

Job Replies: I know that my Redeemer Lives.

1 Then Job answered:

2 How long will you torment me,
and break me in pieces with words?

3 These ten times you have cast reproach upon
me: are you not ashamed to wrong me?

4 And even if it is true that I have erred,
my error remains with me.

5 If indeed you magnify yourselves
against me,

and make my humiliation an argument
against me,

6 know then that God has put me in the wrong,
and closed his net around me.

7 Even when I cry out, "Violence!" I am not answered;
I call aloud, but there is no justice

8 He has walled up my way so that I cannot pass
and he has set darkness upon my paths.

9. He has stripped my glory from me,
and taken the crown from my head

10. He breaks me down on every side, and I am gone, he has uprooted my hope like a tree.
11. He has kindled his wrath against me, and counts me as his adversary.
12. His troops come on together; they have thrown up siege-works against me, and encamp around my tent.
13. He has put my family far from me, and my acquaintances are wholly estranged from me.
14. My relatives and my close friends have failed me
15 ~~the~~ guests in my house have forgotten me;
my serving-girls count me as a stranger;
I have become an alien in their eyes
- 16 I call to my servant, but he gives me no answer
I must plead myself with him

- 17 My breath is repulsive to my wife;
I am loathsome to my own family.
- 18 Even young children despise me;
when I rise, they talk against me.
19. All my intimate friends abhor me,
and those whom I loved have turned against me
- 20 My bones cling to my skin and to my flesh,
and I have escaped by the skin of my teeth.
21. Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you
my friends, For the hand of God has
touched me!
22. Why do you, like God, pursue me,
never satisfied with my flesh?
23. 'O that my words were written down!
O that they were inscribed in a book!'
24. O that with an iron pen and with lead
they were engraved on a rock for ever!
25. For I know that my redeemer lives,
and that at last He will stand upon the earth;

26. and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, when I shall see on my side

²⁷ and my eyes shall behold, and not another,
My heart faints within me!

28. If you say, "How will we persecute him!" and, "The root of the matter is found in him";

29. be afraid of the sword,

for wrath brings the punishment of the sword,
so that you may know there is a judgement.

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JOB CHAPTER 20

SOUTH PETHERTON AND
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Zophar's Second response to Job

1. Then Zophar the Naamathite replied :
2. " I must reply because I am greatly disturbed
3. I've had to endure your insults, but now my spirit prompts me to reply.
4. Don't you realize that from the beginning of time, ever since people were first placed on the earth,
5. the triumph of the wicked has been short lived and the joy of the godless has been only temporary?
6. Though the pride of the godless reaches to the heavens and their heads touch the clouds,
7. yet they will vanish forever, thrown away like their own dung

Job 20

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Those who knew them will ask,
'Where are they?'

8. They will fade like a dream and
not be found. They will vanish like
a vision in the night.

9. Those who once saw them will see them no more.
Their families will never see them again.

10. Their children will beg from the poor, for they must
give back their stolen riches.

11. Though they are young, their bones will lie in the
dust.

12. "They enjoyed the sweet taste of wickedness,
letting it melt under their tongue,

13. They savored it,
holding it long in their mouths

14. But suddenly the food in their bellies turns
sour, a poisonous venom in their stomach.

15. THEY WILL Vomit THE WEALTH THEY SWALLOWED

GOD WON'T LET THEM KEEP IT DOWN

Job 20

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^{16.} They will suck the poison of cobras.
The viper will kill them.



¹⁷ They will never again enjoy streams of olive oil
or rivers of milk and honey.

^{18.} They will give back everything they worked for
Their wealth will bring them no joy.

^{19.} For they oppressed the poor and left them destitute
They foreclosed on their homes.

^{20.} They were always greedy and never satisfied.
Nothing remains of all the things they
dreamed about.

²¹ Nothing is left after they finish gorging
themselves. Therefore, their prosperity will
not endure.

^{22.} In the midst of plenty, they will run into
trouble and be overcome by misery.

^{23.} May God give them a bellyful of trouble.
May God rain down his anger upon them.

Job 20

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24. When they try to escape an iron weapon,
a bronze-tipped arrow will pierce them.
25. The arrow is pulled from their back,
and the arrowhead glistens with blood.
The terrors of death are upon them.
26. Their treasures will be thrown into deepest
darkness. A wildfire will devour their goods,
consuming all they have left.
27. The heavens will reveal their guilt,
and the earth will testify against them.

28. A FLOOD WILL SWEEP AWAY THEIR HOUSE

GOD'S ANGER WILL DESCEND ON THEM IN TORRENTS

29. This is the reward that God gives the wicked
It is the inheritance decreed by God".



JOB 21

24

MILVERTON CHRISTIAN AID
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Then Job answered: ^{2.}"Listen carefully to my words, and let this be your consolation.

