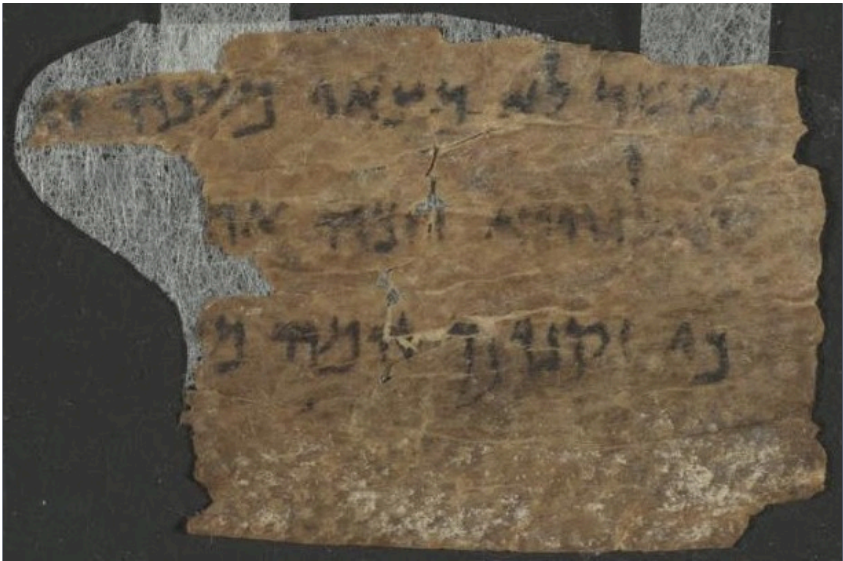


JOB

When Bad Things Happen to Good People

AUTHOR	Not named. The Talmud says Moses wrote it. Others think Job, Elihu, Solomon or a later wise man wrote it down.
EVENTS TOOK PLACE	Many believe around the time of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, before Moses. See When Did Job Live?
DATE	Not known. Traditional views say the days of Moses or Solomon. Many scholars today say 600 to 400 BC.
WRITTEN TO	Anyone who has ever asked God, Why?
KEY VERSE	Job 19:25. I know that my Redeemer lives, and in the end He will stand upon the earth.



THE OLDEST COPIES OF JOB

A piece of 4QJob a, a Dead Sea Scroll from Qumran Cave 4, copied in Hebrew about 100 BC. You can read Job 32:3 to 4: Elihu is angry with the three friends because they had found no answer.

The Dead Sea Scrolls hold four Hebrew copies of Job and two copies in Aramaic. One of them, 4QpaleoJob c, is written in the old Hebrew letters and may be the oldest of all, from about 225 to 150 BC. At Qumran, the only Bible books copied in those old letters are the five books of Moses and Job.

Photo Shai Halevi, Israel Antiquities Authority, Leon Levy Dead Sea Scrolls Digital Library.

Historical Setting

The land of Uz, outside Israel, in the days of tents, camels and herds. Job is a rich and godly man who most likely was not an Israelite. The story opens in heaven, where God and the satan talk about Job. The book never says that Job found out about it.

What Was Going Wrong

A GOOD MAN IN PAIN. Job lost his wealth, his ten children and his health, and he did nothing to deserve it, 1:8 and 2:3.

BAD ANSWERS. His friends said he must have sinned, because God always punishes sin. God said they were wrong, 42:7.

A SILENT HEAVEN. Job cried out to God chapter after chapter and heard nothing, until God spoke from the whirlwind, 38:1.

The Idiot Proof Summary

Job is the richest and most godly man in the East. In heaven the satan says Job only serves God because God pays him well, so God lets him test Job. In one day Job loses his animals, his servants and all ten children, and then his health. He does not curse God. Three friends come to comfort him, but after seven quiet days they take turns telling him he must have sinned. Job says he did not, and he begs God for a hearing. Finally God speaks out of a whirlwind. He never tells Job why. He shows Job the wonders of creation, and Job bows in awe. God says the friends were wrong, Job prays for them, and God gives Job twice as much as before.

Job at a Glance

CH 1 to 2	THE TEST The satan's challenge; Job loses everything.
CH 3	JOB'S LAMENT I wish I had never been born.
CH 4 to 27	THREE ROUNDS The friends say, You sinned; Job says, I did not.
CH 28	WHERE IS WISDOM? Only God knows the way.
CH 29 to 31	JOB'S LAST WORD Then and now; his oath.
CH 32 to 37	ELIHU The angry young man.
CH 38 to 42:6	THE WHIRLWIND God speaks; Job bows.
CH 42:7 to 17	THE ENDING The friends rebuked; Job restored.

Where Jesus Shows Up

JOB 9:33 Job wanted someone to stand between him and God. Jesus is the one Mediator between God and men, 1 Timothy 2:5.

JOB 19:25 Job knew his Redeemer lives. Jesus is the Redeemer who lives forever and will stand on the earth, Acts 1:11.

JOB 1:8 AND 42:7 Job was a righteous man who suffered and then prayed for the friends who hurt him. Jesus, the only truly innocent One, suffered and prayed, Father, forgive them, Luke 23:34.

GOD'S NAMES IN JOB

Yahweh in the story at the start and end. In the poems, mostly El and Eloah, God, and Shaddai, the Almighty, 31 times, the name God used with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Exodus 6:3.

What to Watch for in Job

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW	9:32-33, 16:10, 19:23-27, 33:23-24
THE HEART	1:5, 11:13, 22:22, 27:6, 31:7
ARCHAEOLOGY	1:1, 4:7, 41:1, 42:6
MIRACLES	38:1
DEMONIC	1:6-12, 2:1-7, 31:26-28
NOTABLE	1:21, 2:10, 13:15, 23:10, 38:4, 42:5, 42:10
GOD SPEAKING	Words in red are God speaking. Only the words He actually said are red.

Cool Stuff Most People Miss

OLDER THAN IT LOOKS

Job sits after Esther, but many believe Job lived around the time of Abraham, before Moses. He even offered his own sacrifices, 1:5.

THE HARDEST HEBREW

Job has more rare words than any other book of the Bible. Martin Luther said that on Job, he and his helpers sometimes got three lines done in four days.

THE PATIENCE OF JOB

James 5:11 praises the endurance of Job. He did not suffer quietly, but he never let go of God.

How Did It Turn Out?

God gave Job twice as many animals as before, seven sons and three beautiful daughters, and 140 more years. He saw four generations of his family.

THE HEART ARCHAEOLOGY DEMONIC GOD SPEAKING

1

CHAPTER 1 IN 30 SECONDS

Job is rich, good and famous, the greatest man in the East. In heaven, the satan says Job only loves God because God pays him well. God lets him test Job. In one awful day, raiders and fire take Job's animals, and a wind kills all ten of his kids. Job falls down and worships.

JOB'S CHARACTER AND WEALTH // JAMES 5:7-12

¹ There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. And this man was blameless and upright, fearing God and shunning evil. ² He had seven sons and three daughters, ³ and he owned 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and a very large number of servants. Job was the greatest man of all the people of the East.

⁴ Job's sons would take turns holding feasts in their homes, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.

⁵ And when the days of feasting were over, Job would send for his children to purify them, rising early in the morning to offer burnt offerings for all of them. For Job thought, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular practice.

SATAN'S FIRST ATTACK

⁶ One day the sons of God came to present themselves before Yahweh, and Satan also came with them.

■ **JOB 1:1 [ARCHAEOLOGY]** A Babylonian poem, Ludlul bel nemeqi, tells of a righteous man who suffered and was healed, see The Babylonian Job Field Notes page → FIELD NOTES p.8

■ **JOB 1:1 [NOTE] THE LAND OF UZ.** Nobody knows exactly where it was. Lamentations 4:21 ties Uz to Edom, south and east of the Dead Sea. An old tradition puts it in the Hauran, east of the Sea of Galilee. Either way, most readers think Job was not an Israelite.

■ **JOB 1:1 [NOTE] BLAMELESS.** Not sinless. It means a man of wholehearted integrity. God Himself says it in 1:8.

■ **JOB 1:3 [NOTE] RICH IN ANIMALS.** In the days of the patriarchs, wealth was counted in flocks, herds and servants, like Abraham in Genesis 13:2 and 24:35.

■ **JOB 1:5 [HEART]** Job offered sacrifices in case his children had cursed God in their hearts. He cared about what was inside, not only what people did.

■ **JOB 1:5 [NOTE] JOB THE PRIEST.** Job offered burnt offerings for his family himself, like Noah, Abraham and Jacob did. After the law of Moses, Israel's offerings went through the priests. Many see this as a clue that Job lived before Moses. See the Big Question When Did Job Live?

■ **JOB 1:6 [DEMONIC]** Satan comes before Yahweh and accuses Job

⁷ "Where have you come from?" said Yahweh to Satan.

"From roaming through the earth," he replied, "and walking back and forth in it."

⁸ Then Yahweh said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one on earth like him, a man who is blameless and upright, who fears God and shuns evil."

⁹ Satan answered Yahweh, "Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰ Have You not placed a hedge on every side around him and his household and all that he owns? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ But stretch out Your hand and strike all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face."

¹² "Very well," said Yahweh to Satan. "Everything he has is in your hands, but you must not lay a hand on the man himself."

Then Satan went out from the presence of Yahweh.

JOB LOSES HIS CHILDREN AND POSSESSIONS

¹³ One day, while Job's sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁴ a messenger came and reported to Job: "While the oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, ¹⁵ the Sabeans swooped down and took them away. They put the servants to the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and reported: "The fire of God fell from heaven. It burned and consumed the sheep and the servants, and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

■ **JOB 1:6 [NOTE] THE HEAVENLY COURT.** The sons of God are angels, the Greek Old Testament says. They come to report to God like officials before a king. See What Was the Angels' Sin? in Jude, p.-.

■ **JOB 1:6 [NOTE] SATAN.** The Hebrew says the satan, which means the accuser. See the Big Question Who is the Satan in Job?

■ **JOB 1:9 [NOTE] FOR NOTHING?** This is the real question of the book. Does anyone love God just for who He is, or only for what He gives?

■ **JOB 1:12 [NOTE] ON A LEASH.** The satan can go only as far as God allows. See Who Caused the Census? in 2 Samuel, p.-.

■ **JOB 1:15 [NOTE] SABEANS AND CHALDEANS.** Raiders from Arabia in the south and from Mesopotamia in the east, 1:17.

NOTABLE

¹⁷ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and reported: "The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels, and took them away. They put the servants to the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

¹⁸ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and reported: "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁹ when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on the young people and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

²⁰ Then Job stood up, tore his robe, and shaved his head. He fell to the ground and worshiped, ²¹ saying:

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will return.

Yahweh gave, and Yahweh has taken away.

Blessed be the name of Yahweh."

²² In all this, Job did not sin or charge God with wrongdoing.

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

WHEN DID JOB LIVE?

Older Than Moses?

JOB 1:3 · 1:5 · 42:11 · 42:16 · GENESIS 8:20 · NUMBERS 18:7

WHERE IT SITS

Job comes after Esther, in the middle of the Bible. That is because the books of poetry and wisdom are grouped together, not because of when Job lived.

THE SACRIFICES

Job offered burnt offerings for his children himself, 1:5, as the head of his family. Before Moses, fathers did this: Noah, Genesis 8:20, Abraham, Genesis 22:13, and Jacob, Genesis 46:1. After the law of Moses, Israel's offerings had to go through the priests, the sons of Aaron from the tribe of Levi, Leviticus 1:5 to 9.

■ **JOB 1:16 [NOTE]** FIRE FROM HEAVEN. Most likely lightning. The servant calls it God's fire because he thinks God did it.

■ **JOB 1:20 [NOTE]** TORE HIS ROBE AND SHAVED HIS HEAD. Signs of deep grief in the ancient world.

■ **JOB 1:21 [NOTABLE]** On the worst day of his life, Job worshiped. You can praise God even before you understand.

Anyone else who came near was to be put to death, Numbers 18:7. So many say Job must have lived before Moses.

MORE CLUES

Job lived 140 more years, 42:16, like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. His wealth was counted in animals. The rare word for a piece of silver in 42:11 shows up only in Jacob's story, Genesis 33:19. God is called Shaddai, the Almighty, 31 times, the name the fathers knew Him by, Exodus 6:3. The book never mentions the law of Moses, the exodus, the tabernacle or Israel.

NAMES FROM GENESIS

Uz is a name in Genesis 22:21 and 36:28. Eliphaz the Temanite carries the name of Esau's son Eliphaz, whose son was Teman, Genesis 36:10 to 11.

OLD TRADITIONS

The Talmud says Moses wrote Job, Bava Batra 14b. The Greek Old Testament adds an ending that says Job was Jobab, a king of Edom, Genesis 36:33, five generations after Abraham.

Every View

EXODUS 18:12 · NUMBERS 23:1 TO 2 · EZEKIEL 14:14 · JAMES 5:11

VIEW 1: THE DAYS OF THE PATRIARCHS

Many Jews and Christians through the centuries, and many Bible teachers today, believe Job lived around the time of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, before Moses. The clues on the first page point that way.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SACRIFICE CLUE

Most think Job was not an Israelite. He lived in Uz, so the law given to Israel was not given to him. Outsiders still made offerings after Moses: Jethro, the priest of Midian, Exodus 18:12, and Bal-aam, Numbers 23:1 to 2. So the sacrifices fit the days of the patriarchs, but by themselves they do not prove it.

VIEW 2: AN OLD STORY WRITTEN DOWN LATER

Many think Job lived long ago, but the book was written down later, maybe by Moses, or in the days of Solomon, when Israel wrote down much of its wisdom.

VIEW 3: A LATE BOOK

Many scholars today think it was written between about 600 and 400 BC, judging

DEMONIC NOTABLE GOD SPEAKING

by its language and ideas. Some think it is a great poem built around an old story. One rabbi in the Talmud even said Job was a parable, Bava Batra 15a.

A REAL MAN

Ezekiel 14:14 names Job with Noah and Daniel, and James 5:11 points to his endurance. Most Christians read that to mean Job was a real man.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

The book never names a king or a date, and the story is set outside Israel in a world of tents, camels and herds.

2

CHAPTER 2 IN 30 SECONDS

Round two. The satan says, Touch his body and he will curse You. God allows it but says, Spare his life. Job gets sores from head to toe and sits in the ashes scraping them. His wife says, Curse God and die. He says no. Three friends come, cry, and sit with him seven days without a word. Best thing they do all book.

JOB LOSES HIS HEALTH

¹On another day the sons of God came to present themselves before Yahweh, and Satan also came with them to present himself before Him.

²"Where have you come from?" said Yahweh to Satan.

"From roaming through the earth," he replied, "and walking back and forth in it."

³Then Yahweh said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one on earth like him, a man who is blameless and upright, who fears God and shuns evil. He still retains his integrity, even though you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause."

⁴"Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give up all he owns in exchange for his life. ⁵But stretch out Your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse You to Your face."

⁶"Very well," said Yahweh to Satan. "He is in your hands, but you must spare his life."

⁷So Satan went out from the presence of Yahweh and infected Job with terrible boils from the soles of his feet to the

crown of his head. ⁸And Job took a piece of broken pottery to scrape himself as he sat among the ashes.

⁹Then Job's wife said to him, "Do you still retain your integrity? Curse God and die!"

¹⁰"You speak as a foolish woman speaks," he told her. "Should we accept from God only good and not adversity?"

In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

WHO IS THE SATAN IN JOB?

The Accuser

JOB 1:6 TO 12 · 2:1 TO 7 · NUMBERS 22:22 · ZECHARIAH 3:1 TO 2

THE WORD

In Job 1 and 2 the Hebrew says ha satan, the satan. Satan means accuser or adversary, and the word the makes it sound like a title, the Accuser.

THE SAME WORD ELSEWHERE

The angel of Yahweh stood in Balaam's road as a satan, an adversary, Numbers 22:22. In Zechariah 3:1 to 2, the satan stands to accuse the high priest in heaven, and God rebukes him. In 1 Chronicles 21:1, the word has no the in front of it, so most read Satan there as a name.

ON A LEASH

The satan can only do what God allows, 1:12 and 2:6. God sets the limits each time.

THEN HE IS GONE

After chapter 2, the satan is never mentioned again. The book never says that Job found out about him.

■ **JOB 2:8 [NOTE]** THE ASH HEAP. Many think it was the town dump outside the gate, where trash was burned and outcasts sat.

■ **JOB 2:9 [NOTE]** JOB'S WIFE. She lost all ten children too. Many are hard on her, but she was grieving. The Greek Old Testament gives her a longer speech about her own pain.

■ **JOB 2:10 [NOTABLE]** Faith that only works on good days is not much faith. Job trusted God in both.

■ **JOB 2:1 [DEMONIC]** Satan strikes Job with painful sores

Every View

REVELATION 12:9 TO 10 • 1 CHRONICLES 21:1 • LUKE 22:31

VIEW 1: THE DEVIL HIMSELF

Most Christians through history say this is the devil. The Greek Old Testament translates it the devil in Job 1:6, and Revelation 12:10 calls the devil the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them day and night before God. Jesus said Satan asked to sift Peter like wheat, Luke 22:31, much like Job.

