Job

HEBREW BIBLE

Job

אִיּוֹב

Translated from the Hebrew with AI (Claude) and edited

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Job · Hebrew Bible

Translated from the Hebrew with AI (Claude) and edited. Parallel-text edition, Forage, October 2026. forage.com/bible/job

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Set in Source Serif 4, Noto Serif Hebrew.

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INTRODUCTION

Job is blameless and upright, rich and blessed with children. In a scene in the heavenly court, "the Adversary" (in Hebrew *ha-satan*, not yet the Satan of later tradition) suggests that Job is good only because it pays, and God allows him to be tested. Job loses his wealth, his children and his health; sitting in ashes, he refuses to curse God.

Then the prose story gives way to poetry. Job curses the day he was born, and three friends who have come to comfort him—Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar—argue in three rounds of speeches that God is just, so Job must have sinned. Job insists that he is innocent and demands that God answer him. A younger man, Elihu, intervenes. Finally God speaks from the whirlwind, not to explain Job's suffering but to show him the vastness and strangeness of creation. Job yields, and a short prose epilogue restores his fortunes.

The book's date is uncertain; most scholars place the poem between the sixth and fourth centuries BC. Its Hebrew is among the most difficult in the Bible, rich in rare words, and its questions about innocent suffering have made it one of the most discussed books of world literature.

Job

A blameless man loses everything; his friends argue that he must have sinned; he demands an answer from God, and God answers from the whirlwind.

PROLOGUE: THE ADVERSARY'S CHALLENGE

Blameless Job loses his wealth, his children and his health, yet refuses to curse God.

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Job 1:1	אִישׁ הָיָה בְּאֶרֶץ־עוּץ אִיּוֹב שְׁמוֹ וְהָיָה הָאִישׁ הַהוּא תָּם וְיָשָׁר וִירֵא אֱלֹהִים וְסָר מֵרָע: וַיִּוָּלְדוּ לוֹ שִׁבְעָה בָנִים וְשָׁלוֹשׁ בָּנוֹת:	There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. Seven sons and three daughters were born to him.[1]
Job 1:3	וַיְהִי מִקְנֵהוּ שִׁבְעַת אַלְפֵי־צֹאן וּשְׁלֹשֶׁת אַלְפֵי גְמַלִּים וַחֲמֵשׁ מֵאוֹת צֶמֶד־בָּקָר וַחֲמֵשׁ מֵאוֹת אֲתוֹנוֹת וַעֲבֻדָּה רַבָּה מְאֹד וַיְהִי הָאִישׁ הַהוּא גָּדוֹל מִכֹּל־בְּנֵי־קֶדֶם:	His livestock numbered seven thousand sheep and goats, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred female donkeys, and he had a great many servants. That man was the greatest of all the people of the East.
Job 1:4	וְהָלְכוּ בָנָיו וְעָשׂוּ מִשְׁתֶּה בֵּית אִישׁ יוֹמוֹ וְשָׁלְחוּ וְקָרְאוּ לִשְׁלֹשֶׁת אַחְיוֹתֵיהֶם לֶאֱכֹל וְלִשְׁתּוֹת עִמָּהֶם:	His sons used to go and hold a feast, each in his own house on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.
Job 1:5	וַיְהִי כִּי הִקִּיפוּ יְמֵי הַמִּשְׁתֶּה וַיִּשְׁלַח אִיּוֹב וַיְקַדְּשֵׁם וְהִשְׁכִּים בַּבֹּקֶר וְהֶעֱלָה עֹלוֹת מִסְפַּר כֻּלָּם כִּי אָמַר אִיּוֹב אוּלַי חָטְאוּ בָנַי וּבֵרְכוּ אֱלֹהִים בִּלְבָבָם כָּכָה יַעֲשֶׂה אִיּוֹב כָּל־הַיָּמִים:	Whenever the days of feasting had run their course, Job would send for them and consecrate them. He would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings for each one of them, for Job said, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This is what Job always did.[2]
Job 1:6	וַיְהִי הַיּוֹם וַיָּבֹאוּ בְּנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים לְהִתְיַצֵּב עַל־יְהוָה וַיָּבוֹא גַּם־הַשָּׂטָן בְּתוֹכָם: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־הַשָּׂטָן מֵאַיִן תָּבֹא וַיַּעַן הַשָּׂטָן אֶת־יְהוָה וַיֹּאמַר מִשּׁוּט בָּאָרֶץ וּמֵהִתְהַלֵּךְ בָּהּ:	One day the members of the divine court came to present themselves before the LORD, and the Adversary also came among them. The LORD said to the Adversary, "Where have you come from?" The Adversary answered the LORD, "From roaming the earth and walking about on it."[3]
Job 1:8	וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־הַשָּׂטָן הֲשַׂמְתָּ לִבְּךָ עַל־עַבְדִּי אִיּוֹב כִּי אֵין כָּמֹהוּ בָאָרֶץ אִישׁ תָּם וְיָשָׁר יְרֵא אֱלֹהִים וְסָר מֵרָע: וַיַּעַן הַשָּׂטָן אֶת־יְהוָה וַיֹּאמַר הַחִנָּם יָרֵא אִיּוֹב אֱלֹהִים:	The LORD said to the Adversary, "Have you given any thought to my servant Job? There is no one like him on earth, a man blameless and upright, who fears God and turns away from evil." The Ad-

1 Uz was a land probably east or southeast of Israel, toward Edom or northern Arabia.
2 The Hebrew says "blessed," a scribal euphemism for "cursed"; so also in 1:11, 2:5 and 2:9.
3 "Members of the divine court" is literally "sons of God." "The Adversary" is Hebrew *ha-satan*, "the accuser," a member of the heavenly court, not yet the Satan of later tradition.

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		versary answered the LORD, “Is it for nothing that Job fears God?
Job 1:10	הֲלֹא־אַתָּה שַׂכְתָּ בַּעֲדוֹ וּבְעַד־בֵּיתוֹ וּבְעַד כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ מִסָּבִיב מַעֲשֵׂה יָדָיו בֵּרַכְתָּ וּמִקְנֵהוּ פָּרְצ בָּאָרֶץ: וְאוּלָם שְׁלַח־נָא יָדְךָ וְגַע בְּכָל־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ אִם־לֹא עַל־פָּנֶיךָ יְבָרֲכֶךָּ:	“Haven’t you yourself put a hedge around him and his household and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his livestock has spread out over the land. But just stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.”
Job 1:12	וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־הַשָּׂטָן הִנֵּה כָל־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ בְּיָדֶךָ רַק אֵלָיו אַל־תִּשְׁלַח יָדֶךָ וַיֵּצֵא הַשָּׂטָן מֵעִם פְּנֵי יְהוָה: וַיְהִי הַיּוֹם וּבָנָיו וּבְנֹתָיו אֹכְלִים וְשֹׁתִים יַיִן בְּבֵית אֲחִיהֶם הַבְּכוֹר:	The LORD said to the Adversary, “Very well, all that he has is in your hand; only do not stretch out your hand against him.” So the Adversary went out from the presence of the LORD. One day, when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in the house of their eldest brother,
Job 1:14	וּמַלְאָךְ בָּא אֶל־אִיּוֹב וַיֹּאמַר הַבָּקָר הָיוּ חֹרְשׁוֹת וְהָאֲתֹנוֹת רֹעוֹת עַל־יְדֵיהֶם: וַתִּפֹּל שְׁבָא וַתִּקָּחֵם וְאֶת־הַנְּעָרִים הִכּוּ לְפִי־חָרֶב וְאִמָּלְטָה רַק־אֲנִי לְבַדִּי לְהַגִּיד לָךְ:	a messenger came to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys grazing beside them, and raiders from Sheba swooped down and took them, and they put the servants to the sword. I alone have escaped to tell you.”
Job 1:16	עוֹד זֶה מְדַבֵּר וְזֶה בָּא וַיֹּאמַר אֵשׁ אֱלֹהִים נָפְלָה מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם וַתִּבְעַר בַּצֹּאן וּבַנְּעָרִים וַתֹּאכְלֵם וְאִמָּלְטָה רַק־אֲנִי לְבַדִּי לְהַגִּיד לָךְ:	While he was still speaking, another came and said, “The fire of God fell from the sky and blazed among the sheep and the servants and consumed them. I alone have escaped to tell you.”
Job 1:17	עוֹד זֶה מְדַבֵּר וְזֶה בָּא וַיֹּאמַר כַּשְׂדִּים שָׂמוּ שְׁלֹשָׁה רָאשִׁים וַיִּפְשְׁטוּ עַל־הַגְּמַלִּים וַיִּקָּחוּם וְאֶת־הַנְּעָרִים הִכּוּ לְפִי־חָרֶב וְאִמָּלְטָה רַק־אֲנִי לְבַדִּי לְהַגִּיד לָךְ:	While he was still speaking, another came and said, “Chaldeans formed three bands, made a raid on the camels and took them, and they put the servants to the sword. I alone have escaped to tell you.”
Job 1:18	עַד זֶה מְדַבֵּר וְזֶה בָּא וַיֹּאמַר בָּנֶיךָ וּבְנוֹתֶיךָ אֹכְלִים וְשֹׁתִים יַיִן בְּבֵית אֲחִיהֶם הַבְּכוֹר:	While he was still speaking, another came and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in the house of their eldest brother.
Job 1:19	וְהִנֵּה רוּחַ גְּדוֹלָה בָּאָה מֵעֵבֶר הַמִּדְבָּר וַיִּגַּע בְּאַרְבַּע פִּנּוֹת הַבַּיִת וַיִּפֹּל עַל־הַנְּעָרִים וַיָּמוּתוּ וְאִמָּלְטָה רַק־אֲנִי לְבַדִּי לְהַגִּיד לָךְ: וַיָּקָם אִיּוֹב וַיִּקְרַע אֶת־מְעִלּוֹ וַיָּגֶז אֶת־רֹאשׁוֹ וַיִּפֹּל אַרְצָה וַיִּשְׁתָּחוּ:	“Then suddenly a great wind came from across the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It fell on the young people, and they died. I alone have escaped to tell you.” Then Job got up, tore his robe and shaved his head. He fell to the ground and bowed low,
Job 1:21	וַיֹּאמֶר עָרֹם יָצָאתִי מִבֶּטֶן אִמִּי וְעָרֹם אָשׁוּב שָׁמָּה יְהוָה נָתַן וַיהוָה לָקָח יְהִי שֵׁם יְהוָה מְבֹרָךְ: בְּכָל־זֹאת לֹא־חָטָא אִיּוֹב וְלֹא־נָתַן תִּפְלָה לֵאלֹהִים:	and he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.” In all this Job did not sin, nor did he charge God with wrongdoing.
Job 2:1	וַיְהִי הַיּוֹם וַיָּבֹאוּ בְּנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים לְהִתְיַצֵּב עַל־יְהוָה וַיָּבוֹא גַם־הַשָּׂטָן בְּתוֹכָם לְהִתְיַצֵּב עַל־יְהוָה: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־הַשָּׂטָן אַי מִזֶּה תָּבֹא וַיַּעַן הַשָּׂטָן אֶת־יְהוָה וַיֹּאמַר מִשּׁ ט בָּאָרֶץ וּמֵהִתְהַלֵּךְ בָּהּ:	One day the members of the divine court came to present themselves before the LORD, and the Adversary also came among them to present himself before the LORD. The LORD said to the Adversary, “Where have you come from?” The Adversary