^{3.} Bear with me, and I will speak; then after I have spoken, mock on. ^{4.} As for me, is my complaint addressed to mortals? Why should I not be impatient? Look at me and be appalled, and lay your hand upon your mouth.

When I think of it I am dismayed, and shuddering seizes my flesh. Why do the wicked live on, reach old age, and grow mighty in power? Their children are established in their presence, and their offspring before their eyes. Their houses are safe from fear, and no rod of God is upon them. Their bull breeds without fail; their cow calves and never miscarry.

^{11.} They send out their little ones like a flock and their children dance around.¹² They sing to the tambourine and the lyre and rejoice to the sound of the pipe.¹³ They spend their days in prosperity and in peace they go down to Sheol. They say to God, 'Leave us alone! We do not

desire to know your ways. What is the Almighty that we should serve him? And what profit do we get if we pray to him? Is not their prosperity indeed their own achievement? The plans of the wicked are repugnant to me. How often is the lamp of the wicked put out? How often does calamity come upon them? How often does God distribute pain in his anger? How often are they like straw before the wind, and like chaff that the storm carries away?

You say 'God stores up their iniquity for their children.'

Let it be paid back to them, so that they may know it.

Let their own eyes see their destruction and let them drink of the wrath of the Almighty. For what do they care for their household after them, when the number of their months is cut off?

22. Will any teach God knowledge, seeing that he judges those that are on high?

One dies in full prosperity, being wholly at ease and secure, his bones full of marrow and the marrow of his bones moist.

Another dies in bitterness of soul, never having tasted of good. They lie down alike in the dust, and the worms cover them.

27. Oh, I know your thoughts and your schemes

to wrong me. For you say, 'Where is the house of the prince? Where is the tent in which the wicked lived?

29. Have you not asked those who travel the roads, and do not accept their testimony,
30. that the wicked are spared in the day of calamity, and are rescued in the day of wrath?
31. Who declares their way to their face, & who repays them for what they have done?
32. When they are carried to the grave, a watch is kept over their tomb.
33. The clods of the valley are sweet to them; everyone will follow after, & those who went before are unnumberable.
34. How then will you comfort me with empty nothings? There is nothing left of your answers but falsehood.

Eliphaz Speaks: Job's wickedness is great.

Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered.² Can a mortal be of use to god? Can even the wisest be of service to him?³ Is it only pleasure to the Almighty if you are religious or is it gain to him if you make your ways blameless?⁴ Is it for your piety that he reprobates you, and enters into judgment with you?⁵ Is not your wickedness great? There is no end to your iniquities. For you have exacted pledges from your family for no reason and stripped the naked of their clothing.⁶ You have given no water to the weary to drink, and you have withheld bread from the hungry.⁷ The powerful possess the land, and the favored live in it.⁸ You have sent widows away empty-handed, and the arms of the orphans you have crushed.⁹

¹⁰ Therefore snakes are around you, and sudden terror overwhelms you,¹¹ or darkness so that you cannot see a flood of water covers you.

¹² Is not God high in the heavens? See the highest stars, how lofty they are!¹³ Therefore you say, what does God know? Can he judge through the deep darkness?⁷

^{14.} Thick clouds envelop him, so that he does not see, and he walks on the dome of heaven. ^{15.} Will you keep to the old way that the wicked have trod? ^{16.} They were snatched away before their time; their foundation was washed away by a flood. ^{17.} THEY SAID TO GOD LEAVE US ALONE AND ^{18.} WHAT CAN THE ALMIGHTY DO TO US? YET HE FILLED THEIR

HOUSES WITH GOOD THINGS - BUT THE PLANS OF THE WICKED ARE

^{19.} REPUGNANT TO ME. The righteous see it and are glad; the innocent laugh them to scorn, saying, Surely our adversaries ^{20.} are cut off, and what they left, the fire has consumed. ^{21.}

21 Agree with God and be at peace: in this way good will come to you. ^{22.} Receive instruction from his mouth, and lay up his words in your heart. ^{23.} If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored; if you remove unrighteousness ^{24.} from your tents, if you treat gold like dust, and gold of Ophir like the stones of the Torrent-bed, ^{25.} and if the Almighty is your gold and your precious silver, ^{26.} then you will delight yourself in the Almighty, and lift up your face to God.

²⁷

You will pray to him, and he will hear you,

²⁸

and you will pay your vows. You will decide on
a matter, and it will be established for you, and light

²⁹

will shine on your ways. When others are humiliated,
you say it is pride; for he saves the humble.³⁰ He will
deliver even those who are guilty; they will escape
because of the cleanliness of your hands.

Job 23.

24/24 Fairplace Okehampton.