VIEW 2: A PROSECUTOR IN HEAVEN

Many scholars today, and many Jewish readers, think the satan here is an angel whose job is to accuse, like a prosecutor in God's court, not yet the devil of the New Testament. They say the Bible shows more about Satan little by little.

A JEWISH SAYING

The Talmud says Satan, the evil urge and the angel of death are one and the same, Bava Batra 16a.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

He accused Job of loving God only for what he got. He was wrong: Job did not curse God, 1:22 and 2:10.

JOB'S THREE FRIENDS

¹¹Now when Job's three friends—Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite—heard about all this adversity that had come upon him, each of them came from his home, and they met together to go and sympathize with Job and comfort him.

¹²When they lifted up their eyes from afar, they could barely recognize Job. They began to weep aloud, and each man tore his robe and threw dust in the air over his head. ¹³Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights, but no one spoke a word to him because they saw how intense his suffering was.

■ **JOB 2:11 [NOTE] ELIPHAZ THE TEMANITE.** Teman was a town and clan of Edom, named for a grandson of Esau whose father was also named Eliphaz, Genesis 36:10 to 11.

■ **JOB 2:13 [NOTE] SEVEN DAYS OF SILENCE.** Jews still sit shiva, seven days of mourning. The friends did best when they said nothing.

3

CHAPTER 3 IN 30 SECONDS

Job finally speaks, and he wishes he had never been born. Why didn't I die at birth? Why give light to someone in misery? No cursing God, but a whole lot of honest pain.

JOB LAMENTS HIS BIRTH

¹After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. ²And this is what he said:

³"May the day of my birth perish,
and the night it was said,
'A boy is conceived.'

⁴If only that day had turned to darkness!
May God above disregard it;
may no light shine upon it.

⁵May darkness and gloom reclaim it,
and a cloud settle over it;
may the blackness of the day overwhelm it.

⁶If only darkness had taken that night away!
May it not appear among the days of the year;
may it never be entered in any of the months.

⁷Behold, may that night be barren;
may no joyful voice come into it.

⁸May it be cursed by those who curse the day—
those prepared to rouse Leviathan.

⁹May its morning stars grow dark;
may it wait in vain for daylight;
may it not see the breaking of dawn.

¹⁰For that night did not shut the doors of the womb
to hide the sorrow from my eyes.

¹¹Why did I not perish at birth;
why did I not die as I came from the womb?

¹²Why were there knees to receive me,
and breasts that I should be nursed?

¹³For now I would be lying down in peace;
I would be asleep and at rest

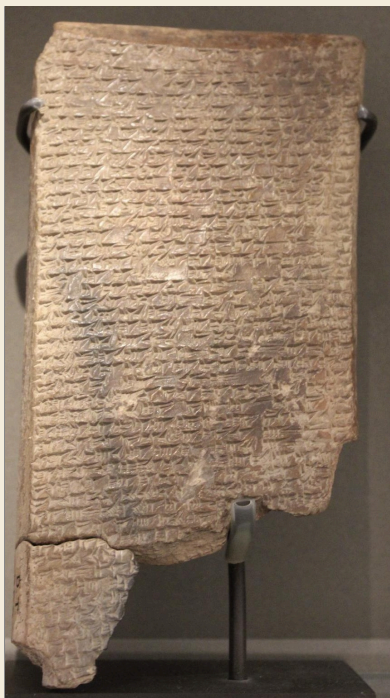
¹⁴with kings and counselors of the earth,

■ **JOB 3:8 [NOTE] LEVIATHAN.** A sea monster. Job calls on people who curse days to curse his birthday. God brings Leviathan back in chapter 41. See the Field Notes page Lotan in the Ugarit Tablets.

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH

THE BABYLONIAN JOB

JOB 1:1 · 3:1 TO 3 · 19:13 TO 19 · 42:10



A tablet of Ludlul from the library of King Ashurbanipal at Nineveh, 600s BC, pieces K 2518 and DT 358. British Museum, on loan to the Louvre. Photo Zunkir, CC BY SA 4.0.

WHAT IT IS

A long Babylonian poem called Ludlul bel ne-meqi, which means I Will Praise the Lord of Wisdom. Scholars nickname it the Poem of the Righteous Sufferer, or the Babylonian Job.

HOW OLD IT IS

It was likely written about 1300 to 1200 BC, in the days of the Kassite kings of Babylon. The copies we have are later, many from the 600s BC.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

British diggers found clay tablets of it at Nineveh, in the library of the Assyrian king Ashurbanipal, in the 1850s and 1870s. More copies came from Assur, Babylon, Sippar and other cities. Today we know it was five tablets long, about 600 lines.

THE STORY

A high official named Shubshi meshre Shakkan tells what happened to him. The king turned against him, his friends and family pulled away, and his enemies cheered. Then he got so sick he could not eat or stand. Priests and fortune tellers could not help him.

LINES THAT SOUND LIKE JOB

He wonders whether what seems good to people might be wrong to a god, and who can learn the plans of the gods in heaven. Like Job, he cannot figure out why it happened.

HOW IT ENDS

In dreams, messengers come from the god Marduk. Marduk heals him, and the man goes to Marduk's temple to give thanks.

HOW IT IS DIFFERENT

There is no debate with friends and no scene in heaven. Healing comes through dreams and magic priests, and the god never speaks to him from a storm. Some scholars think the man finally admits he did something wrong, which Job never does.

DID JOB COPY IT?

Most scholars say no. Both show that people in the ancient world asked the same hard question: Why do good people suffer?

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

It does not show where the book of Job came from. It shows that people asked Job's question long ago, and outside Israel too.

ARCHAEOLOGY

- who built for themselves cities now in ruins,
¹⁵ or with princes who had gold, who filled their houses with silver.
¹⁶ Or why was I not hidden like a stillborn child, like an infant who never sees daylight?
¹⁷ There the wicked cease from raging, and there the weary find rest.
¹⁸ The captives enjoy their ease; they do not hear the voice of the oppressor.
¹⁹ Both small and great are there, and the slave is freed from his master.
²⁰ Why is light given to the miserable, and life to the bitter of soul,
²¹ who long for death that does not come, and search for it like hidden treasure,
²² who rejoice and greatly exult when they reach the grave?
²³ Why is life given to a man whose way is hidden, whom God has hedged in?
²⁴ I sigh when food is put before me, and my groans pour out like water.
²⁵ For the thing I feared has overtaken me, and what I dreaded has befallen me.
²⁶ I am not at ease or quiet; I have no rest, for trouble has come."

4

CHAPTER 4 IN 30 SECONDS

Eliphaz goes first, gently at first. Think about it, Job: when do innocent people ever get wiped out? You reap what you sow. He even had a spooky night vision to back it up.

ELIPHAZ: THE INNOCENT PROSPER

- ¹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied:
² "If one ventures a word with you, will you be wearied?
 Yet who can keep from speaking?
³ Surely you have instructed many, and have strengthened their feeble hands.
⁴ Your words have steadied those who stumbled;

you have braced the knees that were buckling.

- ⁵ But now trouble has come upon you, and you are weary.
 It strikes you, and you are dismayed.
⁶ Is your reverence not your confidence, and the uprightness of your ways your hope?

⁷ Consider now, I plead:

**Who, being innocent, has ever perished?
 Or where have the upright been destroyed?**

- ⁸ As I have observed, those who plow iniquity and those who sow trouble reap the same.
⁹ By the breath of God they perish, and by the blast of His anger they are consumed.
¹⁰ The lion may roar, and the fierce lion may growl, yet the teeth of the young lions are broken.
¹¹ The old lion perishes for lack of prey, and the cubs of the lioness are scattered.
¹² Now a word came to me secretly; my ears caught a whisper of it.
¹³ In disquieting visions in the night, when deep sleep falls on men,
¹⁴ fear and trembling came over me and made all my bones shudder.
¹⁵ Then a spirit glided past my face, and the hair on my body bristled.
¹⁶ It stood still, but I could not discern its appearance; a form loomed before my eyes, and I heard a whispering voice:
¹⁷ "Can a mortal be more righteous than God, or a man more pure than his Maker?
¹⁸ If God puts no trust in His servants, and He charges His angels with error,

■ **JOB 4:7 [ARCHAEOLOGY]** A Babylonian poem where a sufferer and his friend take turns talking, like Job and his friends, see The Babylonian Theodicy Field Notes page → FIELD NOTES p.11

■ **JOB 4:12 [NOTE]** A SPIRIT IN THE NIGHT. Eliphaz says a spirit gave him this message. God later says the friends did not speak rightly about Him, 42:7, so this is Eliphaz's claim, not God's word.

■ **JOB 4:1 [NOTE]** THREE ROUNDS. Chapters 4 to 27 are three rounds of speeches. Each friend talks, and Job answers each one. In round three, Bildad's speech is short and Zophar does not speak at all.

OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

- ¹⁹ how much more those who dwell in
houses of clay,
whose foundations are in the dust,
who can be crushed like a moth!
- ²⁰ They are smashed to pieces from dawn
to dusk;
unnoticed, they perish forever.
- ²¹ Are not their tent cords pulled up,
so that they die without wisdom?'

5

CHAPTER 5 IN 30 SECONDS

Eliphaz keeps going. If I were you, I would take my case to God. Blessed is the man God corrects, so do not hate the lesson. Repent, and life will be great again. It sounds nice, but it is aimed at the wrong man.

ELIPHAZ CONTINUES: GOD BLESSES THOSE WHO SEEK HIM

- ¹ "Call out if you please, but who will answer?
To which of the holy ones will you turn?
- ² For resentment kills a fool,
and envy slays the simple.
- ³ I have seen a fool taking root,
but suddenly his house was cursed.
- ⁴ His sons are far from safety,
crushed in court without a defender.
- ⁵ The hungry consume his harvest,
taking it even from the thorns,
and the thirsty pant after his wealth.
- ⁶ For distress does not spring from the dust,
and trouble does not sprout from the ground.
- ⁷ Yet man is born to trouble
as surely as sparks fly upward.
- ⁸ However, if I were you, I would appeal to God
and lay my cause before Him—
- ⁹ the One who does great and unsearchable things,
wonders without number.
- ¹⁰ He gives rain to the earth
and sends water upon the fields.
- ¹¹ He sets the lowly on high,
so that mourners are lifted to safety.
- ¹² He thwarts the schemes of the crafty,
so that their hands find no success.
- ¹³ *He catches the wise in their craftiness,*
and sweeps away the plans of the cunning.
- ¹⁴ They encounter darkness by day
and grope at noon as in the night.
- ¹⁵ He saves the needy from the sword in
their mouth
and from the clutches of the powerful.
- ¹⁶ So the poor have hope,
and injustice shuts its mouth.
- ¹⁷ Blessed indeed is the man whom God
corrects;
so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.
- ¹⁸ For He wounds, but He also binds;
He strikes, but His hands also heal.
- ¹⁹ He will rescue you from six calamities;
no harm will touch you in seven.
- ²⁰ In famine He will redeem you from
death,
and in battle from the stroke of the sword.
- ²¹ You will be hidden from the scourge of
the tongue,
and will not fear havoc when it comes.
- ²² You will laugh at destruction and famine,
and need not fear the beasts of the earth.
- ²³ For you will have a covenant with the
stones of the field,
and the wild animals will be at peace with you.
- ²⁴ You will know that your tent is secure,
and find nothing amiss when inspecting
your home.
- ²⁵ You will know that your offspring will be
many,
your descendants like the grass of the earth.
- ²⁶ You will come to the grave in full vigor,
like a sheaf of grain gathered in season.
- ²⁷ Indeed, we have investigated, and it is true!
So hear it and know for yourself."

■ **JOB 5:13 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament →

1CO 3:19 p. 11

■ **JOB 5:13 [NOTE]** PAUL QUOTES IT. He catches the wise in their craftiness, 1 Corinthians 3:19. This is the only line from Job's friends quoted in the New Testament. The words are true; the friends just used them on the wrong man.

■ **JOB 5:17 [NOTE]** TRUE, BUT AIMED WRONG. Proverbs 3:11 and Hebrews 12:5 say the same thing. Eliphaz says many true things; his mistake is thinking they explain Job.

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH

THE BABYLONIAN THEODICY

JOB 4:7 TO 8 · 8:3 TO 6 · 21:7 TO 13



Clay tablets from the library of King Ashurbanipal at Nineveh, British Museum, London. Copies of the Babylonian Theodicy come from this library; the Theodicy tablet itself is not shown. Photo Gary Todd, CCO.

WHAT IT IS

A Babylonian poem in which a suffering man and his friend take turns talking, just like Job and his friends. It has 27 stanzas, with 11 lines in each one. Theodicy means defending God's justice.

HOW OLD IT IS

Many date it to about 1000 BC. The oldest copies we have come from the library of King Ashurbanipal at Nineveh, in the 600s BC.

A HIDDEN NAME

Each stanza starts every line with the same sign. Read the first signs from top to bottom, and they spell a message: I, Saggil kinam ubbib, the priest who says healing prayers, am a worshiper of the god and the king. That is likely the writer's name.

WHAT THE FRIEND SAYS

The gods are fair, so wait and keep praying. People who honor the gods get blessed. Sound familiar? Eliphaz says the same, 4:7 to 8.

WHAT THE SUFFERER SAYS

The wicked get rich, and the poor who pray get nothing. I have been faithful, and

look at me. Job says the same thing, 21:7 to 13.

HOW IT ENDS

The friend finally admits the gods made people with lying tongues, so the poor get blamed and the rich get praised. The sufferer asks for pity and prays that the gods will help him. No god answers.

LIKE JOB, AND NOT

Both have a hurting man, a friend who defends heaven, and no easy answer. But in Job, God Himself shows up and speaks, says the friends were wrong, and restores Job.

THE PHOTO

No free photo of a Theodicy tablet could be found. The photo shows tablets from the same royal library where copies of it were kept.

STUDIED IN SCHOOL

Babylonian scribes kept copying it for hundreds of years. A later clay tablet explains its hard words, line by line, like a study guide.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

No one thinks Job copied it. It shows that arguing with friends about suffering was an old way to write wisdom.

6

CHAPTER 6 IN 30 SECONDS

Job says his pain is heavier than all the sand in the sea. His friends are like a creek that dries up in summer, right when you need a drink. Just show me what I did wrong!

JOB REPLIES: MY COMPLAINT IS JUST

¹Then Job replied:

²"If only my grief could be weighed
and placed with my calamity on the
scales.

³For then it would outweigh the sand of
the seas—
no wonder my words have been rash.

⁴For the arrows of the Almighty have
pierced me;
my spirit drinks in their poison;
the terrors of God are arrayed against
me.

⁵Does a wild donkey bray over fresh
grass,
or an ox low over its fodder?

⁶Is tasteless food eaten without salt,
or is there flavor in the white of an egg?

⁷My soul refuses to touch them;
they are loathsome food to me.

⁸If only my request were granted
and God would fulfill my hope:

⁹that God would be willing to crush me,
to unleash His hand and cut me off!

¹⁰It still brings me comfort,
and joy through unrelenting pain,
that I have not denied
the words of the Holy One.

¹¹What strength do I have, that I should
still hope?
What is my future, that I should be pa-
tient?

¹²Is my strength like that of stone,
or my flesh made of bronze?

¹³Is there any help within me
now that success is driven from me?

¹⁴A despairing man should have the kind-
ness of his friend,
even if he forsakes the fear of the
Almighty.

¹⁵But my brothers are as faithless as
wadis,

as seasonal streams that overflow,
¹⁶darkened because of the ice
and the inflow of melting snow,
¹⁷but ceasing in the dry season
and vanishing from their channels in the
heat.

¹⁸Caravans turn aside from their routes;
they go into the wasteland and perish.

¹⁹The caravans of Tema look for water;
the travelers of Sheba hope to find it.

²⁰They are confounded because they had
hoped;
their arrival brings disappointment.

²¹For now you are of no help;
you see terror, and you are afraid.

²²Have I ever said, 'Give me something;
offer me a bribe from your wealth;

²³deliver me from the hand of the enemy;
redeem me from the grasp of the ruth-
less'?

²⁴Teach me, and I will be silent.
Help me understand how I have erred.

²⁵How painful are honest words!
But what does your argument prove?

²⁶Do you intend to correct my words,
and treat as wind my cry of despair?

²⁷You would even cast lots for an orphan
and barter away your friend.

²⁸But now, please look at me.
Would I lie to your face?

²⁹Reconsider; do not be unjust.
Reconsider, for my righteousness is at
stake.

³⁰Is there iniquity on my tongue?
Can my mouth not discern malice?

7

CHAPTER 7 IN 30 SECONDS

Job talks to God now. Life is hard labor and my nights are long. What is man that You make so much of him? Can You at least look away long enough for me to swallow my spit?

JOB CONTINUES: LIFE SEEMS FUTILE

¹"Is not man consigned to labor on earth?
Are not his days like those of a hired
hand?

²Like a slave he longs for shade;
like a hireling he waits for his wages.