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	answered the LORD, “From roaming the earth and walking about on it.”
Job 2:3 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־הַשָּׂטָן הֲשַׂמְתָּ לִבְּךָ אֶל־עַבְדִּי אִיּוֹב כִּי אֵין כָּמֹהוּ בָּאָרֶץ אִישׁ תָּם וְיָשָׁר יְרֵא אֱלֹהִים וְסָר מֵרָע וְעֹדֶנּוּ מַחֲזִיק בְּתֻמָּתוֹ וַתְּסִיתֵנִי בּוֹ לְבַלְּעוֹ חִנָּם:	The LORD said to the Adversary, “Have you given any thought to my servant Job? There is no one like him on earth, a man blameless and upright, who fears God and turns away from evil. He still holds fast to his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him for nothing.”
Job 2:4 וַיַּעַן הַשָּׂטָן אֶת־יְהוָה וַיֹּאמַר עוֹר בְּעַד־עוֹר וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר לָאִישׁ יִתֵּן בְּעַד נַפְשׁוֹ: אוּלָם שְׁלַח־נָא יָדְךָ וְגַע אֶל־עַצְמוֹ וְאֶל־בְּשָׂרוֹ אִם־לֹא אֶל־פָּנֶיךָ יְבָרֶכֶךָּ:	The Adversary answered the LORD, “Skin for skin! A man will give all that he has for his life. But just stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse you to your face.”[4]
Job 2:6 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־הַשָּׂטָן הִנּוֹ בְיָדֶךָ אַךְ אֶת־נַפְשׁוֹ שְׁמֹר: וַיֵּצֵא הַשָּׂטָן מֵאֵת פְּנֵי יְהוָה וַיַּךְ אֶת־אִיּוֹב בִּשְׁחִין רָע מִכַּף רַגְלוֹ וְעַד קָדְקֳדוֹ: וַיִּקַּח־לוֹ חֶרֶשׂ לְהִתְגָּרֵד בּוֹ וְהוּא יֹשֵׁב בְּתוֹךְ־הָאֵפֶר:	The LORD said to the Adversary, “Very well, he is in your hand; only spare his life.” So the Adversary went out from the presence of the LORD and struck Job with painful sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Job took a piece of broken pottery to scrape himself with as he sat among the ashes.
Job 2:9 וַתֹּאמֶר לוֹ אִשְׁתּוֹ עֹדְךָ מַחֲזִיק בְּתֻמָּתֶךָ בָּרֵךְ אֱלֹהִים וָמֻת: וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלֶיהָ כְּדַבֵּר אַחַת הַנְּבָלוֹת תְּדַבֵּרִי גַּם אֶת־הַטּוֹב נְקַבֵּל מֵאֵת הָאֱלֹהִים וְאֶת־הָרָע לֹא נְקַבֵּל בְּכָל־זֹאת לֹא־חָטָא אִיּוֹב בִּשְׂפָתָיו:	His wife said to him, “Are you still holding fast to your integrity? Curse God and die.” He said to her, “You are talking like one of the foolish women. Shall we accept the good from God and not accept the bad?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

THE THREE FRIENDS ARRIVE

Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar come to comfort Job and sit with him seven days in silence.

HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 2:11 וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ שְׁלֹשֶׁת רֵעֵי אִיּוֹב אֵת כָּל־הָרָעָה הַזֹּאת הַבָּאָה עָלָיו וַיָּבֹאוּ אִישׁ מִמְּקֹמוֹ אֱלִיפַז הַתֵּימָנִי וּבִלְדַּד הַשּׁוּחִי וְצוֹפַר הַנַּעֲמָתִי וַיִּוָּעֲדוּ יַחְדָּו לָבוֹא לָנוּד־לוֹ וּלְנַחֲמוֹ:	When Job’s three friends heard of all this disaster that had come upon him, they came, each from his own place: Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They had agreed to meet and go together to show him sympathy and comfort him.[5]
Job 2:12 וַיִּשְׂאוּ אֶת־עֵינֵיהֶם מֵרָחוֹק וְלֹא הִכִּירֻהוּ וַיִּשְׂאוּ קוֹלָם וַיִּבְכּוּ וַיִּקְרְעוּ אִישׁ מְעִלוֹ וַיִּזְרְקוּ עָפָר עַל־רָאשֵׁיהֶם הַשָּׁמָיְמָה: וַיֵּשְׁבוּ אִתּוֹ לָאָרֶץ שִׁבְעַת יָמִים וְשִׁבְעַת לֵילוֹת וְאֵין־דֹּבֵר אֵלָיו דָּבָר כִּי רָאוּ כִּי־גָדַל הַכְּאֵב מְאֹד:	They lifted up their eyes from a distance and did not recognize him. They raised their voices and wept, and each of them tore his robe, and they threw dust into the air over their heads. Then they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his pain was very great.

4 “Skin for skin” seems to be a proverb, perhaps from bartering; its exact sense is uncertain.
5 Teman was a region of Edom; Shuah and Naamah cannot be identified with certainty.

JOB'S LAMENT: CURSED BE THE DAY

Job curses the day he was born and asks why life is given to the miserable.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 3:1	אַחֲרֵי־כֵן פָּתַח אִיּוֹב אֶת־פִּיהוּ וַיְקַלֵּל אֶת־יוֹמוֹ:	After this Job opened his mouth and cursed his day.
Job 3:2	וַיַּעַן אִיּוֹב וַיֹּאמַר:	Job spoke up and said:
Job 3:3	יֹאבַד יוֹם אִוָּלֶד בּוֹ JOB וְהַלַּיְלָה אָמַר הָרָה גָּבֶר: הַיּוֹם הַהוּא יְהִי חֹשֶׁךְ אַל־יִדְרְשֵׁהוּ אֱלוֹהַּ מִמָּעַל וְאַל־תּוֹפַע עָלָיו נְהָרָה: יִגְאָלֻהוּ חֹשֶׁךְ וְצַלְמָוֶת תִּשְׁכָּן־עָלָיו עֲנָנָה יְבַעֲתֻהוּ כְּמְרִירֵי יוֹם:	JOB Perish the day on which I was born, and the night that said, "A boy is conceived!" That day—let it be darkness; may God above not seek it out, nor light shine on it. Let darkness and deep shadow claim it; let a cloud settle over it; let the blackness of the day terrify it.[6]
Job 3:6	הַלַּיְלָה הַהוּא יִקָּחֵהוּ אֹפֶל אַל־יְחַדְּ בִּימֵי שָׁנָה בְּמִסְפַּר יְרָחִים אַל־יָבֹא: הִנֵּה הַלַּיְלָה הַהוּא יְהִי גַלְמוּד אַל־תָּבֹא רְנָנָה בוֹ: יְקֻבֻהוּ אֹרְרֵי־יוֹם הָעֲתִידִים עֹרֵר לִוְיָתָן:	That night—let gloom seize it; let it not be joined to the days of the year; let it not come into the count of the months. Yes, let that night be barren; let no shout of joy come into it. Let those who curse days damn it, those skilled to rouse Leviathan.[7]
Job 3:9	יֶחְשְׁכוּ כוֹכְבֵי נִשְׁפּוֹ יְקַו־לָאוֹר וְאַיִן וְאַל־יִרְאֶה בְּעַפְעַפֵּי־שָׁחַר: כִּי לֹא סָגַר דַּלְתֵי בִטְנִי וַיַּסְתֵּר עָמָל מֵעֵינָי: לָמָּה לֹא מֵרֶחֶם אָמוּת מִבֶּטֶן יָצָאתִי וְאֶגְוָע:	Let the stars of its twilight be dark; let it wait for light, and have none, and not see the eyelids of the dawn, because it did not shut the doors of the womb that bore me or hide trouble from my eyes. Why did I not die at birth, come out of the belly and breathe my last?
Job 3:12	מַדּוּעַ קִדְּמוּנִי בִרְכָּיִם וּמַה־שַּׁדַּיִם כִּי אִינָק: כִּי־עַתָּה שָׁכַבְתִּי וְאֶשְׁקוֹט יְשַׁנְתִּי אָז יָנוּחַ לִי: עִם־מְלָכִים וְיֹעֲצֵי אֶרֶץ הַבֹּנִים חָרְבוֹת לָמוֹ: אוֹ עִם־שָׂרִים זָהָב לָהֶם הַמְמַלְאִים בָּתֵּיהֶם כָּסֶף:	Why were there knees to receive me, or breasts for me to suck? For then I would be lying down in quiet; I would be asleep, and at rest, with kings and counselors of the earth who rebuilt ruins for themselves, or with princes who had gold, who filled their houses with silver.
Job 3:16	אוֹ כְנֵפֶל טָמוּן לֹא אֶהְיֶה כְּעֹלָלִים לֹא־רָאוּ אוֹר: שָׁם רְשָׁעִים חָדְלוּ רֹגֶז וְשָׁם יְנוּחוּ יְגִיעֵי כֹחַ: יַחַד אֲסִירִים שַׁאֲנָנוּ לֹא שָׁמְעוּ קוֹל נֹגֵשׂ:	Or like a stillborn child, hidden away, I would never have been, like infants who never saw the light. There the wicked cease their turmoil, and there the weary are at rest.

6 The Hebrew of the last line is uncertain; it may refer to eclipses.
7 Leviathan is a sea monster of ancient Near Eastern myth, a figure of chaos; those able to rouse it were apparently sorcerers.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
		Prisoners are at ease together; they do not hear the taskmaster's voice.
Job 3:19	קָטֹן וְגָדוֹל שָׁם הוּא וְעֶבֶד חָפְשִׁי מֵאֲדֹנָיו: לָמָּה יִתֵּן לְעָמֵל אוֹר וְחַיִּים לְמָרֵי נָפֶשׁ: הַמְחַכִּים לַמָּוֶת וְאֵינֶנּוּ וַיַּחְפְּרֵהוּ מִמַּטְמוֹנִים: הַשְּׂמֵחִים אֱלֵי־גִיל יָשִׂישׂוּ כִּי יִמְצְאוּ־קָבֶר:	Small and great are there alike, and the slave is free from his master. Why is light given to one in misery, and life to the bitter in soul, who long for death, but it does not come, who dig for it more than for hidden treasure, who would rejoice to the point of exulting, and be glad to find the grave?
Job 3:23	לְגֶבֶר אֲשֶׁר־דַּרְכּוֹ נִסְתָּרָה וַיָּסֶךְ אֱלוֹהַּ בַּעֲדוֹ: כִּי־לִפְנֵי לַחְמִי אַנְחָתִי תָּבֹא וַיִּתְּכוּ כַמַּיִם שַׁאֲגָתִי: כִּי פַחַד פָּחַדְתִּי וַיֶּאֱתָיֵנִי וַאֲשֶׁר יָגֹרְתִּי יָבֹא לִי: לֹא שָׁלַוְתִּי וְלֹא שָׁקַטְתִּי וְלֹא־נָחְתִּי וַיָּבֹא רֹגֶז:	to a man whose way is hidden, whom God has hedged in?[8] For my sighing comes in place of my bread, and my groans pour out like water. For the thing I dreaded has overtaken me; what I feared has come upon me. I have no ease, no quiet, no rest, and turmoil comes.

