

Job 26:1-14 ESV

Then Job answered and said: 2 "How you have helped him who has no power! How you have saved the arm that has no strength! 3 How you have counseled him who has no wisdom, and plentifully declared sound knowledge! 4 With whose help have you uttered words, and whose breath has come out from you?

5 The dead tremble under the waters and their inhabitants. 6 Sheol is naked before God, and Abaddon has no covering. 7 He stretches out the north over the void and hangs the earth on nothing. 8 He binds up the waters in his thick clouds, and the cloud is not split open under them. 9 He covers the face of the full moon and spreads over it his cloud. 10 He has inscribed a circle on the face of the waters at the boundary between light and darkness. 11 The pillars of heaven tremble and are astounded at His rebuke.

12 By His power He stilled the sea; by His understanding He shattered Rahab. 13 By His wind the heavens were made fair; His hand pierced the fleeing serpent. 14 Behold, these are 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?"

Job 27:1-23 ESV

And Job again took up his discourse, and said: 2 "As God lives, who has taken away my right, and the Almighty, who has made my soul bitter, 3 as long as my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils, 4 my lips will not speak falsehood, and

my tongue will not utter deceit. 5 Far be it from me to say that you are right; till I die I will not put away my integrity from me.

6 I hold fast my righteousness and will not let it go; my heart does not reproach me for any of my days. 7 "Let my enemy be as the wicked, and let him who rises up against me be as the unrighteous.

8 For what is the hope of the godless when God cuts him off, when God takes away his life? 9 Will God hear his cry when distress comes upon him? 10 Will he take delight in the Almighty? Will he call upon God at all times?

11 I will teach you concerning the hand of God; what is with the Almighty I will not conceal. 12 Behold, all of you have seen it yourselves; why then have you become altogether vain?

13 "This is the portion of a wicked man with God, and the heritage that oppressors receive from the Almighty: 14 If his children are multiplied, it is for the sword, and his descendants have not enough bread. 15 Those who survive him the pestilence buries, and his widows do not weep. 16 Though he heap up silver like dust, and pile up clothing like clay, 17 he may pile it up, but the righteous will wear it, and the innocent will divide the silver. 18 He builds his house like a moth's, like a booth that a watchman makes.

19 He goes to bed rich, but will do so no more; he opens his eyes, and his wealth is gone. 20 Terrors overtake him like a flood; in the night a whirlwind carries him off. 21 The east wind lifts him up and he is gone; it sweeps him out of his place. 22 It

hurls at him without pity; he flees from its power in headlong flight. 23 It claps its hands at him and hisses at him from its place.

Job 28:1-28 ESV

"Surely there is a mine for silver, and a place for gold that they refine. 2 Iron is taken out of the earth, and copper is smelted from the ore. 3 Man puts an end to darkness and searches out to the farthest limit the ore in gloom and deep darkness. 4 He opens shafts in a valley away from where anyone lives; they are forgotten by travelers; they hang in the air, far away from mankind; they swing to and fro.

5 As for the earth, out of it comes bread, but underneath it is turned up as by fire. 6 Its stones are the place of sapphires, and it has dust of gold. 7 "That path no bird of prey knows, and the falcon's eye has not seen it. 8 The proud beasts have not trodden it; the lion has not passed over it.

9 "Man puts his hand to the flinty rock and overturns mountains by the roots. 10 He cuts out channels in the rocks, and his eye sees every precious thing. 11 He dams up the streams so that they do not trickle, and the thing that is hidden he brings out to light.

12 "But where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding? 13 Man does not know its worth, and it is not found in the land of the living. 14 The deep says, 'It is not in me,' and the sea says, 'It is not with me.' 15 It cannot be bought for gold, and silver cannot be weighed as its price. 16 It cannot

be valued in the gold of Ophir, in precious onyx or sapphire. 17 Gold and glass cannot equal it, nor can it be exchanged for jewels of fine gold. 18 No mention shall be made of coral or of crystal; the price of wisdom is above pearls. 19 The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it, nor can it be valued in pure gold. 20 "From where, then, does wisdom come? And where is the place of understanding? 21 It is hidden from the eyes of all living and concealed from the birds of the air. 22 Abaddon and Death say, 'We have heard a rumor of it with our ears.' 23 "God understands the way to it, and he knows its place. 24 For he looks to the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens. 25 When he gave to the wind its weight and apportioned the waters by measure, 26 when he made a decree for the rain and a way for the lightning of the thunder, 27 then he saw it and declared it; he established it, and searched it out. 28 And he said to man, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.'"