Then Job replied:

2 Even today my complaint is bitter; his hand is heavy
in spite of my groaning.

3 If only I knew where to find him; if only I could
go to his dwelling!

4 I would state my case before him and fill my
mouth with arguments.

5 I would find out what he would answer me, and
consider what he would say.

6 Will he plead against me with his great power? No;
but he would put strength in me

7 There the righteous might dispute with him, so
should I be delivered for ever from my judge

8 Behold, I go forward, but he is not there, and
backward, but cannot perceive him

9 On the left hand, where he doth work, but I
cannot behold him. He hideth himself on the right
hand that I cannot see him

10 But he knoweth the way that I take: when
he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

Job 23

24/24 Fairplace ^{Okehampton}

11. My foot has held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined
12. Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food
13. But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? And what his soul desireth, even that he doeth
14. For he performeth the thing that is appointed for me: and many such things are with him
15. Therefore am I troubled at his presence: when I consider, I am afraid of him.
16. For God maketh my heart soft, and the Almighty troubleth me
17. Because I was not cut off before the darkness; neither hath he covered the darkness from my face.

1 "Why does the Almighty not set times for judgments? Why must those who know him look in vain for such days? 2 People move boundary stones; they pasture flocks they have stolen. 3. They drive away the orphan's donkey and take the widow's ox in pledge. 4 They thrust the needy from the path and force all the poor of the land into hiding. 5. Like wild donkeys in the desert, the poor go about their labour of foraging food; the wasteland provides food for their children.

6. They gather fodder in the fields and glean in the vine yards of the wicked. HAVING CLOTHES THEY SPEND THE NIGHT NAKED. They have nothing to cover themselves in the cold, & they are drenched by Mountain rains and hug the rocks for lack of shelter.

9 The fatherless child is snatched from the breast; the infant of the poor is seized for a dept 10 lacking clothes, they go about naked. They carry the sheaves, but still go hungry. 11. They crush olives among the terraces; they tread the winepresses,

yet suffer thirst. The groans of the dying rise from the city, and the souls of the wounded cry out for help. But God charges no one with wrong doing.

13 There are those who rebel against the ~~the~~ light, who do not know its ways or stay in its paths. When daylight is gone, the murderer rises up and kills the poor and needy. And in the night ¹⁶ steal forth like a thief. The eye of the adulterer also watches for dusk; he thinks, "No eye will see me," and he keeps his face concealed ¹⁶ in the dark!

They break into houses. But by day they shut themselves in; they want nothing to do with the light. For all of them deep darkness is their morning; they make friends with the terrors of darkness. Yet ¹⁷ they are foam on the surface of the water; their portion of the land is cursed, so that no one goes to the vineyards. 19. As heat and drought snatched Snatch away the melted snow, so the grave snatches away those who have sinned.

10 The womb forgets them, the womb feasts on them. They are no longer remembered, but are broken like a tree.²¹ They prey on the barren and childless woman and the widow. ²² She shows no kindness, but God strips away the mighty by his power; though they become established, they have no assurance of life.²³ He may let them rest in a feeling of security, but his eyes are on their ways.²⁴ For a little while they are exalted, and then they are gone; they are brought low and gathered up like all others; they are cut off like heads of grain. 25 "If this is not so, who can prove me false and reduce my words to nothing?"

BILDAD SPEAKS : HOW CAN A MORTAL BE RIGHTEOUS BEFORE GOD?

1. Then Bildad the Shuhite answered:
Dominion and fear are with God;
he makes peace in his high heaven.
2. Is there any number to his armies?
Upon whom does his light not arise?
3. How then can a mortal be righteous before God.
How can one born of woman be pure?
4. If even the moon is not bright
and the stars are not pure in his sight
5. how much less a mortal, who is a maggot
and a human being, who is a worm!

'Then Job answered 'How you have prospered
With ¹no power' ² How you have assisted one who
that has no strength! ³ How have you counselled one who
has no wisdom, and given much good advice! ⁴ With whose
help have you uttered words, and whose spirit has come
forth from you? ⁵ The shades below tremble, the
waters and their inhabitants. ⁶ Sheol is naked
before God, and Abaddon has no covering.
⁷

He stretches out Zaphon over the void, and hangs the earth
upon nothing. He binds up the waters in his thick clouds,
and the cloud is not torn open by them. ⁸ He covers the
face of the full moon, and spreads over it his
cloud. ⁹ He has described a circle on the
face of the waters, at the boundary between
light and darkness. ¹⁰ The pillars of heaven
tremble, and we astounded at his rebuke.
¹¹

By his power he stilled the sea; by his
understanding he struck down Rahab. ¹² By his
wind the heavens were made fair; his hand
pierced the fleeing serpent.

14.

These are indeed but the outskirts of his ways; and how small a whisper do we hear of him! But the thunder of his power who can understand?