THE FIRST CYCLE OF SPEECHES

Each friend in turn defends God's justice, and Job answers each one.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 4:1	וַיַּעַן אֱלִיפַז הַתֵּימָנִי וַיֹּאמַר:	Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

ELIPHAZ: THE INNOCENT DO NOT PERISH

Eliphaz recounts a vision in the night and urges Job to accept the discipline of Shaddai.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 4:2	ELIPHAZ הֲנִסָּה דָבָר אֵלֶיךָ תִּלְאֶה וַעְצֹר בְּמִלִּין מִי יוּכָל: הִנֵּה יִסַּרְתָּ רַבִּים וְיָדַיִם רָפוֹת תְּחַזֵּק: כּוֹשֵׁל יְקִימוּן מִלֶּיךָ וּבִרְכַּיִם כֹּרְעוֹת תְּאַמֵּץ:	**ELIPHAZ** If one ventures a word to you, will you be weary of it? Yet who can hold back from speaking? Look, you have instructed many, and you have strengthened weak hands. Your words have raised up those who stumbled, and you have made firm the knees that buckled.
Job 4:5	כִּי עַתָּה תָּבוֹא אֵלֶיךָ וַתֵּלֶא תִּגַּע עָדֶיךָ וַתִּבָּהֵל: הֲלֹא יִרְאָתְךָ כִסְלָתֶךָ תִּקְוָתְךָ וְתֹם דְּרָכֶיךָ: זְכָר־נָא מִי הוּא נָקִי אָבָד וְאֵיפֹה יְשָׁרִים נִכְחָדוּ:	But now it has come to you, and you are weary; it touches you, and you are dismayed. Is not your fear of God your confidence, and your hope the integrity of your ways? Think now: who that was innocent ever perished? Where were the upright ever wiped out?
Job 4:8	כַּאֲשֶׁר רָאִיתִי חֹרְשֵׁי אָוֶן וְזֹרְעֵי עָמָל יְקַצְּרֵהוּ: מִנִּשְׁמַת אֱלוֹהַּ יֹאבֵדוּ וּמֵרוּחַ אַפּוֹ יִכְלוּ:	As I have seen, those who plow iniquity and those who sow trouble reap the same. By the breath of God they perish; by the blast of his anger they are consumed.

8 "Hedged in" echoes the Adversary's complaint in 1:10 that God had put a protective hedge around Job.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
	שַׁאֲגַת אַרְיֵה וְקוֹל שְׁחַל וְשִׁנֵּי כְפִירִים נִתָּעוּ׃ לַיִשׁ אֹבֵד מִבְּלִי־טָרָף וּבְנֵי לְבִיָּא יִתְפָּרָדוּ׃	The roar of the lion, the growl of the fierce lion— yet the teeth of the young lions are broken. The old lion perishes for lack of prey, and the lioness's cubs are scattered.
Job 4:12	וְאֵלַי דָּבָר יְגֻנָּב וַתִּקַּח אָזְנִי שֵׁמֶץ מֶנְהוּ׃ בְּשִׂעִפִּים מֵחֶזְיֹנוֹת לָיְלָה בִּנְפֹל תַּרְדֵּמָה עַל־אֲנָשִׁים׃ פַּחַד קָרָאַנִי וּרְעָדָה וְרֹב עַצְמוֹתַי הִפְחִיד׃ וְרוּחַ עַל־פָּנַי יַחֲלֹף תְּסַמֵּר שַׂעֲרַת בְּשָׂרִי׃	A word came to me by stealth; my ear caught a whisper of it amid unsettling thoughts from visions of the night, when deep sleep falls on people. Dread came upon me, and trembling, and made all my bones shudder. A spirit glided past my face; the hair of my body bristled.
Job 4:16	יַעֲמֹד וְלֹא־אַכִּיר מַרְאֵהוּ תְּמוּנָה לְנֶגֶד עֵינָי דְּמָמָה וְקוֹל אֶשְׁמָע׃ הַאֱנוֹשׁ מֵאֱלוֹהַּ יִצְדָּק אִם מֵעֹשֵׂהוּ יִטְהַר־גָּבֶר׃ הֵן בַּעֲבָדָיו לֹא יַאֲמִין וּבְמַלְאָכָיו יָשִׂים תְּהִלָּה׃	It stood still, but I could not make out its appearance; a form was before my eyes; there was a hush, and then I heard a voice: "Can a mortal be righteous before God? Can a man be pure before his Maker?" Look, he does not trust his servants, and he charges his angels with error.[9]
Job 4:19	אַף שֹׁכְנֵי בָתֵּי־חֹמֶר אֲשֶׁר־בֶּעָפָר יְסוֹדָם יְדֻכְּאוּם לִפְנֵי־עָשׁ׃ מִבֹּקֶר לְעֶרֶב יֻכַּתּוּ מִבְּלִי מֵשִׂים לָנֶצַח יֹאבֵדוּ׃ הֲלֹא־נָסַע יִתְרָם בָּם יָמוּתוּ וְלֹא בְחָכְמָה׃	How much more those who live in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, who are crushed like a moth! Between morning and evening they are shattered; unnoticed, they perish forever. Is not their tent cord pulled up within them? They die, and not in wisdom.
Job 5:1	קְרָא־נָא הֲיֵשׁ עוֹנֶךָּ וְאֶל־מִי מִקְּדֹשִׁים תִּפְנֶה׃ כִּי־לָאֱוִיל יַהֲרֶג־כָּעַשׂ וּפֹתָה תְּמִית קִנְאָה׃ אֲנִי־רָאִיתִי אֱוִיל מַשְׁרִישׁ וָאֶקּוֹב נָוֵהוּ פִּתְאֹם׃ יִרְחֲקוּ בָנָיו מִיֵּשַׁע וְיִדְכְּאוּ בַשַּׁעַר וְאֵין מַצִּיל׃	Call out now—is there anyone who will answer you? To which of the holy ones will you turn? For resentment kills the fool, and jealousy slays the simple. I myself have seen a fool taking root, but suddenly I cursed his dwelling. His children are far from safety; they are crushed in the gate, with no one to rescue them.[10]
Job 5:5	אֲשֶׁר קְצִירוֹ רָעֵב יֹאכֵל וְאֶל־מִצִּנִּים יִקָּחֵהוּ וְשֹׁאֵף צַמִּים חֵילָם׃ כִּי לֹא־יֵצֵא מֵעָפָר אָוֶן וּמֵאֲדָמָה לֹא־יִצְמַח עָמָל׃ כִּי־אָדָם לְעָמָל יוּלָּד וּבְנֵי־רֶשֶׁף יַגְבִּיהוּ עוּף׃	The hungry eat up his harvest, taking it even from among the thorns, and the thirsty pant after their wealth. For affliction does not come up out of the dust, nor does trouble sprout from the ground; but humans are born to trouble, as sparks fly upward.[11]

9 The word rendered "error" is uncertain.
10 The "holy ones" are members of the heavenly court. The city gate was where legal cases were heard.
11 The Hebrew of the first two lines is uncertain. "Sparks" is literally "sons of Resheph," a Canaanite god of plague and fire; some take it to mean birds.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
Job 5:8	אוּלָם אֲנִי אֶדְרֹשׁ אֶל־אֵל וְאֶל־אֱלֹהִים אָשִׂים דִּבְרָתִי׃ עֹשֶׂה גְדֹלוֹת וְאֵין חֵקֶר נִפְלָאוֹת עַד־אֵין מִסְפָּר׃ הַנֹּתֵן מָטָר עַל־פְּנֵי־אָרֶץ וְשֹׁלֵחַ מַיִם עַל־פְּנֵי חוּצוֹת׃ לָשׂוּם שְׁפָלִים לְמָרוֹם וְקֹדְרִים שָׂגְבוּ יֶשַׁע׃	But as for me, I would seek out God, and to God I would lay out my case. He does great things beyond searching out, wonders beyond number. He gives rain on the earth and sends water on the open fields. He sets the lowly on high, and those who mourn are lifted to safety.
Job 5:12	מֵפֵר מַחְשְׁבוֹת עָרוּמִים וְלֹא־תַעֲשֶׂינָה יְדֵיהֶם תּוּשִׁיָּה׃ לֹכֵד חֲכָמִים בְּעָרְמָם וַעֲצַת נִפְתָּלִים נִמְהָרָה׃ יוֹמָם יְפַגְּשׁוּ־חֹשֶׁךְ וְכַלַּיְלָה יְמַשְׁשׁוּ בַצָּהֳרָיִם׃ וַיֹּשַׁע מֵחֶרֶב מִפִּיהֶם וּמִיַּד חָזָק אֶבְיוֹן׃	He frustrates the plans of the crafty, so that their hands achieve no success. He catches the wise in their own craftiness, and the counsel of the devious is swept headlong. By day they run into darkness, and at noon they grope as if it were night. He saves from the sword of their mouth, and the needy from the hand of the mighty.
Job 5:16	וַתְּהִי לַדַּל תִּקְוָה וְעַוְלָתָה קָפְצָה פִּיהָ׃ הִנֵּה אַשְׁרֵי אֱנוֹשׁ יוֹכְחֶנּוּ אֱלוֹהַּ וּמוּסַר שַׁדַּי אַל־תִּמְאָס׃ כִּי הוּא יַכְאִיב וְיֶחְבֹּשׁ יִמְחַץ וְיָדָיו תִּרְפֶּינָה׃ בְּשֵׁשׁ צָרוֹת יַצֶּילֶךָּ וּבְשֶׁבַע לֹא־יִגַּע בְּךָ רָע׃	So the poor have hope, and injustice shuts its mouth. Look, happy is the one whom God reproves; so do not reject the discipline of Shaddai.[12] For he wounds, but he binds up; he strikes, but his hands heal. In six troubles he will rescue you; in seven no harm will touch you.
Job 5:20	בְּרָעָב פָּדְךָ מִמָּוֶת וּבְמִלְחָמָה מִיַּד חָרֶב׃ בְּשׁוֹט לָשׁוֹן תֵּחָבֵא וְלֹא־תִירָא מִשֹּׁד כִּי יָבוֹא׃ לְשֹׁד וּלְכָפָן תִּשְׂחָק וּמֵחַיַּת הָאָרֶץ אַל־תִּירָא׃ כִּי עִם־אַבְנֵי הַשָּׂדֶה בְּרִיתֶךָ וְחַיַּת הַשָּׂדֶה הָשְׁלְמָה־לָּךְ׃	In famine he will ransom you from death, and in war from the power of the sword. You will be hidden from the lash of the tongue, and you will not fear destruction when it comes. At destruction and famine you will laugh, and you will not fear the wild animals of the earth. For you will have a covenant with the stones of the field, and the wild animals of the field will be at peace with you.
Job 5:24	וְיָדַעְתָּ כִּי־שָׁלוֹם אָהֳלֶךָ וּפָקַדְתָּ נָוְךָ וְלֹא תֶחֱטָא׃ וְיָדַעְתָּ כִּי־רַב זַרְעֶךָ וְצֶאֱצָאֶיךָ כְּעֵשֶׂב הָאָרֶץ׃ תָּבוֹא בְכֹלַח אֶל־קֶבֶר כַּעֲלוֹת גָּדִישׁ בְּעִתּוֹ׃ הִנֵּה־זֹאת חֲקַרְנוּהָ כֵּן־הִיא שְׁמָעֶנָּה וְאַתָּה דַּע־לָךְ׃	You will know that your tent is at peace; you will inspect your fold and find nothing missing. You will know that your descendants are many, and your offspring like the grass of the earth. You will come to the grave in ripe old age, as a stack of sheaves is gathered in its season. Look, this we have searched out; it is so. Hear it, and know it for yourself.