³So I am allotted months of futility,

- and nights of misery are appointed to me.
- ⁴ When I lie down I think:
'When will I get up?'
- But the night drags on,
and I toss and turn until dawn.
- ⁵ My flesh is clothed with worms
and encrusted with dirt;
my skin is cracked and festering.
- ⁶ My days are swifter than a weaver's
shuttle;
they come to an end without hope.
- ⁷ Remember that my life is but a breath.
My eyes will never again see happiness.
- ⁸ The eye that beholds me will no longer
see me.
You will look for me, but I will be no
more.
- ⁹ As a cloud vanishes and is gone,
so he who goes down to Sheol does not
come back up.
- ¹⁰ He never returns to his house;
his place remembers him no more.
- ¹¹ Therefore I will not restrain my mouth;
I will speak in the anguish of my spirit;
I will complain in the bitterness of my
soul.
- ¹² Am I the sea, or the monster of the
deep,
that You must keep me under guard?
- ¹³ When I think my bed will comfort me
and my couch will ease my complaint,
- ¹⁴ then You frighten me with dreams
and terrify me with visions,
- ¹⁵ so that I would prefer strangling and
death
over my life in this body.
- ¹⁶ I loathe my life! I would not live forever.
Leave me alone, for my days are but a
breath.
- ¹⁷ What is man that You should exalt him,
that You should set Your heart upon
him,
- ¹⁸ that You attend to him every morning,
and test him every moment?
- ¹⁹ Will You never look away from me,
or leave me alone to swallow my spittle?

- ²⁰ If I have sinned, what have I done to
You,
O watcher of mankind?
Why have You made me Your target,
so that I am a burden to You?
- ²¹ Why do You not pardon my transgres-
sion
and take away my iniquity?
For soon I will lie down in the dust;
You will seek me, but I will be no more."

8

CHAPTER 8 IN 30 SECONDS

Bildad jumps in. Does God twist justice? Your kids must have sinned, and they got what they had coming. Ouch. Ask the old timers: plants without water die, and so do people who forget God.

BILDAD: JOB SHOULD REPENT

- ¹ Then Bildad the Shuhite replied:
- ² "How long will you go on saying such
things?
The words of your mouth are a bluster-
ing wind.
- ³ Does God pervert justice?
Does the Almighty pervert what is right?
- ⁴ When your children sinned against Him,
He gave them over to their rebellion.
- ⁵ But if you would earnestly seek God
and ask the Almighty for mercy,
- ⁶ if you are pure and upright,
even now He will rouse Himself on your
behalf
and restore your righteous estate.
- ⁷ Though your beginnings were modest,
your latter days will flourish.
- ⁸ Please inquire of past generations
and consider the discoveries of their fa-
thers.
- ⁹ For we were born yesterday and know
nothing;
our days on earth are but a shadow.
- ¹⁰ Will they not teach you and tell you,
and speak from their understanding?
- ¹¹ Does papyrus grow where there is no
marsh?
Do reeds flourish without water?
- ¹² While the shoots are still uncut,
they dry up more quickly than grass.

■ **JOB 7:17 [NOTE]** WHAT IS MAN? Psalm 8:4 asks this in wonder. Job turns it around: why does God keep watch-
ing me?

¹³ Such is the destiny of all who forget God;
so the hope of the godless will perish.
¹⁴ His confidence is fragile;
his security is in a spider's web.
¹⁵ He leans on his web, but it gives way;
he holds fast, but it does not endure.
¹⁶ He is a well-watered plant in the sun-shine,
spreading its shoots over the garden.
¹⁷ His roots wrap around the rock heap;
he looks for a home among the stones.
¹⁸ If he is uprooted from his place,
it will disown him, saying, 'I never saw you.'
¹⁹ Surely this is the joy of his way;
yet others will spring from the dust.
²⁰ Behold, God does not reject the blameless,
nor will He strengthen the hand of evil-doers.
²¹ He will yet fill your mouth with laughter,
and your lips with a shout of joy.
²² Your enemies will be clothed in shame,
and the tent of the wicked will be no more."

9

CHAPTER 9 IN 30 SECONDS

Job agrees God is just, but how can anyone win a case against Him? He moves mountains and made the stars. If only there were someone to stand between us, a go between who could lay his hand on us both.

JOB: HOW CAN I CONTEND WITH GOD?

¹ Then Job answered:
² "Yes, I know that it is so,
but how can a mortal be righteous before God?
³ If one wished to contend with God,
he could not answer Him one time out of a thousand.
⁴ God is wise in heart and mighty in strength.
Who has resisted Him and prospered?
⁵ He moves mountains without their knowledge
and overturns them in His anger.
⁶ He shakes the earth from its place,
so that its foundations tremble.

⁷ He commands the sun not to shine;
He seals off the stars.
⁸ He alone stretches out the heavens
and treads on the waves of the sea.
⁹ He is the Maker of the Bear and Orion,
of the Pleiades and the constellations of the south.
¹⁰ He does great things beyond searching out,
and wonders without number.
¹¹ Were He to pass by me, I would not see Him;
were He to move, I would not recognize Him.
¹² If He takes away, who can stop Him?
Who dares to ask Him, 'What are You doing?'
¹³ God does not restrain His anger;
the helpers of Rahab cower beneath Him.
¹⁴ How then can I answer Him
or choose my arguments against Him?
¹⁵ For even if I were right, I could not answer.
I could only beg my Judge for mercy.
¹⁶ If I summoned Him and He answered me,
I do not believe He would listen to my voice.
¹⁷ For He would crush me with a tempest
and multiply my wounds without cause.
¹⁸ He does not let me catch my breath,
but overwhelms me with bitterness.
¹⁹ If it is a matter of strength,
He is indeed mighty!
If it is a matter of justice,
who can summon Him?
²⁰ Even if I were righteous, my mouth
would condemn me;
if I were blameless, it would declare me guilty.
²¹ Though I am blameless, I have no concern for myself;
I despise my own life.
²² It is all the same, and so I say,
'He destroys both the blameless and the wicked.'
²³ When the scourge brings sudden death,

■ **JOB 9:9 [NOTE]** THE STARS. The Bear, Orion and the Pleiades are star groups people still know. The Hebrew names are old, so translations differ.

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW

- He mocks the despair of the innocent.
- ²⁴ The earth is given into the hand of the wicked;
He blindfolds its judges.
If it is not He, then who is it?
- ²⁵ My days are swifter than a runner;
they flee without seeing good.
- ²⁶ They sweep by like boats of papyrus,
like an eagle swooping down on its prey.
- ²⁷ If I were to say, 'I will forget my complaint
and change my expression and smile,'
²⁸ I would still dread all my sufferings;
I know that You will not acquit me.
- ²⁹ Since I am already found guilty,
why should I labor in vain?
- ³⁰ If I should wash myself with snow
and cleanse my hands with lye,
³¹ then You would plunge me into the pit,
and even my own clothes would despise me.
- ³² For He is not a man like me, that I can
answer Him,
that we can take each other to court.
- ³³ Nor is there a mediator between us,
to lay his hand upon us both.
- ³⁴ Let Him remove His rod from me,
so that His terror will no longer frighten me.
- ³⁵ Then I would speak without fear of Him.
But as it is, I am on my own.
- ³ Does it please You to oppress me,
to reject the work of Your hands
and favor the schemes of the wicked?
- ⁴ Do You have eyes of flesh?
Do You see as man sees?
- ⁵ Are Your days like those of a mortal,
or Your years like those of a man,
⁶ that You should seek my iniquity
and search out my sin—
- ⁷ though You know that I am not guilty,
and there is no deliverance from Your hand?
- ⁸ Your hands shaped me and altogether
formed me.
Would You now turn and destroy me?
- ⁹ Please remember that You molded me
like clay.
Would You now return me to dust?
- ¹⁰ Did You not pour me out like milk,
and curdle me like cheese?
- ¹¹ You clothed me with skin and flesh,
and knit me together with bones and
sinews.
- ¹² You have granted me life and loving devotion,
and Your care has preserved my spirit.
- ¹³ Yet You concealed these things in Your heart,
and I know that this was in Your mind:
- ¹⁴ If I sinned, You would take note,
and would not acquit me of my iniquity.
- ¹⁵ If I am guilty, woe to me!
And even if I am righteous, I cannot lift
my head.

10

CHAPTER 10 IN 30 SECONDS

Job tells God how he feels. You made me like clay and knit me together. So why are You hunting me like a lion? Just give me a little peace before I go to the land of darkness.

JOB'S PLEA TO GOD

- ¹ "I loathe my own life;
I will express my complaint
and speak in the bitterness of my soul.
- ² I will say to God:
Do not condemn me!
Let me know why You prosecute me.
- ³ Does it please You to oppress me,
to reject the work of Your hands
and favor the schemes of the wicked?
- ⁴ Do You have eyes of flesh?
Do You see as man sees?
- ⁵ Are Your days like those of a mortal,
or Your years like those of a man,
⁶ that You should seek my iniquity
and search out my sin—
- ⁷ though You know that I am not guilty,
and there is no deliverance from Your hand?
- ⁸ Your hands shaped me and altogether
formed me.
Would You now turn and destroy me?
- ⁹ Please remember that You molded me
like clay.
Would You now return me to dust?
- ¹⁰ Did You not pour me out like milk,
and curdle me like cheese?
- ¹¹ You clothed me with skin and flesh,
and knit me together with bones and
sinews.
- ¹² You have granted me life and loving devotion,
and Your care has preserved my spirit.
- ¹³ Yet You concealed these things in Your heart,
and I know that this was in Your mind:
- ¹⁴ If I sinned, You would take note,
and would not acquit me of my iniquity.
- ¹⁵ If I am guilty, woe to me!
And even if I am righteous, I cannot lift
my head.
- I am full of shame
and aware of my affliction.
- ¹⁶ Should I hold my head high,
You would hunt me like a lion,
and again display Your power against
me.
- ¹⁷ You produce new witnesses against me
and multiply Your anger toward me.
Hardships assault me
in wave after wave.
- ¹⁸ Why then did You bring me from the
womb?
Oh, that I had died, and no eye had seen
me!
- ¹⁹ If only I had never come to be,

■ **JOB 9:32 [PROPHECY]** Job's longing for a Mediator fulfilled in Christ → 1TI 2:5 · MEDIUM ○ ~

■ **JOB 9:33 [NOTE]** SOMEONE BETWEEN US. Job longs for a go between who could stand between God and man. There is one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 1 Timothy 2:5.

THE HEART

but had been carried from the womb to the grave.

²⁰ Are my days not few?

Withdraw from me, that I may have a little comfort,

²¹ before I go—never to return—

to a land of darkness and gloom,

²² to a land of utter darkness,

of deep shadow and disorder,

where even the light is like darkness."

11

CHAPTER 11 IN 30 SECONDS

Zophar is the blunt one. You talk too much, Job. God is giving you less than you deserve. Get your heart right, put away your sin, and your troubles will be like water under the bridge.

ZOPHAR REBUKES JOB

¹ Then Zophar the Naamathite replied:

² "Should this stream of words go unanswered and such a speaker be vindicated?

³ Should your babbling put others to silence?

Will you scoff without rebuke?

⁴ You have said, 'My doctrine is sound, and I am pure in Your sight.'

⁵ But if only God would speak and open His lips against you,

⁶ and disclose to you the secrets of wisdom,

for true wisdom has two sides.

Know then that God exacts from you less than your iniquity deserves.

⁷ Can you fathom the deep things of God or discover the limits of the Almighty?

⁸ They are higher than the heavens—what can you do?

They are deeper than Sheol—what can you know?

⁹ Their measure is longer than the earth and wider than the sea.

¹⁰ If He comes along to imprison you, or convenes a court, who can stop Him?

¹¹ Surely He knows the deceit of men. If He sees iniquity, does He not take note?

¹² But a witless man can no more become wise

than the colt of a wild donkey can be born a man!

¹³ As for you, if you direct your heart and lift up your hands to Him,

¹⁴ if you put away the iniquity in your hand, and allow no injustice to dwell in your tents,

¹⁵ then indeed you will lift up your face without blemish;

you will stand firm and unafraid.

¹⁶ For you will forget your misery, recalling it only as waters gone by.

¹⁷ Your life will be brighter than noonday; its darkness will be like the morning.

¹⁸ You will be secure, because there is hope,

and you will look around and lie down in safety.

¹⁹ You will lie down without fear, and many will court your favor.

²⁰ But the eyes of the wicked will fail, and escape will elude them; they will hope for their last breath."

12

CHAPTER 12 IN 30 SECONDS

Job snaps back. No doubt you are the people, and wisdom will die with you! I know what you know. The tents of robbers are at peace. Ask the animals: God is in charge of everything.

JOB PRESENTS HIS CASE

¹ Then Job answered:

² "Truly then you are the people with whom wisdom itself will die!

³ But I also have a mind; I am not inferior to you. Who does not know such things as these?

⁴ I am a laughingstock to my friends, though I called on God, and He answered.

The righteous and upright man is a laughingstock.

⁵ The one at ease scorns misfortune as the fate of those whose feet are slipping.

JOB 11:13 [HEART] Zophar said, Direct your heart to God and lift up your hands to Him. Prayer starts with the heart.

NOTABLE

- ⁶ The tents of robbers are safe,
and those who provoke God are
secure—
those who carry their god in their
hands.
- ⁷ But ask the animals, and they will instruct
you;
ask the birds of the air, and they will tell
you.
- ⁸ Or speak to the earth, and it will teach
you;
let the fish of the sea inform you.
- ⁹ Which of all these does not know
that the hand of Yahweh has done this?
- ¹⁰ The life of every living thing is in His
hand,
as well as the breath of all mankind.
- ¹¹ Does not the ear test words
as the tongue tastes its food?
- ¹² Wisdom is found with the elderly,
and understanding comes with long life.
- ¹³ Wisdom and strength belong to God;
counsel and understanding are His.
- ¹⁴ What He tears down cannot be rebuilt;
the man He imprisons cannot be re-
leased.
- ¹⁵ If He holds back the waters, they dry up,
and if He releases them, they over-
whelm the land.
- ¹⁶ True wisdom and power belong to Him.
The deceived and the deceiver are His.
- ¹⁷ He leads counselors away barefoot
and makes fools of judges.
- ¹⁸ He loosens the bonds placed by kings
and fastens a belt around their waists.
- ¹⁹ He leads priests away barefoot
and overthrows the established.
- ²⁰ He deprives the trusted of speech
and takes away the discernment of el-
ders.
- ²¹ He pours out contempt on nobles
and disarms the mighty.
- ²² He reveals the deep things of darkness
and brings deep shadows into light.
- ²³ He makes nations great and destroys
them;
He enlarges nations, then disperses
them.
- ²⁴ He deprives the earth's leaders of rea-
son

and makes them wander in a trackless
wasteland.

- ²⁵ They grope in the darkness without
light;
He makes them stagger like drunkards.

13

CHAPTER 13 IN 30 SECONDS

Job says, You are worthless doctors, all of you. If only you would shut up, that would be wisdom. I want to argue my case with God Himself. Though He slay me, I will hope in Him.

JOB PREPARES HIS CASE

- ¹ "Indeed, my eyes have seen all this;
my ears have heard and understood.
- ² What you know, I also know;
I am not inferior to you.
- ³ Yet I desire to speak to the Almighty
and argue my case before God.
- ⁴ You, however, smear with lies;
you are all worthless physicians.
- ⁵ If only you would remain silent;
for that would be your wisdom!
- ⁶ Hear now my argument,
and listen to the plea of my lips.
- ⁷ Will you speak wickedly on God's behalf
or speak deceitfully for Him?
- ⁸ Would you show Him partiality
or argue in His defense?
- ⁹ Would it be well when He examined you?
Could you deceive Him as you would
deceive a man?
- ¹⁰ Surely He would rebuke you
if you secretly showed partiality.
- ¹¹ Would His majesty not terrify you?
Would the dread of Him not fall upon
you?
- ¹² Your maxims are proverbs of ashes;
your defenses are defenses of clay.
- ¹³ Be silent, and I will speak.
Then let come to me what may.
- ¹⁴ Why do I put myself at risk
and take my life in my own hands?
- ¹⁵ **Though He slay me, I will hope in Him.
I will still defend my ways to His face.**

■ **JOB 13:15 [NOTABLE]** Job did not understand God, but he still hoped in Him. Honest questions and real faith can live together.

■ **JOB 13:15 [NOTE]** **THOUGH HE SLAY ME.** The written Hebrew says, I have no hope. But the Jewish scribes

¹⁶ Moreover, this will be my salvation,
for no godless man can appear before
Him.

¹⁷ Listen carefully to my words;
let my declaration ring in your ears.

¹⁸ See now, I have prepared my case;
I know that I will be vindicated.

¹⁹ Can anyone indict me?
If so, I will be silent and die.

²⁰ Only grant these two things to me,
so that I need not hide from You:

²¹ Withdraw Your hand from me,
and do not let Your terror frighten me.

²² Then call me, and I will answer,
or let me speak, and You can reply.

²³ How many are my iniquities and sins?
Reveal to me my transgression and sin.