Job 29:1-25 ESV And Job again took up his discourse, and said: 2 "Oh, that I were as in the months of old, as in the days when God watched over me, 3 when His lamp shone upon my head, and by His light I walked through darkness, 4 as I was in my prime, when the friendship of God was upon my tent, 5 when the Almighty was yet with me, when my children were all around me, 6 when my steps were washed with butter, and the rock poured out for me streams of oil!

7 When I went out to the gate of the city, when I prepared my seat in the square, 8 the young men saw me and withdrew, and the aged rose and stood; 9 the princes refrained from talking and

laid their hand on their mouth; 10 the voice of the nobles was hushed, and their tongue stuck to the roof of their mouth.

11 When the ear heard, it called me blessed, and when the eye saw, it approved, 12 because I delivered the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to help him. 13 The blessing of him who was about to perish came upon me, and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy.

14 I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my justice was like a robe and a turban. 15 I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame. 16 I was a father to the needy, and I searched out the cause of him whom I did not know.

17 I broke the fangs of the unrighteous and made him drop his prey from his teeth. 18 Then I thought, 'I shall die in my nest, and I shall multiply my days as the sand, 19 my roots spread out to the waters, with the dew all night on my branches, 20 my glory fresh with me, and my bow ever new in my hand.'

21 "Men listened to me and waited and kept silence for my counsel. 22 After I spoke they did not speak again, and my word dropped upon them. 23 They waited for me as for the rain, and they opened their mouths as for the spring rain.

24 I smiled on them when they had no confidence, and the light of my face they did not cast down.

25 I chose their way and sat as chief, and I lived like a king among his troops, like one who comforts mourners.

Job 30:1-31 ESV

"But now they laugh at me, men who are younger than I, whose fathers I would have disdained to set with the dogs of my flock. 2 What could I gain from the strength of their hands, men whose vigor is gone?

3 Through want and hard hunger they gnaw the dry ground by night in waste and desolation; 4 they pick saltwort and the leaves of bushes, and the roots of the broom tree for their food. 5 They are driven out from human company; they shout after them as after a thief.

6 In the gullies of the torrents they must dwell, in holes of the earth and of the rocks. 7 Among the bushes they bray; under the nettles they huddle together. 8 A senseless, a nameless brood, they have been whipped out of the land.

9 "And now I have become their song; I am a byword to them. 10 They abhor me; they keep aloof from me; they do not hesitate to spit at the sight of me. 11 Because God has loosed my cord and humbled me, they have cast off restraint in my presence.

12 On my right hand the rabble rise; they push away my feet; they cast up against me their ways of destruction. 13 They break up my path; they promote my calamity; they need no one to help them. 14 As through a wide breach they come; amid the crash they roll on.

15 Terrors are turned upon me; my honor is pursued as by the wind, and my prosperity has passed away like a cloud. 16 "And

now my soul is poured out within me; days of affliction have taken hold of me. 17 The night racks my bones, and the pain that gnaws me takes no rest. 18 With great force my garment is disfigured; it binds me about like the collar of my tunic.

19 God has cast me into the mire, and I have become like dust and ashes. 20 I cry to You for help and You do not answer me; I stand, and You only look at me. 21 You have turned cruel to me; with the might of Your hand You persecute me.

22 You lift me up on the wind; You make me ride on it, and You toss me about in the roar of the storm. 23 For I know that You will bring me to death and to the house appointed for all living.

24 "Yet does not one in a heap of ruins stretch out his hand, and in his disaster cry for help?"

25 Did not I weep for him whose day was hard? Was not my soul grieved for the needy? 26 But when I hoped for good, evil came, and when I waited for light, darkness came.

27 My inward parts are in turmoil and never still; days of affliction come to meet me. 28 I go about darkened, but not by the sun; I stand up in the assembly and cry for help.

29 I am a brother of jackals and a companion of ostriches.

30 My skin turns black and falls from me, and my bones burn with heat. 31 My lyre is turned to mourning, and my pipe to the voice of those who weep.