12 Shaddai is an ancient divine name of uncertain meaning, traditionally rendered “the Almighty.”

JOB: MY FRIENDS HAVE FAILED ME

Job calls his friends as treacherous as dry streambeds and asks God to leave him alone.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 6:1	וַיַּעַן אִיּוֹב וַיֹּאמַר:	Then Job answered and said:
Job 6:2	JOB לוּ שָׁקוֹל יִשָּׁקֵל כַּעְשִׂי וְהַוַּתִי בְּמֹאזְנַיִם יִשָּׂאוּ־יָחַד: כִּי־עַתָּה מֵחוֹל יַמִּים יִכְבָּד עַל־כֵּן דְּבָרַי לָעוּ: כִּי חִצֵּי שַׁדַּי עִמָּדִי אֲשֶׁר חֲמָתָם שֹׁתָה רוּחִי בִּעוּתֵי אֱלוֹהַּ יַעַרְכוּנִי:	JOB If only my anguish could be weighed, and my calamity laid with it on the scales! For then it would be heavier than the sand of the seas; that is why my words have been rash. For the arrows of Shaddai are in me; my spirit drinks their poison; the terrors of God are arrayed against me.
Job 6:5	הֲיִנְהַק־פֶּרֶא עֲלֵי־דֶשֶׁא אִם יִגְעֶה־שׁוֹר עַל־בְּלִילוֹ: הֲיֵאָכֵל תָּפֵל מִבְּלִי־מֶלַח אִם־יֶשׁ־טַעַם בְּרִיר חַלְמוּת: מַאֲנָה לִנְגוֹעַ נַפְשִׁי הֵמָּה כְּדָוַי לַחְמִי: מִי־יִתֵּן תָּבוֹא שֶׁאֱלָתִי וְתִקְוָתִי יִתֵּן אֱלוֹהַּ:	Does the wild donkey bray over its grass, or the ox low over its fodder? Can tasteless food be eaten without salt? Is there any flavor in the slime of mallow? I refuse to touch them; they are like loathsome food to me. If only my request would be granted, and God would give me what I hope for![13]
Job 6:9	וְיֹאֵל אֱלוֹהַּ וִידַכְּאֵנִי יַתֵּר יָדוֹ וִיבַצְּעֵנִי: וּתְהִי עוֹד נֶחָמָתִי וַאֲסַלְּדָה בְּחִילָה לֹא יַחְמוֹל כִּי־לֹא כִחַדְתִּי אִמְרֵי קָדוֹשׁ: מַה־כֹּחִי כִּי־אֲיַחֵל וּמַה־קִּצִּי כִּי־אַאֲרִיךְ נַפְשִׁי: אִם־כֹּחַ אֲבָנִים כֹּחִי אִם־בְּשָׂרִי נְחוּשׁ:	If only God would be willing to crush me, to let loose his hand and cut me off! Then I would still have this comfort, and I would leap for joy in pain that does not spare— that I have not denied the words of the Holy One. What strength do I have, that I should wait? What end do I have, that I should be patient? Is my strength the strength of stones? Is my flesh bronze?[14]
Job 6:13	הַאִם אֵין עֶזְרָתִי בִּי וְתֻשִׁיָּה נִדְּחָה מִמֶּנִּי: לַמָּס מֵרֵעֵהוּ חָסֶד וְיִרְאַת שַׁדַּי יַעֲזוֹב: אַחַי בָּגְדוּ כְמוֹ־נָחַל כַּאֲפִיק נְחָלִים יַעֲבֹרוּ: הַקֹּדְרִים מִנִּי־קָרַח עָלֵימוֹ יִתְעַלֶּם־שָׁלֶג:	Is it not that I have no help within me, and any resource has been driven from me? The despairing should have loyalty from a friend, even one who forsakes the fear of Shaddai. My brothers have been as treacherous as a wadi, like the channels of wadis that run dry, that are dark with ice, where the snow hides itself.[15]
Job 6:17	בְּעֵת יִזָּרְבוּ נִצְמָתוּ בֶּחָמּוֹ נִדְעֲכוּ מִמְּקוֹמָם: יִלְּפְתוּ אָרְחוֹת דַּרְכָּם יַעֲלוּ בַתֹּהוּ וְיֹאבֵדוּ: הִבִּיטוּ אָרְחוֹת תֵּמָא הֲלִיכֹת שְׁבָא קִוּו־לָמוֹ:	When they warm up, they vanish; when it is hot, they disappear from their place. Caravans turn aside from their course; they go up into the wasteland and perish. The caravans of Tema look for them, the travelers of Sheba hope for them.

13 The meaning of "mallow" (perhaps the white of an egg) and of the next two lines is uncertain.
14 The verb rendered "leap for joy" is uncertain.
15 A wadi is a desert streambed that runs with water only in the rainy season.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
	בֹּשׁוּ כִּי־בָטָח בָּאוּ עָדֶיהָ וַיֶּחְפָּרוּ׃	They are ashamed, because they trusted; they come there and are disappointed.[16]
Job 6:21	כִּי־עַתָּה הֱיִיתֶם לוֹ תִּרְאוּ חֲתַת וַתִּירָאוּ׃ הֲכִי־אָמַרְתִּי הָבוּ לִי וּמִכֹּחֲכֶם שְׁחָדוּ בַעֲדִי׃ וּמַלְּטוּנִי מִיַּד־צָר וּמִיַּד עָרִיצִים תִּפְדּוּנִי׃ הוֹרוּנִי וַאֲנִי אַחֲרִישׁ וּמַה־שָּׁגִיתִי הָבִינוּ לִי׃ מַה־נִּמְרְצוּ אִמְרֵי־יֹשֶׁר וּמַה־יּוֹכִיחַ הוֹכֵחַ מִכֶּם׃	That is what you have now become; you see something terrible, and you are afraid. Did I ever say, “Give me something,” or “Pay a bribe for me from your wealth,” or “Rescue me from the hand of the enemy,” or “Ransom me from the hand of the ruthless”? Teach me, and I will be silent; make me understand where I have gone wrong. How forceful are honest words! But what does your arguing prove?[17]
Job 6:26	הַלְהוֹכֵחַ מִלִּים תַּחְשֹׁבוּ וּלְרוּחַ אֲמְרֵי נָאָשׁ׃ אַף־עַל־יָתוֹם תַּפִּילוּ וְתִכְרוּ עַל־רֵיעֲכֶם׃ וְעַתָּה הוֹאִילוּ פְנוּ־בִי וְעַל־פְּנֵיכֶם אִם־אֲכַזֵּב׃ שֻׁבוּ־נָא אַל־תְּהִי עַוְלָה וְשׁוּבוּ עוֹד צִדְקִי־בָהּ׃ הֲיֵשׁ־בִּלְשׁוֹנִי עַוְלָה אִם־חִכִּי לֹא־יָבִין הַוּוֹת׃	Do you mean to argue against words, and treat the speech of a desperate man as wind? You would even cast lots over an orphan and bargain over your friend. But now, be willing to look at me; would I lie to your face? Turn back, please; let there be no injustice; turn back—my being in the right is still at stake. Is there injustice on my tongue? Can my palate not tell what is ruinous?
Job 7:1	הֲלֹא־צָבָא לָאֱנוֹשׁ עָלֵי־אָרֶץ וְכִימֵי שָׂכִיר יָמָיו׃ כְּעֶבֶד יִשְׁאַף־צֵל וּכְשָׂכִיר יְקַוֶּה פָּעֳלוֹ׃ כֵּן הֻנְחַלְתִּי לִי יַרְחֵי־שָׁוְא וְלֵילוֹת עָמָל מִנּוּ־לִי׃ אִם־שָׁכַבְתִּי וְאָמַרְתִּי מָתַי אָקוּם וּמִדַּד־עָרֶב וְשָׂבַעְתִּי נְדָדִים עֲדֵי־נָשֶׁף׃	Do not mortals have hard service on earth, and are not their days like the days of a hired worker? Like a slave who longs for the shade, like a hired worker who waits for his wages, so I have been allotted months of emptiness, and nights of trouble have been assigned to me. When I lie down, I say, “When will I get up?” But the night drags on, and I am sated with tossing until dawn.
Job 7:5	לָבַשׁ בְּשָׂרִי רִמָּה וְגוּשׁ עָפָר עוֹרִי רָגַע וַיִּמְאָס׃ יָמַי קַלּוּ מִנִּי־אָרֶג וַיִּכְלוּ בְּאֶפֶס תִּקְוָה׃ זְכֹר כִּי־רוּחַ חַיָּי לֹא־תָשׁוּב עֵינִי לִרְאוֹת טוֹב׃ לֹא־תְשׁוּרֵנִי עֵין רֹאִי עֵינֶיךָ בִּי וְאֵינֶנִּי׃	My flesh is clothed with worms and crusts of dirt; my skin cracks and oozes. My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle, and they come to an end without hope. Remember that my life is a breath; my eye will never again see good. The eye that sees me will see me no more; your eyes will be on me, and I will be gone.[18]
Job 7:9	כָּלָה עָנָן וַיֵּלַךְ כֵּן יוֹרֵד שְׁאוֹל לֹא יַעֲלֶה׃ לֹא־יָשׁוּב עוֹד לְבֵיתוֹ וְלֹא־יַכִּירֶנּוּ עוֹד מְקֹמוֹ׃ גַּם־אֲנִי לֹא אֶחֱשָׂךְ פִּי	As a cloud fades and is gone, so whoever goes down to Sheol does not come up. He will not return to his house again, and his place will know him no more.

16 Tema was an oasis in northern Arabia, and Sheba a kingdom in southern Arabia; both were centers of the caravan trade.
17 The Hebrew of the first line is uncertain.
18 The Hebrew word for “hope” (*tiqvah*) can also mean “thread,” a pun on the weaver’s image.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
	אֲדַבְּרָה בְּצַר רוּחִי אָשִׂיחָה בְּמַר נַפְשִׁי׃	So I, for my part, will not restrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.[19]
Job 7:12	הֲיָם־אָנִי אִם־תַּנִּין כִּי־תָשִׂים עָלַי מִשְׁמָר׃ כִּי־אָמַרְתִּי תְנַחֵמֵנִי עַרְשִׂי יִשֵּׂא בְשִׂיחִי מִשְׁכָּבִי׃ וְחִתַּתַנִי בַּחֲלֹמוֹת וּמֵחֶזְיֹנוֹת תְּבַעֲתַנִי׃ וַתִּבְחַר מַחֲנָק נַפְשִׁי מָוֶת מֵעַצְמוֹתָי׃	Am I the Sea, or the sea monster, that you set a guard over me? When I say, “My bed will comfort me, my couch will ease my complaint,” then you frighten me with dreams and terrify me with visions, so that I would choose strangling, death rather than these bones of mine.[20]
Job 7:16	מָאַסְתִּי לֹא־לְעֹלָם אֶחְיֶה חֲדַל מִמֶּנִּי כִּי־הֶבֶל יָמָי׃ מָה־אֱנוֹשׁ כִּי תְגַדְּלֶנּוּ וְכִי־תָשִׁית אֵלָיו לִבֶּךָ׃ וַתִּפְקְדֶנּוּ לִבְקָרִים לְרָגָעִים תִּבְחָנֶנּוּ׃ כַּמָּה לֹא־תִשְׁעֶה מִמֶּנִּי לֹא־תַרְפֵּנִי עַד־בִּלְעִי רֻקִּי׃	I loathe my life; I will not live forever. Let me alone, for my days are a breath. What are mortals, that you make so much of them, that you give them so much thought, that you inspect them every morning and test them every moment? How long will you not look away from me, nor let me alone long enough to swallow my spit?
Job 7:20	חָטָאתִי מָה אֶפְעַל לָךְ נֹצֵר הָאָדָם לָמָּה שַׂמְתַּנִי לְמִפְגָּע לָךְ וָאֱהִיֶה עָלַי לְמַשָּׂא׃ וּמָה לֹא־תִשָּׂא פִּשְׁעִי וְתַעֲבִיר אֶת־עֲוֹנִי כִּי־עַתָּה לֶעָפָר אֶשְׁכָּב וְשִׁחַרְתַּנִי וְאֵינֶנִּי׃	If I have sinned, what do I do to you, you watcher of humankind? Why have you made me your target, so that I have become a burden to myself? Why do you not pardon my offense and take away my iniquity? For soon I will lie down in the dust; you will search for me, but I will be gone.[21]

BILDAD: ASK THE FORMER GENERATION

Bildad insists that God does not pervert justice; if Job is pure, God will restore him.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 8:1	וַיַּעַן בִּלְדַּד הַשּׁוּחִי וַיֹּאמַר׃	Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:
Job 8:2	BILDAD עַד־אָן תְּמַלֶּל־אֵלֶּה וְרוּחַ כַּבִּיר אִמְרֵי־פִיךָ׃ הַאֵל יְעַוֵּת מִשְׁפָּט וְאִם־שַׁדַּי יְעַוֵּת־צֶדֶק׃ אִם־בָּנֶיךָ חָטְאוּ־לוֹ וַיְשַׁלְּחֵם בְּיַד־פִּשְׁעָם׃ אִם־אַתָּה תְּשַׁחֵר אֶל־אֵל וְאֶל־שַׁדַּי תִּתְחַנָּן׃ אִם־זַךְ וְיָשָׁר אָתָּה כִּי־עַתָּה יָעִיר עָלֶיךָ וְשִׁלַּם נְוֵת צִדְקֶךָ׃	**BILDAD** How long will you say these things, and the words of your mouth be a mighty wind? Does God pervert justice? Does Shaddai pervert righteousness? If your children sinned against him, he handed them over to the power of their offense. If you will seek God earnestly and plead with Shaddai, if you are pure and upright, surely then he will rouse himself for you and restore your rightful dwelling.

