

Job 8:1-22 ESV

Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said: 2 "How long will you say these things, and the words of your mouth be a great wind? 3 Does God pervert justice? Or does the Almighty pervert the right? 4 If your children have sinned against Him, He has delivered them into the hand of their transgression.

5 If you will seek God and plead with the Almighty for mercy, 6 if you are pure and upright, surely then He will rouse Himself for you and restore your rightful habitation. 7 And though your beginning was small, your latter days will be very great.

8 "For inquire, please, of bygone ages, and consider what the fathers have searched out. 9 For we are but of yesterday and know nothing, for our days on earth are a shadow. 10 Will they not teach you and tell you and utter words out of their understanding?

11 "Can papyrus grow where there is no marsh? Can reeds flourish where there is no water? 12 While yet in flower and not cut down, they wither before any other plant. 13 Such are the paths of all who forget God; the hope of the godless shall perish.

14 His confidence is severed, and his trust is a spider's web. 15 He leans against his house, but it does not stand; he lays hold of it, but it does not endure.

16 He is a lush plant before the sun, and his shoots spread over his garden. 17 His roots entwine the stone heap; he looks upon a

house of stones. 18 If he is destroyed from his place, then it will deny him, saying, 'I have never seen you.'

19 Behold, this is the joy of his way, and out of the soil others will spring. 20 "Behold, God will not reject a blameless man, nor take the hand of evildoers.

21 He will yet fill your mouth with laughter, and your lips with shouting. 22 Those who hate you will be clothed with shame, and the tent of the wicked will be no more."

Job 9:1-35 ESV

Then Job answered and said: 2 "Truly I know that it is so: But how can a man be in the right before God? 3 If one wished to contend with him, one could not answer him once in a thousand times.

4 He is wise in heart and mighty in strength --who has hardened himself against Him, and succeeded?-- 5 He who removes mountains, and they know it not, when He overturns them in His anger, 6 who shakes the earth out of its place, and its pillars tremble; 7 who commands the sun, and it does not rise; who seals up the stars; 8 who alone stretched out the heavens and trampled the waves of the sea; 9 who made the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the chambers of the south; 10 who does great things beyond searching out, and marvelous things beyond number.

11 Behold, He passes by me, and I see Him not; He moves on, but I do not perceive Him. 12 Behold, He snatches away; who can turn Him back? Who will say to Him, 'What are you doing?'

13 "God will not turn back His anger; beneath Him bowed the helpers of Rahab. 14 How then can I answer Him, choosing my words with Him?

15 Though I am in the right, I cannot answer him; I must appeal for mercy to my accuser. 16 If I summoned him and he answered me, I would not believe that he was listening to my voice. 17 For he crushes me with a tempest and multiplies my wounds without cause; 18 he will not let me get my breath, but fills me with bitterness. 19 If it is a contest of strength, behold, he is mighty! If it is a matter of justice, who can summon him?

20 Though I am in the right, my own mouth would condemn me; though I am blameless, he would prove me perverse. 21 I am blameless; I regard not myself; I loathe my life. 22 It is all one; therefore I say, He destroys both the blameless and the wicked.

23 When disaster brings sudden death, he mocks at the calamity of the innocent. 24 The earth is given into the hand of the wicked; he covers the faces of its judges-- if it is not he, who then is it?

25 "My days are swifter than a runner; they flee away; they see no good. 26 They go by like skiffs of reed, like an eagle swooping on the prey. 27 If I say, 'I will forget my complaint, I will put off my sad face, and be of good cheer,' 28 I become

afraid of all my suffering, for I know you will not hold me innocent. 29 I shall be condemned; why then do I labor in vain?

30 If I wash myself with snow and cleanse my hands with lye, 31 yet you will plunge me into a pit, and my own clothes will abhor me. 32 For he is not a man, as I am, that I might answer him, that we should come to trial together.

33 There is no arbiter between us, who might lay his hand on us both. 34 Let him take his rod away from me, and let not dread of him terrify me. 35 Then I would speak without fear of him, for I am not so in myself.

