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Open English Translation of the Bible

Iyov

(Job)

Introduction

The account of Iyov (but commonly as known as 'Iyov' which is the English evolution of the Germanic adaptation of the Greek adaptation Ἰώβ (Iōb) of his actual Hebrew name 'אִיּוֹב') is an account about a godly man who was struck by a series of tragedies: all his children and their families were killed, all his extensive wealth was lost, and then he was struck with a terrible disease. By means of this seven-part account, the reader is informed about how Iyov and his friends react concerning those tragedies. Then finally, God reveals himself to Iyov and the others.

Near the beginning of this document, God is told by Satan that it's not good governing of his people if he always rewards those who obey him. What if people only obey God because they're after the material blessings that would always follow. This would mean that their obedience no longer comes from their hearts. Yes, that's what Satan said about Iyov, so God allowed Satan to test Iyov's heart to see if he'd continue to trust God in times of suffering and misery.

Iyov's traditional friends assumed that he must be suffering because he sinned. Surely he wouldn't suffer all that if he'd been honest and righteous. None of them could understand why God might allow sickness or disease to strike someone if he was truly a righteous person, but this is too simplistic for Iyov to accept. Therefore he challenges God to present his case. In all of that, Iyov's faith in God isn't lost, but he desires to regain his honour as an honest and godly person.

God doesn't answer Iyov's questions but he responds by displaying his own power and wisdom and knowledge. So then Iyov acknowledges God as the wise creator and requests forgiveness for his angry words.

The final segment of this account explains how Iyov was restored to health, peace, and prosperity (all the elements of 'shalom'/'שָׁלוֹם'), and how he actually prospered even more than before. It also shows how God was angry at Iyov's friends, because they had so much to say when none of them actually knew why Iyov had suffered—only Iyov had really sensed that God and his eventual (but eternal) justice is greater than simplistic proverbs and trite beliefs.

Main components of this account

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Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.
Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.
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Readers' Version

SECTION ONE: The introduction[1] · Iyov's prosperous life

1:1 There was once a man called Iyov (Job) who lived in the Uts (Uz) region. He was blameless and righteous—both obeying God and avoiding evil. **2** He had seven sons and three daughters, **3** and he owned 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 1,000 cattle, and 500 donkeys, as well as many slaves. Iyov was richer than anyone else who lived in the area east of the Yarden (Jordan) River. **4** Iyov's sons regularly held feasts in their homes, and whenever any of them held a feast, he would invite all his brothers and sisters to share the meal with him. **5** Then once a feast was over, Iyov would send for his children and consecrate them—he got up early in the morning and offered burnt offerings for each of them, because Iyov said, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed[2] God in their hearts." It was Iyov's regular habit to intercede for his children.

Satan's first attack on Iyov

6 It was the day that God's sons[3] came to present themselves to Yahweh,[4] and the adversary (Satan) was also there among them. **7** Yahweh asked him, "Where have you just come from?"

"I have come from the earth, where I was travelling around to see what was going on." Satan replied.

8 "Have you noticed my servant Iyov (Job)?" Yahweh asked. "There's no one else like him on the whole earth—a blameless and righteous man who obeys me God and avoids anything evil."

9 "Does Iyov get nothing back for respecting God?" Satan answered Yahweh. **10** "Don't you constantly protect him and his household and everything that's his? You've blessed what he works on, and his livestock have multiplied prolifically. **11** However, just stretch out your hand and ruin everything he has, then we'll see that he'll curse you to your face."

12 "Listen, I'll cede you control over everything he has," Yahweh replied. "Only just don't do anything against Iyov himself." So the adversary went away from Yahweh's presence.

Satan destroys Iyov's wealth and children

13 So one day when Iyov's (Job's) sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house, **14** a messenger came to Iyov and reported, "While the oxen were ploughing and the donkeys were feeding nearby, **15** raiders from Sheva attacked with their swords and stole them all. They killed all your slaves except that I managed to escape to tell you."

16 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the sky and burnt up the sheep and the shepherds. Only ashes are left, except that I alone escaped to tell you."

17 While he was still speaking, another one came and explained, "The Kasdim (Chaldeans) formed into three bands and raided the camels and took them, and they attacked the slaves with their swords, and I'm the only one who escaped to come and tell you."

18 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in the house of their eldest brother **19** when suddenly a freak wind came from across the desert and struck the house. It collapsed on the young people and killed them, and only I alone have escaped to tell you."

20 Then Iyov (Job) stood up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he knelt with his face to the ground and worshipped God, **21** saying, "I came naked from my mother's womb, and I will leave this life naked. Yahweh gave, and Yahweh has taken. May Yahweh's reputation be blessed."

22 Through all of that, Iyov didn't disobey God or accuse him of being evil.

Satan's second attack on Iyov

2:1 It was the day that God's sons came to present themselves to Yahweh and the adversary (Satan) was also there among them. **2** "Where have you come from?" Yahweh asked the adversary.

"From wandering on the earth and going back and forth on it," he answered.

3 "Have you noticed my servant Iyov (Job)?" Yahweh asked Satan, "because there's no one like him on the earth—a blameless and righteous man, striving to obey God and turning from evil. And he's still holding firmly to his integrity, even though you incited me against him, to ruin him for nothing."

4 "Skin for skin," replied the adversary, "actually, a person will give everything they have to save their life. **5** However, just reach out and touch his flesh and bones, and see if he doesn't curse you to your face."

6 "Listen," Yahweh said to him, "I'll give you power over him, but you must preserve his life."

7 So the adversary went away from Yahweh's presence, and he infected Iyov with bad boils from the sole of his foot to the top of his head. **8** Iyov picked up a piece of broken pottery to scratch himself with as he sat down in the middle of a pile of ashes.

9 "Are you still holding tightly onto your integrity?" his wife asked him. "Just curse God and die."

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1 RV 1:1 · Parallel 1:1–2:13

2 RV 1:15 · Note Literally 'blessed' but it's possible that the original reading was 'cursed' and that scribes changed it to 'blessed' in order to avoid the uncomfortable concept of a person cursing God. Traditional manuscripts of the Hebrew Bible don't have a marginal notation about this (as they do in the case of 7:20), but LXX uses 'ἐνενοήθησαν κακά' which can be rendered as 'have thought evil things' and the Peshitta (Syriac) uses 'reviled'. Many other translations also use 'cursed' since this is the kind of change that scribes are known to have made in similar cases.

3 RV 1:6 · Note It's not clear from the text who these are.

4 RV 1:6 · Cross-ref. Gen 6:2.

Readers' Version

10 "You're talking like a foolish person," Iyov replied.
"Should we only accept good from God and not receive the
bad?" In all of that, Iyov didn't sin in what he said.

Iyov's three friends come

11 When Iyov's (Job's) three friends heard about all the troubles that had
happened to him, they each came from his place: Elifaz
from Teyman, Bildad from Shuah, and Tsofar from
Na'amah. They gathered together to come to console and
comfort him. 12 but when they saw him from a distance,
they barely recognised him. They wailed loudly, and they
ripped their own clothes, and they threw dust into the air
so that it would fall on their heads. (All three of those were
traditional signs of mourning.) 13 Then they sat with him
there on the ground for seven days and seven nights with-
out saying a single word to Iyov because they had seen
that his suffering was extreme.

SECTION TWO: Iyov talking with his friends[5] · Iyov's complaint

3:1 After that, Iyov (Job) spoke up
and cursed the day of his concep-
tion.[6]
2 He said:
Iyov
3 May the day on which I was born perish,
and the night that said, 'A boy has been conceived.'
4 May that day be dark.
May God not search for it from above
and may no light shine on it.
5 May darkness and a dark shadow claim it.
May a cloud remain over it.
May the blacknesses of the day terrify it.
6 May gloom take that night.
May it not be happy among the days of the year.
May it not enter into the number of months.
7 Listen, may that night be barren.
May a happy shout never enter it.
8 May those who curse days, curse that one—
yes, those people who are skillful enough to wake up the
large sea monster.
9 May the stars of its twilight be dark.
May it stay waiting for the light that never arrives.
May it not see the dawn breaking.
10 Because it didn't close the doors of my mother's
womb,
to hide the sorrow from my eyes.
11 Why didn't I die at birth?
Just come out then stop breathing?
12 Why was I accepted onto her lap?
And onto those breasts to suckle?
13 Yes, I'd be peacefully lying down now.
I would have slept and been at rest,
14 along with kings and counsellors of the earth—
yes, those who built monuments for themselves.
15 Or been asleep with princes and their gold—
those who filled their houses with silver.
16 I might never have been—like a stillborn child.
Like some infants who never see the light.
17 Wicked people don't cause any more trouble there.
Those who've run out of strength rest there.
18 Prisoners are able to relax together.
They no longer hear the voice of their taskmaster.
19 Ordinary and famous people are all alike there.
And slaves there no longer have to obey their masters.
20 Why is light given to those who are miserable?
And why's life given to those who are bitter inside?
21 They wish for death but it won't come.[7]
They dig for it more than for hidden treasure.
22 Those who are happy for happiness sake,
will celebrate when they find the grave.
23 Why search for a path that's hidden
when God has hedged them in?
24 Sighing has become more important than eating.
My groans just pour out like water.
25 I had my fears and they've come to pass.
What I dreaded has come to me.
26 I'm not relaxed or peaceful.
I can't rest because only trouble comes.

Elifaz's first response to Iyov[8]

4:1 Then Elifaz (from Teyman)
replied:
Elifaz
2 If someone tries to talk with you, will it wear you out?
But who can resist answering?
3 Listen, you've instructed many other people.
And you've encouraged those who were weak.
4 Your words have encouraged those who were stum-
bling.
You've strengthened those whose knees were buckling.
5 But now it's you in trouble and you're depressed.
Troubles touch you and you're discouraged.
6 Doesn't your faith give you confidence?
What about your hope and your integrity?
7 Remember: Who has ever perished when they were in-
nocent?[9]
Or when were godly people ever destroyed?
8 Just like I've seen those who plant evil and sow mischief
harvest it back again,
9 God's breath causes them to perish,
and with a snort of his nose they come to an end.
10 The lion roars and the UNKNOWN-lion sounds his
voice,
AND the teeth of the young lions are broken.
11 The UNKNOWN-lion starves to death because of a lack

5 **RV 3:1 · Parallel** 3:1–27:33

6 **RV 3:1-19 · Cross-ref.** Jer 20:14-18.

7 **RV 3:21 · Cross-ref.** Rev 9:6.

8 **RV 4:1 · Parallel** 4:1–14:22

9 **RV 4:7 · Note** Don't forget that this is Elifaz giving his opinions and advice, and not necessarily endorsed as theologically sound. See God's disapproval of the words of Elifaz and his companions in Job 42:7-8.