19 Sheol is the shadowy realm of the dead.
20 The Sea and the sea monster (Hebrew *tannin*) were forces of chaos in ancient Near Eastern myth, held in check by the gods.
21 Ancient Jewish tradition holds that scribes changed “a burden to you” to “a burden to myself” here.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 8:7	וְהָיָה רֵאשִׁיתְךָ מִצְעָר וְאַחֲרִיתְךָ יִשְׂגֶּה מְאֹד׃ כִּי־שְׁאַל־נָא לְדֹר רִישׁוֹן וְכוֹנֵן לְחֵקֶר אֲבוֹתָם׃ כִּי־תְמוֹל אֲנַחְנוּ וְלֹא נֵדָע כִּי צֵל יָמֵינוּ עָלֵי־אָרֶץ׃ הֲלֹא־הֵם יוֹרוּךָ יֹאמְרוּ לָךְ וּמִלִּבָּם יוֹצִאוּ מִלִּים׃	Though your beginning was small, your end will be very great. Ask now of the former generation, and consider what their ancestors searched out. For we are only of yesterday and know nothing; our days on earth are a shadow. Will they not teach you and tell you, and bring words out of their hearts?
Job 8:11	הֲיִגְאֶה־גֹמֶא בְּלֹא בִצָּה יִשְׂגֶּה־אָחוּ בְלִי־מָיִם׃ עֹדֶנּוּ בְאִבּוֹ לֹא יִקָּטֵף וְלִפְנֵי כָל־חָצִיר יִיבָשׁ׃ כֵּן אָרְחוֹת כָּל־שֹׁכְחֵי אֵל וְתִקְוַת חָנֵף תֹּאבֵד׃ אֲשֶׁר־יָקוֹט כִּסְלוֹ וּבֵית עַכָּבִישׁ מִבְטָחוֹ׃	Can papyrus grow tall where there is no marsh? Can reeds flourish without water? While still green and not yet cut, they wither before any other grass. Such are the paths of all who forget God; the hope of the godless will perish. His confidence snaps like a thread, and his trust is a spider's house.[22]
Job 8:15	יִשָּׁעֵן עַל־בֵּיתוֹ וְלֹא יַעֲמֹד יַחֲזִיק בּוֹ וְלֹא יָקוּם׃ רָטֹב הוּא לִפְנֵי־שָׁמֶשׁ וְעַל גִּנָּתוֹ יֹנַקְתּוֹ תֵצֵא׃ עַל־גַּל שָׁרָשָׁיו יְסֻבָּכוּ בֵּית אֲבָנִים יֶחֱזֶה׃ אִם־יְבַלְּעֶנּוּ מִמְּקוֹמוֹ וְכִחֲשׁ בּוֹ לֹא רְאִיתִיךְ׃	He leans on his house, but it will not stand; he grabs hold of it, but it will not hold. He is a lush plant in the sun, its shoots spreading over its garden. Its roots twine around a heap of stones; it looks for a home among the rocks. If it is torn from its place, then the place will disown it: "I never saw you."
Job 8:19	הֵן־הוּא מְשׂוֹשׂ דַּרְכּוֹ וּמֵעָפָר אַחֵר יִצְמָחוּ׃ הֵן־אֵל לֹא יִמְאַס־תֹּם וְלֹא־יַחֲזִיק בְּיַד־מְרֵעִים׃ עַד־יְמַלֵּא שְׂחוֹק פִּיךָ וּשְׂפָתֶיךָ תְרוּעָה׃ שֹׂנְאֶיךָ יִלְבְּשׁוּ־בֹשֶׁת וְאֹהֶל רְשָׁעִים אֵינֶנּוּ׃	Look, that is the joy of its way, and from the dust others will spring up. Look, God will not reject a blameless person, nor take the hand of evildoers. He will yet fill your mouth with laughter, and your lips with a shout of joy. Those who hate you will be clothed with shame, and the tent of the wicked will be no more.

JOB: NO ARBITER BETWEEN US

Job says no mortal can win a case against God and wishes for an arbiter between them.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 9:1	וַיַּעַן אִיּוֹב וַיֹּאמַר׃	Then Job answered and said:
Job 9:2	אָמְנָם יָדַעְתִּי כִי־כֵן JOB וּמַה־יִּצְדַּק אֱנוֹשׁ עִם־אֵל׃ אִם־יַחְפֹּץ לָרִיב עִמּוֹ לֹא־יַעֲנֶנּוּ אַחַת מִנִּי־אָלֶף׃ חֲכַם לֵבָב וְאַמִּיץ כֹּחַ מִי־הִקְשָׁה אֵלָיו וַיִּשְׁלָם׃ הַמַּעְתִּיק הָרִים וְלֹא יָדְעוּ אֲשֶׁר הֲפָכָם בְּאַפּוֹ׃	JOB Truly, I know that it is so; but how can a mortal be in the right with God? If someone wished to bring a case against him, he could not answer him once in a thousand. He is wise in heart and mighty in strength; who has defied him and come out unharmed? He moves mountains, and they do not know it, when he overturns them in his anger.

22 The word rendered "snaps like a thread" is uncertain.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
Job 9:6	הַמַּרְגִּיז אֶרֶץ מִמְּקוֹמָהּ וְעַמּוּדֶיהָ יִתְפַּלָּצוּן׃ הָאֹמֵר לַחֶרֶס וְלֹא יִזְרָח וּבְעַד כּוֹכָבִים יַחְתֹּם׃ נֹטֶה שָׁמַיִם לְבַדּוֹ וְדוֹרֵךְ עַל־בָּמֳתֵי יָם׃ עֹשֶׂה־עָשׁ כְּסִיל וְכִימָה וְחַדְרֵי תֵמָן׃	He shakes the earth from its place, and its pillars tremble. He commands the sun, and it does not rise; he seals up the stars. He alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the back of the Sea. He makes the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, and the chambers of the south.[23]
Job 9:10	עֹשֶׂה גְדֹלוֹת עַד־אֵין חֵקֶר וְנִפְלָאוֹת עַד־אֵין מִסְפָּר׃ הֵן יַעֲבֹר עָלַי וְלֹא אֶרְאֶה וַיַּחֲלֹף וְלֹא־אָבִין לוֹ׃ הֵן יַחְתֹּף מִי יְשִׁיבֶנּוּ מִי־יֹאמַר אֵלָיו מַה־תַּעֲשֶׂה׃ אֱלוֹהַּ לֹא־יָשִׁיב אַפּוֹ תַּחְתָּיו שָׁחֲחוּ עֹזְרֵי רָהַב׃	He does great things beyond searching out, and wonders beyond number. Look, he passes by me, and I do not see him; he moves on, and I do not perceive him. Look, he snatches away; who can stop him? Who can say to him, “What are you doing?” God will not turn back his anger; beneath him the helpers of Rahab bowed down.[24]
Job 9:14	אַף כִּי־אָנֹכִי אֶעֱנֶנּוּ אֶבְחֲרָה דְבָרַי עִמּוֹ׃ אֲשֶׁר אִם־צַדַּקְתִּי לֹא אֶעֱנֶה לְמִשְׁפְּטִי אֶתְחַנָּן׃ אִם־קָרָאתִי וַיַּעֲנֵנִי לֹא־אַאֲמִין כִּי־יַאֲזִין קוֹלִי׃ אֲשֶׁר־בִּשְׂעָרָה יְשׁוּפֵנִי וְהִרְבָּה פְצָעַי חִנָּם׃ לֹא־יִתְּנֵנִי הָשֵׁב רוּחִי כִּי יַשְׂבִּעֵנִי מְמָרֹרִים׃	How then could I answer him, or choose my words to argue with him? Even if I were in the right, I could not answer; I would have to plead for mercy with my judge. If I summoned him and he answered me, I do not believe he would listen to my voice. For he crushes me with a storm and multiplies my wounds for nothing. He will not let me catch my breath, but fills me with bitterness.
Job 9:19	אִם־לְכֹחַ אַמִּיץ הִנֵּה וְאִם־לְמִשְׁפָּט מִי יוֹעִידֵנִי׃ אִם־אֶצְדַּק פִּי יַרְשִׁיעֵנִי תָּם־אָנִי וַיַּעְקְּשֵׁנִי׃ תָּם־אָנִי לֹא־אֵדַע נַפְשִׁי אֶמְאַס חַיָּי׃ אַחַת הִיא עַל־כֵּן אָמַרְתִּי תָּם וְרָשָׁע הוּא מְכַלֶּה׃	If it is a matter of strength, look—he is mighty! And if of justice, who will appoint me a hearing? Though I am in the right, my own mouth would condemn me; though I am blameless, he would prove me crooked. I am blameless—I do not care about myself; I despise my life. It is all one; that is why I say, he destroys both the blameless and the wicked.
Job 9:23	אִם־שׁוֹט יָמִית פִּתְאֹם לְמַסַּת נְקִיִּם יִלְעָג׃ אֶרֶץ נִתְּנָה בְיַד־רָשָׁע פְּנֵי־שֹׁפְטֶיהָ יְכַסֶּה אִם־לֹא אֵפוֹא מִי־הוּא׃ וְיָמַי קַלּוּ מִנִּי־רָץ בָּרְחוּ לֹא־רָאוּ טוֹבָה׃ חָלְפוּ עִם־אֳנִיּוֹת אֵבֶה כְּנֶשֶׁר יָטוּשׁ עֲלֵי־אֹכֶל׃	When a scourge brings sudden death, he mocks the despair of the innocent. The earth is given into the hand of the wicked; he covers the faces of its judges— if not he, then who? My days are swifter than a runner; they flee away and see no good. They glide past like boats of reed, like an eagle swooping on its prey.
Job 9:27		