²⁴ Why do You hide Your face
and consider me as Your enemy?

²⁵ Would You frighten a windblown leaf?
Would You chase after dry chaff?

²⁶ For You record bitter accusations
against me
and bequeath to me the iniquities of my
youth.

²⁷ You put my feet in the stocks
and stand watch over all my paths;
You set a limit
for the soles of my feet.

²⁸ So man wastes away like something rot-
ten,
like a moth-eaten garment.

14

CHAPTER 14 IN 30 SECONDS

A sad poem about how short life is. A tree that is cut down can sprout again, but a man dies and is gone. If a man dies, will he live again? Job longs for God to call him back.

JOB LAMENTS THE FINALITY OF DEATH

¹ "Man, who is born of woman,
is short of days and full of trouble.

² Like a flower, he comes forth, then with-
ers away;
like a fleeting shadow, he does not en-
dure.

³ Do You open Your eyes to one like this?
Will You bring him into judgment before
You?

⁴ Who can bring out clean from unclean?
No one!

⁵ Since his days are determined
and the number of his months is with
You,
and since You have set limits
that he cannot exceed,
⁶ look away from him and let him rest,
so he can enjoy his day as a hired hand.

⁷ For there is hope for a tree:
If it is cut down, it will sprout again,
and its tender shoots will not fail.

⁸ If its roots grow old in the ground
and its stump dies in the soil,
⁹ at the scent of water it will bud
and put forth twigs like a sapling.

¹⁰ But a man dies and is laid low;
he breathes his last, and where is he?

¹¹ As water disappears from the sea
and a river becomes parched and dry,
¹² so a man lies down
and does not rise.
Until the heavens are no more,
he will not be awakened or roused from
sleep.

¹³ If only You would hide me in Sheol
and conceal me until Your anger has
passed!

If only You would appoint a time for me
and then remember me!

¹⁴ When a man dies, will he live again?
All the days of my hard service I will
wait,
until my renewal comes.

¹⁵ You will call, and I will answer;
You will desire the work of Your hands.

¹⁶ For then You would count my steps,
but would not keep track of my sin.

¹⁷ My transgression would be sealed in a
bag,
and You would cover over my iniquity.

¹⁸ But as a mountain erodes and crumbles
and a rock is dislodged from its place,
¹⁹ as water wears away the stones
and torrents wash away the soil,

wrote a note to read it aloud as, I will hope in Him. Most Bibles follow that note, like the KJV.

■ **JOB 13:16 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → PHIL 1:19 p.~

■ **JOB 14:14 [NOTE]** WILL HE LIVE AGAIN? Job asks it here. In 19:25 to 27 he answers with hope.

so You destroy a man's hope.

- ²⁰ You forever overpower him, and he passes on;
You change his countenance and send him away.
²¹ If his sons receive honor, he does not know it;
if they are brought low, he is unaware.
²² He feels only the pain of his own body and mourns only for himself."

15

CHAPTER 15 IN 30 SECONDS

Eliphaz round two, less gentle. You are wrecking the fear of God, Job. Were you born before the hills? The wicked man lives in fear all his days. In other words, Job, look in the mirror.

ELIPHAZ: JOB DOES NOT FEAR GOD

- ¹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied:
- ² "Does a wise man answer with empty counsel
or fill his belly with the hot east wind?
- ³ Should he argue with useless words
or speeches that serve no purpose?
- ⁴ But you even undermine the fear of God
and hinder meditation before Him.
- ⁵ For your iniquity instructs your mouth,
and you choose the language of the crafty.
- ⁶ Your own mouth, not mine, condemns you;
your own lips testify against you.
- ⁷ Were you the first man ever born?
Were you brought forth before the hills?
- ⁸ Do you listen in on the council of God
or limit wisdom to yourself?
- ⁹ What do you know that we do not?
What do you understand that is not clear to us?
- ¹⁰ Both the gray-haired and the aged are on our side—
men much older than your father.
- ¹¹ Are the consolations of God not enough for you,
even words spoken gently to you?
- ¹² Why has your heart carried you away,
and why do your eyes flash,
¹³ so that you turn your spirit against God
and pour such words from your mouth?
- ¹⁴ What is man, that he should be pure,
or one born of woman, that he should be righteous?
- ¹⁵ If God puts no trust in His holy ones,
if even the heavens are not pure in His eyes,
- ¹⁶ how much less man, who is vile and corrupt,
who drinks injustice like water?
- ¹⁷ Listen to me and I will inform you.
I will describe what I have seen,
- ¹⁸ what was declared by wise men
and was not concealed from their fathers,
- ¹⁹ to whom alone the land was given
when no foreigner passed among them.
- ²⁰ A wicked man writhes in pain all his days;
only a few years are reserved for the ruthless.
- ²¹ Sounds of terror fill his ears;
in his prosperity the destroyer attacks him.
- ²² He despairs of his return from darkness;
he is marked for the sword.
- ²³ He wanders about as food for vultures;
he knows the day of darkness is at hand.
- ²⁴ Distress and anguish terrify him,
overwhelming him like a king poised to attack.
- ²⁵ For he has stretched out his hand against God
and has vaunted himself against the Almighty,
- ²⁶ rushing headlong at Him
with a thick, studded shield.
- ²⁷ Though his face is covered with fat
and his waistline bulges with flesh,
- ²⁸ he will dwell in ruined cities,
in abandoned houses destined to become rubble.
- ²⁹ He will no longer be rich; his wealth will not endure.
His possessions will not overspread the land.
- ³⁰ He will not escape from the darkness;
the flame will wither his shoots,
and the breath of God's mouth
will carry him away.

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW

- ³¹ Let him not deceive himself with trust in emptiness,
for emptiness will be his reward.
- ³² It will be paid in full before his time,
and his branch will not flourish.
- ³³ He will be like a vine stripped of its unripe grapes,
like an olive tree that sheds its blossoms.
- ³⁴ For the company of the godless will be barren,
and fire will consume the tents of bribery.
- ³⁵ They conceive trouble and give birth to evil;
their womb is pregnant with deceit."

16

CHAPTER 16 IN 30 SECONDS

Job says, Miserable comforters are you all! I could talk like you if you were in my shoes. Even now, my witness is in heaven, and the One who speaks for me is on high.

JOB DECRIES HIS COMFORTERS

- ¹ Then Job answered:
- ² "I have heard many things like these;
miserable comforters are you all.
- ³ Is there no end to your long-winded speeches?
What provokes you to continue testifying?
- ⁴ I could also speak like you
if you were in my place;
I could heap up words against you
and shake my head at you.
- ⁵ But I would encourage you with my mouth,
and the consolation of my lips would bring relief.
- ⁶ Even if I speak, my pain is not relieved,
and if I hold back, how will it go away?
- ⁷ Surely He has now exhausted me;
You have devastated all my family.
- ⁸ You have bound me, and it has become a witness;
my frailty rises up and testifies against me.
- ⁹ His anger has torn me and opposed me;
He gnashes His teeth at me.

My adversary pierces me with His eyes.

- ¹⁰ They open their mouths against me
and strike my cheeks with contempt;
they join together against me.
- ¹¹ God has delivered me to unjust men;
He has thrown me to the clutches of the wicked.
- ¹² I was at ease, but He shattered me;
He seized me by the neck and crushed me.
- He has set me up as His target;
¹³ His archers surround me.
- He pierces my kidneys without mercy
and spills my gall on the ground.
- ¹⁴ He breaks me with wound upon wound;
He rushes me like a mighty warrior.
- ¹⁵ I have sewn sackcloth over my skin;
I have buried my horn in the dust.
- ¹⁶ My face is red with weeping,
and deep shadows ring my eyes;
- ¹⁷ yet my hands are free of violence
and my prayer is pure.
- ¹⁸ O earth, do not cover my blood;
may my cry for help never be laid to rest.
- ¹⁹ Even now my witness is in heaven,
and my advocate is on high.
- ²⁰ My friends are my scoffers
as my eyes pour out tears to God.
- ²¹ Oh, that a man might plead with God
as he pleads with his neighbor!
- ²² For when only a few years are past
I will go the way of no return.

17

CHAPTER 17 IN 30 SECONDS

Job is worn out. My spirit is broken, my days are done, and the grave is waiting. People spit in my face. Where then is my hope?

JOB PREPARES FOR DEATH

- ¹ "My spirit is broken; my days are extinguished;
the grave awaits me.
- ² Surely mockers surround me,

- **JOB 16:10 [PROPHECY]** The suffering righteous man is struck on the cheek by a crowd → MT 26:67; MK 14:65 · MEDIUM p. 77
- **JOB 16:10 [NOTE]** STRUCK ON THE CHEEK. They struck Jesus too, Matthew 26:67.
- **JOB 16:19 [NOTE]** MY WITNESS IS IN HEAVEN. Job believes someone in heaven will speak up for him.

and my eyes must gaze at their rebellion.

³ Give me, I pray, the pledge You demand.
Who else will be my guarantor?

⁴ You have closed their minds to understanding;
therefore You will not exalt them.

⁵ If a man denounces his friends for a price,
the eyes of his children will fail.

⁶ He has made me a byword among the people,
a man in whose face they spit.

⁷ My eyes have grown dim with grief,
and my whole body is but a shadow.

⁸ The upright are appalled at this,
and the innocent are stirred against the godless.

⁹ Yet a righteous one holds to his way,
and the one with clean hands grows stronger.

¹⁰ But come back and try again, all of you.
For I will not find a wise man among you.

¹¹ My days have passed; my plans are broken off—
even the desires of my heart.

¹² They have turned night into day,
making light seem near in the face of darkness.

¹³ If I look for Sheol as my home,
if I spread out my bed in darkness,

¹⁴ and say to corruption, 'You are my father,'
and to the worm, 'My mother,' or 'My sister,'

¹⁵ where then is my hope?
Who can see any hope for me?

¹⁶ Will it go down to the gates of Sheol?
Will we go down together into the dust?"

18

CHAPTER 18 IN 30 SECONDS

Bildad round two. The wicked man's light goes out, traps grab his heel, and nobody even remembers his name. He does not say Job's name, but everyone knows who he means.

BILDAD: GOD PUNISHES THE WICKED

¹ Then Bildad the Shuhite replied:

² "How long until you end these speeches?

Show some sense, and then we can talk.

³ Why are we regarded as cattle,
as stupid in your sight?

⁴ You who tear yourself in anger—
should the earth be forsaken on your account,
or the rocks be moved from their place?

⁵ Indeed, the lamp of the wicked is extinguished;
the flame of his fire does not glow.

⁶ The light in his tent grows dark,
and the lamp beside him goes out.

⁷ His vigorous stride is shortened,
and his own schemes trip him up.

⁸ For his own feet lead him into a net,
and he wanders into its mesh.

⁹ A trap seizes his heel;
a snare grips him.

¹⁰ A noose is hidden in the ground,
and a trap lies in his path.

¹¹ Terrors frighten him on every side
and harass his every step.

¹² His strength is depleted,
and calamity is ready at his side.

¹³ It devours patches of his skin;
the firstborn of death devours his limbs.

¹⁴ He is torn from the shelter of his tent
and is marched off to the king of terrors.

¹⁵ Fire resides in his tent;
burning sulfur rains down on his dwelling.

¹⁶ The roots beneath him dry up,
and the branches above him wither away.

¹⁷ The memory of him perishes from the earth,
and he has no name in the land.

¹⁸ He is driven from light into darkness
and is chased from the inhabited world.

¹⁹ He has no offspring or posterity among his people,
no survivor where he once lived.

²⁰ Those in the west are appalled at his fate,
while those in the east tremble in horror.

²¹ Surely such is the dwelling of the wicked

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW

and the place of one who does not know God."

19

CHAPTER 19 IN 30 SECONDS

Job's lowest point and highest hope. Family, friends and even his servants have turned away. My breath is strange to my wife. Have pity on me, my friends! Then he shouts it: I know that my Redeemer lives, and in my flesh I will see God.

JOB: MY REDEEMER LIVES

- 1 Then Job answered:
- 2 "How long will you torment me and crush me with your words?
- 3 Ten times now you have reproached me; you shamelessly mistreat me.
- 4 Even if I have truly gone astray, my error concerns me alone.
- 5 If indeed you would exalt yourselves above me and use my disgrace against me,
- 6 then understand that it is God who has wronged me and drawn His net around me.
- 7 Though I cry out, 'Violence!' I get no response; though I call for help, there is no justice.
- 8 He has blocked my way so I cannot pass; He has veiled my paths with darkness.
- 9 He has stripped me of my honor and removed the crown from my head.
- 10 He tears me down on every side until I am gone; He uproots my hope like a tree.
- 11 His anger burns against me, and He counts me among His enemies.
- 12 His troops advance together; they construct a ramp against me and encamp around my tent.
- 13 He has removed my brothers from me; my acquaintances have abandoned me.
- 14 My kinsmen have failed me, and my friends have forgotten me.
- 15 My guests and maidservants count me as a stranger; I am a foreigner in their sight.
- 16 I call for my servant, but he does not answer,

though I implore him with my own mouth.

- 17 My breath is repulsive to my wife, and I am loathsome to my own family.
- 18 Even little boys scorn me; when I appear, they deride me.
- 19 All my best friends despise me, and those I love have turned against me.
- 20 My skin and flesh cling to my bones; I have escaped by the skin of my teeth.
- 21 Have pity on me, my friends, have pity, for the hand of God has struck me.
- 22 Why do you persecute me as God does? Will you never get enough of my flesh?
- 23 I wish that my words were recorded and inscribed in a book,
- 24 by an iron stylus on lead, or chiseled in stone forever.
- 25 But I know that my Redeemer lives, and in the end He will stand upon the earth.
- 26 Even after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God.
- 27 I will see Him for myself; my eyes will behold Him, and not as a stranger. How my heart yearns within me!
- 28 If you say, 'Let us persecute him, since the root of the matter lies with him,'
- 29 then you should fear the sword yourselves, because wrath brings punishment by the sword, so that you may know there is a judgment."

■ **JOB 19:23 [PROPHECY]** Job's confession that his Redeemer lives and will rise → JN 5:24-29 · MEDIUM D.:-

■ **JOB 19:25 [NOTE] REDEEMER.** The Hebrew word *go'el* means a family member who buys you back or stands up for you. See The Kinsman Redeemer in Ruth, p.-, and the Big Question I Know That My Redeemer Lives.

THE BIG QUESTION

I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES*Job's Great Hope*

JOB 19:23 TO 27 · 14:14 · 9:33 · 16:19

THE WORDS

I know that my Redeemer lives, and in the end He will stand upon the earth. Even after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God, 19:25 to 26.

REDEEMER

The Hebrew word *go'el* means a close relative who buys back what was lost, or stands up for you in court. Boaz was Ruth's *go'el*. God calls Himself Israel's Redeemer, Isaiah 41:14.

WRITE IT IN ROCK

Right before this, Job wishes his words were carved in stone forever, 19:23 to 24. They have been read for thousands of years.

AN ANSWER TO HIS QUESTION

In 14:14 Job asked, If a man dies, will he live again? Here he answers with hope.

IN MUSIC

Handel's Messiah begins its third part with I know that my Redeemer liveth.

What Did Job Mean?

1 CORINTHIANS 15:20 · JOHN 11:25 · 1 CLEMENT 26

VIEW 1: GOD, AND A BODY RAISED FROM THE DEAD

Most Christians read this as hope in God, and in Jesus, and in the resurrection. Clement of Rome, about 96 AD, quoted Job as saying God will raise up this flesh of mine, 1 Clement 26. The Greek Old Testament says God will raise up my skin, and the Latin says I will rise again from the earth on the last day.

VIEW 2: GOD WILL STAND UP FOR ME IN THIS LIFE

The Hebrew of 19:26 is very hard. It can mean in my flesh or without my flesh. Some think Job hoped God would prove him right before he died, and in 42:5 he did see God.

VIEW 3: A WITNESS IN HEAVEN

Some think Job meant a helper in heaven who would argue his case before God, like the go between of 9:33 and the witness of 16:19.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

At the lowest point of his life, with his family and friends gone, Job believed someone would stand up for him in the end, and that he would see God.

20**CHAPTER 20 IN 30 SECONDS**

Zophar round two. The wicked are happy for a moment, but they puke up their riches, and God makes them pay. He seems personally offended.

ZOPHAR: DESTRUCTION AWAITS THE WICKED

¹ Then Zophar the Naamathite replied:

² "So my anxious thoughts compel me to answer,
because of the turmoil within me.

³ I have heard a rebuke that insults me,
and my understanding prompts a reply.

⁴ Do you not know that from antiquity,
since man was placed on the earth,

⁵ the triumph of the wicked has been brief
and the joy of the godless momentary?

⁶ Though his arrogance reaches the heavens,
and his head touches the clouds,
⁷ he will perish forever, like his own dung;
those who had seen him will ask,
'Where is he?'

⁸ He will fly away like a dream, never to be found;
he will be chased away like a vision in the night.

⁹ The eye that saw him will see him no more,
and his place will no longer behold him.