Job 10:1-22 ESV

"I loathe my life; I will give free utterance to my complaint; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul. 2 I will say to God, Do not condemn me; let me know why You contend against me. 3 Does it seem good to you to oppress, to despise the work of Your hands and favor the designs of the wicked?

4 Have you eyes of flesh? Do you see as man sees? 5 Are your days as the days of man, or your years as a man's years, 6 that you seek out my iniquity and search for my sin, 7 although you know that I am not guilty, and there is none to deliver out of your hand?

8 Your hands fashioned and made me, and now you have destroyed me altogether. 9 Remember that you have made me like clay; and will you return me to the dust? 10 Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese? 11 You

clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews. 12 You have granted me life and steadfast love, and your care has preserved my spirit. 13 Yet these things you hid in your heart; I know that this was your purpose.

14 If I sin, you watch me and do not acquit me of my iniquity. 15 If I am guilty, woe to me! If I am in the right, I cannot lift up my head, for I am filled with disgrace and look on my affliction. 16 And were my head lifted up, you would hunt me like a lion and again work wonders against me.

17 You renew your witnesses against me and increase your vexation toward me; you bring fresh troops against me. 18 "Why did you bring me out from the womb? Would that I had died before any eye had seen me 19 and were as though I had not been, carried from the womb to the grave.

20 Are not my days few? Then cease, and leave me alone, that I may find a little cheer 21 before I go--and I shall not return-- to the land of darkness and deep shadow, 22 the land of gloom like thick darkness, like deep shadow without any order, where light is as thick darkness."

Job 11:1-20 ESV

Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said: 2 "Should a multitude of words go unanswered, and a man full of talk be judged right? 3 Should your babble silence men, and when you mock, shall no one shame you? 4 For you say, 'My doctrine is pure, and I am clean in God's eyes.' 5 But oh, that God would speak and open His lips to you, 6 and that He would tell you the

secrets of wisdom! For he is manifold in understanding. Know then that God exacts of you less than your guilt deserves.

7 "Can you find out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limit of the Almighty? 8 It is higher than heaven--what can you do? Deeper than Sheol--what can you know? 9 Its measure is longer than the earth and broader than the sea.

10 If He passes through and imprisons and summons the court, who can turn Him back? 11 For He knows worthless men; when he sees iniquity, will He not consider it? 12 But a stupid man will get understanding when a wild donkey's colt is born a man!

13 "If you prepare your heart, you will stretch out your hands toward Him. 14 If iniquity is in your hand, put it far away, and let not injustice dwell in your tents.

15 Surely then you will lift up your face without blemish; you will be secure and will not fear. 16 You will forget your misery; you will remember it as waters that have passed away.

17 And your life will be brighter than the noonday; its darkness will be like the morning. 18 And you will feel secure, because there is hope; you will look around and take your rest in security.

19 You will lie down, and none will make you afraid; many will court your favor. 20 But the eyes of the wicked will fail; all way of escape will be lost to them, and their hope is to breathe their last."

Job 12:1-25 ESV

Then Job answered and said: 2 "No doubt you are the people, and wisdom will die with you. 3 But I have understanding as well as you; I am not inferior to you. Who does not know such things as these? 4 I am a laughingstock to my friends; I, who called to God and He answered me, a just and blameless man, am a laughingstock. 5 In the thought of one who is at ease there is contempt for misfortune; it is ready for those whose feet slip.

6 The tents of robbers are at peace, and those who provoke God are secure, who bring their god in their hand. 7 "But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; 8 or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. 9 Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this?

10 In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind. 11 Does not the ear test words as the palate tastes food? 12 Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days.

13 "With God are wisdom and might; He has counsel and understanding. 14 If He tears down, none can rebuild; if He shuts a man in, none can open. 15 If He withholds the waters, they dry up; if He sends them out, they overwhelm the land.

16 With him are strength and sound wisdom; the deceived and the deceiver are His. 17 He leads counselors away stripped, and judges He makes fools. 18 He looses the bonds of kings and

binds a waistcloth on their hips. 19 He leads priests away stripped and overthrows the mighty.