Readers' Version

of prey,
and the lionesses cubs are scattered.
12 Now a message was brought secretly to me,
and my ears caught a whisper of it.
13 When troubled by thoughts from dreams in the night,
when people have fallen into deep sleep,
14 I was hit by fear and trembling—
my bones were shaking with fright.
15 A spirit passed over my face,
and the hairs on my body stood on end.
16 It stood still, but I didn't recognise what it was.
There was an image in front of my eyes.
It was silent and then I heard a voice:
17 'Can a mortal human be innocent before God?
Can a person be more pure than the creator of people?'[10]
18 Listen, he doesn't even trust his own servants,
and he accuses his own messengers of making mistakes.
19 How much less for those whose bodies were made from the clay,
whose foundations were made from the dust.
They're crushed even easier than a moth is.
20 They're destroyed from morning to evening.
They're always dying even without anyone doing anything.
21 Their tent cords are pulled out on them.
They die and don't even know why.
5:1 Call out to God now. Does anyone answer?
Which of the holy ones will you turn to?
2 Resentment kills foolish people.
Jealousy kills those who are simple-minded.
3 I've seen foolish people taking root,
then I've immediately cursed their homes.
4 Their children are far from safety,
and they[11] are crushed in the gate,[12]
and no one saves them.
5 Those who are hungry consume his harvest
even getting it from among the thorns.
Greedy people long for his wealth.
6 Hardship doesn't just grow up from the dust,
and trouble doesn't just spring up from the ground.
7 Everyone is born into trouble—
sparks tend to fly up high.
8 But for myself, I'll search for God
and I'll approach him with my case.
9 He does incredible things,
and performs wonders without number that are beyond our understanding.
10 He's the one giving rain all over the earth,
and sending water onto the fields.
11 God helps the humble to prosper,
and he lifts those who are mourning to a safe place.
12 He frustrates the schemes of the crafty,
so their actions cannot succeed.
13 He catches smart people in their craftiness,
and he hurries along the plans of those who are deceptive.
14 Even in the daytime, they remain in darkness.
Even at midday, they feel their way around as if it's nighttime.
15 He saves the poor from the plans of those smart people,
and from the actions of powerful people.
16 So the poor have hope,
and injustice is silenced.
17 Listen, the person who's corrected by God is blessed.
Don't despise chastening from God the provider.
18 He wounds and he also bandages up.
He strikes but his hands also heal.
19 If you get in trouble six times, he'll rescue you.
Even seven times, he'll prevent you from being harmed.
20 During famines, he'll rescue you from death,
and in war, he'll save you from slaughter.
21 He'll hide you away from hurting words,
and when destruction comes, you won't be afraid.
22 You'll laugh at destruction and at famine,
and you won't be afraid of wild animals,
23 because you have an agreement with the stones in the fields for walls,
and the wild animals will be at peace with you.
24 You'll know that your home is secure,
and you'll inspect your animal shelters and nothing will be missing.
25 You'll know that your descendants will be numerous,
and your offspring like the grass on the land.
26 You'll reach an old age before you get to the grave,
like grain that's harvested at the right time.
27 Listen to this: we've investigated and it's true.
Listen to it so you'll know for yourself.

Iyov's first response to Elifaz

6:1 Then Iyov (Job) responded:
Iyov
2 If only my anguish could be truly weighed,
and my calamity could be put together with it on the scales.
3 Because now it would be heavier than the sand on the beaches
so that's why my words have been so rash.
4 Because the arrows of God the provider are in me.
My spirit is drinking in their poison.
God's terrors are set out against me.
5 Does a wild donkey bray when it has fresh grass to eat,
or a ox bellow when it has its fodder?
6 Do people eat tasteless food without adding salt,

10 RV 4:17 · Note All speech marks in Bible translations are added by the translators. It's not certain from the text whether or not this was what 'the voice' said, and if it is (as we assumed), it's not clear where 'the voice' stopped speaking and Elifaz resumes. (Many translations put it at the end of the chapter, but remember that chapter breaks are also rather arbitrary and not in the original manuscripts.)

11 RV 5:4 · Note This could refer to either the foolish people (v3) OR their children.

12 RV 5:4 · Note This could refer to any gate, or possibly to the hearings/court of the elders conducted at the village/city gate.

Readers' Version

or enjoy the taste of purslane leaves by itself?
7 My soul refuses to touch them—
they are like detestable food to me.
8 Who will give me my request?
May God give me what I hope for.
9 If only God would be willing to crush me.
May he play his hand and cut me off.
10 It still comforts me and gives me inner joy through never-ending pain,
that I haven't denied the words of the holy one.
11 I don't have the strength to keep waiting.
What future do I have, that I should want to go on living?
12 Am I strong like rock?
Is my body made of bronze?
13 Am I in a position to help myself?
It seems that success has been driven away from me.
14 When a man's in despair, surely his friend should be kind
even if the man stops honouring God the provider.
15 My 'brothers' have been as treacherous as a river that dries up in the summer.
They disappear again like dry river beds.
16 They go dark from the ice over them,
and they hide themselves when covered with snow.
17 At the time when they should be flowing, they're silenced.
When it's hot, they dry up from their channels.
18 Their paths twist in their courses,
they go out into the wasteland and end there.
19 The camel caravans from Teyma look for water.
The caravans from Sheva keep looking forward to them.
20 They were distressed because they had been confident.
They've come to the dry stream bed and were stunned.
21 Now you have become of no help.
You see the terror and you're afraid.
22 Have I ever asked you to give me something?
Or to give me a reward from your wealth?
23 Or to save me from my enemy in battle?
Or to pay a ransom to ruthless people in order to free me?
24 Teach me and then I'll be quiet.
Explain to me where I've gone wrong.
25 Truthful words are so painful.
But what does your proof prove to anyone?
26 Do you plan to correct my words?
Do you consider the words of someone in despair to be like wind?
27 You would even draw straws for a fatherless child.
You would make money out of your friend.
28 So now, look at me willingly.
Would I lie to your face?
29 Please turn back—don't let there be injustice.
Turn now—my cause is righteous.
30 Am I being unfair?
Am I incapable of discerning evil?
7:1 Aren't people expected to work on earth?
Aren't a person's days like the days of a hired labourer?
2 He longs for the shade just like a slave does.
He's just like a hired man who waits eagerly for his wages.
3 So months of worthlessness have been allotted to me,
and they've appointed me to have many nights of trouble.
4 When I lie down I ask myself, 'When can I get up?'
Thus evening drags on followed by restlessness until dawn.
5 My body is clothed with maggots and encrusted with dust.
My skin has become brittle and breaks apart.
6 In the past the days flew by faster than a weaver's shuttle,
but now they've come to an end without any hope.
7 Remember that my life is just a puff of air.
My eyes will never see happiness again.
8 Your eyes won't see me any more.
They'll be on me but I'll be gone.
9 Clouds just pop out of existence again and vanish.
Similarly, the person who goes down to Sheol doesn't come back up again.
10 That person won't return to their house again,
and before long their place won't even know them again.
11 So I won't restrain my mouth—
I'll speak in the distress of my spirit.
I will complain with the bitterness of my soul.
12 Do you think that I'm the sea or the sea monster
that you will station a guard to watch me?
13 I thought that my bed would comfort me,
and that my couch would take away my complaints.
14 But then you frighten me with dreams,
and you terrify me with visions.
15 My inner self chooses strangling—
death over life in this body.
16 I REJECT—I won't live to a VANISHING POINT.
Leave me alone because my days are just a puff of air.
17 What are humans that you make so much of them,
and that your mind thinks about them?
18 You visit them in the mornings,
and test them at various times.
19 Will you never look away from me?
Won't you leave me alone long enough to swallow?
20 If I've sinned, what did I do to you, the watcher of people?
Why have you made me your target—
me who feels like I myself am now a burden?
21 Why won't you forgive my fault
and take away my guilt?
For now I'll lie down in the dust.
You'll search for me but I'll no longer exist.

Bildad's first response to Iyov

8:1 Then Bildad (from Shuah) answered:
Bildad
2 For how much longer will you keep saying that stuff?
The words coming out of your mouth are like a strong wind.

Readers' Version

3 Does God pervert justice?
Does the provider pervert what is right?
4 If your children sinned against him,
then he let their disobedience take them on.
5 If you genuinely search for God,
and you request a favour from the provider,
6 and if you're pure and honourable,
he'll rouse himself to help you
and restore your rightful home.
7 Your beginning started off small,
but your ending will see a large increase.
8 Why don't you ask previous generations,
and consider what their ancestors had learnt,
9 because *we* were born just 'yesterday'
and don't know anything.
Our days on the earth are just a shadow in comparison.
10 Won't they speak to you and teach you?
They'll advise from their understanding.
11 Can papyrus grow tall where there's no swamp?
Can reeds grow where there's no water?
12 They're not harvested when they're still flowering,
but they wither before any other plants.
13 The paths of people who forget God are like them.
The hope of godless people will just disappear.
14 Their confidence snaps,
and their trust is broken like a spider's web.
15 He leans against his house but it collapses.
He takes hold of it, but it doesn't stand again.
16 It's a fresh plant in the sunshine,
and its shoots spread out over the garden.
17 Its roots are twisted around over a heap.
They find the cracks between stones.
18 If it's destroyed from its place,
it'll deny that it even saw you.
19 That's the happiness of its path.
Another one will spring up from the dust.
20 God doesn't reject people who are blameless.
And he doesn't join in with those who do evil.
21 He'll still fill your mouth with laughter,
and your lips with a happy shout.
22 Those who hate you will be exposed and shamed,
and the homes of wicked people will cease to exist.

Iyov's first response to Bildad

9:1 Then Iyov (Job) answered saying:
Iyov
2 Yes, I certainly know that.
But how can a person be declared innocent before God?[13]
3 If someone wanted to argue with him,
he wouldn't answer them once out of a thousand times.
4 He's wise in his thinking and very powerful.
Who has ever challenged him and succeeded?
5 He takes down mountains and they don't even know who is overturning them with his anger.
6 The one who shakes the earth from its place
and makes its pillars shudder.
7 The one who can tell the sun not to shine,
and seals off the stars.
8 The one who stretches out space all by himself,
and treads on the tops of the waves in the sea.
9 The one who made the Bear, Orion, Pleiades,
as well as the southern constellations.
10 The one who does more incredible things than we can find,
and does more marvellous things than we can count.
11 It he went past me, I couldn't see him,
and if he moved off, I wouldn't be able to perceive it.
12 When he takes things away, who can stop him,
and who will ask him what he's doing?
13 God won't suppress his anger.
Those who help Rahav lie beneath him.
14 I will certainly answer him.
I will choose my words against him.
15 If I was innocent, I wouldn't answer.
I would ask my judge for mercy.
16 If I called and he answered me,
I wouldn't believe that he'd listened to my voice.
17 He crushes me with storms,
and wounds me over and over without cause.
18 He doesn't let me catch my breath.
He fills me with bitterness.
19 Concerning strength, he's powerful.
Concerning justice, he'll ask, 'Who will summon me?'
20 If I was innocent, my mouth would condemn me.
If I was blameless, it would declare me guilty.
21 I'm innocent—I don't know myself.
I despise my life.
22 It's the same thing, therefore I said,
'He's bringing both the blameless and the wicked to their end.'
23 When a disaster brings sudden death, he mocks the despair of innocent people.
24 The world has been given over to someone wicked.
He covers the judges eyes—so who did it?
25 My days go by faster than a sprinter.
They've fled by without seeing any good.
26 They pass like boats made with reeds—
like an eagle swooping down on its food.
27 If I said that I would forget my complaint,
and soften my expression and smile,
28 I'd be afraid of all my sufferings.
I know that you wouldn't consider me innocent.
29 I'd be guilty,
so why would I work hard for such vanity?
30 If I washed myself from a clear mountain stream
and cleaned my hands with strong soap,
31 then you'd plunge me into a pit
and my own clothes would abhor me.
32 He's not a human like me,
so we wouldn't be going into court together.
33 There's no mediator between us,

13 **RV 9:2 · Cross-ref.** Yob 4:17.

Readers' Version

who would have authority over both of us.
34 Let him remove his rod from me,
so his terror won't frighten me.
35 I would speak and not fear him,
but it's not like that with me.
10:1 Inside, I loathe my life.
I'll release my complaints.
I'll express my inner bitterness.
2 I'll tell God not to condemn me.
Help me to know why you're against me.
3 Does it seem good to you to oppress me?
Have you rejected this creation of yours,
and delighted in wicked people's plans instead?
4 Do you have actual eyes?
Do you see like people do?
5 Are your days like a person's days
or your years like a person's years
6 that you look for my guilt
and search for my sin.
7 Knowing that I'm not guilty,
won't anyone save me from you?
8 Your hands shaped and moulded me.
Will the same hands now destroy me?
9 Please remember that you made me like the clay.
Will you now turn me to dust?
10 Haven't you poured me out like milk
and curdled me like cheese?
11 You clothed me with flesh and skin,
and you knit me together with bones and tendons inside.
12 You have made life and genuine love for me,
and your care has kept my spirit alive.
13 But you hid these things in your heart,
and I know that this is with you.
14 If I sin you'll be watching me,
and you wouldn't acquit me of my crime.
15 If I'm guilty, may my end be bad.
If I'm innocent, I won't raise my head.
I'm full of shame and you've seen my suffering.
16 If I get up, the lion will hunt me.
Again, you show me how wonderful you are.
17 You find new witnesses against me.
And you get more angry with me and send changed forces against me.
18 So why did you allow me to come out from the womb?
Better if I'd expired and no one had seen me.
19 If only I'd never existed—
just went straight from the womb to the grave.
20 Aren't my days few?
So leave me and let me enjoy a little comfort
21 before I go and don't return to the land of darkness and deep shadow—
22 the land of gloom and deep darkness,
disorderly and with gloomy light.

