his life more than he had blessed him in the first half of his life. He now acquired/owned 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 2,000 oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys. ¹³ And he also had seven *more* sons and three *more* daughters. ¹⁴ He named the first daughter Jemimah, he named the second daughter Keziah, and he named the third daughter Keren-Happuch. ¹⁵ In all of Uz

land there were no young women who were as beautiful as the daughters of Job, and Job declared that they would inherit some of his possessions, just like their brothers would inherit some.

¹⁶ After that, Job lived 140 more years. Before he died, he ◀saw/enjoyed being with▶ his great-great-grandchildren. ¹⁷ He was very old [DOU] when he died.

Translation for Translators
A Bible Translation for Bible Translators which
makes implied information explicit in the text as an
aid to the translator who may need that information
to correctly translate into a particular language.

Copyright © 2008-2017 Ellis W. Deibler, Jr.

Language: English

Dialect: American

This translation is made available to you under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike license 4.0.

You have permission to share and redistribute this Bible translation in any format and to make reasonable revisions and adaptations of this translation, provided that:

You include the above copyright and source information.

If you make any changes to the text, you must indicate that you did so in a way that makes it clear that the original licensor is not necessarily endorsing your changes.

If you redistribute this text, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original.

Pictures included with Scriptures and other documents on this site are licensed just for use with those Scriptures and documents. For other uses, please contact the respective copyright owners.

Note that in addition to the rules above, revising and adapting God's Word involves a great responsibility to be true to God's Word. See Revelation 22:18-19.

2024-02-21

PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 22 Feb 2024 from source files dated 21 Feb 2024

b3899a17-7ffc-5e57-9e60-74fca60a0a67