23 The identification of these constellations is traditional but uncertain.
24 Rahab here is a mythical sea monster of chaos, not the Rahab of Jericho.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
	אִם־אָמַרְתִּי אֶשְׁכְּחָה שִׂיחִי אֶעֱזְבָה פָנַי וְאַבְלִיגָה׃ יָגֹרְתִּי כָל־עַצְּבֹתָי יָדַעְתִּי כִּי־לֹא תְנַקֶּנִי׃ אָנֹכִי אֶרְשָׁע לָמָּה־זֶּה הֶבֶל אִיגָע׃ אִם־הִתְרַחַצְתִּי בְמֵי־שָׁלֶג וַהֲזַכּוֹתִי בְּבֹר כַּפָּי׃ אָז בַּשַּׁחַת תִּטְבְּלֵנִי וְתִעֲבוּנִי שַׂלְמוֹתָי׃	If I say, “I will forget my complaint; I will put off my sad face and be cheerful,” I dread all my sufferings, for I know you will not hold me innocent. I am going to be found guilty; why then should I labor in vain? If I washed myself with snow and cleansed my hands with lye, you would still plunge me into a pit, and my own clothes would abhor me.
Job 9:32	כִּי־לֹא־אִישׁ כָּמֹנִי אֶעֱנֶנּוּ נָבוֹא יַחְדָּו בַּמִּשְׁפָּט׃ לֹא יֵשׁ־בֵּינֵינוּ מוֹכִיחַ יָשֶׁת יָדוֹ עַל־שְׁנֵינוּ׃ יָסֵר מֵעָלַי שִׁבְטוֹ וְאֵמָתוֹ אַל־תְּבַעֲתַנִּי׃ אֲדַבְּרָה וְלֹא אִירָאֶנּוּ כִּי לֹא־כֵן אָנֹכִי עִמָּדִי׃	For he is not a man like me, that I could answer him, that we could come to trial together. There is no arbiter between us to lay his hand on us both. Let him take his rod away from me, and let his terror not frighten me. Then I would speak and not fear him, for within myself I am not like that.[25]
Job 10:1	נָקְטָה נַפְשִׁי בְחַיָּי אֶעֱזְבָה עָלַי שִׂיחִי אֲדַבְּרָה בְּמַר נַפְשִׁי׃ אֹמַר אֶל־אֱלוֹהַּ אַל־תַּרְשִׁיעֵנִי הוֹדִיעֵנִי עַל מַה־תְּרִיבֵנִי׃ הֲטוֹב לְךָ כִּי־תַעֲשֹׁק כִּי־תִמְאַס יְגִיעַ כַּפֶּיךָ וְעַל־עֲצַת רְשָׁעִים הוֹפָעְתָּ׃	I am sick of my life; I will give free rein to my complaint; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul. I will say to God, “Do not condemn me; let me know why you bring a case against me.” Does it seem good to you to oppress, to reject the work of your hands and smile on the schemes of the wicked?
Job 10:4	הַעֵינֵי בָשָׂר לָךְ אִם־כִּרְאוֹת אֱנוֹשׁ תִּרְאֶה׃ הֲכִימֵי אֱנוֹשׁ יָמֶיךָ אִם־שְׁנוֹתֶיךָ כִּימֵי גָבֶר׃ כִּי־תְבַקֵּשׁ לְעֲוֹנִי וְלַחַטָּאתִי תְדָרוֹשׁ׃ עַל־דַּעְתְּךָ כִּי־לֹא אֶרְשָׁע וְאֵין מִיָּדְךָ מַצִּיל׃	Do you have eyes of flesh? Do you see as a mortal sees? Are your days like the days of a mortal, or your years like the years of a man, that you seek out my iniquity and search for my sin, although you know that I am not guilty, and there is no one to rescue from your hand?
Job 10:8	יָדֶיךָ עִצְּבוּנִי וַיַּעֲשׂוּנִי יַחַד סָבִיב וַתְּבַלְּעֵנִי׃ זְכָר־נָא כִּי־כַחֹמֶר עֲשִׂיתָנִי וְאֶל־עָפָר תְּשִׁיבֵנִי׃ הֲלֹא כֶחָלָב תַּתִּיכֵנִי וְכַגְּבִנָּה תַּקְפִּיאֵנִי׃ עוֹר וּבָשָׂר תַּלְבִּישֵׁנִי וּבַעֲצָמוֹת וְגִידִים תְּסֹכְכֵנִי׃	Your hands shaped me and made me, every part of me—and now you destroy me. Remember that you made me like clay; and will you turn me back to dust? Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese? You clothed me with skin and flesh and knit me together with bones and sinews.
Job 10:12	חַיִּים וָחֶסֶד עָשִׂיתָ עִמָּדִי וּפְקֻדָּתְךָ שָׁמְרָה רוּחִי׃ וְאֵלֶּה צָפַנְתָּ בִלְבָבֶךָ	You granted me life and steadfast love, and your care has guarded my spirit. Yet these things you hid in your heart;

25 An arbiter is a third party who decides between two sides in a dispute.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
	יָדַעְתִּי כִּי־זֹאת עִמָּךְ׃ אִם־חָטָאתִי וּשְׁמַרְתָּנִי וּמֵעֲוֹנִי לֹא תְנַקֶּנִי׃ אִם־רָשַׁעְתִּי אַלְלַי לִי וְצָדַקְתִּי לֹא־אֶשָּׂא רֹאשִׁי שְׂבַע קָלוֹן וּרְאֵה עָנְיִי׃	I know that this was your purpose: if I sinned, you would watch me and not hold me innocent of my iniquity. If I am guilty, woe to me! And if I am in the right, I cannot lift my head, filled with shame and seeing my affliction.
Job 10:16	וְיִגְאֶה כַּשַּׁחַל תְּצוּדֵנִי וְתָשֹׁב תִּתְפַּלָּא־בִי׃ תְּחַדֵּשׁ עֵדֶיךָ נֶגְדִּי וְתֶרֶב כַּעַשְׂךָ עִמָּדִי חֲלִיפוֹת וְצָבָא עִמִּי׃ וְלָמָּה מֵרֶחֶם הוֹצֵאתָנִי אֶגְוַע וְעַיִן לֹא־תִרְאֵנִי׃ כַּאֲשֶׁר לֹא־הָיִיתִי אֶהְיֶה מִבֶּטֶן לַקֶּבֶר אוּבָל׃	If I hold my head high, you hunt me like a lion and again show your wondrous power against me. You bring fresh witnesses against me and increase your anger toward me; troops come against me wave after wave. Why did you bring me out of the womb? I should have died, and no eye would have seen me. I would have been as though I had never been, carried from the womb to the grave.
Job 10:20	הֲלֹא־מְעַט יָמַי וְחָדֵל וְשִׁית מִמֶּנִּי וְאַבְלִינָה מְעָט׃ בְּטֶרֶם אֵלֵךְ וְלֹא אָשׁוּב אֶל־אֶרֶץ חֹשֶׁךְ וְצַלְמָוֶת׃ אֶרֶץ עֵיפָתָה כְּמוֹ אֹפֶל צַלְמָוֶת וְלֹא סְדָרִים וַתֹּפַע כְּמוֹ־אֹפֶל׃	Are not my days few? Then stop! Turn away from me, so that I may have a little cheer before I go, never to return, to the land of darkness and deep shadow, a land of gloom like blackness, of deep shadow and no order, where the light itself is like blackness.

ZOPHAR: THE DEPTHS OF GOD

Zophar says God punishes Job less than he deserves and urges him to put away iniquity.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 11:1	וַיַּעַן צֹפַר הַנַּעֲמָתִי וַיֹּאמַר׃	Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said:
Job 11:2	ZOPHAR הֲרֹב דְּבָרִים לֹא יֵעָנֶה וְאִם־אִישׁ שְׂפָתַיִם יִצְדָּק׃ בַּדֶּיךָ מְתִים יַחֲרִישׁוּ וַתִּלְעַג וְאֵין מַכְלִם׃ וַתֹּאמֶר זַךְ לִקְחִי וּבַר הָיִיתִי בְעֵינֶיךָ׃ וְאוּלָם מִי־יִתֵּן אֱלוֹהַּ דַּבֵּר וְיִפְתַּח שְׂפָתָיו עִמָּךְ׃	ZOPHAR Should a flood of words go unanswered, and a man full of talk be vindicated? Should your babble silence others, and should you mock with no one to shame you? For you say, “My teaching is pure, and I am clean in your sight.” But oh, that God would speak and open his lips against you,
Job 11:6	וְיַגֶּד־לְךָ תַּעֲלֻמוֹת חָכְמָה כִּי־כִפְלַיִם לְתוּשִׁיָּה וְדַע כִּי־יַשֶּׁה ה לְךָ אֱלוֹהַּ מֵעֲוֹנֶךָ׃ הַחֵקֶר אֱלוֹהַּ תִּמְצָא אִם עַד־תַּכְלִית שַׁדַּי תִּמְצָא׃ גָּבְהֵי שָׁמַיִם מַה־תִּפְעָל עֲמֻקָּה מִשְּׁאוֹל מַה־תֵּדָע׃	and tell you the secrets of wisdom, for sound wisdom has two sides! Know then that God is overlooking some of your iniquity. Can you find out the depths of God? Can you find out the limit of Shaddai? It is higher than the heavens—what can you do? Deeper than Sheol—what can you know?[26]

26 The Hebrew of the first two lines is uncertain.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 11:9	אָרְכָּהּ מֵאֶרֶץ מִדָּהּ וּרְחָבָה מִנִּי־יָם׃ אִם־יַחֲלֹף וְיַסְגִּיר וְיַקְהִיל וּמִי יְשִׁיבֶנּוּ׃ כִּי־הוּא יָדַע מְתֵי־שָׁוְא וַיַּרְא־אָוֶן וְלֹא יִתְבּוֹנָן׃ וְאִישׁ נָבוּב יִלָּבֵב וְעַיִר פֶּרֶא אָדָם יִוָּלֵד׃	Its measure is longer than the earth and broader than the sea. If he sweeps by and locks someone up and summons the court, who can turn him back? For he knows worthless people; when he sees iniquity, will he not take note of it? But a hollow man will gain understanding when a wild donkey's colt is born human.
Job 11:13	אִם־אַתָּה הֵכַנְתָּ לִבֶּךָ וּפָרַשְׂתָּ אֵלָיו כַּפֶּךָ׃ אִם־אָוֶן בְּיָדְךָ הַרְחִיקֵהוּ וְאַל־תַּשְׁכֵּן בְּאָהָלֶיךָ עַוְלָה׃ כִּי־אָז תִּשָּׂא פָנֶיךָ מִמּוּם וְהָיִיתָ מָצָק וְלֹא תִירָא׃ כִּי־אַתָּה עָמָל תִּשְׁכָּח כְּמַיִם עָבְרוּ תִזְכֹּר׃	If you set your heart right and stretch out your hands toward him, if there is iniquity in your hand, put it far away, and do not let injustice dwell in your tents. Then you will lift up your face without blemish; you will be firm and will not fear. You will forget your trouble; you will remember it like waters that have flowed past.
Job 11:17	וּמִצָּהֳרַיִם יָקוּם חָלֶד תַּעֲפָה כַּבֹּקֶר תִּהְיֶה׃ וּבָטַחְתָּ כִּי־יֵשׁ תִּקְוָה וְחָפַרְתָּ לָבֶטַח תִּשְׁכָּב׃ וְרָבַצְתָּ וְאֵין מַחֲרִיד וְחִלּוּ פָנֶיךָ רַבִּים׃ וְעֵינֵי רְשָׁעִים תִּכְלֶינָה וּמָנוֹס אָבַד מִנֶּהֶם וְתִקְוָתָם מַפַּח־נָפֶשׁ׃	Your life will rise brighter than noonday; its darkness will be like the morning. You will be confident, because there is hope; you will look around and lie down in safety. You will lie down, and no one will make you afraid; many will seek your favor. But the eyes of the wicked will fail; every way of escape will be lost to them, and their hope will be to breathe their last.