20 He deprives of speech those who are trusted and takes away the discernment of the elders. 21 He pours contempt on princes and loosens the belt of the strong. 22 He uncovers the deeps out of darkness and brings deep darkness to light.

23 He makes nations great, and He destroys them; He enlarges nations, and leads them away. 24 He takes away understanding from the chiefs of the people of the earth and makes them wander in a pathless waste. 25 They grope in the dark without light, and He makes them stagger like a drunken man.

Job 13:1-28 ESV

"Behold, my eye has seen all this, my ear has heard and understood it. 2 What you know, I also know; I am not inferior to you. 3 But I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to argue my case with God.

4 As for you, you whitewash with lies; worthless physicians are you all. 5 Oh that you would keep silent, and it would be your wisdom!

6 Hear now my argument and listen to the pleadings of my lips. 7 Will you speak falsely for God and speak deceitfully for Him? 8 Will you show partiality toward Him? Will you plead the case for God? 9 Will it be well with you when He searches you out? Or can you deceive him, as one deceives a man?

10 He will surely rebuke you if in secret you show partiality. 11 Will not His majesty terrify you, and the dread of Him fall upon you? 12 Your maxims are proverbs of ashes; your defenses are defenses of clay.

13 "Let me have silence, and I will speak, and let come on me what may. 14 Why should I take my flesh in my teeth and put my life in my hand? 15 Though He slay me, I will hope in Him; yet I will argue my ways to His face.

16 This will be my salvation, that the godless shall not come before Him. 17 Keep listening to my words, and let my declaration be in your ears.

18 Behold, I have prepared my case; I know that I shall be in the right. 19 Who is there who will contend with me? For then I would be silent and die.

20 Only grant me two things, then I will not hide myself from Your face: 21 withdraw Your hand far from me, and let not dread of You terrify me. 22 Then call, and I will answer; or let me speak, and You reply to me.

23 How many are my iniquities and my sins? Make me know my transgression and my sin. 24 Why do you hide Your face and count me as Your enemy?

25 Will you frighten a driven leaf and pursue dry chaff? 26 For You write bitter things against me and make me inherit the iniquities of my youth. 27 You put my feet in the stocks and watch all my paths; you set a limit for the soles of my feet. 28

Man wastes away like a rotten thing, like a garment that is moth-eaten.

Job 14:1-22 ESV

"Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble. 2 He comes out like a flower and withers; he flees like a shadow and continues not. 3 And do you open your eyes on such a one and bring me into judgment with you?

4 Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? There is not one. 5 Since his days are determined, and the number of his months is with You, and You have appointed his limits that he cannot pass, 6 look away from him and leave him alone, that he may enjoy, like a hired hand, his day.

7 "For there is hope for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease. 8 Though its root grow old in the earth, and its stump die in the soil, 9 yet at the scent of water it will bud and put out branches like a young plant.

10 But a man dies and is laid low; man breathes his last, and where is he? 11 As waters fail from a lake and a river wastes away and dries up, 12 so a man lies down and rises not again; till the heavens are no more he will not awake or be roused out of his sleep.

13 Oh that you would hide me in Sheol, that You would conceal me until Your wrath be past, that You would appoint me a set time, and remember me! 14 If a man dies, shall he live again?

All the days of my service I would wait, till my renewal should come. 15 You would call, and I would answer You; You would long for the work of Your hands. 16 For then You would number my steps; You would not keep watch over my sin; 17 my transgression would be sealed up in a bag, and You would cover over my iniquity.

18 "But the mountain falls and crumbles away, and the rock is removed from its place; 19 the waters wear away the stones; the torrents wash away the soil of the earth; so You destroy the hope of man. 20 You prevail forever against him, and he passes; You change his countenance, and send him away.

21 His sons come to honor, and he does not know it; they are brought low, and he perceives it not. 22 He feels only the pain of his own body, and he mourns only for himself."

Job 15:1-35 ESV

Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said: 2 "Should a wise man answer with windy knowledge, and fill his belly with the east wind? 3 Should he argue in unprofitable talk, or in words with which he can do no good?