¹⁰ His sons will seek the favor of the poor,
for his own hands must return his wealth.

¹¹ The youthful vigor that fills his bones
will lie down with him in the dust.

¹² Though evil is sweet in his mouth
and he conceals it under his tongue,

¹³ though he cannot bear to let it go
and keeps it in his mouth,

¹⁴ yet in his stomach his food sours
into the venom of cobras within him.

¹⁵ He swallows wealth but vomits it out;
God will force it from his stomach.

- ¹⁶ He will suck the poison of cobras;
the fangs of a viper will kill him.
- ¹⁷ He will not enjoy the streams,
the rivers flowing with honey and
cream.
- ¹⁸ He must return the fruit of his labor
without consuming it;
he cannot enjoy the profits of his trad-
ing.
- ¹⁹ For he has oppressed and forsaken the
poor;
he has seized houses he did not build.
- ²⁰ Because his appetite is never satisfied,
he cannot escape with his treasure.
- ²¹ Nothing is left for him to consume;
thus his prosperity will not endure.
- ²² In the midst of his plenty, he will be dis-
tressed;
the full force of misery will come upon
him.
- ²³ When he has filled his stomach,
God will vent His fury upon him,
raining it down on him as he eats.
- ²⁴ Though he flees from an iron weapon,
a bronze-tipped arrow will pierce him.
- ²⁵ It is drawn out of his back,
the gleaming point from his liver.
Terrors come over him.
- ²⁶ Total darkness is reserved for his trea-
sures.
A fire unfanned will consume him
and devour what is left in his tent.
- ²⁷ The heavens will expose his iniquity,
and the earth will rise up against him.
- ²⁸ The possessions of his house will be re-
moved,
flowing away on the day of God's wrath.
- ²⁹ This is the wicked man's portion from
God,
the inheritance God has appointed him."
- ² "Listen carefully to my words;
let this be your consolation to me.
- ³ Bear with me while I speak;
then, after I have spoken, you may go
on mocking.
- ⁴ Is my complaint against a man?
Then why should I not be impatient?
- ⁵ Look at me and be appalled;
put your hand over your mouth.
- ⁶ When I remember, terror takes hold,
and my body trembles in horror.
- ⁷ Why do the wicked live on,
growing old and increasing in power?
- ⁸ Their descendants are established
around them,
and their offspring before their eyes.
- ⁹ Their homes are safe from fear;
no rod of punishment from God is upon
them.
- ¹⁰ Their bulls breed without fail;
their cows bear calves and do not mis-
carry.
- ¹¹ They send forth their little ones like a
flock;
their children skip about,
singing to the tambourine and lyre
and making merry at the sound of the
flute.
- ¹³ They spend their days in prosperity
and go down to Sheol in peace.
- ¹⁴ Yet they say to God: 'Leave us alone!
For we have no desire to know Your
ways.
- ¹⁵ Who is the Almighty, that we should
serve Him,
and what would we gain if we pray to
Him?'
- ¹⁶ Still, their prosperity is not in their own
hands,
so I stay far from the counsel of the
wicked.
- ¹⁷ How often is the lamp of the wicked put
out?
Does disaster come upon them?
Does God, in His anger, apportion de-
struction?
- ¹⁸ Are they like straw before the wind,
like chaff swept away by a storm?

21

CHAPTER 21 IN 30 SECONDS

Job says, Look around. The wicked grow old and rich, their kids dance, and they die in peace. Your neat answers do not fit the real world. Your comfort is all lies.

JOB: GOD WILL PUNISH THE WICKED

¹ Then Job answered:

■ **JOB 21:7 [NOTE] WHY DO THE WICKED PROSPER?** The same question as Psalm 73 and Jeremiah 12:1.

¹⁹ It is said that God lays up one's punishment for his children.

Let God repay the man himself, so he will know it.

²⁰ Let his eyes see his own destruction; let him drink for himself the wrath of the Almighty.

²¹ For what does he care about his household after him, when the number of his months has run out?

²² Can anyone teach knowledge to God, since He judges those on high?

²³ One man dies full of vigor, completely secure and at ease.

²⁴ His body is well nourished, and his bones are rich with marrow.

²⁵ Yet another man dies in the bitterness of his soul, having never tasted prosperity.

²⁶ But together they lie down in the dust, and worms cover them both.

²⁷ Behold, I know your thoughts full well, the schemes by which you would wrong me.

²⁸ For you say, 'Where now is the nobleman's house, and where are the tents in which the wicked dwell?'

²⁹ Have you never asked those who travel the roads?

Do you not accept their reports?

³⁰ Indeed, the evil man is spared from the day of calamity, delivered from the day of wrath.

³¹ Who denounces his behavior to his face?

Who repays him for what he has done?

³² He is carried to the grave, and watch is kept over his tomb.

³³ The clods of the valley are sweet to him; everyone follows behind him, and those before him are without number.

³⁴ So how can you comfort me with empty words?

For your answers remain full of falsehood."

22

CHAPTER 22 IN 30 SECONDS

Eliphaz round three, and he makes up crimes. You must have stripped the poor and sent widows away empty! Make peace with God, and gold will be like dust.

ELIPHAZ: CAN A MAN BE OF USE TO GOD?

¹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied:

² "Can a man be of use to God?

Can even a wise man benefit Him?

³ Does it delight the Almighty that you are righteous?

Does He profit if your ways are blameless?

⁴ Is it for your reverence that He rebukes you

and enters into judgment against you?

⁵ Is not your wickedness great?

Are not your iniquities endless?

⁶ For you needlessly demanded security from your brothers and deprived the naked of their clothing.

⁷ You gave no water to the weary

and withheld food from the famished,

⁸ while the land belonged to a mighty man, and a man of honor lived on it.

⁹ You sent widows away empty-handed, and the strength of the fatherless was crushed.

¹⁰ Therefore snares surround you, and sudden peril terrifies you;

¹¹ it is so dark you cannot see, and a flood of water covers you.

¹² Is not God as high as the heavens?

Look at the highest stars, how lofty they are!

¹³ Yet you say: 'What does God know?

Does He judge through thick darkness?

¹⁴ Thick clouds veil Him so He does not see us

as He traverses the vault of heaven.'

¹⁵ Will you stay on the ancient path that wicked men have trod?

¹⁶ They were snatched away before their time,

■ **JOB 22:6 [NOTE] MADE UP CRIMES.** Eliphaz has no proof. He thinks Job must have done these things, because he is suffering.

THE HEART NOTABLE

and their foundations were swept away
by a flood.

¹⁷ They said to God, 'Depart from us.
What can the Almighty do to us?'

¹⁸ But it was He who filled their houses
with good things;
so I stay far from the counsel of the
wicked.

¹⁹ The righteous see it and are glad;
the innocent mock them:

²⁰ 'Surely our foes are destroyed,
and fire has consumed their excess.'

²¹ Reconcile now and be at peace with
Him;
thereby good will come to you.

²² Receive instruction from His mouth,
and lay up His words in your heart.

²³ If you return to the Almighty, you will be
restored.

If you remove injustice from your tents

²⁴ and consign your gold to the dust
and the gold of Ophir to the stones of
the ravines,

²⁵ then the Almighty will be your gold
and the finest silver for you.

²⁶ Surely then you will delight in the
Almighty

and lift up your face to God.

²⁷ You will pray to Him, and He will hear
you,

and you will fulfill your vows.

²⁸ Your decisions will be carried out,
and light will shine on your ways.

²⁹ When men are brought low and you say,
'Lift them up!'

then He will save the lowly.

³⁰ He will deliver even one who is not in-
nocent,
rescuing him through the cleanness of
your hands."

23

CHAPTER 23 IN 30 SECONDS

Job wants to find God and lay out his case, but he cannot find Him anywhere. Still, He knows the way I take; when He has tested me, I will come out as gold.

JOB LONGS FOR GOD

¹ Then Job answered:

² "Even today my complaint is bitter.

His hand is heavy despite my groaning.

³ If only I knew where to find Him,
so that I could go to His seat.

⁴ I would plead my case before Him
and fill my mouth with arguments.

⁵ I would learn how He would answer,
and consider what He would say.

⁶ Would He contend with me in His great
power?

No, He would certainly take note of me.

⁷ Then an upright man could reason with
Him,

and I would be delivered forever from
my Judge.

⁸ If I go east, He is not there,
and if I go west, I cannot find Him.

⁹ When He is at work in the north, I cannot
behold Him;
when He turns to the south, I cannot see
Him.

¹⁰ Yet He knows the way I have taken;
when He has tested me, I will come
forth as gold.

¹¹ My feet have followed in His tracks;
I have kept His way without turning
aside.

¹² I have not departed from the command
of His lips;
I have treasured the words of His mouth
more than my daily bread.

¹³ But He is unchangeable, and who can
oppose Him?

He does what He desires.

¹⁴ For He carries out His decree against
me,
and He has many such plans.

¹⁵ Therefore I am terrified in His presence;
when I consider this, I fear Him.

¹⁶ God has made my heart faint;
the Almighty has terrified me.

¹⁷ Yet I am not silenced by the darkness,
by the thick darkness that covers my
face.

24

CHAPTER 24 IN 30 SECONDS

Job asks why God does not set court dates. The poor get crushed, murderers sneak around in the dark, and God seems silent. Yet in the end the wicked are cut down like heads of grain.

JOB: JUDGMENT FOR THE WICKED

- 1 "Why does the Almighty not reserve times for judgment?
Why may those who know Him never see His days?
- 2 Men move boundary stones;
they pasture stolen flocks.
- 3 They drive away the donkey of the fatherless
and take the widow's ox in pledge.
- 4 They push the needy off the road
and force all the poor of the land into hiding.
- 5 Indeed, like wild donkeys in the desert,
the poor go to work foraging for food;
the wasteland is food for their children.
- 6 They gather fodder in the fields
and glean the vineyards of the wicked.
- 7 Without clothing, they spend the night naked;
they have no covering against the cold.
- 8 Drenched by mountain rains,
they huddle against the rocks for want of shelter.
- 9 The fatherless infant is snatched from the breast;
the nursing child of the poor is seized for a debt.
- 10 Without clothing, they wander about naked.
They carry the sheaves, but still go hungry.
- 11 They crush olives within their walls;
they tread the winepresses, but go thirsty.
- 12 From the city, men groan,
and the souls of the wounded cry out,
yet God charges no one with wrongdoing.
- 13 Then there are those who rebel against the light,
not knowing its ways or staying on its paths.
- 14 When daylight is gone, the murderer rises
to kill the poor and needy;
in the night he is like a thief.
- 15 The eye of the adulterer watches for twilight.
Thinking, 'No eye will see me,' he covers his face.
- 16 In the dark they dig through houses;
by day they shut themselves in,
never to experience the light.
- 17 For to them, deep darkness is their morning;
surely they are friends with the terrors of darkness!
- 18 They are but foam on the surface of the water;
their portion of the land is cursed,
so that no one turns toward their vineyards.
- 19 As drought and heat consume the melting snow,
so Sheol steals those who have sinned.
- 20 The womb forgets them;
the worm feeds on them;
they are remembered no more.
So injustice is broken like a tree.
- 21 They prey on the barren and childless,
and show no kindness to the widow.
- 22 Yet by His power, God drags away the mighty;
though rising up, they have no assurance of life.
- 23 He gives them a sense of security,
but His eyes are on their ways.
- 24 They are exalted for a moment,
then they are gone;
they are brought low and gathered up like all others;
they are cut off like heads of grain.
- 25 If this is not so, then who can prove me a liar
and reduce my words to nothing?"

THE HEART

25

CHAPTER 25 IN 30 SECONDS

Bildad's last speech is six verses. How can a man be right before God? Even the moon is not bright in His eyes, much less a human, who is a maggot. Thanks, Bildad.

BILDAD: MAN CANNOT BE RIGHTEOUS

- ¹Then Bildad the Shuhite replied:
- ²"Dominion and awe belong to God;
He establishes harmony in the heights
of heaven.
- ³Can His troops be numbered?
On whom does His light not rise?
- ⁴How then can a man be just before God?
How can one born of woman be pure?
- ⁵If even the moon does not shine,
and the stars are not pure in His sight,
- ⁶how much less man, who is but a maggot,
and the son of man, who is but a worm!"

26

CHAPTER 26 IN 30 SECONDS

Job mocks Bildad's help, then praises God's power. He hangs the earth on nothing. And these are only the edges of His ways. Who can understand the thunder of His power?

JOB: WHO CAN UNDERSTAND GOD'S MAJESTY?

- ¹Then Job answered:
- ²"How you have helped the powerless
and saved the arm that is feeble!
- ³How you have counseled the unwise
and provided fully sound insight!
- ⁴To whom have you uttered these words?
And whose spirit spoke through you?
- ⁵The dead tremble—
those beneath the waters and those
who dwell in them.
- ⁶Sheol is naked before God,
and Abaddon has no covering.
- ⁷He stretches out the north over empty
space;
He hangs the earth upon nothing.
- ⁸He wraps up the waters in His clouds,

■ **JOB 25:6 [NOTE]** A MAGGOT. Bildad's last word on mankind. Psalm 22:6 uses the same picture, I am a worm and not a man.

■ **JOB 26:7 [NOTE]** ON NOTHING. He hangs the earth on nothing. Many ancient people pictured the earth on pillars or on the back of an animal.

yet the clouds do not burst under their
own weight.

- ⁹He covers the face of the full moon,
spreading over it His cloud.
- ¹⁰He has inscribed a horizon on the face
of the waters
at the boundary between light and darkness.
- ¹¹The foundations of heaven quake,
astounded at His rebuke.
- ¹²By His power He stirred the sea;
by His understanding He shattered Rahab.
- ¹³By His breath the skies were cleared;
His hand pierced the fleeing serpent.
- ¹⁴Indeed, these are but the fringes of His
ways;
how faint is the whisper we hear of Him!
Who then can understand
the thunder of His power?"

27

CHAPTER 27 IN 30 SECONDS

Job will not lie and say he did wrong. As long as I have breath, I will hold on to my innocence. Then he describes what happens to the wicked.

JOB AFFIRMS HIS INTEGRITY

- ¹Job continued his discourse:
- ²"As surely as God lives, who has deprived me of justice—
the Almighty, who has embittered my
soul—
- ³as long as my breath is still within me
and the breath of God remains in my
nostrils,
- ⁴my lips will not speak wickedness,
and my tongue will not utter deceit.
- ⁵I will never say that you are right;
I will maintain my integrity until I die.
- ⁶**I will cling to my righteousness and never let go.**
As long as I live, my conscience will not accuse me.

THE WICKED MAN'S PORTION

- ⁷May my enemy be like the wicked
and my opponent like the unjust.

■ **JOB 27:6 [HEART]** Job said his conscience would not accuse him. The Hebrew says my heart will not reproach me.

- ⁸ For what is the hope of the godless when
he is cut off,
when God takes away his life?
- ⁹ Will God hear his cry
when distress comes upon him?
- ¹⁰ Will he delight in the Almighty?
Will he call upon God at all times?
- ¹¹ I will instruct you in the power of God.
I will not conceal the ways of the
Almighty.
- ¹² Surely all of you have seen it for your-
selves.
Why then do you keep up this empty
talk?
- ¹³ This is the wicked man's portion from
God—
the heritage the ruthless receive from
the Almighty.
- ¹⁴ Though his sons are many, they are
destined for the sword;
and his offspring will never have enough
food.
- ¹⁵ His survivors will be buried by the
plague,
and their widows will not weep for them.
- ¹⁶ Though he heaps up silver like dust
and piles up a wardrobe like clay,
- ¹⁷ what he lays up, the righteous will wear,
and his silver will be divided by the in-
nocent.
- ¹⁸ The house he built is like a moth's co-
coon,
like a hut set up by a watchman.
- ¹⁹ He lies down wealthy, but will do so no
more;
when he opens his eyes, all is gone.
- ²⁰ Terrors overtake him like a flood;
a tempest sweeps him away in the
night.
- ²¹ The east wind carries him away, and he
is gone;
it sweeps him out of his place.
- ²² It hurls itself against him without mercy
as he flees headlong from its power.
- ²³ It claps its hands at him
and hisses him out of his place.

28

CHAPTER 28 IN 30 SECONDS

A poem about wisdom. People dig deep mines for silver and gold, but where can wisdom be found? It cannot be bought. God alone knows the way to it. The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom.

WHERE CAN WISDOM BE FOUND?

- ¹ "Surely there is a mine for silver
and a place where gold is refined.
- ² Iron is taken from the earth,
and copper is smelted from ore.
- ³ Man puts an end to the darkness;
he probes the farthest recesses
for ore in deepest darkness.
- ⁴ Far from human habitation he cuts a
shaft
in places forgotten by the foot of man.
Far from men he dangles and sways.
- ⁵ Food may come from the earth,
but from below it is transformed as by
fire.
- ⁶ Its rocks are the source of sapphires,
containing flecks of gold.
- ⁷ No bird of prey knows that path;
no falcon's eye has seen it.
- ⁸ Proud beasts have never trodden it;
no lion has ever prowled over it.
- ⁹ The miner strikes the flint;
he overturns mountains at their base.
- ¹⁰ He hews out channels in the rocks,
and his eyes spot every treasure.
- ¹¹ He stops up the sources of the streams
to bring what is hidden to light.
- ¹² But where can wisdom be found,
and where does understanding dwell?
- ¹³ No man can know its value,
nor is it found in the land of the living.
- ¹⁴ The ocean depths say, 'It is not in me,'
while the sea declares, 'It is not with
me.'
- ¹⁵ It cannot be bought with gold,
nor can its price be weighed out in sil-
ver.
- ¹⁶ It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir,
in precious onyx or sapphire.
- ¹⁷ Neither gold nor crystal can compare to
it,
nor jewels of fine gold be exchanged for
it.