Job 31:1-40 ESV

"I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin? 2 What would be my portion from God above and my heritage from the Almighty on high? 3 Is not calamity for the unrighteous, and disaster for the workers of iniquity? 4 Does not He see my ways and number all my steps?

5 "If I have walked with falsehood and my foot has hastened to deceit; 6 (Let me be weighed in a just balance, and let God know my integrity!) 7 if my step has turned aside from the way and my heart has gone after my eyes, and if any spot has stuck to my hands, 8 then let me sow, and another eat, and let what grows for me be rooted out.

9 "If my heart has been enticed toward a woman, and I have lain in wait at my neighbor's door, 10 then let my wife grind for another, and let others bow down on her. 11 For that would be a heinous crime; that would be an iniquity to be punished by the judges; 12 for that would be a fire that consumes as far as Abaddon, and it would burn to the root all my increase.

13 "If I have rejected the cause of my manservant or my maidservant, when they brought a complaint against me, 14 what then shall I do when God rises up? When he makes inquiry, what shall I answer Him? 15 Did not He who made me in the womb make him? And did not one fashion us in the womb?

16 "If I have withheld anything that the poor desired, or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail, 17 or have eaten my morsel

alone, and the fatherless has not eaten of it 18 (for from my youth the fatherless grew up with me as with a father, and from my mother's womb I guided the widow), 19 if I have seen anyone perish for lack of clothing, or the needy without covering, 20 if his body has not blessed me, and if he was not warmed with the fleece of my sheep, 21 if I have raised my hand against the fatherless, because I saw my help in the gate, 22 then let my shoulder blade fall from my shoulder, and let my arm be broken from its socket.

23 For I was in terror of calamity from God, and I could not have faced His majesty. 24 "If I have made gold my trust or called fine gold my confidence, 25 if I have rejoiced because my wealth was abundant or because my hand had found much, 26 if I have looked at the sun when it shone, or the moon moving in splendor, 27 and my heart has been secretly enticed, and my mouth has kissed my hand, 28 this also would be an iniquity to be punished by the judges, for I would have been false to God above.

29 "If I have rejoiced at the ruin of him who hated me, or exulted when evil overtook him 30 (I have not let my mouth sin by asking for his life with a curse), 31 if the men of my tent have not said, 'Who is there that has not been filled with his meat?' 32 (the sojourner has not lodged in the street; I have opened my doors to the traveler), 33 if I have concealed my transgressions as others do by hiding my iniquity in my bosom, 34 because I stood in great fear of the multitude, and the contempt of families terrified me, so that I kept silence, and did not go out of doors--

35 Oh, that I had one to hear me! (Here is my signature! Let the Almighty answer me!) Oh, that I had the indictment written by my adversary! 36 Surely I would carry it on my shoulder; I would bind it on me as a crown; 37 I would give Him an account of all my steps; like a prince I would approach Him.

38 "If my land has cried out against me and its furrows have wept together, 39 if I have eaten its yield without payment and made its owners breathe their last, 40 let thorns grow instead of wheat, and foul weeds instead of barley." The words of Job are ended.

Job 32:1-22 ESV

So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes. 2 Then Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, burned with anger. He burned with anger at Job because he justified himself rather than God. 3 He burned with anger also at Job's three friends because they had found no answer, although they had declared Job to be in the wrong.

4 Now Elihu had waited to speak to Job because they were older than he. 5 And when Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, he burned with anger. 6 And Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said: "I am young in years, and you are aged; therefore I was timid and afraid to declare my opinion to you.

7 I said, 'Let days speak, and many years teach wisdom.' 8 But it is the spirit in man, the breath of the Almighty, that makes him

understand. 9 It is not the old who are wise, nor the aged who understand what is right.

10 Therefore I say, 'Listen to me; let me also declare my opinion.' 11 "Behold, I waited for your words, I listened for your wise sayings, while you searched out what to say. 12 I gave you my attention, and, behold, there was none among you who refuted Job or who answered his words.

13 Beware lest you say, 'We have found wisdom; God may vanquish him, not a man.' 14 He has not directed his words against me, and I will not answer him with your speeches. 15 "They are dismayed; they answer no more; they have not a word to say. 16 And shall I wait, because they do not speak, because they stand there, and answer no more?