Tsofar's first response to Iyov

11:1 Then Tsofar (from Na'amah) answered:
Tsofar
2 Shouldn't these many words be answered?
Or is a man to be acquitted just by what comes from his lips.
3 Will your boasting make people silent?
Or will you mock and no one puts you to shame?
4 You've said, 'My teaching is pure,
and I'm clean in your sight.'
5 But who will allow God to speak
and to open his lips against you
6 and to tell you the secrets of wisdom?
True wisdom has DOUBLE
God will forget some of your offenses for you.
7 Will you find the deep things of God?
Will you discover the limits of the provider?
8 What can you do to the height of the sky?
What do you know that's deeper than the grave?
9 It measures longer than the land,
and wider than the ocean.
10 If he comes past and imprisons you and convenes a hearing,
who can prevent him?
11 He recognises people who are deceitful.
He sees wickedness but doesn't reveal that he's paying attention.
12 Even a hollow person will gain understanding.
A wild donkey's colt will give birth to a man.
13 If you've directed your heart
and stretched your arms out to him,
14 and put wickedness far away from yourself
and didn't let injustice live in your home,
15 then you can raise your head without shame
and be firmly establishing without fear.
16 You will forget trouble—
remembering it only like water that's flowed past.
17 Your life will rise brighter than the midday sun.
Darkness will become like morning.
18 You'll be confident that there's hope.
You'll look around then safely lie down.
19 You'll lie down without being terrified.
Many people will be after your favour.
20 But the eyes of the wicked will fail
and the way of escape will be invisible to them.
Their hope will be limited to their last gasp of life.

Iyov's first response to Tsofar

12:1 Then Iyov (Job) responded to Tsofar:
Iyov
2 Ah, you're certainly 'the people'
and wisdom will die with you.
3 But I too have a mind as well as you.
I'm not getting bowled over by you.
Is there anyone who doesn't know those things?
4 I'm laughed at by my friends.
I was calling on God and he answered,
but an innocent man becomes someone to laugh at.
5 People who are comfortable have contempt for misfortune—
for those whose feet seem to be slipping away.
6 Robbers relax in their tents,

Readers' Version

and those who provoke God seem secure—
those who carry their gods in their hands.
7 But please ask the animals and they'll teach you.
Ask the birds in the sky and they'll tell you.
8 Or complain to the ground and it'll teach you,
and the fish in the sea will declare it to you.
9 Which of them doesn't know that Yahweh has done all this?
10 The life of everything that lives is in his hands,
as is the spirit in the body of every person.
11 Doesn't the ear have to test the words it hears?
And the palate has to taste the food that's eaten?
12 Wisdom comes with age,
and understanding comes from a long life.
13 Wisdom and power belong to him.
Counsel and understanding belong to him.
14 What he tears down won't be rebuilt.
What he closes on a person won't be opened.
15 When he holds back the waters they dry up,
and when he sends them out they overwhelm the earth.
16 Strength and sound wisdom belong to him.
The deceived and the deceiver are both his.
17 He leads counsellors away barefoot,
and makes judges look foolish.
18 He undoes the chains of the king's prisoners,
and wraps a cloth around their naked loins.
19 He leads priests away barefoot,
and overthrows powerful people.
20 He deprives trusted advisors of the opportunity to speak,
and he takes discernment away from the elders.
21 He pours contempt on successful people,
and unties the belt that powerful people put onto others.
22 He reveals the deep things of darkness,
and he brings deep darkness into the light.
23 He makes nations great and he also destroys nations.
He enlarges nations and he has them led away as slaves.
24 He removes the heart from the leaders of the people of the land,
and makes them wander in wasteland where there's no paths.
25 They grope in the darkness without any light,
and he makes them stagger around as if they're drunk.

Iyov

Iyov argues that he hasn't sinned

13:1 Look here, my eyes have seen all that,
my ears have heard it and understood.
2 I also know everything that you know,
I'm not way behind you.
3 But I would like to talk to the provider,
and I desire to plead with God.
4 But you're all smearers of lies,
all of you are worthless healers.
5 If only you all would remain silent,
then you all might be considered wise.
6 Please listen to my argument,
and pay attention to the pleading of my lips.
7 Will you all speak faithlessly on God's behalf,
and will you talk deceitfully for him?
8 Will you show partiality to him,
or argue the case for God?
9 Is it good that he'll examine you all,
or will you deceive him like deceiving a person?
10 He would certainly rebuke you all,
if you were secretly showing partiality.
11 Shouldn't his majesty make you all afraid,
and his dread fall on you all?
12 Your traditional sayings are proverbs of ashes.
Your defenses might as well be made of clay.
13 Be silent in my presence and let me speak,
and let come to me what may.
14 Why should I bite my flesh with my own teeth,
and take my life in my own hands?
15 Even if he kills me, my hope will still be in him.
I will certainly defend my behaviour to him in person.
16 Even that would result in my salvation.
A godless person wouldn't enter his presence.
17 Listen carefully to my words,
and may my declaration be in the ears of you all.
18 I've now arranged my case.
I know that I'm in the right.
19 Who will conduct my case?
I'll keep silent now and die.
20 Just don't do these two things to me,
then I won't hide myself from your presence:
21 Don't take your hand far away from me,
and don't terrify me with your dread.
22 Then call me and I'll answer,
or let me speak and answer me.
23 How many errors and sins do I have?
Let me know how I disobeyed and sinned.
24 Why are you keeping away from me,
and treating me like an enemy?
25 Would you terrify a leaf blown by the wind?
Would you chase a dry stalk to punish it?
26 You write bitter things against me,
and even recall the errors of my youth.
27 You lock my feet in stocks.
You watch all my paths and mark the soles of my feet.[14]
28 He decays like something rotten.
He's like a garment that's eaten by moths.
14:1 Humans, born from women,
live relatively short lives with lots of turmoil.
2 People appear and then wither, just like the flowers.
They don't stay around, but rush away like shadows.
3 Do you watch over even creatures like this?
Do you bring me in to be judged?
4 Who can make something innocent out of something impure?
No one.

14 **RV 13:27 · Cross-ref.** Yob 33:11.

Readers' Version

5 Since a person's lifespan is already determined,
then you already know the number of months.
You've set the limit and we won't live past that.
6 Stop watching us.
Give us relief so we can take some pleasure in our daily work.
7 There's even hope for a tree that gets cut down.
It will sprout again and its new shoots won't fail.
8 Even when its roots in the ground get old,
and its base is rotting in the soil,
9 when it detects water it'll send up branches like a young plant.
10 But a person dies and is laid out—
a person breathes their last and now where are they?
11 The water disappears from a lake,
and the river level goes down then dries up.
12 So too people lie down and don't get up again.
They won't wake up until the sky no longer exists.
For now they can't be roused out of their sleep.
13 If only you'd allow me to be hidden in the grave,
that you'd conceal me until your anger is passed.
but set a limit and then remember me.
14 If a person dies, will they ever live again?
I'll keep doing my work here until I'm released from it.
15 You'll call me and I'll answer you.
You'll desire the creature you've made.
16 Now you'll count my steps.
You won't keep watch on my sins.
17 My disobedience would be sealed up in a bag,
and you'd plaster over my wickedness.
18 But mountains fall and crumble,
and rocks move out of their places.
19 Flowing water wears down stones,
and its torrents wash away the soil.
You destroy humankind's hope.
20 You're forever overpowering us and we depart.
You are changing the expression on our faces and sending us away.
21 If our children achieved some honour, we wouldn't even know it.
Or if they're put to shame, we wouldn't be there to see it.
22 Only our own bodies feel the pain.
Only our inner selves mourn.

Elifaz's second response to Iyov[15]

15:1 Then Elifaz (from Teyman) replied:
Elifaz
2 Do wise people just answer with knowledge full of wind?
Do they just fill themselves with the east wind?
3 Should a person argue against useless talk,
or against words that have no value?
4 You turn people from the fear of God,
and discourage them from godly meditation.
5 Thus your wickedness drives your words,
and you choose the language of crafty people.
6 It's not me who condemns you, but it's your own mouth.
Your own lips testify against you.
7 Were you the first person ever born?
Were you created before the hills were made?
8 Do you listen to God's advice,
or limit wisdom to your own experience?
9 What do you know that we don't?
What do you understand that's not clear to us?
10 Both the grey-haired and the elderly are on our side,
People who've lived longer than your father.
11 Isn't it enough when God comforts you?
Aren't his gentle words enough for you?
12 Why do your emotions get carried away?
Why do your eyes flash with anger?
13 Are you turning your spirit against God
as your words pour out of your mouth?
14 What person could ever be pure,
and how could someone born from a woman be righteous?[16]
15 He doesn't even trust his holy ones,
and the heavens aren't pure from his viewpoint.
16 Certainly not someone who's corrupt and abhorrent,
or a person who drinks wickedness like water.
17 I'll show you—listen to me—
what I've seen and will tell everyone.
18 What's been told by wise people—
that hasn't been hidden from their ancestors.
19 The land was given to them alone,
and no stranger had come in among them.
20 Wicked people squirm in pain for their entire lifetime.
Those who oppress others have a number of years of pain stored up for them.
21 Sounds of terrors are in their ears.
The destroyer comes while they're enjoying prosperity.
22 They don't believe that the darkness will ever end.
They're destined for the sword.
23 They wander around searching for food that must be there.
They know that dark days are ahead—already prepared.
24 They're terrified by distress and anguish.
That dread overwhelms them like a king who's ready for a battle.
25 These things happen to wicked people because they oppose God.
They've behaved arrogantly to the provider.
26 They rush against him in defiance,
trusting the thick reinforcing of their shields.
27 Though their faces are round and fat,
and their bodies have rolls on their hips,
28 they'll live in broken-down houses
which people normally wouldn't live in because they're marked for demolition.

15 **RV 15:1 · Parallel** 15:1–21:34
16 **RV 15:14-16 · Cross-ref.** Yob 25:4-6.

Readers' Version

29 They won't be rich and their wealth won't endure,
and their herds and flocks won't spread across the land.
30 Wicked people will never escape the darkness.
A flame will wither their branches,
and with one breath of their mouths, they'll be gone.
31 Don't let them trust in emptiness or they'll be led astray,
and worthlessness will be their only reward.
32 They'll be finished before their time,
and their branches won't flourish and produce leaves.
33 They'll be like grapevines that drop their grapes when they're still unripe,
and like olive trees that shed their blossoms.
34 Yes, the company of godless people is worthless,
and anything gained from bribery will be burnt up in the fire.
35 They dream about trouble and encourage wickedness,
and they give birth to deceitful plots.