JOB: I WOULD ARGUE MY CASE WITH GOD

Job scorns his friends' wisdom, demands a hearing from God, and laments how briefly a mortal lives.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 12:1	וַיַּעַן אִיּוֹב וַיֹּאמַר׃	Then Job answered and said:
Job 12:2	אָמְנָם כִּי אַתֶּם־עָם JOB וְעִמָּכֶם תָּמוּת חָכְמָה׃ גַּם־לִי לֵבָב כְּמוֹכֶם לֹא־נֹפֵל אָנֹכִי מִכֶּם וְאֶת־מִי־אֵין כְּמוֹ־אֵלֶּה׃ שְׂחֹק לְרֵעֵהוּ אֶהְיֶה קֹרֵא לֵאלוֹהַּ וַיַּעֲנֵהוּ שְׂחוֹק צַדִּיק תָּמִים׃	JOB No doubt you are the people, and wisdom will die with you! But I have a mind as well as you; I am not inferior to you. Who does not know such things as these? I have become a laughingstock to my friends, I who called on God and he answered me— a laughingstock, the righteous and blameless man!
Job 12:5	לַפִּיד בּוּז לְעַשְׁתּוֹת שַׁאֲנָן נָכוֹן לְמוֹעֲדֵי רָגֶל׃ יִשְׁלְיוּ אֹהָלִים לְשׁדְדִים וּבַטֻּחוֹת לְמַרְגִּיזֵי אֵל לַאֲשֶׁר הֵבִיא אֱלוֹהַּ בְּיָדוֹ׃ וְאוּלָם שְׁאַל־נָא בְהֵמוֹת וְתֹרֶךָּ וְעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם וְיַגֶּד־לָךְ׃	

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
		Those at ease hold misfortune in contempt, ready for those whose feet slip. The tents of robbers are at peace, and those who provoke God are secure, those who carry their god in their hand. But ask the beasts, and they will teach you, the birds of the sky, and they will tell you.[27]
Job 12:8	אוֹ שִׂיחַ לָאָרֶץ וְתֹרֶךָּ וְיִסַּפְּרוּ לְךָ דְּגֵי הַיָּם: מִי לֹא־יָדַע בְּכָל־אֵלֶּה כִּי יַד־יְהוָה עָשְׂתָה זֹּאת: אֲשֶׁר בְּיָדוֹ נֶפֶשׁ כָּל־חָי וְרוּחַ כָּל־בְּשַׂר־אִישׁ:	Or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; the fish of the sea will recount it to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of every human body.[28]
Job 12:11	הֲלֹא־אֹזֶן מִלִּין תִּבְחָן וְחֵךְ אֹכֶל יִטְעַם־לוֹ: בִּישִׁישִׁים חָכְמָה וְאֹרֶךְ יָמִים תְּבוּנָה: עִמּוֹ חָכְמָה וּגְבוּרָה לוֹ עֵצָה וּתְבוּנָה: הֵן יַהֲרוֹס וְלֹא יִבָּנֶה יִסְגֹּר עַל־אִישׁ וְלֹא יִפָּתֵחַ:	Does not the ear test words as the palate tastes food? Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days. With him are wisdom and might; counsel and understanding are his. Look, he tears down, and it cannot be rebuilt; he shuts a person in, and no one can open.
Job 12:15	הֵן יַעְצֹר בַּמַּיִם וְיִבָשׁוּ וִישַׁלְּחֵם וַיְהַפְכוּ אָרֶץ: עִמּוֹ עֹז וְתוּשִׁיָּה לוֹ שֹׁגֵג וּמַשְׁגֶּה: מוֹלִיךְ יוֹעֲצִים שׁוֹלָל וְשֹׁפְטִים יְהוֹלֵל:	Look, he holds back the waters, and they dry up; he sends them out, and they overwhelm the land. With him are strength and sound wisdom; the deceived and the deceiver are his. He leads counselors away stripped and makes fools of judges.
Job 12:18	מוּסַר מְלָכִים פִּתֵּחַ וַיֶּאְסֹר אֵזוֹר בְּמָתְנֵיהֶם: מוֹלִיךְ כֹּהֲנִים שׁוֹלָל וְאֵתָנִים יְסַלֵּף: מֵסִיר שָׂפָה לָנֶאֱמָנִים וְטַעַם זְקֵנִים יָקַח: שֹׁפֵךְ בּוּז עַל־נְדִיבִים וּמְזִיחַ אֲפִיקִים רִפָּה:	He loosens the bonds of kings and binds a loincloth around their waists. He leads priests away stripped and overthrows those long established. He deprives the trusted of speech and takes away the discernment of the elders. He pours contempt on nobles and loosens the belt of the strong.
Job 12:22	מְגַלֶּה עֲמֻקוֹת מִנִּי־חֹשֶׁךְ וַיֹּצֵא לָאוֹר צַלְמָוֶת: מַשְׂגִּיא לַגּוֹיִם וַיְאַבְּדֵם שֹׁטֵחַ לַגּוֹיִם וַיְנַחֵם: מֵסִיר לֵב רָאשֵׁי עַם־הָאָרֶץ וַיַּתְעֵם בְּתֹהוּ לֹא־דָרֶךְ: יְמַשְׁשׁוּ־חֹשֶׁךְ וְלֹא־אוֹר וַיַּתְעֵם כַּשֹּׁתֶה כּוֹר:	He uncovers deep things out of darkness and brings deep shadow into the light. He makes nations great, then destroys them; he spreads nations out, then leads them away. He strips the leaders of the earth's people of their understanding and makes them wander in a trackless waste. They grope in darkness without light; he makes them stagger like a drunkard.
Job 13:1	הֵן־כֹּל רָאָתָה עֵינִי שָׁמְעָה אָזְנִי וַתָּבֶן לָהּ:	Look, my eye has seen all this; my ear has heard and understood it.

27 The Hebrew of the first four lines is uncertain.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
	כְּדַעְתְּכֶם יָדַעְתִּי גַּם־אָנִי לֹא־נֹפֵל אָנֹכִי מִכֶּם׃ אוּלָם אֲנִי אֶל־שַׁדַּי אֲדַבֵּר וְהוֹכֵחַ אֶל־אֵל אֶחְפָּץ׃ וְאוּלָם אַתֶּם טֹפְלֵי־שָׁקֶר רֹפְאֵי אֱלִל כֻּלְּכֶם׃	What you know, I also know; I am not inferior to you. But I would speak to Shaddai; I want to argue my case with God. As for you, you smear everything with lies; worthless physicians, all of you.
Job 13:5	מִי־יִתֵּן הַחֲרֵשׁ תַּחֲרִישׁוּן וּתְהִי לָכֶם לְחָכְמָה׃ שִׁמְעוּ־נָא תוֹכַחְתִּי וְרִבוֹת שְׂפָתַי הַקְשִׁיבוּ׃ הַלְאֵל תְּדַבְּרוּ עַוְלָה וְלוֹ תְּדַבְּרוּ רְמִיָּה׃ הֲפָנָיו תִּשְּׂאוּן אִם־לָאֵל תְּרִיבוּן׃	If only you would keep completely silent; that would be your wisdom! Hear now my argument, and listen to the pleadings of my lips. Will you speak falsely for God and speak deceitfully for him? Will you show him partiality? Will you plead the case for God?
Job 13:9	הֲטוֹב כִּי־יַחְקֹר אֶתְכֶם אִם־כְּהָתֵל בֶּאֱנוֹשׁ תְּהָתֵלּוּ בוֹ׃ הוֹכֵחַ יוֹכִיחַ אֶתְכֶם אִם־בַּסֵּתֶר פָּנִים תִּשָּׂאוּן׃ הֲלֹא שְׂאֵתוֹ תְּבַעֵת אֶתְכֶם וּפַחְדּוֹ יִפֹּל עֲלֵיכֶם׃ זִכְרֹנֵיכֶם מִשְׁלֵי־אֵפֶר לְגַבֵּי־חֹמֶר גַּבֵּיכֶם׃	Will it go well with you when he examines you? Or can you deceive him as one deceives a mortal? He will surely rebuke you if in secret you show partiality. Will not his majesty terrify you, and dread of him fall upon you? Your maxims are proverbs of ash; your defenses are defenses of clay.
Job 13:13	הַחֲרִישׁוּ מִמֶּנִּי וַאֲדַבְּרָה־אָנִי וְיַעֲבֹר עָלַי מָה׃ עַל־מָה אֶשָּׂא בְשָׂרִי בְשִׁנָּי וְנַפְשִׁי אָשִׂים בְּכַפִּי׃ הֵן יִקְטְלֵנִי לוֹ אָיָחֵל אַךְ־דְּרָכַי אֶל־פָּנָיו אוֹכִיחַ׃ גַּם־הוּא־לִי לִישׁוּעָה כִּי־לֹא לְפָנָיו חָנֵף יָבוֹא׃	Be silent before me, and let me speak, and let come on me what may. Why should I take my flesh in my teeth and put my life in my hand? Look, though he kill me, I will wait for him; yet I will argue my ways to his face. This too will be my salvation, that no godless person can come before him.[29]
Job 13:17	שִׁמְעוּ שָׁמוֹעַ מִלָּתִי וְאַחֲוָתִי בְּאָזְנֵיכֶם׃ הִנֵּה־נָא עָרַכְתִּי מִשְׁפָּט יָדַעְתִּי כִּי־אֲנִי אֶצְדָּק׃ מִי־הוּא יָרִיב עִמָּדִי כִּי־עַתָּה אַחֲרִישׁ וְאֶגְוָע׃ אַךְ־שְׁתַּיִם אַל־תַּעַשׂ עִמָּדִי אָז מִפָּנֶיךָ לֹא אֶסָּתֵר׃	Listen carefully to my words, and let my declaration ring in your ears. Look now, I have prepared my case; I know that I will be vindicated. Who is there who will bring a case against me? For then I would be silent and die. Only grant me two things, and then I will not hide from your face.
Job 13:21	כַּפְּךָ מֵעָלַי הַרְחַק וְאֵמָתְךָ אַל־תְּבַעֲתַנִּי׃ וּקְרָא וְאָנֹכִי אֶעֱנֶה אוֹ־אֲדַבֵּר וַהֲשִׁיבֵנִי׃ כַּמָּה לִי עֲוֹנוֹת וְחַטָּאוֹת פִּשְׁעִי וְחַטָּאתִי הֹדִיעֵנִי׃ לָמָּה־פָנֶיךָ תַסְתִּיר וְתַחְשְׁבֵנִי לְאוֹיֵב לָךְ׃	Withdraw your hand far from me, and do not let dread of you terrify me. Then call, and I will answer; or let me speak, and you reply to me. How many are my iniquities and sins? Make me know my offense and my sin. Why do you hide your face and count me as your enemy?[30]

28 This is the only place in the poetic dialogue where the divine name, the LORD, appears.
29 The text read aloud, printed here, has “I will wait for him”; the written consonants read “I have no hope.”