17 I also will answer with my share; I also will declare my opinion. 18 For I am full of words; the spirit within me constrains me. 19 Behold, my belly is like wine that has no vent; like new wineskins ready to burst. 20 I must speak, that I may find relief; I must open my lips and answer. 21 I will not show partiality to any man or use flattery toward any person. 22 For I do not know how to flatter, else my Maker would soon take me away.

Job 33:1-33 ESV

"But now, hear my speech, O Job, and listen to all my words. 2 Behold, I open my mouth; the tongue in my mouth speaks. 3 My words declare the uprightness of my heart, and what my lips know they speak sincerely. 4 The Spirit of God has made me,

and the breath of the Almighty gives me life. 5 Answer me, if you can; set your words in order before me; take your stand. 6 Behold, I am toward God as you are; I too was pinched off from a piece of clay. 7 Behold, no fear of me need terrify you; my pressure will not be heavy upon you.

8 "Surely you have spoken in my ears, and I have heard the sound of your words. 9 You say, 'I am pure, without transgression; I am clean, and there is no iniquity in me. 10 Behold, He finds occasions against me, he counts me as his enemy, 11 he puts my feet in the stocks and watches all my paths.'

12 "Behold, in this you are not right. I will answer you, for God is greater than man. 13 Why do you contend against Him, saying, 'He will answer none of man's words'? 14 For God speaks in one way, and in two, though man does not perceive it.

15 In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men, while they slumber on their beds, 16 then he opens the ears of men and terrifies them with warnings, 17 that He may turn man aside from his deed and conceal pride from a man; 18 He keeps back his soul from the pit, his life from perishing by the sword.

19 "Man is also rebuked with pain on his bed and with continual strife in his bones, 20 so that his life loathes bread, and his appetite the choicest food. 21 His flesh is so wasted away that it cannot be seen, and his bones that were not seen stick out.

22 His soul draws near the pit, and his life to those who bring death. 23 If there be for him an angel, a mediator, one of the thousand, to declare to man what is right for him, 24 and he is merciful to him, and says, 'Deliver him from going down into the pit; I have found a ransom; 25 let his flesh become fresh with youth; let him return to the days of his youthful vigor'; 26 then man prays to God, and He accepts him; he sees His face with a shout of joy, and He restores to man his righteousness. 27 He sings before men and says: 'I sinned and perverted what was right, and it was not repaid to me.

28 He has redeemed my soul from going down into the pit, and my life shall look upon the light.' 29 "Behold, God does all these things, twice, three times, with a man, 30 to bring back his soul from the pit, that he may be lighted with the light of life. 31 Pay attention, O Job, listen to me; be silent, and I will speak.

32 If you have any words, answer me; speak, for I desire to justify you. 33 If not, listen to me; be silent, and I will teach you wisdom."

Job 34:5-37 ESV

For Job has said, 'I am in the right, and God has taken away my right; 6 in spite of my right I am counted a liar; my wound is incurable, though I am without transgression.' 7 What man is like Job, who drinks up scoffing like water, 8 who travels in company with evildoers and walks with wicked men? 9 For he has said, 'It profits a man nothing that he should take delight in God.'

10 "Therefore, hear me, you men of understanding: far be it from God that he should do wickedness, and from the Almighty that He should do wrong. 11 For according to the work of a man He will repay him, and according to his ways He will make it befall him.

12 Of a truth, God will not do wickedly, and the Almighty will not pervert justice. 13 Who gave Him charge over the earth, and who laid on Him the whole world? 14 If He should set His heart to it and gather to Himself His spirit and His breath, 15 all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust.

16 "If you have understanding, hear this; listen to what I say. 17 Shall one who hates justice govern? Will you condemn him who is righteous and mighty, 18 who says to a king, 'Worthless one,' and to nobles, 'Wicked man,' 19 who shows no partiality to princes, nor regards the rich more than the poor, for they are all the work of His hands? 20 In a moment they die; at midnight the people are shaken and pass away, and the mighty are taken away by no human hand.

21 "For His eyes are on the ways of a man, and He sees all his steps. 22 There is no gloom or deep darkness where evildoers may hide themselves. 23 For God has no need to consider a man further, that he should go before God in judgment. 24 He shatters the mighty without investigation and sets others in their place. 25 Thus, knowing their works, He overturns them in the night, and they are crushed.