Iyov's second response to Elifaz

16:1 Then Iyov (Job) answered Elifaz:
Iyov
2 I've heard many things like that before.
You come to comfort, but bring trouble instead.
3 You need to limit your words full of wind.
What makes you keep responding?
4 I could also speak like you all if you were in my place.
I could string words together against you all and shake my head at you.
5 Alternatively, I could use my mouth to encourage you all.
My lips could be used instead to bring relief.
6 Even when I speak, it doesn't take away my pain.
But if I hold back, how will it go away?
7 However, he's now worn me out.
My entire household has been devastated.
8 You've made me lose so much weight that everyone can't help notice it.
My being so thin is used against me so people think from my face that I must be guilty.
9 His anger has ripped my body open
and in his hate he's gnashed at me with his teeth.
Even my enemy locks his eyes on me.
10 People stare at me with their mouths wide open.
They slap my cheek in contempt as they join together against me.
11 God has handed me over to a YOUNG BOY
and he throws me into the hands of wicked people.
12 I was just living my life and he shattered me.
He grabbed me by the neck and dashed me to pieces.
He set me up as a his target.
13 Soldiers with bows and arrows surround me.
He pierces my kidneys but doesn't care.
He splits my gallbladder and pours my bile out on the ground.
14 He keeps breaking through my protective walls.
He charges against me like a warrior.
15 I've dressed in sackcloth to show I'm mourning.
I've tossed my horn into the dust to show I'm defeated.
16 My face is red from so much crying.
My eyelids are surrounded by dark shadows.
17 I haven't committed any violence.
My prayer is pure.
18 Earth, don't just cover over my blood.
Don't just become a hiding place for my cries.
19 Even now, my witness is there in the heavens,
and my advocate is up on high.[17]
20 My friends scorn me.
The tears of my eyes are directed to God.
21 May someone plead with God for a man,
and a son of humanity plead for his friend.
22 When a certain number of years have passed,
I'll go on a path that I won't return from.
17:1 My spirit is broken,
my days are extinguished,
only the grave is left.
2 Surely there's mockers with me.
My eye is held by their provocations.
3 Please give yourself to cover my bail.
Who else would put up security for me?
4 You've closed their minds from being able to understand,
so therefore you won't elevate them over me.
5 People who'd denounce their friends for some gain,
should expect their children to be selfish also.
6 He's made me into a local gossip point.
Someone to spit at in the face.
7 My eyes have become dark from my grief.
Every one of my body parts is just like a shadow.
8 Godly people are appalled by this,
and innocent people are stirred up against those who are godless.
9 But those who obey will be able to stay on the correct road,
and those who haven't done anything wrong will become stronger.
10 But all of them and you all may return now and come,
and I wouldn't find a wise person among you all.
11 My good days have passed.
My plans are shattered,
even my secret desires.
12 They change night into day in their minds—
making light seem near while staring into the darkness.
13 If I wait for the grave to become my home,
if I've spread out my blankets ready to sleep in the darkness,
14 if I've called out and told the pit that it's my father,
and to the worm that it's my mother and my sister,
15 then where would my hope be placed?
Who would know that I had any hope?
16 Will they go down to the gates of the grave?

17 **RV 16:19 · Cross-ref.** Yob 19:25.

Readers' Version

Will we go down together into the ground?

Bildad's second response to Iyov

18:1 Then Bildad (from Shuah) responded again:

Bildad

2 How long until you stop all those words?
Think first, and then afterwards we can speak.
3 Why are we regarded as cattle,
as if we're considered by you all as being stupid?
4 People who tear themselves apart in anger,
will the ground be abandoned for your sakes,
or the rock removed out of its place?
5 Indeed, the light of wicked people[18] is extinguished.
the flame of their fire won't shine.
6 The light in their tents will go dark.
and the lamps that hang over their heads will go out.
7 Their strong steps will get shorter,
and their own schemes make them depressed.
8 Yes, they'll get their feet caught in a net,
and they'll wander around in a maze.
9 They'll get their heels caught in traps,
the sprung jaws will keep hold of them.
10 A rope is hidden in the ground,
and a noose lies there on their paths.
11 Sudden noises around them will terrify them,
and follow their steps as they run away.
12 Their strength dissolves into hunger,
and disaster has been prepared for them to stumble into.
13 It devours parts of their skin,
death begins by devouring their body parts.
14 They're pulled from their tents where they felt secure,
and taken away to the king of terrors.
15 Other people will live in their tents.
Sulfur is scattered over their homes.
16 Their roots dry up underneath them,
and their branches above them all wither.
17 No one on the earth will remember them any more,
and no streets will be named after them.[19]
18 They'll be driven from the light out into the darkness,
and they'll be chased out of this world.
19 You won't find any of their children or grandchildren in their town.
nor find any survivor where they previously lived.
20 Those in the west are appalled at their fate,
and those in the east are getting the shudders.
21 That's certainly how the homes of wicked people end up,
and that's the place for people who don't know God.

Iyov's second response to Bildad

19:1 Iyov (Job) responded to Bildad and companions again:

Iyov

2 How much longer will I be tormented
and crushed with words?
3 You people have scolded me ten times now.
You should be ashamed for how you've ill-treated me.
4 And even if I had truly done something wrong,
my error would remain with *me*.
5 If you truly think that you're better people than me,
and use my disgrace to argue against me,
6 then you need to know that God has wronged me,
and he's closed his net around me.
7 There, I cry out that I'm being attacked, and get no answer.
I call for help, but there's no justice.
8 He's blocked my road so I can't get past,
and he places darkness over my paths.
9 He's taken away all my honour,
and removed the crown from on my head.
10 He's battered me from every direction and I'm gone.
He's removed my hope like a tree that's been uprooted.
11 He's directed his anger against me,
and treats me as one of his enemies.
12 His troops advance in formation.
They build up a siege ramp against me,
and set themselves up around my tent.
13 He's moved my brothers far away from me,
and my acquaintances have certainly kept out of my way.
14 My relatives have deserted me,
and my close friends have forgotten me.
15 Those who've stayed in my home, and even the female servants regard me as a stranger.
I've become a foreigner in their eyes.
16 When I call my servant, he doesn't answer.
I try to persuade him with my words.
17 My breath is repugnant to my wife,
and abhorrent to my siblings.
18 Even young boys reject me.
When I stand they speak against me.
19 All my closest friends abhor me,
and those I love have turned on me.
20 My skin and flesh cling to my bones.
I've escaped by the skin of my teeth.
21 Pity me, pity me, you my friends,
because God's hand has touched me.
22 Why do you chase me as if you're God?
Won't you be satisfied with destroying my body?
23 Who will permit that my words be written down?
Who will allow them to be inscribed onto a scroll
24 with a pen made of iron and lead,
or engraved onto stone with a chisel?
25 I do know that my redeemer lives,
and that he will stand on the dust at the end.
26 After my skin has been struck off,
then in my flesh, I'll see God,
27 yes, I'll see him for myself.

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18 RV 18:5 · Note This segment is about 'the wicked man' (somewhat general, but also obviously referring to Iyov), but we've generalised it into 'wicked people' as being more relevant to the average reader (of both sexes).

19 RV 18:17 · Note That was a paraphrase (and probably an anachronism) that we couldn't resist (and will probably delete again). It's really something more like 'no one will mention their names on the streets'.

Readers' Version

My eyes will see, and not a stranger.
My heart will feel faint within my chest.
28 You people will say, 'How will we persecute him?
After all, the root of the matter is found in him.'
29 You should be afraid of the sword,
because anger brings punishment by the sword,
so that you will know that there is judgement.

Tsofar's second response to Iyov

20:1 Then Tsofar (from Na'amah) responded to Iyov (Job):
Tsofar
2 My anxious thoughts force me to answer,
because of the turmoil that's within me.
3 I've heard your correction and it insults me,
and a spirit beyond my understanding answers me.
4 Do you know this from long ago,
from back when humankind was placed on the earth:
5 that the excited shout of wicked people is brief,
and the happiness of godless people only lasts a moment?
6 Although their arrogance rises up to the sky,
and their heads reach into the clouds,
7 they will vanish forever like their own dung—
those who had seen them will ask, 'Where are they now?'
8 They'll fly away like a dream that can't be found again,
and be chased away like a vision in the night.
9 Anyone who saw them won't see them again,
and even the place where they lived won't see them again.
10 Their children will be seeking the favour of poor people,
because their own hands must return their wealth.
11 Although their bones were full of youthful vigour,
that same strength will lie down with them in the dust.
12 Although their evil tastes sweet in their mouths,
they hide it under their tongues.
13 They would miss it too much to let it go,
and they keep it there in the middle of their mouths.
14 But that food changes in their stomachs.
It becomes like snake venom inside them.
15 They swallow up wealth but then vomit it up.
God forces it out of their stomachs.
16 They'll suck on cobra poison.
The viper's fangs will kill them.
17 Those wicked people won't enjoy the streams,
or the fast-flowing rivers of honey and yoghurt.
18 They will return what they've gained and not swallow it down.
They won't get any enjoyment from the profits of their trading.
19 They've oppressed others and ignored the poor.
They've seized homes that they didn't build.
20 Their bellies are never at ease.
They never deliver what they desire.
21 There's nothing left over from their eating,
so their prosperity won't endure.
22 They'll be so full but it'll only bring distress.
Every troublemaker will come to them.
23 Maybe when they've filled their bellies,
God will send his anger against them,
raining down on them and their meal.
24 They flee from weapons made of iron.
A bow made of brass sends its arrows right through them.
25 They pull them through and out their backs.
The tips have shiny liver on them—terrors come over them.
26 Total darkness is reserved for their treasures.
A fire which no one started will devour them.
Only sorry remnants will survive in their tents.
27 The heavens will reveal their evils,
and the earth will rise up against them.
28 The contents of their houses will be removed—
washed away in his severe anger.
29 That's what God serves up to wicked people,
and the heritage that God has decreed for them.

Iyov's second response to Tsofar

21:1 Then Iyov (Job) responded to Tsofar and the others:
Iyov
2 Listen carefully to my words,
and let this be a consolation for you all.
3 Bear with me while I speak,
and after I've finished, you can continue mocking then.
4 As for me, is my complaint against any person?
If it was, then you might expect me to be impatient.
5 Turn and look at me and be appalled.
Yes, put your hands over your mouths in shock.
6 When I remember what happened, I'm horrified,
and my body starts shuddering.
7 Why do wicked people live?
Why do they grow old and become more powerful?
8 Their children become established around them,
and their offspring become settled in front of them.
9 Their homes are safe and free from fear.
God isn't punishing them.
10 Their bulls mate productively,
and their cows calve without miscarrying.
11 They send out their little ones like a flock,
and their children dance all around.
12 They pick up their tambourines and harps,
and they're happy to hear the sound of the flutes.
13 They spend their days in prosperity,
and they go peacefully down to the grave.
14 They tell God, "Leave us alone.
We're not interested in knowing about your ways.
15 Who is 'the provider' and why should we serve him.
What would we gain if we made requests to him?"
16 However, their prosperity isn't in *their* hands.
I keep far away from the advice of wicked people.
17 How often is the lamp of wicked people extinguished and calamity hits them?
In his anger, does he dole out pain to them?
18 Are they just like straw blown by the wind,
and like chaff that's carried away by a gale.
19 God saves up their evil for their children.

Readers' Version

Let God repay them so they'll know.
20 Let them watch their own destruction,
and let them drink the severe anger of the provider.
21 After they're gone, why would they care about their families?
Why would they count the months after they've already been cut off?
22 Can any person teach knowledge to God
since he judges the high and mighty?
23 Some people die in full strength,
completely secure and at ease.
24 Their buckets are full of milk,
and their bone marrow is nicely moistened.
25 But others die full of bitterness,
and they haven't tasted prosperity.
26 Both kinds of people lie together in the dust,
and worms cover them both.
27 Yes, I know what you're all thinking,
and the schemes that you'd all use against me.
28 You all say, 'Which is the house of that respected person?
And which are the tents that the wicked people live in?'
29 Haven't you all asked those travelling on the roads?
Don't you all accept their reports
30 that evil people are spared from the day of calamity—
that they are led away from that day of anger?
31 Who will denounce their actions to their faces?
Who will repay them for the evil they've done?
32 They'll be carried off to the cemetery,
and someone will keep watch over their tombs.
33 The clods of the riverbed will be sweet to them.
Everyone will follow along behind them,
and no one can count those who go in front of them.
34 So how can vanity be of comfort to me?
It's only faithlessness that remains from the replies that you all have given.