4 But you are doing away with the fear of God and hindering meditation before God. 5 For your iniquity teaches your mouth, and you choose the tongue of the crafty. 6 Your own mouth condemns you, and not I; your own lips testify against you. 7 "Are you the first man who was born? Or were you brought forth before the hills? 8 Have you listened in the council of God? And do you limit wisdom to yourself?

9 What do you know that we do not know? What do you understand that is not clear to us? 10 Both the gray-haired and the aged are among us, older than your father. 11 Are the comforts of God too small for you, or the word that deals gently with you?

12 Why does your heart carry you away, and why do your eyes flash, 13 that you turn your spirit against God and bring such words out of your mouth? 14 What is man, that he can be pure? Or he who is born of a woman, that he can be righteous?

15 Behold, God puts no trust in His holy ones, and the heavens are not pure in His sight; 16 how much less one who is abominable and corrupt, a man who drinks injustice like water!

17 "I will show you; hear me, and what I have seen I will declare 18 (what wise men have told, without hiding it from their fathers, 19 to whom alone the land was given, and no stranger passed among them).

20 The wicked man writhes in pain all his days, through all the years that are laid up for the ruthless. 21 Dreadful sounds are in his ears; in prosperity the destroyer will come upon him. 22 He does not believe that he will return out of darkness, and he is marked for the sword. 23 He wanders abroad for bread, saying, 'Where is it?' He knows that a day of darkness is ready at his hand; 24 distress and anguish terrify him; they prevail against him, like a king ready for battle.

25 Because he has stretched out his hand against God and defies the Almighty, 26 running stubbornly against Him with a thickly bossed shield; 27 because he has covered his face with his fat and gathered fat upon his waist 28 and has lived in desolate cities, in houses that none should inhabit, which were ready to become heaps of ruins; 29 he will not be rich, and his wealth will not endure, nor will his possessions spread over the earth; 30 he will not depart from darkness; the flame will dry up his shoots, and by the breath of his mouth he will depart.

31 Let him not trust in emptiness, deceiving himself, for emptiness will be his payment. 32 It will be paid in full before his time, and his branch will not be green. 33 He will shake off his unripe grape like the vine, and cast off his blossom like the olive tree. 34 For the company of the godless is barren, and fire consumes the tents of bribery. 35 They conceive trouble and give birth to evil, and their womb prepares deceit."

Job 16:1-22 ESV

Then Job answered and said: 2 "I have heard many such things; miserable comforters are you all. 3 Shall windy words have an end? Or what provokes you that you answer? 4 I also could speak as you do, if you were in my place; I could join words together against you and shake my head at you. 5 I could strengthen you with my mouth, and the solace of my lips would assuage your pain.

6 "If I speak, my pain is not assuaged, and if I forbear, how much of it leaves me? 7 Surely now God has worn me out; He has made desolate all my company. 8 And He has shriveled me

up, which is a witness against me, and my leanness has risen up against me; it testifies to my face. 9 He has torn me in His wrath and hated me; He has gnashed His teeth at me; my adversary sharpens his eyes against me.

10 Men have gaped at me with their mouth; they have struck me insolently on the cheek; they mass themselves together against me. 11 God gives me up to the ungodly and casts me into the hands of the wicked.

12 I was at ease, and He broke me apart; He seized me by the neck and dashed me to pieces; He set me up as His target; 13 His archers surround me. He slashes open my kidneys and does not spare; He pours out my gall on the ground. 14 He breaks me with breach upon breach; He runs upon me like a warrior.

15 I have sewed sackcloth upon my skin and have laid my strength in the dust. 16 My face is red with weeping, and on my eyelids is deep darkness, 17 although there is no violence in my hands, and my prayer is pure.

18 "O earth, cover not my blood, and let my cry find no resting place. 19 Even now, behold, my witness is in heaven, and He who testifies for me is on high. 20 My friends scorn me; my eye pours out tears to God, 21 that He would argue the case of a man with God, as a son of man does with his neighbor. 22 For when a few years have come I shall go the way from which I shall not return.