¹⁸ Coral and quartz are unworthy of mention;
the price of wisdom is beyond rubies.
¹⁹ Topaz from Cush cannot compare to it,
nor can it be valued in pure gold.
²⁰ From where, then, does wisdom come,
and where does understanding dwell?
²¹ It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing
and concealed from the birds of the air.
²² Abaddon and Death say,
'We have heard a rumor about it.'
²³ But God understands its way,
and He knows its place.
²⁴ For He looks to the ends of the earth
and sees everything under the heavens.
²⁵ When God fixed the weight of the wind
and measured out the waters,
²⁶ when He set a limit for the rain
and a path for the thunderbolt,
²⁷ then He looked at wisdom and ap-
praised it;
He established it and searched it out.
²⁸ And He said to man, 'Behold,
the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom,
and to turn away from evil is under-
standing.'"

29

CHAPTER 29 IN 30 SECONDS

Job remembers the good old days, when God was his friend, his kids were around him, and people stood up when he walked by. He helped the poor, the widow and the orphan.

JOB'S FORMER BLESSINGS

¹ And Job continued his discourse:
² "How I long for the months gone by,
for the days when God watched over me,
³ when His lamp shone above my head,
and by His light I walked through the darkness,
⁴ when I was in my prime,
when the friendship of God rested on my tent,
⁵ when the Almighty was still with me
and my children were around me,

⁶ when my steps were bathed in cream
and the rock poured out for me streams
of oil!
⁷ When I went out to the city gate
and took my seat in the public square,
⁸ the young men saw me and withdrew,
and the old men rose to their feet.
⁹ The princes refrained from speaking
and covered their mouths with their hands.
¹⁰ The voices of the nobles were hushed,
and their tongues stuck to the roofs of
their mouths.
¹¹ For those who heard me called me
blessed,
and those who saw me commended me,
¹² because I rescued the poor who cried
out
and the fatherless who had no helper.
¹³ The dying man blessed me,
and I made the widow's heart sing for
joy.
¹⁴ I put on righteousness, and it clothed
me;
justice was my robe and my turban.
¹⁵ I served as eyes to the blind
and as feet to the lame.
¹⁶ I was a father to the needy,
and I took up the case of the stranger.
¹⁷ I shattered the fangs of the unjust
and snatched the prey from his teeth.
¹⁸ So I thought: 'I will die in my nest
and multiply my days as the sand.
¹⁹ My roots will spread out to the waters,
and the dew will rest nightly on my
branches.
²⁰ My glory is ever new within me,
and my bow is renewed in my hand.'
²¹ Men listened to me with expectation,
waiting silently for my counsel.
²² After my words, they spoke no more;
my speech settled on them like dew.
²³ They waited for me as for rain
and drank in my words like spring show-
ers.
²⁴ If I smiled at them, they did not believe
it;
the light of my countenance was pre-
cious.

- ²⁵ I chose their course and presided as chief.
So I dwelt as a king among his troops,
as a comforter of the mourners.

30

CHAPTER 30 IN 30 SECONDS

But now young men mock him, men whose fathers he would not have trusted with his sheep dogs. His skin turns black and peels. I cry out to You, God, and You do not answer.

JOB'S HONOR TURNED TO CONTEMPT

- ¹ "But now they mock me,
men younger than I am,
whose fathers I would have refused
to put with my sheep dogs.
- ² What use to me was the strength of their
hands,
since their vigor had left them?
- ³ Gaunt from poverty and hunger,
they gnawed the dry land,
and the desolate wasteland by night.
- ⁴ They plucked mallow among the shrubs,
and the roots of the broom tree were
their food.
- ⁵ They were banished from among men,
shouted at like thieves,
- ⁶ so that they lived on the slopes of the
wadis,
among the rocks and in holes in the
ground.
- ⁷ They cried out among the shrubs
and huddled beneath the nettles.
- ⁸ A senseless and nameless brood,
they were driven off the land.
- ⁹ And now they mock me in song;
I have become a byword among them.
- ¹⁰ They abhor me and keep far from me;
they do not hesitate to spit in my face.
- ¹¹ Because God has unstrung my bow and
afflicted me,
they have cast off restraint in my pres-
ence.
- ¹² The rabble arises at my right;
they lay snares for my feet
and build siege ramps against me.
- ¹³ They tear up my path;
they profit from my destruction,
with no one to restrain them.
- ¹⁴ They advance as through a wide
breach;
through the ruins they keep rolling in.
- JOB'S PROSPERITY BECOMES CALAMITY**
- ¹⁵ Terrors are turned loose against me;
they drive away my dignity as by the
wind,
and my prosperity has passed like a
cloud.
- ¹⁶ And now my soul is poured out within
me;
days of affliction grip me.
- ¹⁷ Night pierces my bones,
and my gnawing pains never rest.
- ¹⁸ With great force He grasps my garment;
He seizes me by the collar of my tunic.
- ¹⁹ He throws me into the mud,
and I have become like dust and ashes.
- ²⁰ I cry out to You for help, but You do not
answer;
when I stand up, You merely look at me.
- ²¹ You have ruthlessly turned on me;
You oppose me with Your strong hand.
- ²² You snatch me up into the wind
and drive me before it;
You toss me about in the storm.
- ²³ Yes, I know that You will bring me down
to death,
to the place appointed for all the living.
- ²⁴ Yet no one stretches out his hand
against a ruined man
when he cries for help in his distress.
- ²⁵ Have I not wept for those in trouble?
Has my soul not grieved for the needy?
- ²⁶ But when I hoped for good, evil came;
when I looked for light, darkness fell.
- ²⁷ I am churning within and cannot rest;
days of affliction confront me.
- ²⁸ I go about blackened, but not by the
sun.
I stand up in the assembly and cry for
help.
- ²⁹ I have become a brother of jackals,
a companion of ostriches.
- ³⁰ My skin grows black and peels,
and my bones burn with fever.
- ³¹ My harp is tuned to mourning
and my flute to the sound of weeping.

THE HEART DEMONIC

31

CHAPTER 31 IN 30 SECONDS

Job's final oath. He made a covenant with his eyes not to look at a young woman with lust. He did not cheat, did not ignore the poor and did not trust in gold. If I did, let me be cursed. Then he signs it. The words of Job are ended.

JOB'S FINAL APPEAL

- ¹“I have made a covenant with my eyes.
How then could I gaze with desire at a virgin?
²For what is the allotment of God from above,
or the heritage from the Almighty on high?
³Does not disaster come to the unjust
and calamity to the workers of iniquity?
⁴Does He not see my ways
and count my every step?
⁵If I have walked in falsehood
or my foot has rushed to deceit,
⁶let God weigh me with honest scales,
that He may know my integrity.
⁷If my steps have turned from the path,
if my heart has followed my eyes,
or if impurity has stuck to my hands,
⁸then may another eat what I have sown,
and may my crops be uprooted.
⁹If my heart has been enticed by my
neighbor's wife,
or I have lurked at his door,
¹⁰then may my own wife grind grain for
another,
and may other men sleep with her.
¹¹For that would be a heinous crime,
an iniquity to be judged.
¹²For it is a fire that burns down to Abaddon;
it would root out my entire harvest.
¹³If I have rejected the cause of my
manservant or maidservant
when they made a complaint against
me,
¹⁴what will I do when God rises to judge?

How will I answer when called to account?

- ¹⁵Did not He who made me in the womb
also make them?
Did not the same One form us in the
womb?
¹⁶If I have denied the desires of the poor
or allowed the widow's eyes to fail,
¹⁷if I have eaten my morsel alone,
not sharing it with the fatherless—
¹⁸though from my youth I reared him as
would a father,
and from my mother's womb I guided
the widow—
¹⁹if I have seen one perish for lack of
clothing,
or a needy man without a cloak,
²⁰if his heart has not blessed me
for warming him with the fleece of my
sheep,
²¹if I have lifted up my hand against the
fatherless
because I saw that I had support in the
gate,
²²then may my arm fall from my shoulder
and be torn from its socket.
²³For calamity from God terrifies me,
and His splendor I cannot overpower.
²⁴If I have put my trust in gold
or called pure gold my security,
²⁵if I have rejoiced in my great wealth
because my hand had gained so much,
²⁶if I have beheld the sun in its radiance
or the moon moving in splendor,
²⁷so that my heart was secretly enticed
and my hand threw a kiss from my
mouth,
²⁸this would also be an iniquity to be
judged,
for I would have denied God on high.
²⁹If I have rejoiced in my enemy's ruin,
or exulted when evil befell him—
³⁰I have not allowed my mouth to sin
by asking for his life with a curse—
³¹if the men of my house have not said,
'Who is there who has not had his fill?'—
³²but no stranger had to lodge on the
street,

■ **JOB 31:1 [NOTE]** A COVENANT WITH MY EYES. Long before Jesus said looking with lust is adultery of the heart, Matthew 5:28, Job made a promise about his eyes.
■ **JOB 31:7 [HEART]** Job asked to be judged if his heart had followed his eyes. What you keep looking at, your heart starts to want.

■ **JOB 31:26 [DEMONIC]** Job refuses to worship the sun and moon

for my door has been open to the traveler—

³³if I have covered my transgressions like Adam

by hiding my guilt in my heart,

³⁴because I greatly feared the crowds and the contempt of the clans terrified me,

so that I kept silent and would not go outside—

³⁵(Oh, that I had one to hear me! Here is my signature.

Let the Almighty answer me; let my accuser compose an indictment.

³⁶Surely I would carry it on my shoulder and wear it like a crown.

³⁷I would give account of all my steps; I would approach Him like a prince.)—

³⁸if my land cries out against me and its furrows weep together,

³⁹if I have devoured its produce without payment

or broken the spirit of its tenants,

⁴⁰then let briars grow instead of wheat and stinkweed instead of barley."

Thus conclude the words of Job.

32

CHAPTER 32 IN 30 SECONDS

A young man named Elihu has been waiting his turn, and he is angry at everyone. I am young, so I kept quiet, but I am about to burst like new wine-skins.

ELIHU REBUKES JOB'S FRIENDS

¹So these three men stopped answering Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes.

²This kindled the anger of Elihu son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram. He burned with anger against Job for justifying himself rather than God, ³and he burned with anger against Job's three friends because they had failed to refute Job, and yet had condemned him.

⁴Now Elihu had waited to speak to Job because the others were older than he. ⁵But when he saw that the three men had no further reply, his anger was kindled. ⁶So Elihu son of Barachel the Buzite declared:

"I am young in years, while you are old; that is why I was timid and afraid to tell you what I know.

⁷I thought that age should speak, and many years should teach wisdom.

⁸But there is a spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding.

⁹It is not only the old who are wise, or the elderly who understand justice.

¹⁰Therefore I say, 'Listen to me; I too will declare what I know.'

¹¹Indeed, I waited while you spoke; I listened to your reasoning;

as you searched for words, ¹²I paid you full attention.

But no one proved Job wrong; not one of you rebutted his arguments.

¹³So do not claim, 'We have found wisdom; let God, not man, refute him.'

¹⁴But Job has not directed his words against me, and I will not answer him with your arguments.

¹⁵Job's friends are dismayed, with no more to say; words have escaped them.

¹⁶Must I wait, now that they are silent, now that they stand and no longer reply?

¹⁷I too will answer; yes, I will declare what I know.

¹⁸For I am full of words, and my spirit within me compels me.

¹⁹Behold, my belly is like unvented wine; it is about to burst like a new wineskin.

²⁰I must speak and find relief; I must open my lips and respond.

²¹I will be partial to no one, nor will I flatter any man.

²²For I do not know how to flatter,

■ **JOB 31:40 [NOTE]** THE WORDS OF JOB ARE ENDED. Job has said his piece. He speaks again only to answer God, 40:3 to 5 and 42:1 to 6.

■ **JOB 32:2 [NOTE]** ELIHU. His name means He is my God. He is angry at Job for justifying himself, and at the friends for condemning Job without an answer. God never answers him, for good or bad.

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW

or my Maker would remove me in an instant.

33

CHAPTER 33 IN 30 SECONDS

Elihu speaks to Job. God does speak, in dreams and in pain, to turn a man back from the pit. If there is an angel, a mediator, he says, Spare him, I have found a ransom.

ELIHU REBUKES JOB

- 1 "But now, O Job, hear my speech,
and listen to all my words.
- 2 Behold, I will open my mouth;
my address is on the tip of my tongue.
- 3 My words are from an upright heart,
and my lips speak sincerely what I
know.
- 4 The Spirit of God has made me,
and the breath of the Almighty gives me
life.
- 5 Refute me if you can;
prepare your case and confront me.
- 6 I am just like you before God;
I was also formed from clay.
- 7 Surely no fear of me should terrify you;
nor will my hand be heavy upon you.
- 8 Surely you have spoken in my hearing,
and I have heard these very words:
- 9 'I am pure, without transgression;
I am clean, with no iniquity in me.
- 10 Yet God finds occasions against me;
He counts me as His enemy.
- 11 He puts my feet in the stocks;
He watches over all my paths.'
- 12 Behold, you are not right in this matter.
I will answer you, for God is greater than
man.
- 13 Why do you complain to Him
that He answers nothing a man asks?
- 14 For God speaks in one way and in another,
yet no one notices.
- 15 In a dream,
in a vision in the night,
when deep sleep falls upon men
as they slumber on their beds,
- 16 He opens their ears
and terrifies them with warnings
- 17 to turn a man from wrongdoing

- and keep him from pride,
- 18 to preserve his soul from the Pit
and his life from perishing by the sword.
- 19 A man is also chastened on his bed
with pain and constant distress in his
bones,
- 20 so that he detests his bread,
and his soul loathes his favorite food.
- 21 His flesh wastes away from sight,
and his hidden bones protrude.
- 22 He draws near to the Pit,
and his life to the messengers of death.
- 23 Yet if there is a messenger on his side,
one mediator in a thousand,
to tell a man what is right for him,
24 to be gracious to him and say,
'Spare him from going down to the Pit;
I have found his ransom,'
- 25 then his flesh is refreshed like a child's;
he returns to the days of his youth.
- 26 He prays to God and finds favor;
he sees God's face and shouts for joy,
and God restores His righteousness
to that man.
- 27 Then he sings before men
with these words:
'I have sinned and perverted what was
right;
yet I did not get what I deserved.
- 28 He redeemed my soul from going down
to the Pit,
and I will live to see the light.'
- 29 Behold, all these things God does to a
man,
two or even three times,
- 30 to bring back his soul from the Pit,
that he may be enlightened with the
light of life.
- 31 Pay attention, Job, and listen to me;
be silent, and I will speak.
- 32 But if you have something to say, answer me;
speak up, for I would like to vindicate
you.
- 33 But if not, then listen to me;

■ **JOB 33:23 [PROPHECY]** A mediator says spare him from the pit, I have found a ransom → 1TI 2:5-6; MK 10:45 · MEDIUM p.~

■ **JOB 33:23 [NOTE]** A MEDIATOR AND A RANSOM. Many see a picture of Jesus here, who gave His life as a ransom for many, Mark 10:45.

be quiet, and I will teach you wisdom."

34

CHAPTER 34 IN 30 SECONDS

Elihu says, Far be it from God to do wrong! He repays everyone for what they do. Job talks without knowledge. Elihu has a lot of opinions.

ELIHU CONFIRMS GOD'S JUSTICE

¹Then Elihu continued:

²"Hear my words, O wise men;
give ear to me, O men of learning.

³For the ear tests words
as the mouth tastes food.

⁴Let us choose for ourselves what is right;
let us learn together what is good.

⁵For Job has declared, 'I am righteous,
yet God has deprived me of justice.

⁶Would I lie about my case?
My wound is incurable,
though I am without transgression.'

⁷What man is like Job,
who drinks up derision like water?

⁸He keeps company with evildoers
and walks with wicked men.

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

¹⁰Therefore listen to me,
O men of understanding.

Far be it from God to do wrong,
and from the Almighty to act unjustly.

¹¹For according to a man's deeds He re-
pays him;
according to a man's ways He brings
consequences.

¹²Indeed, it is true that God does not act
wickedly,
and the Almighty does not pervert jus-
tice.

¹³Who gave Him charge over the earth?
Who appointed Him over the whole
world?

¹⁴If He were to set His heart to it
and withdraw His Spirit and breath,

¹⁵all flesh would perish together
and mankind would return to the dust.

¹⁶If you have understanding, hear this;
listen to my words.