Elifaz's third response to Iyov[20]

22:1 Then Elifaz (from Teyman) responded to Iyov (Job):
Elifaz
2 Can a human be of use to God?
Might a wise person be of any use to him?[21]
3 Does it give pleasure to the provider if you're innocent?
Will he benefit if you're blameless in your actions?
4 Does he scold you for your religiosity?
Does he go with you into judgement?
5 Your wickedness is really bad,
and there's no end to your evil actions.
6 You've forced your brothers into unnecessary debt to you.
You've demanded clothes in payment and left people naked.
7 You never gave exhausted people anything to drink,
and you refused to give food to those who were hungry.
8 The land belongs to a powerful man.
A man who was honoured lives on it.
9 You sent widows away empty-handed,
and the strength of orphans has been crushed.
10 Because of that there's traps set all around you,
and sudden fear terrifies you,
11 or darkness so you can't see,
and a flood of water covers you.
12 Isn't God as high as the sky,
and look at how high the tops of those stars are!
13 You might ask, 'What does God know?
Will he judge through thick darkness?
14 Clouds block things off from him so he can't see.
He walks around way up there on top of the heavens.'
15 Will you stay on the ancient paths,
on which wicked people regularly tread?
16 They were captured at an inappropriate time—
a torrent of water poured over their foundations.
17 They had told God, 'Leave us alone,'
and 'What can the provider do for us?'
18 But he had filled their houses with good things,
and I keep far away from the advice of wicked people.
19 Godly people are happy when they see that, WHAT?
and innocent people mock them. WHO?
20 If he didn't destroy our enemies, MEANING?
and fire has destroyed what was left. MEANING?
21 Now be reconciled with him and at peace.
Doing that will bring good to you.
22 Just accept his advice,
and keep thinking about his words.
23 If you return to the provider, you'll be encouraged.
He'll remove injustice from your living situation.
24 Throw your gold onto the dust on the ground,
and fine gold onto the stones in the riverbed.
25 Then the provider will be your gold,
and be heaps of silver to you.
26 Then you'll enjoy your relationship with the provider,
and you'll raise your head towards God.
27 You'll pray to him and he'll listen to you,
and you'll fulfil your promises to him.
28 Once you decide on something, it'll be done for you,
and light will shine on all your paths.
29 People are humbled and then honoured again,
and he will save those who humble themselves.
30 He will set free those who aren't innocent,
and they'll be rescued with the cleanness of your hands.

Iyov's third response to Elifaz

23:1 Then Iyov (Job) responded to Elifaz and the others:
Iyov
2 Even today my complaint is bitter.
I'm groaning because my situation is so difficult.
3 If only I knew where to find him
I would have gone to his place.
4 I would present my case to him,
and I would expound all my arguments,

20 **RV 22:1 · Parallel** 22:1–27:23

21 **RV 22:2-3 · Cross-ref.** Yob 35:6-8.

Readers' Version

5 I want to know how he'd answer,
and to understand what he'll say to me.
6 Would he use his incredible power to dispute my case?
No, surely he'd pay attention to me.
7 An honest person could reason with him there,
and I would be set free forever by the one judging me.
8 Look, I go to the east but he isn't there,
and to the west but I can't detect him there.
9 He works in the north, but I can't see him,
and when he turned south, I didn't spot him.
10 Nevertheless, he knows the path that I've taken.
He's tested me and I've come out like refined gold.
11 My feet have followed in his tracks.
I've kept to the path without wavering.
12 I've always obeyed what he commanded,
and I've valued his words more than my daily food.
13 But he's independent so who could dissuade him?
He does whatever he wants to do.
14 He carries out what's been decided for me,
and he knows so much about me.
15 That's why I'm terrified in his presence,
I'm afraid of him when I consider all that.
16 God has caused me to be faint-hearted.
The provider has terrified me.
17 I haven't been silenced when facing the darkness,
or by the fog that covers my face.

Iyov complains about continued evil

24:1 Why doesn't the provider store up the times,
and those who know him never see him age?
2 People move boundaries.
They steal sheep and goats and graze them.
3 They drive away the donkey of a family who lost the husband.
They take the widow's ox as payment for a pledge.
4 They turn needy people off the road.
The poor people in the land mustn't be seen.
5 Indeed, the poor work in the desert.
The wilderness is their field where they search for something to eat.
6 They harvest whatever they can find in the countryside,
and they gather grapes left behind in the wicked peoples' vineyards.
7 They spend the night under-dressed from lack of clothing,
and have nothing to cover themselves with in the cold.
8 They get soaked by the showers in the hills,
and huddle against the rocky ledge for shelter.
9 They pull the fatherless baby from the breast,
and take the children from poor families to pay their debt.
10 Without clothing, they walk around under-dressed.
Harvesting for others, they're feeling hungry.
11 They squeeze out olive oil at the press.
They tread the juice out of the grapes while they thirst.
12 People groan in the cities,
and wounded souls cry out.
but God seems to not be offended.
13 They're in with those rebelling against the light.
They take no notice of his ways,
and they don't stay on his paths.
14 At first light, the murderer gets up and kills the poor,
and in the night he's like a thief.
15 The adulterer watches out for the twilight,
saying that no one will see him,
and he puts a covering over his face.
16 They dig into people's houses in the dark,
but they stay hidden away during the day—
they don't know what daylight is.
17 To them, morning is like deep darkness.
They're familiar with the terrors of deep darkness.
18 They're swift on the surface of the waters.
Their portion of the land is cursed.
No one goes in the direction of their vineyards.
19 Drought as well as heat will snatch away the snow.
The grave will do the same to those who have sinned.
20 The womb will forget them—the worm will dine on them.
They won't be remembered again—injustice is like a broken tree.
21 He devours the barren woman who's never had a child.
He doesn't do anything good to the widow.
22 He uses his strength to drag powerful people away.
He rises but no one trusts in life. WHAT???
23 He gives him support and security,
and his eyes are on their ways.
24 They're promoted for a while then they're gone.
Then they're cut down and gathered up like wheat,
then they wither like the stalks of grain.
25 If that isn't true, then who will prove me a liar
and demonstrate that my words mean nothing?

Bildad's third response to Iyov

25:1 Then Bildad (from Shuah) responded to Iyov (Job):
Bildad
2 Dominion and fear belong to God.
He establishes peace in his high places.
3 Can his troops be counted?
Is there anyone who his light doesn't shine on?
4 How can a person be innocent before God?
How could a human born from a women be pure?
5 Look, even the moon isn't clear to us,
and the stars seem fuzzy in our sight.
6 Indeed, a person's just like an insect,
and human offspring are as insignificant as worms.

Iyov's response to Bildad

26:1 Then Iyov (Job) responded to Bildad:
Iyov
2 How have you helped those without power?
How have you saved those who are weak?
3 How well you have advised those without wisdom,
and displayed many good things.
4 Who did you tell all that to,
and whose spirit spoke through you?
5 The dead will be made to tremble

Readers' Version

from beneath the water and their inhabitants. ???
6 The grave is wide open before him,
and AVADON has no covering.
7 He stretches out the north over empty space.
He hangs the earth on nothing at all.
8 He attaches the water into his clouds,
but the cloud isn't torn apart by it.
9 He covers the surface of the THRONE/MOON.
He spreads his cloud above it.
10 He's drawn a circle to mark the limit of the waters,
and to mark the boundary between light and darkness.
11 The pillars of heaven shake,
and they're astounded when he scolds them.
12 He stirs up the sea with his power,
and using his know-how he smashed RAHAV.
13 By his breath he makes the skies clear.
His hand pierced the fleeing snake.
14 Listen, those are the ends of his ways,
and how we hear just a whisper of a word.
And who can interpret the thunder of his power?
27:1 Then Iyov (Job) continued speaking:
2 Although God lives, who's taken justice away from me,
and the provider who's made my soul bitter,
3 I still have my breath in me,
and God's breath remains in my nostrils.
4 If my lips speak wickedness,
if my tongue speaks deceitfully,
5 I'll never say that you all are correct—
I won't set aside my integrity before I die.
6 I'm holding tight to my innocence and won't let it go.
There hasn't been a single day when my conscience has reproached me.
7 May my enemies get the same reward as wicked people,
and may my opponents receive the same as unjust people.
8 What hope do godless people have
when he cuts them off,
when God takes away their lives?
9 Will God hear their cries
when troubles hit them?
10 If they delight themselves in the provider,
will they call on God at all times?
11 I'll teach you all about God's power.
I won't hide anything about the provider.
12 Yes, all of you have seen this for yourselves,
so why do you vainly speak such nonsense?
13 This is the wicked people's portion from God,
and the inheritance that ruthless people will receive from the provider:
14 If they have many children, they'll die in battle,
and their offspring won't have enough food to eat.
15 Those who remain will be buried by deadly diseases,
and their widows won't be there to weep for them.
16 If they heap up silver like the dust,
and pile up clothes like clay mounds,
17 although the wicked piled it up, the godly people will wear them,
and innocent people will divide up the silver.
18 The wicked build easily-broken houses like the moths do,
and like temporary shelters that a guard quickly makes.
19 They're wealthy when they lie down, but that's that—
when they open their eyes, it's gone.
20 Terrors overtake them like a flood.
A gale carries them away in the night.
21 The east wind carries them away then they're gone,
and it sweeps them out from their places.
22 It hurls itself against them without mercy.
They hurriedly flee from its power.
23 That wind claps its hands at them,
and hisses at them from its place.

SECTION THREE:[22]
· Praising wisdom

Iyov
28:1 Surely there's a mine where silver is extracted,
and a place where gold is refined.
2 Iron is taken from the ground,
and copper is smelted from rock.
3 People have ways to end the darkness.
They search the furthest places
for the stone of gloom and deep darkness. ???
4 They break open a shaft far from villages—
where feet have forgotten to go.
They hang down on ropes and swing around far from people.
5 Food comes from the land on the surface of the earth,
but underneath it keeps changing like fire.
6 Its rocks are a source of sapphires,
and its dust a source of gold.
7 The birds of prey don't know that path,
and the falcon's eye hasn't seen it.
8 The sons of pride haven't walked on it.
The lion hasn't passed over it.
9 The miner works the flinty rock with his hands.
He overturns mountains by their roots.
10 He splits open shafts in the rocks,
and his eyes notice everything that's valuable.
11 He dams up rivers upstream towards the source,
then hidden things are brought into the light.
12 But where can **wisdom** be found,
and where does understanding live?
13 People don't know their worth,
and it's not found in the land of the living.
14 The deep waters say, 'I don't have it,'
and the ocean says, 'It's not in me.'
15 Gold can't be used to obtain it,
and silver can't be weighed out to match its price.
16 Even the gold from Ofir can't be used to pay for wisdom,
nor can precious onyx stones and sapphires.
17 Neither gold nor clear glass can equal it,

22 **RV 28:1 · Parallel** 28:1-28

Readers' Version

and it can't be exchanged for a gold goblet.
18 It's not even worth mentioning coral and jasper.
Yes, **wisdom** is way more expensive than pearls.
19 The good topaz from Kush (Ethiopia) can't be compared with it.
It can't be paid for with gold.
20 So then, where does **wisdom** come from?