26 He strikes them for their wickedness in a place for all to see, 27 because they turned aside from following Him and had no

regard for any of His ways, 28 so that they caused the cry of the poor to come to Him, and He heard the cry of the afflicted-- 29 When He is quiet, who can condemn? When He hides His face, who can behold Him, whether it be a nation or a man?-- 30 that a godless man should not reign, that he should not ensnare the people.

31 "For has anyone said to God, 'I have borne punishment; I will not offend any more; 32 teach me what I do not see; if I have done iniquity, I will do it no more'?

33 Will He then make repayment to suit you, because you reject it? For you must choose, and not I; therefore declare what you know. 34 Men of understanding will say to me, and the wise man who hears me will say: 35 'Job speaks without knowledge; his words are without insight.' 36 Would that Job were tried to the end, because he answers like wicked men. 37 For he adds rebellion to his sin; he claps his hands among us and multiplies his words against God."

Job 35:1-16 ESV

And Elihu answered and said: 2 "Do you think this to be just? Do you say, 'It is my right before God,' 3 that you ask, 'What advantage have I? How am I better off than if I had sinned?'

4 I will answer you and your friends with you. 5 Look at the heavens, and see; and behold the clouds, which are higher than you. 6 If you have sinned, what do you accomplish against Him? And if your transgressions are multiplied, what do you do to

Him? 7 If you are righteous, what do you give to Him? Or what does He receive from your hand?

8 Your wickedness concerns a man like yourself, and your righteousness a son of man.

9 "Because of the multitude of oppressions people cry out; they call for help because of the arm of the mighty. 10 But none says, 'Where is God my Maker, who gives songs in the night, 11 who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth and makes us wiser than the birds of the heavens?'

12 There they cry out, but he does not answer, because of the pride of evil men. 13 Surely God does not hear an empty cry, nor does the Almighty regard it. 14 How much less when you say that you do not see Him, that the case is before Him, and you are waiting for Him!

15 And now, because His anger does not punish, and He does not take much note of transgression, 16 Job opens his mouth in empty talk; he multiplies words without knowledge."

Job 36:1-33 ESV

And Elihu continued, and said: 2 "Bear with me a little, and I will show you, for I have yet something to say on God's behalf. 3 I will get my knowledge from afar and ascribe righteousness to my Maker. 4 For truly my words are not false; one who is perfect in knowledge is with you.

5 "Behold, God is mighty, and does not despise any; He is mighty in strength of understanding. 6 He does not keep the wicked alive, but gives the afflicted their right. 7 He does not withdraw His eyes from the righteous, but with kings on the throne He sets them forever, and they are exalted.

8 And if they are bound in chains and caught in the cords of affliction, 9 then He declares to them their work and their transgressions, that they are behaving arrogantly.

10 He opens their ears to instruction and commands that they return from iniquity. 11 If they listen and serve Him, they complete their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasantness. 12 But if they do not listen, they perish by the sword and die without knowledge.

13 "The godless in heart cherish anger; they do not cry for help when He binds them. 14 They die in youth, and their life ends among the cult prostitutes. 15 He delivers the afflicted by their affliction and opens their ear by adversity.

16 He also allured you out of distress into a broad place where there was no cramping, and what was set on your table was full of fatness.

17 "But you are full of the judgment on the wicked; judgment and justice seize you. 18 Beware lest wrath entice you into scoffing, and let not the greatness of the ransom turn you aside.

19 Will your cry for help avail to keep you from distress, or all the force of your strength? 20 Do not long for the night, when

peoples vanish in their place. 21 Take care; do not turn to iniquity, for this you have chosen rather than affliction.

22 Behold, God is exalted in His power; who is a teacher like Him? 23 Who has prescribed for Him His way, or who can say, 'You have done wrong'?

24 "Remember to extol His work, of which men have sung. 25 All mankind has looked on it; man beholds it from afar.

26 Behold, God is great, and we know Him not; the number of His years is unsearchable. 27 For He draws up the drops of water; they distill His mist in rain, 28 which the skies pour down and drop on mankind abundantly.

29 Can anyone understand the spreading of the clouds, the thunderings of his pavilion? 30 Behold, He scatters His lightning about Him and covers the roots of the sea. 31 For by these He judges peoples; He gives food in abundance.

32 He covers His hands with the lightning and commands it to strike the mark. 33 Its crashing declares His presence; the cattle also declare that He rises.