¹⁷Could one who hates justice govern?

Will you condemn the just and mighty
One,

¹⁸who says to kings, 'You are worthless!'
and to nobles, 'You are wicked,'

¹⁹who is not partial to princes
and does not favor rich over poor?
For they are all the work of His hands.

²⁰They die in an instant,
in the middle of the night.

The people convulse and pass away;
the mighty are removed without human
hand.

²¹For His eyes are on the ways of a man,
and He sees his every step.

²²There is no darkness or deep shadow
where the workers of iniquity can hide.

²³For God need not examine a man further
or have him approach for judgment.

²⁴He shatters the mighty without inquiry
and sets up others in their place.

²⁵Therefore, He recognizes their deeds;
He overthrows them in the night and
they are crushed.

²⁶He strikes them for their wickedness
in full view,

²⁷because they turned aside from Him
and had no regard for any of His ways.

²⁸They caused the cry of the poor to
come before Him,
and He heard the outcry of the afflicted.

²⁹But when He remains silent, who can
condemn Him?
When He hides His face, who can see
Him?

Yet He watches over both man and nation,
³⁰that godless men should not rule
or lay snares for the people.

³¹Suppose someone says to God,
'I have endured my punishment; I will
offend no more.

³²Teach me what I cannot see;
if I have done wrong, I will not do it
again.'

³³Should God repay you on your own
terms
when you have disavowed Him?

You must choose, not I;
so tell me what you know.

³⁴Men of understanding will declare to
me,

and the wise men who hear me will say:

- ³⁵ 'Job speaks without knowledge;
his words lack insight.'
³⁶ If only Job were tried to the utmost
for answering like a wicked man.
³⁷ For he adds rebellion to his sin;
he claps his hands among us
and multiplies his words against God."

35

CHAPTER 35 IN 30 SECONDS

Elihu asks, What good does it do God if you are righteous? People cry out in pain, but they do not ask, Where is God my Maker, who gives songs in the night?

ELIHU RECALLS GOD'S JUSTICE

- ¹ And Elihu went on to say:
² "Do you think this is just?
You say, 'I am more righteous than God.'
³ For you ask, 'What does it profit me,
and what benefit do I gain apart from
sin?'
⁴ I will reply to you
and to your friends as well.
⁵ Look to the heavens and see;
gaze at the clouds high above you.
⁶ If you sin, what do you accomplish
against Him?
If you multiply your transgressions, what
do you do to Him?
⁷ If you are righteous, what do you give
Him,
or what does He receive from your
hand?
⁸ Your wickedness affects only a man like
yourself,
and your righteousness only a son of
man.
⁹ Men cry out under great oppression;
they plead for relief from the arm of the
mighty.
¹⁰ But no one asks, 'Where is God my
Maker,
who gives us songs in the night,
¹¹ who teaches us more than the beasts of
the earth
and makes us wiser than the birds of
the air?'

- ¹² There they cry out, but He does not answer,
because of the pride of evil men.

- ¹³ Surely God does not listen to empty
pleas,
and the Almighty does not take note of
it.
¹⁴ How much less, then, when you say that
you do not see Him,
that your case is before Him and you
must wait for Him,
¹⁵ and further, that in His anger He has not
punished
or taken much notice of folly!
¹⁶ So Job opens his mouth in vain
and multiplies words without knowl-
edge."

36

CHAPTER 36 IN 30 SECONDS

Elihu says God uses suffering to open people's ears. Then he starts describing God's greatness in the rain and the clouds, like a storm is coming.

ELIHU DESCRIBES GOD'S POWER

- ¹ And Elihu continued:
² "Bear with me a little longer, and I will
show you
that there is more to be said on God's
behalf.
³ I get my knowledge from afar,
and I will ascribe justice to my Maker.
⁴ For truly my words are free of falsehood;
one perfect in knowledge is with you.
⁵ Indeed, God is mighty, but He despises
no one;
He is mighty in strength of understand-
ing.
⁶ He does not keep the wicked alive,
but He grants justice to the afflicted.
⁷ He does not take His eyes off the right-
eous,
but He enthrones them with kings
and exalts them forever.
⁸ And if men are bound with chains,
caught in cords of affliction,
⁹ then He tells them their deeds
and how arrogantly they have trans-
gressed.
¹⁰ He opens their ears to correction

and commands that they turn from iniquity.

- ¹¹If they obey and serve Him,
then they end their days in prosperity
and their years in happiness.
- ¹²But if they do not obey,
then they perish by the sword
and die without knowledge.
- ¹³The godless in heart harbor resentment;
even when He binds them, they do not
cry for help.
- ¹⁴They die in their youth,
among the male shrine prostitutes.
- ¹⁵God rescues the afflicted by their affliction
and opens their ears in oppression.
- ¹⁶Indeed, He drew you from the jaws of
distress
to a spacious and broad place,
to a table full of richness.
- ¹⁷But now you are laden with the judgment
due the wicked;
judgment and justice have seized you.
- ¹⁸Be careful that no one lures you with
riches;
do not let a large bribe lead you astray.
- ¹⁹Can your wealth or all your mighty effort
keep you from distress?
- ²⁰Do not long for the night,
when people vanish from their homes.
- ²¹Be careful not to turn to iniquity,
for this you have preferred to affliction.
- ²²Behold, God is exalted in His power.
Who is a teacher like Him?
- ²³Who has appointed His way for Him,
or told Him, "You have done wrong"?
- ²⁴Remember to magnify His work,
which men have praised in song.
- ²⁵All mankind has seen it;
men behold it from afar.
- ²⁶Indeed, God is great—beyond our
knowledge;
the number of His years is unsearchable.
- ²⁷For He draws up drops of water
which distill the rain from the mist,
²⁸which the clouds pour out
and shower abundantly on mankind.
- ²⁹Furthermore, who can understand how
the clouds spread out,

how the thunder roars from His pavilion?

- ³⁰See how He scatters His lightning
around Him
and covers the depths of the sea.
- ³¹For by these He judges the nations
and provides food in abundance.
- ³²He fills His hands with lightning
and commands it to strike its mark.
- ³³The thunder declares His presence;
even the cattle regard the rising storm.

37

CHAPTER 37 IN 30 SECONDS

The storm gets closer. God thunders with His majestic voice and sends snow and lightning. Out of the north comes golden splendor; God comes in awesome majesty.

ELIHU PROCLAIMS GOD'S MAJESTY

- ¹"At this my heart also pounds
and leaps from its place.
- ²Listen closely to the thunder of His voice
and the rumbling that comes from His
mouth.
- ³He unleashes His lightning beneath the
whole sky
and sends it to the ends of the earth.
- ⁴Then there comes a roaring sound;
He thunders with His majestic voice.
He does not restrain the lightning
when His voice resounds.
- ⁵God thunders wondrously with His voice;
He does great things we cannot com-
prehend.
- ⁶For He says to the snow, 'Fall on the
earth,'
and to the gentle rain, 'Pour out a
mighty downpour.'
- ⁷He seals up the hand of every man,
so that all men may know His work.
- ⁸The wild animals enter their lairs;
they settle down in their dens.
- ⁹The tempest comes from its chamber,
and the cold from the driving north
winds.
- ¹⁰By the breath of God the ice is formed
and the watery expanses are frozen.
- ¹¹He loads the clouds with moisture;
He scatters His lightning through them.
- ¹²They swirl about,

MIRACLES NOTABLE GOD SPEAKING

whirling at His direction,
 accomplishing all that He commands
 over the face of all the earth.

¹³ Whether for punishment or for His land,
 He accomplishes this in His loving de-
 votion.

¹⁴ Listen to this, O Job;
 stand still and consider the wonders of
 God.

¹⁵ Do you know how God dispatches the
 clouds
 or makes the lightning flash?

¹⁶ Do you understand how the clouds float,
 those wonders of Him who is perfect in
 knowledge?

¹⁷ You whose clothes get hot
 when the land lies hushed under the
 south wind,

¹⁸ can you, like Him, spread out the skies,
 as strong as a mirror of bronze?

¹⁹ Teach us what we should say to Him;
 we cannot draw up our case because of
 our darkness.

²⁰ Should He be told that I want to speak?
 Would a man ask to be swallowed up?

²¹ Now no one can gaze at the sun
 when it is bright in the skies
 after the wind has swept them clean.

²² Out of the north He comes in golden
 splendor;
 awesome majesty surrounds Him.

²³ The Almighty is beyond our reach;
 He is exalted in power!
 In His justice and great righteousness
 He does not oppress.

²⁴ Therefore, men fear Him,
 for He is not partial to the wise in heart.”

38

CHAPTER 38 IN 30 SECONDS

*Then God answers Job out of the whirlwind.
 Brace yourself like a man! Where were you when I
 laid the foundation of the earth? Do you send the
 lightning? Do you feed the lions? God gives Job a
 tour of creation.*

■ **JOB 37:22 [NOTE] OUT OF THE NORTH.** Elihu describes a storm rolling in. In the next chapter, God speaks to Job out of the whirlwind, 38:1.

YAHWEH CHALLENGES JOB

¹ Then Yahweh answered Job out of the
 whirlwind and said:

² “Who is this who obscures My counsel
 by words without knowledge?

³ Now brace yourself like a man;
 I will question you, and you shall inform
 Me.

⁴ Where were you when I laid the founda-
 tions of the earth?
 Tell Me, if you have understanding.

⁵ Who fixed its measurements? Surely you
 know!
 Or who stretched a measuring line
 across it?

⁶ On what were its foundations set,
 or who laid its cornerstone,

⁷ while the morning stars sang together
 and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

⁸ Who enclosed the sea behind doors
 when it burst forth from the womb,

⁹ when I made the clouds its garment
 and thick darkness its blanket,

¹⁰ when I fixed its boundaries
 and set in place its bars and doors,

¹¹ and I declared: ‘You may come this far,
 but no farther;
 here your proud waves must stop’?

¹² In your days, have you commanded the
 morning
 or assigned the dawn its place,

¹³ that it might spread to the ends of the
 earth
 and shake the wicked out of it?

¹⁴ The earth takes shape like clay under a
 seal;
 its hills stand out like the folds of a gar-
 ment.

¹⁵ Light is withheld from the wicked,
 and their upraised arm is broken.

■ **JOB 38:1 [MIRACLE]** Yahweh answers Job out of the whirlwind.

■ **JOB 38:1 [NOTE] OUT OF THE WHIRLWIND.** God never tells Job why he suffered. He shows up instead. Job gets God, not answers.

■ **JOB 38:4 [NOTABLE]** God answers Job's questions with bigger questions. The God who made everything can be trusted with what we do not understand.

■ **JOB 38:4 [NOTE] WHERE WERE YOU?** God asks Job more than 70 questions in chapters 38 to 41. None of them is about Job's sin.

■ **JOB 38:7 [NOTE] THE MORNING STARS.** Angels sang when God made the world. The sons of God here are the angels of 1:6.

GOD SPEAKING

- 16 Have you journeyed to the vents of the sea
or walked in the trenches of the deep?
- 17 Have the gates of death been revealed to you?
Have you seen the gates of the shadow of death?
- 18 Have you surveyed the extent of the earth?
Tell Me, if you know all this.
- 19 Where is the way to the home of light?
Do you know where darkness resides,
20 so you can lead it back to its border?
Do you know the paths to its home?
- 21 Surely you know, for you were already born!
And the number of your days is great!
- 22 Have you entered the storehouses of snow
or observed the storehouses of hail,
23 which I hold in reserve for times of trouble,
for the day of war and battle?
- 24 In which direction is the lightning dispersed,
or the east wind scattered over the earth?
- 25 Who cuts a channel for the flood
or clears a path for the thunderbolt,
26 to bring rain on a barren land,
on a desert where no man lives,
27 to satisfy the parched wasteland
and make it sprout with tender grass?
- 28 Does the rain have a father?
Who has begotten the drops of dew?
- 29 From whose womb does the ice emerge?
Who gives birth to the frost from heaven,
30 when the waters become hard as stone
and the surface of the deep is frozen?
- 31 Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades
or loosen the belt of Orion?
- 32 Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons
or lead out the Bear and her cubs?
- 33 Do you know the laws of the heavens?

Can you set their dominion over the earth?

- 34 Can you command the clouds
so that a flood of water covers you?
- 35 Can you send the lightning bolts on their way?
Do they report to you, 'Here we are'?
- 36 Who has put wisdom in the heart
or given understanding to the mind?
- 37 Who has the wisdom to count the clouds?
Or who can tilt the water jars of the heavens
- 38 when the dust hardens into a mass
and the clods of earth stick together?
- 39 Can you hunt the prey for a lioness
or satisfy the hunger of young lions
- 40 when they crouch in their dens
and lie in wait in the thicket?
- 41 Who provides food for the raven
when its young cry out to God
as they wander about for lack of food?

39

CHAPTER 39 IN 30 SECONDS

The tour keeps going: mountain goats giving birth, the wild donkey, the wild ox, the silly ostrich, the war horse that laughs at fear, and the hawk. Did you make any of these, Job?

YAHWEH SPEAKS OF HIS CREATION

- 1 "Do you know when mountain goats give birth?
Have you watched the doe bear her fawn?
- 2 Can you count the months they are pregnant?
Do you know the time they give birth?
- 3 They crouch down and bring forth their young;
they deliver their newborn.
- 4 Their young ones thrive and grow up in the open field;
they leave and do not return.
- 5 Who set the wild donkey free?
Who released the swift donkey from the harness?
- 6 I made the wilderness his home
and the salt flats his dwelling.
- 7 He scorns the tumult of the city

■ **JOB 38:31 [NOTE]** THE PLEIADES AND ORION. Star groups. The Pleiades is a cluster of stars, and Orion has three stars in a row called his belt.

GOD SPEAKING

- and never hears the shouts of a driver.
- ⁸ He roams the mountains for pasture,
searching for any green thing.
- ⁹ Will the wild ox consent to serve you?
Will he stay by your manger at night?
- ¹⁰ Can you hold him to the furrow with a
harness?
Will he plow the valleys behind you?
- ¹¹ Can you rely on his great strength?
Will you leave your hard work to him?
- ¹² Can you trust him to bring in your grain
and gather it to your threshing floor?
- ¹³ The wings of the ostrich flap joyfully,
but cannot match the pinions and feathers
of the stork.
- ¹⁴ For she leaves her eggs on the ground
and lets them warm in the sand.
- ¹⁵ She forgets that a foot may crush them,
or a wild animal may trample them.
- ¹⁶ She treats her young harshly, as if not
her own,
with no concern that her labor was in
vain.
- ¹⁷ For God has deprived her of wisdom;
He has not endowed her with under-
standing.
- ¹⁸ Yet when she proudly spreads her
wings,
she laughs at the horse and its rider.
- ¹⁹ Do you give strength to the horse
or adorn his neck with a mane?
- ²⁰ Do you make him leap like a locust,
striking terror with his proud snorting?
- ²¹ He paws in the valley and rejoices in his
strength;
he charges into battle.
- ²² He laughs at fear, frightened of nothing;
he does not turn back from the sword.
- ²³ A quiver rattles at his side,
along with a flashing spear and lance.
- ²⁴ Trembling with excitement, he devours
the distance;
he cannot stand still when the ram's
horn sounds.
- ²⁵ At the blast of the horn, he snorts with
fervor.
He catches the scent of battle from afar,

the shouts of captains and the cry of
war.

- ²⁶ Does the hawk take flight by your un-
derstanding
and spread his wings toward the south?
- ²⁷ Does the eagle soar at your command
and make his nest on high?
- ²⁸ He dwells on a cliff and lodges there;
his stronghold is on a rocky crag.
- ²⁹ From there he spies out food;
his eyes see it from afar.
- ³⁰ His young ones feast on blood;
and where the slain are, there he is."

40

CHAPTER 40 IN 30 SECONDS

God asks, Will the faultfinder argue with the Almighty? Job says, I am small; I will put my hand over my mouth. Then God shows him Behemoth, the giant beast with a tail like a cedar.

JOB HUMBLING HIMSELF BEFORE YAHWEH

- ¹ And Yahweh said to Job:
- ² "Will the faultfinder contend with the
Almighty?
Let him who argues with God give an
answer."
- ³ Then Job answered Yahweh:
- ⁴ "Behold, I am insignificant. How can I re-
ply to You?
I place my hand over my mouth.
- ⁵ I have spoken once, but I have no
answer—
twice, but I have nothing to add."

YAHWEH CHALLENGES JOB AGAIN

- ⁶ Then Yahweh answered Job out of the
whirlwind and said:
- ⁷ "Now brace yourself like a man;
I will question you, and you shall inform
Me.
- ⁸ Would you really annul My justice?
Would you condemn Me to justify your-
self?
- ⁹ Do you have an arm like God's?
Can you thunder with a voice like His?
- ¹⁰ Then adorn yourself with majesty and
splendor,

■ **JOB 39:13 [NOTE]** THE OSTRICH. God has a sense of humor. She lays her eggs on the ground and runs faster than a horse, but God did not give her much sense, 39:17.