Wisdom is obeying God

Where then, does understanding live?
21 It's hidden from the eyes of every living creature.
It's even concealed from the birds in the sky.
22 Destruction and death say,
'We've heard a rumour about it with our ears.'
23 But God understands the path to wisdom,
and he knows where it lives,
24 because he can see right around the earth,
and he notices everything under the sky.
25 God determined the weight of the atmosphere,
and he dished out the ocean with his measuring cup.
26 He told the rain how to behave,
and made the paths for the lightning bolts when it thunders.
27 Then he saw wisdom and declared it,
and he established it then searched it out.
28 Then he told humankind,
'Listen, obeying the master—that's **wisdom**,
along with turning away from doing evil.'[23]

SECTION FOUR: Iyov's final speech[24] · Iyov remembers his earlier life

29:1 Then Iyov (Job) continued speaking:
Iyov
2 How I wish for my life in the months of the past,
in the days when God watched over me.
3 When his lamp shone over my head.
When I walked in the darkness by his light.
4 I was still in my prime in those days,
when God's friendship could be noticed in my home.
5 When the provider was still with me.
When my children were all around me.
6 When my path was greased with butter,
and the rock poured streams of olive oil out for me.
7 When I went to the gathering of the city elders at the city gate.
When I took my seat in the public square.
8 Young men saw me and got out of the way,
and the old people got up and remained standing.
9 The leaders would stop their conversations,
and put their hands over their mouths.
10 The voices of the leading citizens were hushed,
and their tongues stayed on the roofs of their mouths.
11 Those who listened to me commended me,
and those who saw me approved of me,
12 because I rescued the poor who cried out,
and the fatherless who had no one to help them.
13 Those who were close to dying gave me their blessing,
and widows were very pleased that I'd helped them.
14 I put on obedience like a cloak.
My justice was like a robe and a turban.
15 I was the eyes for the blind,
and the feet for the lame.
16 I was a father for the needy,
and I helped strangers present their cases.
17 I broke the jaws[25] of unjust people,
so they had to drop their prey from their teeth.
18 I had thought that I would die in my own home,
having multiplied my days like the sand.
19 My roots are spread out to reach water,
and the dew will lie on my branches overnight.
20 People were always honouring me,
and the bow in my hand will always seem new.
21 They listened to me and they waited,
and they kept silent ready to hear my advice.
22 After my talk, they still didn't speak,
because my words slowly sunk into them like the dew.
23 They waited for me like a farmer waits for rain,
and they opened their mouths wide like soil expecting the wet weather.
24 I smiled at them even when they didn't believe me,
and they didn't cause the delight on my face to falter.
25 I chose their path and I sat as a chief,
and I lived like a king with his troops,
like when someone comforts those who are mourning.
30:1 But now those who are younger than me laugh at me—
those whose fathers I would have refused to have join my sheepdogs!
2 What use was the strength of their arms to me?
Their contentment with life has gone.
3 They're useless due to poverty and hunger.
Gnawing at the dry land that's devastated and uninhabited.
4 They pick mallow leaves off the wild bushes,
and roots of broom trees have become their food.
5 They're driven away from the community,
and people shout at them as if they're thieves,
6 They live out in the river valleys—
in holes in the ground and caves in the cliffs.
7 They bray like animals out between the shrubs.
They're huddled together under the thorn bushes.
8 They're the children of fools, without any name to them.
They've been driven out of the land.
9 But now I'm mocked in their songs,
and my name has been made into a joke by them.
10 They despise me and keep their distance,
yet don't hesitate to spit in my face.

23 **RV 28:28 · Cross-ref.** Psa 111:10; Prv 1:7; 9:10.

24 **RV 29:1 · Parallel** 29:1–31:40

25 **RV 29:17 · Note** Of course this is figurative language as you can see from the second line of the doublet.

Readers' Version

11 God has unstrung my bow and humbled me,
so they don't restrain themselves in my presence.
12 A rabble appears on one side and push my feet away.
They pile up their destructive paths against me.
13 They've torn down my path.
They benefit from my destruction—
there's no helper for them.
14 They come quickly like through a wide breach in the wall.
They have rolled themselves under the devastation.
15 Terrors have been turned against me.
They pursue my honour like the wind,
and my prosperity has disappeared like cloud.
16 Now my life pours itself out within me.
Days of suffering have taken hold of me.
17 Night pierces my bones from upon me,
and the pains that gnaw at me never rest.
18 My clothing is transformed through great strength.
My garment ties me up by the collar.
19 He throws me into the mud,
and I've become like dust and ashes.
20 I call out to you for help
but you don't answer me.
I've stood here and you just look at me.
21 You've changed yourself to become cruel to me.
You use your strength to persecute me.
22 You hold me up to the wind and let it take me.
You toss me around in the storm.
23 I know you are bringing me towards death,
and to the final appointment that everyone has.
24 Doesn't someone who's collapsed into a heap stretch out their hand.
In a disaster they cry out for help.
25 Didn't I weep for those having a troubled day?
I was upset when I saw the poor.
26 I waited for good, but it was evil that came.
I waited for light, but it was gloom that came.
27 My insides feel like they're boiling—
they never feel settled,
and my suffering confronts me every day.
28 I go around being dark, but not from the sun.
I've stood in the assembly and called out for help.
29 I've become a brother to jackals,
and a companion of young ostriches.
30 My skin has turned black,
and my bones are burning with fever.
31 So my harp is used for mourning.
My flute accompanies those who are weeping.

Iyov

Iyov's claims of obedience

31:1 I've made an agreement with my eyes,
about how I'll be careful when I look at a young woman.
2 Yes, what would God serve out from above,
and what would our inheritance be from the provider on high?
3 Isn't calamity intended for the disobedient,
and disaster for those who do evil?
4 Doesn't God see my ways,
and count all my steps?
5 If I've walked the life of liars,
and my feet have rushed to be deceitful,
6 let him weigh me on his scales of justice,
and God will acknowledge my integrity.
7 If I have stepped off the path,
or my thoughts have followed my eyes,
or any stain can be seen on my hands,
8 let others eat the crops that I planted,
or let all my crops be pulled out.
9 If my heart has been enticed by a woman,
or I've watched for my chance at my neighbour's door,
10 then may my wife prepare meals for someone else,
and may others take advantage of her.
11 Yes, that would be wicked,
and would be an evil deserving judgement.
12 It's a fire that will devour Avadon, ???
and it would uproot all of my harvest. ???
13 If I didn't treat my male or female servants fairly,
when they bring their complaints against me,
14 then what would I do if God stood up to judge?
How would I answer when he came to me?
15 Didn't the one who made me in the uterus, also make the servants?
Didn't the same one form us in the womb?
16 If I've been stingy in meeting the needs of the poor,
or have allowed the widow's EYES TO FAIL,
17 or if I ever ate my meal myself
while the orphan there had nothing to eat,
18 because he'd grown up with me like a father to him
and I'd guided the widow since I was very small.
19 If I ever saw someone dying from the cold due to lack of clothing,
or any needy person without a blanket,
20 if the poor haven't blessed me,
or they haven't warmed themselves with wool from my sheep,
21 if I've used my strength against the fatherless,
because I'd be supported by the elders from the city gate,
22 may my upper arm fall away from my shoulder blade,
and may my arm be broken out of its socket,
23 because calamity from God worries me,
and I can't match his greatness.
24 If I've put my trust in gold,
and called fine gold my security,
25 if I've celebrated because of my great wealth,
and because I've been able to accumulate so much,
26 if I've seen the light when it shines,
and the moon advancing in its splendour,
27 and my heart was secretly enticed,
and my hand threw kisses from my mouth,
28 this would also be an evil deserving judgement,[26]

26 **RV 31:28a · Cross-ref.** Yob 31:11b.

Readers' Version

because I would have denied the god above.
29 If I've been happy at the ruin of someone who hated me,
or been glad because calamity found them,
30 I have not allowed my mouth to sin
by demanding their life in a curse.
31 Those who live in my home will declare
that no one has ever been denied food there.
32 No traveller has had to overnight outside on the street—
I've opened my doors to travellers.
33 If I've concealed my disobedience like others do,
by hiding my guilt in my chest,
34 because I feared how the big crowd would react,
and because being on the receiving end of the contempt of the clans terrified me,
then I'd remain silent and wouldn't go outside,
35 If only I had someone to hear my case.
Look, here's my signature.
May the provider answer me
and the indictment that my accuser has written.
36 If I didn't display it up on my shoulder,
I'd tie it around my head like a crown.
37 I would have to give him an account of my every step.
Like a noble, I would go and approach him.
38 If my land cried out against me,
and the ploughed furrows wept together,
39 if I've eaten what it produces with paying fair wages,
or I've caused the death of its owners,
40 then let thornbushes grow up instead of wheat,
and let stinkweed grow up instead of barley.
(That finishes Iyov's (Job's) response.)

SECTION FIVE: Elihu's speeches[27] · Elihu's response

32:1 After that those three men stopped answering Iyov (Job), because they considered that he had just been trying to justify himself. 2 Then Elihu (son of Barak'el the Buzi, from the clan of Ram) got angry with Iyov because Iyov seemed to be claiming that he was in the right rather than God.
3 He was also angry at Iyov's three friends, because they had declared that he was wrong, yet hadn't found any reasonable justification for it. 4 Elihu had waited to speak because they were all older than him, 5 but when he had seen that they didn't really have any answer, he got angry.

Elihu's first speech to Iyov's three friends

6 So now Elihu (son of Barak'el the Buzi) spoke up:
Elihu
I'm only young and all of you are much older than me,
so I was shy and reluctant to give you all my views.
7 I told myself to let the elders speak,
and to let those with much experience share their wisdom.
8 However, each person has a spirit,
and the provider's breath gives us understanding.
9 Not so many people are wise,
and older people don't necessarily understand what's right.
10 So I say, "Listen to me.
I too will declare what I know.
11 Listen, I waited for your words.
I listened to your wise sayings
while you all searched for the right words.
12 I gave you all my full attention, but listen,
none of you could refute Iyov (Job)
or could answer his words.
13 So don't tell yourselves that you displayed wisdom.
It's God who must refute him—not any person.
14 But Iyov hasn't directed his words against me,
and I won't answer him with your answers.
15 They're dismayed and can't answer again.
Their words have run away from them.
16 Should I wait because they're not speaking?
They stand there but haven't answered again.
17 Yes, I too will answer with my share.
I'll declare my opinion as well.
18 Because I'm full of words.
Something inside me compels me.
19 My belly is like pressurised wine.
It'll split open like a new wineskin.
20 Let me speak so I can relax.
I'll open my mouth and answer.
21 I won't take anyone's side,
and I won't flatter anyone with fancy titles.
22 I don't know how to give fancy titles.
My maker would soon take me away.

Elihu asks Iyov to hear him out

33:1 So now Iyov (Job), please hear my speech,
and listen to all my words.
2 Listen, I've opened my mouth.
My tongue is ready to speak.
3 My words come from an honest heart,
and my lips utter what I truly believe.
4 The spirit of God created me,
and the provider gave me life.
5 If you can, answer me.
Get things in order then take a stand.
6 Listen, my words are just like yours in God's sight.
I too was broken off from the clay.
7 Listen, fear of me shouldn't terrify you.
I won't be putting heavy pressure on you.

Elihu responds to Iyov's speeches

8 You've certainly spoken in my hearing,
and I've heard the sound of the words:
9 'I'm blameless—I haven't disobeyed.
I'm innocent—I haven't done anything wrong.
10 Listen, he finds reasons to accuse me.
He considers me as his enemy.
11 He locks my feet in shackles.

27 **RV 32:1 · Parallel** 32:1–37:24

Readers' Version

He watches me wherever I go.'[28]
12 Listen, you're not right about this.
I'll tell you that God is greater than any person.
13 Why do you argue against him
since he doesn't answer people's questions?
14 God speaks with one person—
with two, but they don't perceive it, ???
15 in a dream or a vision in the night,
when deep sleep falls on those asleep in bed.
16 Then he uncovers people's ears,
and seals them with warnings ???

How God warns people

17 to turn people aside from their activities,
and to stop them from becoming proud.
18 He spares their souls from the pit,
and their lives from perishing by the sword.
19 They're chastened on their beds
with constant pain in their bones.
20 They have no desire for bread.
nor do their souls desire food.
21 Their flesh wastes right away from sight.
Their bones, not normally visible, now stick out.
22 Their souls get near to the pit,
and their lives to the messengers of death.
23 If there's a messenger who will mediate for them,
one in a thousand to announce what's right for them,
24 who's gracious to them and says,
'Spare that person from going down to the pit,
because I've found the ransom to pay for them.'
25 Then their flesh renews like that of a child.
They regain their youthful energy.
26 They'll request God's help and he'll accept them.
They'll give happy shouts when they see his face,
and when he repays them for their obedience.
27 They'll sing to others, ??? TC ???
'I sinned and I said that what was wrong was right,
but it wasn't good for me.
28 He's paid the ransom to keep my soul out of the pit,
so I'll live to see the light.'
29 Listen, God does all those things to people several times,
30 to bring their souls back from the pit
so they can be enlightened with the light of life.
31 Pay attention, Iyov (Job), and listen to me.
Stay silent and then I'll speak.
32 If you have words, answer me then.
Speak up because I'd like to hear that you're innocent.
33 But if not, then listen to me.
Remain silent and I'll teach you wisdom.
34:1 Then Elihu continued:
2 Hear my words you wise men,
and listen to me you who are in the know.
3 Yes, our ears test words,
just like our mouth distinguishes tastes.
4 Let's choose justice for ourselves.
Let's discern among ourselves what is good.
5 Because Iyov has declared, 'I'm righteous,
but God has deprived me of justice.
6 Would I lie about my rights?
My wound is incurable despite not having disobeyed.'
7 What other person is like Iyov (Job)?
He drinks up mockery like drinking water.
8 He keeps company with those who do evil,
and walks with wicked people.
9 He's said, 'What advantage it is to anyone
when they take delight in pleasing God?'
10 So listen to me you people who understand.
God wouldn't do anything wicked,
and the provider wouldn't do anything wrong.
11 He repays each person according to their actions.[29]
and what happens to them depends on their conduct.
12 Honestly, God doesn't do wicked things,
and the provider doesn't pervert justice.
13 Who assigned him to be over the earth,
and who put the whole world under him?
14 If he set his mind on himself,
gathering his spirit and his breath to himself,
15 everybody would die simultaneously,
and humanity would return to dust.
16 If you have understanding then hear this.
Listen to the words that I say.
17 Would one who hates justice really govern?
Would you condemn the righteous one—the mighty one—as guilty?
18 The one who tells a king that he's worthless.
Yes, who tells a wealthy person that they're wicked.
19 The one who doesn't show favour to princes,
and doesn't favour the rich in front of the poor.
Yes, they're all the work of his hands.
20 They die in a moment—they do a shiver in the middle of the night then pass away.
Even powerful people are taken away without human involvement.
21 His eyes watch over everyone,
he observes all of our steps.
22 There's no darkness or gloom
that wicked people can hide in.
23 He doesn't appoint anyone again
to go to God for judgement.
24 He breaks powerful people without investigation,
and establishes others instead of them[30]
25 because he's familiar with their activities
and overthrows them in the night and they're crushed.
26 He strikes them as wicked people,
where everyone can see

28 **RV 33:11 · Cross-ref.** Yob 13:27.

29 **RV 34:11 · Cross-ref.** Psa 62:12.

30 **RV 34:24 · Note** TN: Without rewording this last phrase, it can mislead the reader as to whose place the literal 'their place' probably refers to.

Readers' Version

27 since they turned away from following him,
and didn't consider any of his ways.
28 They cause the cry of the poor to reach him,
and he heard the cries of the afflicted.
29 If he stays silent, then who would condemn him?
and if he hides his face, then who will see him
although he's over every nation as well as every individual
30 so that godless people shouldn't reign
or ensnare the people.
31 If someone says to God,
'I've endured my punishment—now I'll stop acting corruptly.
32 Complement what I can see by teaching me,
so that if I've disobeyed, I won't repeat it.
33 Must he repay it from with you? ???
Since you despise, then you will choose, not me. ???
So speak out what you do know.
34 People of understanding tell me
along with wise people who listen to me:
35 'Iyov (Job) speaks without knowledge,
and his words lack insight.
36 If only he would be tested to the end—
his answers are like those of wicked people.
37 He adds rebellion to his sin.
He claps among us and multiplies his words against God.
35:1 Then Elihu continued again:
2 Do you consider yourself to be honest
when you've said, 'God knows that I'm innocent.'
3 You ask, 'What does it benefit you?
How am I better off than I would be if I had sinned?'
4 I'll answer you with words,
and answer your three friends as well.
5 Look up at the sky and observe,
and see that the clouds are higher than you.
6 If you disobey him, what do effect could it have on him?
And if your disobedience accumulates, what could that do to him?[31]
7 If you're innocent, what does he gain from that,
or what good thing will he receive due to that?
8 Wickedness only applies to people like us,
and innocence is only a concept for humans.
9 People cry out because there's so much oppression,
they cry for help because some people have so much power.
10 But no one asks, 'Where's God my creator,
who gives us songs in the night,
11 who has taught us more than he taught the animals,
and made us wiser than he made the birds in the sky.
12 When they cry out, he doesn't answer
because of the pride of wicked people.
13 Surely God doesn't listen to empty words.
Surely the provider doesn't take notice of them.
14 Indeed you'll say that you can't see him.
Your case is in front of him but you're waiting for him.
15 So now in his anger, he hasn't visited,
and he doesn't take much notice of disobedience.
16 So Iyov (Job) opens his mouth for nothing.
He says many words but doesn't know what he's talking about.

Elihu continues speaking

36:1 Then Elihu continued:
Elihu
2 Be patient with me a little longer
and I'll show you that I still have words on God's behalf.
3 I get my knowledge from a wide range of sources,
and as my foundation, I'll use the creator's justice.
4 I can assure you that I won't say anything that's false.
The person with total knowledge is right here in front of you.
5 Listen, God is very powerful but he doesn't despise people.
He's powerful and knows exactly what he wants.
6 He doesn't preserve the life of evil people,
but he gives justice to those who are suffering.
7 He never stops protecting innocent people,
but he establishes kings on their thrones
to rule forever and to be honoured.
8 If they become prisoners in chains,
tangled in the ropes of suffering,
9 then he tells them what they've done and how they disobeyed—
they were behaving proudly.
10 He makes them listen to instruction,
and tells them to stop disobeying.
11 If they would listen and serve him,
they would live out their remaining days in prosperity,
and their remaining years would be pleasant.
12 But if they don't listen,
they'll be killed in battle,
and die without knowing what's coming.
13 Those whose thoughts are godless will remain angry.
They won't cry out for help when he captures them.
14 Their soul dies in its youth,
and their life is among the male temple prostitutes.
15 He uses their suffering to rescue the person suffering,
and makes them listen as a result of their difficulties.
16 Indeed, he's enticed you out of the jaws of distress
to a wide place without constraints,
and he's set your table with rich food.
17 You are always judging wicked people.
You're addicted to judgement and justice.
18 Don't let yourself be enticed by riches,
and don't let a large bribe change your mind.
19 Can your wealth keep distress away from you,
or by using every effort of your strength?
20 Don't wish for the night time,
when people groups are cut off in their place.
21 Watch out that you don't choose evil,
because you've chosen that rather than suffering.
22 Listen, God is honoured because of his power.

31 RV 35:6-8 · Cross-ref. Yob 22:2-3.

Readers' Version

Who's a better teacher than him?
23 Who could possibly give orders to him,
and who might accuse him of disobeying?
24 Make sure that you praise his actions,
which people have sung about.
25 All humankind has seen it.
People look at it from a distance.
26 Listen, God must be honoured, but we don't know him.
How could we determine how old he is?
27 He lifts up the droplets of water.
They form into rain from the vapour,
28 which then showers down from the clouds.
They drop down on humankind in large quantities.
29 Who can understand how the clouds spread out?
Or the thundering coming from his porch?
30 Listen, he spreads his lightning out,
and he covers the depths of the sea.
31 He uses them to judge people groups.
He supplies plenty of food.
32 He directs the lightning with his hands,
and instructs it where to strike.
33 Its thundering noise tells about him.
Even the livestock know what's coming.
37:1 My heart also pounds after that
and it jumps away from its place.
2 Listen, hear his thunderous voice,
and the low rumbling that comes from his mouth.
3 He releases the thundering under all the skies,
and his lightning to the end of the earth.
4 After that, a voice roars out.
He thunders with his majestic voice,
and he doesn't restrain the lightning bolts.
5 When God speaks, it's awesome, like thunder,
doing amazing things that we can't even comprehend.
6 He tells the snow when to fall to the earth,
and commands the shower of rain to become a downpour.
7 He puts a seal on everyone's hands,
so that everyone knows that he made them.
8 The wild animals go into their lairs,
and they stay inside their dens.
9 A gale comes out of its room,
and the cold is brought by the north winds.
10 God's breath delivers ice,
and the wide lakes freeze over.
11 Indeed he loads the clouds with moisture.
He scatters his lightning through them.
12 They go round in circles then turning with his guidance—
following his instructions right across the earth,
13 whether it's for correction or for the land,
or because of his favour that he causes it to happen.
14 Just listen to this, Iyov (Job).
Stand still and consider how incredible God's actions are.
15 Do you understand how God makes these things happen,
and how his clouds are able to flash with lightning?
16 Do you know how the clouds balance at just that level?
Do you understand the activities of the one who has perfect knowledge?
17 You whose clothes get hot
when the south wind brings hot, still air.
18 Can you flatten out the sky like him,
as solid as a cast metal mirror.
19 Teach us what we should say to him.
We can't get organised here in the darkness.
20 Should he be informed that I want to speak,
or will anyone who talks get swallowed up?
21 You know that people can't look at the bright sunlight in the sky
when the wind has come through and cleared it.
22 Gold comes from the north. ???
Awesome majesty surrounds God.
23 We don't know how to find the provider.
He has incredible power.
and he doesn't violate justice or his integrity.
24 Because of that, people should obey him.
He doesn't pay attention to those who are wise.

SECTION SIX: Yahweh's speeches[32] · God answers Iyov

38:1 Then Yahweh answered Iyov (Job) from the storm:
Yahweh
2 Who is this giving bad advice,
with words that are lacking knowledge?
3 Get ready to battle[33] like a man,
and I'll question you and you can answer me.
4 Where were you when I laid **the world's foundations**?
Do tell me, if you understand that.
5 Who decided on its measurements, if you know?
Or who stretched out a tape measure over it?
6 What were its footings attached to?
Who put its reference stone in place
7 when the morning stars sung together,
and God's children shouted happily?
8 Who was the one who confined **the ocean** with gates[34]
when it burst its way out from the womb?
9 I covered it with clouds as its clothing,
and thick darkness as its tight blanket.
10 I assigned my boundaries for the ocean,
and put a latch on its gates,
11 and I said, 'You can only come this far and no further.
Your proud waves will be stopped here.'
12 In all your life, have you ever commanded the morning to come,
or helped the dawn to know its place

32 **RV 38:1 · Parallel** 38:1–42:6

33 **RV 38:3 · Note** Lit. 'Gird your loins'. In a robe-wearing culture, it was normal for a man to tuck the bottom of his robe up into his belt to clear his legs to be able to move more freely—perhaps to run, but also to fight.

34 **RV 38:8-11 · Cross-ref.** Psa 104:9; Prv 8:29; Jer 5:22.