■ **JOB 40:4 [NOTE]** HAND OVER MY MOUTH. Job wanted a day in court. Now that God is here, he has nothing to say.

GOD SPEAKING

- and clothe yourself with honor and glory.
- ¹¹ Unleash the fury of your wrath;
look on every proud man and bring him low.
- ¹² Look on every proud man and humble him;
trample the wicked where they stand.
- ¹³ Bury them together in the dust;
imprison them in the grave.
- ¹⁴ Then I will confess to you
that your own right hand can save you.
- ¹⁵ Look at Behemoth, which I made along
with you.
He feeds on grass like an ox.
- ¹⁶ See the strength of his loins
and the power in the muscles of his belly.
- ¹⁷ His tail sways like a cedar;
the sinews of his thighs are tightly knit.
- ¹⁸ His bones are tubes of bronze;
his limbs are rods of iron.
- ¹⁹ He is the foremost of God's works;
only his Maker can draw the sword
against him.
- ²⁰ The hills yield him their produce,
while all the beasts of the field play
nearby.
- ²¹ He lies under the lotus plants,
hidden among the reeds of the marsh.
- ²² The lotus plants conceal him in their
shade;
the willows of the brook surround him.
- ²³ Though the river rages, Behemoth is un-
afraid;
he remains secure, though the Jordan
surges to his mouth.
- ²⁴ Can anyone capture him as he looks on,
or pierce his nose with a snare?

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

BEHEMOTH AND LEVIATHAN

Two Monsters

JOB 40:15 TO 24 · 41:1 TO 34 · 3:8

BEHEMOTH

Its name means beasts, a way of saying the greatest beast. It eats grass like an ox, has a tail like a cedar and bones like bronze, and lies in the reeds and the marsh. A raging river does not scare it, 40:15 to 24.

LEVIATHAN

No hook can catch it and no spear can pierce its scales. Smoke comes out of its nose and flames from its mouth, 41:19 to 21. It is also named in 3:8, Psalm 74:14, Psalm 104:26 and Isaiah 27:1.

WHY GOD BRINGS THEM UP

If no man dares to wake Leviathan, who can stand against the God who made him? 41:10. God made Behemoth too, just as He made Job, 40:15.

Every View

PSALM 74:14 · PSALM 104:26 · ISAIAH 27:1 · GENESIS 1:21

VIEW 1: DINOSAURS

Many Bible believing Christians today, like Answers in Genesis, think Behemoth was a big plant eating dinosaur, because a tail like a cedar sounds like a giant tail, not a hippo's little one. Some think Leviathan was a huge sea reptile, and that people and dinosaurs once lived at the same time.

VIEW 2: ANIMALS WE KNOW

Many scholars today say Behemoth is the hippopotamus, which lives in the reeds, and Leviathan is the crocodile, with its armored scales. This view became popular through the scholar Samuel Bochart in 1663. Older readers guessed an elephant, and some, like Thomas Aquinas, said Leviathan was a whale.

VIEW 3: POETRY, LARGER THAN LIFE

Some think these are real creatures painted in poetry, bigger than life, or the monsters of old stories. Leviathan's name is in tablets from Ugarit, where it is a seven headed sea serpent. God shows

■ **JOB 40:15 [NOTE] BEHEMOTH.** The Hebrew word means beasts, a way of saying the beast of all beasts. See the Big Question Behemoth and Leviathan.

ARCHAEOLOGY OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW GOD SPEAKING

He rules even the scariest thing people could imagine.

VIEW 4: A PICTURE OF THE DEVIL

Many early Christian writers saw Leviathan as a picture of Satan, the coiling serpent God will one day punish, Isaiah 27:1.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

God made them, and He alone controls them. Everything under heaven is His, 41:11.

41

CHAPTER 41 IN 30 SECONDS

Then Leviathan, the monster no one can tame. Can you catch him with a fishhook? Smoke pours from his nose and fire from his mouth. Everything under heaven belongs to Me.

YAHWEH'S POWER SHOWN IN LEVIATHAN

1 "Can you pull in Leviathan with a hook or tie down his tongue with a rope?

2 Can you put a cord through his nose or pierce his jaw with a hook?

3 Will he beg you for mercy or speak to you softly?

4 Will he make a covenant with you to take him as a slave for life?

5 Can you pet him like a bird or put him on a leash for your maidens?

6 Will traders barter for him or divide him among the merchants?

7 Can you fill his hide with harpoons or his head with fishing spears?

8 If you lay a hand on him, you will remember the battle and never repeat it!

9 Surely hope of overcoming him is false. Is not the sight of him overwhelming?

10 No one is so fierce as to rouse Leviathan.

Then who is able to stand against Me?

11 Who has given to Me that I should repay him?

Everything under heaven is Mine.

12 I cannot keep silent about his limbs, his power and graceful form.

13 Who can strip off his outer coat? Who can approach him with a bridle?

14 Who can open his jaws, ringed by his fearsome teeth?

15 His rows of scales are his pride, tightly sealed together.

16 One scale is so near to another that no air can pass between them.

17 They are joined to one another; they clasp and cannot be separated.

18 His snorting flashes with light, and his eyes are like the rays of dawn.

19 Firebrands stream from his mouth; fiery sparks shoot forth!

20 Smoke billows from his nostrils as from a boiling pot over burning reeds.

21 His breath sets coals ablaze, and flames pour from his mouth.

22 Strength resides in his neck, and dismay leaps before him.

23 The folds of his flesh are tightly joined; they are firm and immovable.

24 His chest is as hard as a rock, as hard as a lower millstone!

25 When Leviathan rises up, the mighty are terrified; they withdraw before his thrashing.

26 The sword that reaches him has no effect, nor does the spear or dart or arrow.

27 He regards iron as straw and bronze as rotten wood.

28 No arrow can make him flee; slingstones become like chaff to him.

29 A club is regarded as straw, and he laughs at the sound of the lance.

30 His undersides are jagged potsherds, spreading out the mud like a threshing sledge.

31 He makes the depths seethe like a cauldron; he makes the sea like a jar of ointment.

32 He leaves a glistening wake behind him;

■ **JOB 41:1 [ARCHAEOLOGY]** Clay tablets from Ugarit name Litan, the twisting serpent with seven heads, the same name as Leviathan, see the Lotan in the Ugarit Tablets Field Notes page → FIELD NOTES p.43

■ **JOB 41:1 [NOTE]** LEVIATHAN. See the Big Question Behemoth and Leviathan and the Field Notes page Lotan in the Ugarit Tablets.

■ **JOB 41:11 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → ROM 11:34-35 p.-

■ **JOB 41:11 [NOTE]** PAUL QUOTES IT. Who has first given to God, that God should repay him? Romans 11:35.

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH

LOTAN IN THE UGARIT TABLETS

JOB 3:8 · 41:1 · PSALM 74:13 TO 14 · PSALM 104:26 · ISAIAH 27:1



Two pieces of the clay tablet from Ugarit that tells of the death of Baal and names Litan, about 1300 to 1200 BC. Louvre Museum, Paris, AO 16641 and AO 16642. Photo Rama, CC BY SA 2.0 FR.

WHAT IT IS

A clay tablet from Ugarit, an old city on the coast of Syria. It holds part of the Baal myth, a long story poem about the Canaanite storm god Baal. It names a sea monster called Litan, also spelled Lotan. Most scholars think that is the same name as Leviathan.

HOW OLD IT IS

It was written in the 1300s or 1200s BC by a scribe named Ilmilku. Ugarit was destroyed about 1185 BC.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

A French team led by Claude Schaeffer dug at Ras Shamra, the ruins of Ugarit, starting in 1929. This tablet was found in 1930, in the house of the high priest. It is in the Louvre in Paris.

WHAT IT SAYS

Death, the god Mot, says to Baal: When you struck Litan, the fleeing serpent, and finished off the twisting serpent, the mighty one with seven heads. Another tablet has the goddess Anat brag that she crushed the twisting serpent with seven heads.

THE SAME WORDS

Isaiah 27:1 says God will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan the coiling serpent. In Hebrew and in the language of Ugarit, those words are almost the same. Psalm 74:14 says God crushed the heads of Leviathan.

A COUSIN OF HEBREW

Ugarit wrote with a 30 letter alphabet pressed into clay with wedges. Its language is a close cousin of Hebrew, so it helps scholars read hard Hebrew words, especially in Job and the Psalms.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR JOB

To the people of Canaan, Litan was a monster only a god could fight. In Job 41, God talks about Leviathan like a creature He made and can play with, 41:5. The Bible takes the scariest name people knew and puts it under God's feet.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

It does not tell us what animal Job 41 describes. People still disagree; see the Big Question Behemoth and Leviathan. It shows the name Leviathan was known long before Isaiah.

ARCHAEOLOGY NOTABLE GOD SPEAKING

one would think the deep had white hair!

³³ Nothing on earth is his equal—
a creature devoid of fear!

³⁴ He looks down on all the haughty;
he is king over all the proud."

42

CHAPTER 42 IN 30 SECONDS

Job says, I had heard of You, but now my eyes have seen You. God tells the friends they were wrong and Job was right, and Job prays for them. God gives Job twice as much as before, ten more kids, and 140 more years.

JOB SUBMITS HIMSELF TO YAHWEH

¹ Then Job replied to Yahweh:

² "I know that You can do all things
and that no plan of Yours can be
thwarted.

³ You asked, 'Who is this
who conceals My counsel without
knowledge?'

Surely I spoke of things I did not under-
stand,
things too wonderful for me to know.

⁴ You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak.
I will question you, and you shall inform
Me.'

⁵ My ears had heard of You,
but now my eyes have seen You.

⁶ Therefore I despise myself,
and I repent in dust and ashes."

YAHWEH REBUKES JOB'S FRIENDS

⁷ After Yahweh had spoken these words to
Job, He said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "My
wrath is kindled against you and your two
friends. For you have not spoken about
Me accurately, as My servant Job has. ⁸
So now, take seven bulls and seven rams,
go to My servant Job, and sacrifice a

■ **JOB 42:5 [NOTABLE]** Job got something better than answers: he met God. Knowing about God is not the same as knowing Him.

■ **JOB 42:6 [ARCHAEOLOGY]** An Aramaic Job from Qumran Cave 11, copied in Jesus' day, reads this verse differently, see The Job Targum Scroll Field Notes page → FIELD NOTES p.46

■ **JOB 42:6 [NOTE] I REPENT.** Job does not confess a hidden sin. He takes back his words spoken without knowledge, 42:3. The Hebrew can also mean I am comforted. The Job Targum from Qumran reads it another way; see its Field Notes page.

■ **JOB 42:7 [NOTE] MY SERVANT JOB.** God says Job spoke rightly and the friends did not. Job's honest cries were closer to the truth than their neat answers.

burnt offering for yourselves. Then My
servant Job will pray for you, for I will ac-
cept his prayer and not deal with you ac-
cording to your folly. For you have not
spoken accurately about Me, as My ser-
vant Job has."

⁹ So Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the
Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite went
and did as Yahweh had told them; and
Yahweh accepted Job's prayer.

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

WHY DO GOOD PEOPLE SUFFER?

Every Answer in the Book

JOB 1:9 · 4:7 TO 8 · 33:14 TO 30 · 38:1 TO 4 · 42:5 · 42:7

THE FRIENDS

You reap what you sow, 4:7 to 8. If you
suffer, you must have sinned. God said
they were wrong, 42:7.

ELIHU

God uses pain to warn people and to
teach them, 33:14 to 30 and 36:15.

THE TEST

The satan asked, Does Job fear God for
nothing? 1:9. Job's suffering showed that
he loved God even when it cost him
everything.

GOD'S ANSWER

God never told Job why. He showed Job
His wisdom and power in creation. Job
said, I had heard of You, but now my
eyes have seen You, 42:5.

Every View

JOHN 9:1 TO 3 · JAMES 1:2 TO 4 · EPHESIANS 6:12 ·
JAMES 5:11 · ISAIAH 53:3

VIEW 1: SIN BRINGS PAIN

Sometimes it does. You reap what you
sow, Galatians 6:7. But Job shows it is
not always true. Jesus said a man was
born blind not because of his sin or his
parents' sin, John 9:1 to 3.

VIEW 2: A TEST THAT MAKES US STRONG

Many say God allows suffering to grow
faith, like gold in a fire, Job 23:10, James
1:2 to 4 and 1 Peter 1:6 to 7.

VIEW 3: A WAR WE CANNOT SEE

Job 1 and 2 show a contest in heaven

■ **JOB 42:8 [NOTE] JOB PRAYS FOR THEM.** The men who
hurt him need his prayers, and God restores Job after he
prays for his friends, 42:10.

NOTABLE

that Job never saw. Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, Ephesians 6:12. **VIEW 4: A MYSTERY WE TRUST GOD WITH** Many say we will not always know why. God's ways are higher than ours, Isaiah 55:9, and He asks us to trust Him anyway.

JESUS SUFFERED TOO

The most innocent Man who ever lived suffered most of all, Isaiah 53:3. God did not stay far from our pain; He came into it.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

The friends did best when they sat with Job for seven days and said nothing, 2:13. James 5:11 calls Job's endurance a blessing, and says the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

¹⁶ After this, Job lived 140 years and saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. ¹⁷ And so Job died, old and full of years.

YAHWEH BLESSES JOB

¹⁰ After Job had prayed for his friends, Yahweh restored his prosperity and doubled his former possessions. ¹¹ All his brothers and sisters and prior acquaintances came and dined with him in his house. They consoled him and comforted him over all the adversity that Yahweh had brought upon him. And each one gave him a piece of silver and a gold ring.

¹² So Yahweh blessed Job's latter days more than his first. He owned 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys. ¹³ And he also had seven sons and three daughters. ¹⁴ He named his first daughter Jemimah, his second Keziah, and his third Keren-happuch. ¹⁵ No women as beautiful as Job's daughters could be found in all the land, and their father granted them an inheritance among their brothers.

■ **JOB 42:10 [NOTABLE]** Job prayed for the men who had hurt him. Forgiveness opened the door to his healing.

■ **JOB 42:10 [NOTE] DOUBLE.** His animals are exactly double, 42:12 and 1:3. He gets ten children again, the same number. Many say that is double too, because the first ten were not lost forever.

■ **JOB 42:11 [NOTE] A PIECE OF SILVER.** The Hebrew word, qesitah, is rare. It shows up only here and when Jacob bought land, Genesis 33:19 and Joshua 24:32. Nobody knows its value today. Many see it as one more clue that Job lived in the days of the patriarchs.

■ **JOB 42:14 [NOTE] HIS DAUGHTERS.** Jemimah means dove, Keziah is a sweet spice, and Keren happuch means a little box of eye makeup. They got an inheritance with their brothers, 42:15, which was rare.

■ **JOB 42:16 [NOTE] 140 MORE YEARS.** Long lives like Abraham, 175, Isaac, 180, and Jacob, 147. The Greek Old Testament says he lived 240 years in all.

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH

THE JOB TARGUM SCROLL

JOB 17:14 TO 42:11 · 38:7 · 42:6 · ACTS 5:34 · ACTS 22:3



Top: the longest piece of the Job Targum, 11Q10, from Qumran Cave 11. Below: three smaller pieces. Photos Shai Halevi, Israel Antiquities Authority, Leon Levy Dead Sea Scrolls Digital Library.

WHAT IT IS

A Dead Sea Scroll that holds the book of Job in Aramaic, the language many Jews spoke in Jesus' day. A translation like this is called a targum. Its number is 11Q10.

HOW OLD IT IS

The scroll was copied in the first half of the first century AD, in the lifetime of Jesus. Many scholars think the translation itself was made earlier, maybe 200 to 100 BC.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

Bedouin found it in 1956 in Cave 11 at Qumran, the last cave to give up scrolls. Dutch scholars led by J. van der Ploeg and A. S. van der Woude published it in 1971.

WHAT IS LEFT

The scroll was once very long. About 15 percent survives, in pieces from Job 17 to the end of the book. The biggest piece holds Job 37:10 to 42:11, including much of God's speech from the whirlwind.

A BURIED BOOK

The Talmud tells a story about Gamaliel the Elder, the teacher of Paul, Acts 22:3. While builders worked on the Temple Mount, someone brought him a translation of Job, and he told the builder to bury it under a row of bricks, Shabbat 115a. It is a striking match, though no one can prove it was a copy like this one.

DID JOB REPENT?

In Hebrew, Job 42:6 says I repent in dust and ashes. The targum says something like, So I am poured out and dissolved, and I will become dust and ashes.

SMOOTHING HARD WORDS

The translator softened some hard lines. In 38:7, where the morning stars sing, the targum makes them shine and has the angels shout for joy.

A SECOND TARGUM

Cave 4 at Qumran held another Aramaic Job, 4Q157, with bits of Job 3 to 5. Later rabbis made their own Aramaic translations of Job, but they are much younger than these two.

WHERE IT IS NOW

The pieces are kept by the Israel Antiquities Authority in Jerusalem, which has photographed the pieces with special cameras.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

It is a translation, so it does not show us a different Hebrew Job. It shows that Jews in Jesus' day were reading and explaining Job in their own language.