Readers' Version

13 so that it might take hold of the bottom edges of the earth
and shake the wicked out of it?[35]
14 After dawn, the earth takes shape like clay when a seal is pressed into it,
and its features stand out like folds in a cloak.
15 Their light is withheld from wicked people,
and their arm raised in violence gets broken.
16 Have you visited the springs under the sea?
Have you walked around in the trenches of the deep ocean?
17 Have the gates of death been revealed to you?
Have you seen the gates that open into deep darkness?
18 Have you taken note of the width of the earth?
Do tell me if you know all those things.
19 How do you get to where light lives,
and where is the place that darkness comes from?
20 Can you take it to its territory,
and how would you figure out the paths to its house?
21 You'd know because surely you were born before then, ☺
and you're so very, very old. ☺
22 Have you entered the warehouses where snow is stored,
and have you seen the bunker where hail is kept,
23 which I keep there ready for troubled times—
for the day of war and battle?
24 Where's the way to find where light is distributed,
or where the east wind gets scattered all over the earth?
25 Who cuts out the channels for the downpours to flow in,
and makes the path for thunderbolts?
26 Who sends rain to regions where nobody lives,
or to a wilderness that has nobody in it,
27 to satisfy the parched wasteland
and to cause fresh grass to shoot up?
28 Does the rain have a father,
or who gave birth to the dew drops?
29 Whose womb does the ice come from,
and who gives birth to the frost that descends from the sky,
30 when the waters become hard like stone,
and the surface of the deep ocean freezes?
31 Can you tie together **the stars** of Pleiades,
or loosen Orion's belt?[36]
32 Can you lead each constellation out in its season,
and can you guide the Bear with her cubs?
33 Do you understand the physical laws of the universe,
or can you establish their rule over the earth?
34 Can you command **the clouds** with your voice,
and cause a flood of water to cover you?
35 Can you send out flashes of lightning,
so they go off then tell you, 'Here we are'?
36 Who put wisdom into people's minds,
or can give understanding to the mind?
37 Who has enough wisdom to number the clouds,
and who will tip over the water jars of the sky
38 when the dust solidifies into a lump,
and the clods of soil stick together?
39 Can you hunt for prey for the **lioness**,
and satisfy the appetite of her cubs,
40 when they crouch in their dens—
lying in wait in the thicket?
41 Who prepares prey for the **raven**
when its chicks cry out to God for help,
when they stagger around for lack of food?
39:1 Do you know when it is that **mountain goats** give birth?
Do you watch the wild does having their fawns?
2 Have you counted how many months it'll be after they conceived?
Do you know what date they'll give birth?
3 They crouch down to deliver their young,
and then their labour pains are over.
4 Their young grow up in the countryside and become strong,
then they leave their mothers and don't return to them again.
5 Who set the **wild donkeys** free?
Who untied the ropes of the wild mule?
6 I decided that the wilderness would be their home,
and the salt-land to be where they live.
7 They laugh at the commotion coming from the city.
They don't have any drivers shouting at them.
8 They range across the hills looking for pasture,
and search after anything that's green.
9 Will the **wild cow** consent to serve you,
or to stay the night beside your feeding trough?
10 Will you use a rope to guide the wild bull to plough straight,
or will he come along afterwards to harrow over the furrows?
11 Would you trust in his strength,
and leave your work for him to do?
12 Would you depend on the wild bull to bring in your grain,
and to pile it on your threshing floor?
13 **Ostriches** happily flap their wings,
but unlike the stork, their joints and feathers aren't made for flying.
14 The female leaves her eggs on the ground.
They're kept warm in the dust.
15 She forgets that they might be crushed by a foot,
or be trampled by wild animals.
16 She's harsh on her young as if they're not hers,
without worrying that her egg-laying might all be wasted.
17 Yes, God didn't give her much wisdom,

35 **RV 38:13 · Note** Of course, the wicked are busy in the 'blanket of darkness', but dawn pulls that off them.

36 **RV 38:31 · Cross-ref.** Yob 9:9; Amos 5:8.

Readers' Version

and he didn't fill her with much understanding,
18 but it doesn't stop her flapping her wings.
She laughs at the horse and its rider.
19 Was it you who gave **the horse** his strength?
Did you clothe his neck with that mane?
20 Did you make him so he can leap like a locust?
His powerful snorting is terrifying.
21 They paw at the ground, excited to go and display their strength.
Off they go to face the enemy's weapons.
22 It laughs at fear—not afraid at all,
and it doesn't retreat back from the sword.
23 The quiver of arrows rattles on its side.
The spear and the javelin flash.
24 Shaking with excitement, it speeds over.
It can't stand still once the horn is sounded.
25 When it hears the horn, it snorts ready to go,
and it smells the battle from far away—
the shouts of the commanders and the battle-cries.
26 Is it your wisdom that **the hawk** uses to soar,
and why it spreads its wings to migrate south?
27 Is it your command that sends the eagle flying upwards,
and tells it to build its nest up so high?
28 It lives on a cliff,
and spends the night in its fortress among the sharp rocks.
29 From there, it spies out food.
Its eyes watch from far away.
30 Its young ones feast on blood,
and where there's dead bodies, they'll be there.[37]

God challenges Iyov to answer

40:1 Then Yahweh continued to speak to Iyov (Job):
Yahweh
2 Will the person who's been finding faults now argue with the provider?
Let the one who tries to correct God, give an answer.

Iyov's non-answer

3 Then Iyov (Job) answered Yahweh:
Iyov
4 Indeed, I'm insignificant—what could I answer?
I'll just put my hand over my mouth.
5 I've spoken once, but I won't answer,
and twice, but I won't continue.

Yahweh's response to Iyov

6 Then Yahweh again spoke to Iyov (Job) from inside the storm:
Yahweh
7 Now tuck up your robe like a man going into battle.
I'll question you, and you must answer me.
8 Would you actually invalidate my judgement?
Would you condemn me so you can declare yourself right?
9 Is your arm as powerful as God's?
Can you thunder with a voice like his?
10 Then embellish yourself with majesty and greatness,
and dress yourself with honour and splendour.
11 Let your fierce anger loose,
and take every proud person on and bring them down.
12 Take note of every proud person and humble them.
Crush wicked people where they stand.
13 Bury them together in the dust.
Imprison them in the grave.
14 Then I'd even admit to you
that you *can* save yourself with your own strength.
15 Now look at the **sauropod** (behemoth) which I made on the same day as you.
It eats grass like a cow.
16 Notice the strength in his thighs,
and the power of his stomach muscles.
17 It bends its tail like a cedar tree.
Its thigh tendons are tightly strung.
18 Its bones are like bronze pipes.
Its legs are like iron rods.
19 It's at the beginning of God's paths. ???
The creator has let him bring his sword near. ???
20 The hills provide produce for it,
and all the animals in the countryside play there.
21 It lies under the lotus trees,
hidden in the reeds in the marsh.
22 The lotus trees cover it with their shade.
The poplars in the riverbed surround it.
23 If the river gets violent, it doesn't rush out.
It remains confident even when the Yarden (Jordan) River surges to his mouth.
24 Can anyone capture it while its eyes watch?
Is there anyone who can make a snare to pierce its nose?
41:1 Can you pull **the sea dragon** (leviathan) with a hook,[38]
or tie his tongue down with a rope?
2 Can you put a leash into its nose,
or pierce its jaw with a harpoon?
3 Will it beg you over and over for mercy?
Maybe if it says tender things to you?
4 Will it make an agreement with you?
Might you take it as a slave for the rest of its life?
5 Will you play with it like with a pet,
and tie it on a leash for your girls?
6 Will your team set a price on the whole creature?
Will they divide it up among the merchants?
7 Can you fill its hide with harpoons,
or its head with fishing spears?
8 Put your hand on it and you'll remember the battle—
don't do it!
9 What hope would you have against it?
Aren't you put off just from looking at it?
10 No one's fierce enough to wake it up,
so how might you expect to stand up to me?
11 Who has confronted me with any claim that I should

37 **RV 39:30 · Cross-ref.** Mat 24:28; Luk 17:37.
38 **RV 41:1 · Cross-ref.** Psa 74:14; 104:26; Isa 27:1.

Readers' Version

repay?
Everything under the sky belongs to me.
12 I won't keep quiet about its limbs,
or about its strength and the beauty of its form.
13 Who can remove its armour plating at the front,
or penetrate beyond its chestplate?
14 Who can open its jaws,
when there's terror all around its teeth?
15 Rows of scales are its pride,
fitting into each other with a tight seal.
16 Each one is very close to the next,
and no air can get between them.
17 The lock tightly to their next door neighbour.
They cling together and can't be separated.
18 Its snorting causes flashes of light,
and its eyes are like the early rays of dawn.
19 Flames come from its mouth.
Sparks of fire leap out.
20 Smoke pours from its nostrils,
like a boiling pot with a hollow reed poking out from under the lid.
21 Its breath sets coals on fire,
and a flame comes out of its mouth.
22 There's incredible strength in its neck,
and fear always goes ahead of it.
23 The folds of his body are joined tightly together—
so firm that they can't be moved.
24 His chest is hard like stone—
yes, as solid as the bottom mill-stone.
25 When it rises up, even mighty men are afraid.
They retreat if they see it thrashing around.
26 Striking it with a sword would have no effect,
nor would a spear, arrow, or dart.
27 Iron is like straw to the sea dragon,
and bronze like rotten wood.
28 Nothing shot with a bow can make it turn away—
For it, stones from a sling are like bits of straw.
29 Heavy clubs are just like a grain stalk,
and it laughs at the rattling of a spear.
30 Its underbelly is sharp like broken pottery.
It tears up the mud like a sledge for threshing grain.
31 It makes the deep ocean boil like a pot.
It makes the sea swirl like a jar of ointment.
32 It leaves a glistening wake behind it—
you'd think that the deep water had white hair.
33 There's no equal to it on the earth—
the creature that was made to have no fear.
34 It looks down on all those who think they're powerful.
It's the king of all those who are proud.

Iyov requests God's forgiveness

42:1 Then Iyov (Job) answered Yahweh:
Iyov
2 I know that you can do everything,
and no one can stop you from doing what you want.
3 You asked,
'Who's this concealing counsel without knowledge?'[39]
That's why I spouted out things I didn't understand—
things that are too wonderful for me—that I didn't know.
4 Listen now, and I'll speak.
I'll tell you my question and you can inform me.[40]
5 I'd heard you with my ears,
but now I can see you with my eyes.
6 Therefore I despise myself for what I said,
and I show my repentance by sitting in dust and ashes.

SECTION SEVEN: Final speech and restoration[41] · Iyov's three friends humiliated by God

7 After Yahweh had said that to Iyov (Job), he told Elifaz (from Teyman), "I'm angry with you and your two friends, because what you all said about me wasn't right, like what Iyov said. 8 So now get seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Iyov and offer them as a burnt offering for yourselves. Then my servant Iyov will pray for you all. I'll do what he asks and not deal with you like your foolishness deserves, because you all didn't speak accurately about me like Iyov did."
9 So Elifaz (from Teyman) and Bildad (from Shuah) and Tsofar (from Na'amah) went and did what Yahweh had told them, and Yahweh accepted Iyov's prayer.

Iyov's doubled restoration

10 After Iyov (Job) had prayed for his friends, Yahweh changed his situation and gave him double what he had before.[42] 11 Then all of his brothers and sisters and everyone who'd known him before, came to his house and had a meal with him, and they comforted him and consoled him about all the troubles that Yahweh had brought on him. Then they each gave him a silver coin and a gold ring.
12 Then Yahweh blessed the second part of Iyov's life more than the first, and he ended up with 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 working pairs of cows, and 1,000 female donkeys. 13 He also had seven more sons and three more daughters 14 who he named Yemimah, Ketsiah, and Keren-Hapuk. 15 No one in the whole country was as beautiful as Iyov's daughters, and as well as their brothers, their father gave them each a piece of land as an inheritance. 16 Iyov lived another 140 years after all that, and was even able to see his great-grandchildren. 17 Then Iyov

39 **RV 42:3 · Cross-ref.** Yob 38:2.
40 **RV 42:4 · Cross-ref.** Yob 38:3.
41 **RV 42:7 · Parallel** 42:7-17
42 **RV 42:10 · Cross-ref.** Yob 1:1-3.

Readers' Version

died in good circumstances and at a very old age.

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