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 13:25	הֶעָלֶה נִדָּף תַּעֲרוֹץ וְאֶת־קַשׁ יָבֵשׁ תִּרְדֹּף׃ כִּי־תִכְתֹּב עָלַי מְרֹרוֹת וְתוֹרִישֵׁנִי עֲוֹנוֹת נְעוּרָי׃ וְתָשֶׂם בַּסַּד רַגְלַי וְתִשְׁמוֹר כָּל־אָרְחוֹתָי עַל־שָׁרְשֵׁי רַגְלַי תִּתְחַקֶּה׃ וְהוּא כְּרָקָב יִבְלֶה כְּבֶגֶד אֲכָלוֹ עָשׁ׃	Will you frighten a windblown leaf and pursue dry chaff? For you write bitter things against me and make me inherit the iniquities of my youth. You put my feet in the stocks and watch all my paths; you mark the soles of my feet. One wastes away like something rotten, like a garment eaten by moths.
Job 14:1	אָדָם יְלוּד אִשָּׁה קְצַר יָמִים וּשְׂבַע־רֹגֶז׃ כְּצִיץ יָצָא וַיִּמָּל וַיִּבְרַח כַּצֵּל וְלֹא יַעֲמוֹד׃ אַף־עַל־זֶה פָּקַחְתָּ עֵינֶךָ וְאֹתִי תָּבִיא בְמִשְׁפָּט עִמָּךְ׃ מִי־יִתֵּן טָהוֹר מִטָּמֵא לֹא אֶחָד׃	A human being, born of woman, is short of days and full of turmoil. He comes up like a flower and withers; he flees like a shadow and does not last. Do you fix your eyes on such a one? Do you bring me into judgment with you? Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one.
Job 14:5	אִם חָרוּצִים יָמָיו מִסְפַּר־חֳדָשָׁיו אִתָּךְ חֻקָּיו עָשִׂיתָ וְלֹא יַעֲבוֹר׃ שְׁעֵה מֵעָלָיו וְיֶחְדָּל עַד־יִרְצֶה כְשָׂכִיר יוֹמוֹ׃ כִּי יֵשׁ לָעֵץ תִּקְוָה אִם־יִכָּרֵת וְעוֹד יַחֲלִיף וְיֹנַקְתּוֹ לֹא תֶחְדָּל׃	Since his days are determined, and the number of his months is with you, and you have set him limits he cannot pass, look away from him and let him be, until, like a hired worker, he finishes his day. For there is hope for a tree: if it is cut down, it will sprout again, and its shoots will not fail.
Job 14:8	אִם־יַזְקִין בָּאָרֶץ שָׁרְשׁוֹ וּבֶעָפָר יָמוּת גִּזְעוֹ׃ מֵרֵיחַ מַיִם יַפְרִחַ וְעָשָׂה קָצִיר כְּמוֹ־נָטַע׃ וְגֶבֶר יָמוּת וַיֶּחֱלָשׁ וַיִּגְוַע אָדָם וְאַיּוֹ׃ אָזְלוּ־מַיִם מִנִּי־יָם וְנָהָר יֶחֱרַב וְיָבֵשׁ׃	Though its root grows old in the ground and its stump dies in the dust, at the scent of water it will bud and put out branches like a young plant. But a man dies and lies powerless; a human breathes his last, and where is he? As waters vanish from a lake, and a river runs dry and is parched,
Job 14:12	וְאִישׁ שָׁכַב וְלֹא־יָקוּם עַד־בְּלִתִּי שָׁמַיִם לֹא יָקִיצוּ וְלֹא־יֵעֹרוּ מִשְּׁנָתָם׃ מִי יִתֵּן בִּשְׁאוֹל תַּצְפְּנֵנִי תַּסְתִּירֵנִי עַד־שׁוּב אַפֶּךָ תָּשִׁית לִי חֹק וְתִזְכְּרֵנִי׃ אִם־יָמוּת גֶּבֶר הֲיִחְיֶה כָּל־יְמֵי צְבָאִי אֲיַחֵל עַד־בּוֹא חֲלִיפָתִי׃	so a person lies down and does not rise; until the heavens are no more, they will not wake or be roused from their sleep. If only you would hide me in Sheol, conceal me until your anger has passed, set me a fixed time, and then remember me! If a man dies, will he live again? All the days of my hard service I would wait until my relief should come.
Job 14:15	תִּקְרָא וְאָנֹכִי אֶעֱנֶךָּ לְמַעֲשֵׂה יָדֶיךָ תִּכְסֹף׃ כִּי־עַתָּה צְעָדַי תִּסְפּוֹר לֹא־תִשְׁמוֹר עַל־חַטָּאתִי׃	You would call, and I would answer you; you would long for the work of your hands. For then you would count my steps; you would not keep watch over my sin.

30 The Hebrew for "enemy" (*oyev*) sounds almost like Job's name (*iyyov*).

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
	חָתַם בִּצְרוֹר פִּשְׁעִי וַתִּטְפֹּל עַל־עֲוֹנִי׃ וְאוּלָם הַר־נוֹפֵל יִבּוֹל וְצוּר יֶעְתַּק מִמְּקֹמוֹ׃	My offense would be sealed up in a bag, and you would cover over my iniquity. But as a mountain falls and crumbles away, and a rock is moved from its place,
Job 14:19	אֲבָנִים שָׁחֲקוּ מַיִם תִּשְׁטֹף־סְפִיחֶיהָ עֲפַר־אֶרֶץ וְתִקְוַת אֱנוֹשׁ הֶאֱבַדְתָּ׃ תְּתְקְפֵהוּ לָנֶצַח וַיַּהֲלֹךְ מְשַׁנֶּה פָּנָיו וַתְּשַׁלְּחֵהוּ׃ יִכְבְּדוּ בָנָיו וְלֹא יֵדָע וְיִצְעֲרוּ וְלֹא־יָבִין לָמוֹ׃ אַךְ־בְּשָׂרוֹ עָלָיו יִכְאָב וְנַפְשׁוֹ עָלָיו תֶּאֱבָל׃	as water wears away stones, and torrents wash away the soil of the earth, so you destroy the hope of a mortal. You overpower him forever, and he passes on; you change his face and send him away. His children come to honor, and he does not know it; they are brought low, and he does not perceive it. He feels only the pain of his own body, and mourns only for himself.

THE SECOND CYCLE OF SPEECHES

The friends describe the terrible fate of the wicked; Job holds to his innocence.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 15:1	וַיַּעַן אֱלִיפַז הַתֵּימָנִי וַיֹּאמַר׃	Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

ELIPHAZ: THE TERRORS OF THE WICKED

Eliphaz accuses Job of undermining reverence and describes the dread that pursues the wicked.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 15:2	ELIPHAZ הֲחָכָם יַעֲנֶה דַעַת־רוּחַ וִימַלֵּא קָדִים בִּטְנוֹ׃ הוֹכֵחַ בְּדָבָר לֹא יִסְכּוֹן וּמִלִּים לֹא־יוֹעִיל בָּם׃ אַף־אַתָּה תָּפֵר יִרְאָה וְתִגְרַע שִׂיחָה לִפְנֵי־אֵל׃ כִּי יְאַלֵּף עֲוֹנְךָ פִּיךָ וְתִבְחַר לְשׁוֹן עָרוּמִים׃	**ELIPHAZ** Should a wise man answer with windy knowledge and fill his belly with the east wind? Should he argue with talk that is no use, with words that do no good? But you are tearing down reverence and cutting short devotion before God. For your guilt teaches your mouth, and you choose the tongue of the crafty.
Job 15:6	יַרְשִׁיעֲךָ פִיךָ וְלֹא־אָנִי וּשְׂפָתֶיךָ יַעֲנוּ־בָךְ׃ הֲרִאישׁוֹן אָדָם תִּוָּלֵד וְלִפְנֵי גְבָעוֹת חוֹלָלְתָּ׃ הַבְסוֹד אֱלוֹהַ תִּשְׁמָע וְתִגְרַע אֵלֶיךָ חָכְמָה׃ מַה־יָּדַעְתָּ וְלֹא נֵדָע תָּבִין וְלֹא־עִמָּנוּ הוּא׃	Your own mouth condemns you, not I; your own lips testify against you. Were you born the first human being? Were you brought forth before the hills? Do you listen in on God's council? Do you keep wisdom to yourself? What do you know that we do not know? What do you understand that is not with us as well?
Job 15:10	גַּם־שָׂב גַּם־יָשִׁישׁ בָּנוּ כַּבִּיר מֵאָבִיךָ יָמִים׃ הַמְעַט מִמְּךָ תַּנְחֻמוֹת אֵל וְדָבָר לָאַט עִמָּךְ׃ מַה־יִּקָּחֲךָ לִבֶּךָ	The gray-haired and the aged are among us, older in years than your father. Are the consolations of God too small for you, or a word spoken gently to you? Why does your heart carry you away,

HEBREW		ENGLISH
	וּמַה־יִּרְזְמוּן עֵינֶיךָ׃ כִּי־תָשִׁיב אֶל־אֵל רוּחֶךָ וְהוֹצֵאתָ מִפִּיךָ מִלִּין׃	and why do your eyes flash, that you turn your spirit against God and let such words out of your mouth?
Job 15:14	מָה־אֱנוֹשׁ כִּי־יִזְכֶּה וְכִי־יִצְדַּק יְלוּד אִשָּׁה׃ הֵן בִּקְדֹשָׁיו לֹא יַאֲמִין וְשָׁמַיִם לֹא־זַכּוּ בְעֵינָיו׃ אַף כִּי־נִתְעָב וְנֶאֱלָח אִישׁ־שֹׁתֶה כַמַּיִם עַוְלָה׃ אֶחַוְךָ שְׁמַע־לִי וְזֶה־חָזִיתִי וַאֲסַפְּרָה׃	What is a mortal, that he could be pure, or one born of woman, that he could be righteous? Look, God does not trust even his holy ones, and the heavens are not pure in his eyes— how much less one who is loathsome and corrupt, a man who drinks wrongdoing like water! I will tell you; listen to me, and what I have seen I will recount—
Job 15:18	אֲשֶׁר־חֲכָמִים יַגִּידוּ וְלֹא כִחֲדוּ מֵאֲבוֹתָם׃ לָהֶם לְבַדָּם נִתְּנָה הָאָרֶץ וְלֹא־עָבַר זָר בְּתוֹכָם׃ כָּל־יְמֵי רָשָׁע הוּא מִתְחוֹלֵל וּמִסְפַּר שָׁנִים נִצְפָּנוּ לָעָרִיץ׃ קוֹל־פְּחָדִים בְּאָזְנָיו בַּשָּׁלוֹם שׁוֹדֵד יְבוֹאֶנּוּ׃	what the wise have declared without hiding what came from their fathers, to whom alone the land was given, when no stranger passed among them: All his days the wicked man writhes in pain, through all the years stored up for the tyrant. The sound of terrors is in his ears; in a time of peace the destroyer comes upon him.
Job 15:22	לֹא־יַאֲמִין שׁוּב מִנִּי־חֹשֶׁךְ וְצָפוּי הוּא לֶחָרֶב׃ נֹדֵד הוּא לַלֶּחֶם אַיֵּה יָדַע כִּי־נָכוֹן בְּיָדוֹ יוֹם־חֹשֶׁךְ׃ יְבַעֲתֻהוּ צַר וּמְצוּקָה תִּתְקְפֵהוּ כְּמֶלֶךְ עָתִיד לַכִּידוֹר׃ כִּי־נָטָה אֶל־אֵל יָדוֹ וְאֶל־שַׁדַּי יִתְגַּבָּר׃	He has no hope of returning from darkness, and he is marked out for the sword. He wanders for bread—where is it? He knows that the day of darkness is ready at hand. Distress and anguish terrify him; they overpower him like a king poised for the attack. For he stretched out his hand against God and played the hero against Shaddai.
Job 15:26	יָרוּץ אֵלָיו בְּצַוָּאר בַּעֲבִי גַּבֵּי מָגִנָּיו׃ כִּי־כִסָּה פָנָיו בְּחֶלְבּוֹ וַיַּעַשׂ פִּימָה עָלֵי־כָסָל׃ וַיִּשְׁכֹּון עָרִים נִכְחָדוֹת בָּתִּים לֹא־יֵשְׁבוּ לָמוֹ אֲשֶׁר הִתְעָתְדוּ לְגַלִּים׃	He charged at him with his neck stiff, behind the thick bosses of his shields. For he covered his face with his fat and piled up flesh on his loins; he settled in ruined cities, in houses where no one should live, houses destined to be heaps of rubble.
Job 15:29	לֹא־יֶעְשַׁר וְלֹא־יָקוּם חֵילוֹ וְלֹא־יִטֶּה לָאָרֶץ מִנְלָם׃ לֹא־יָסוּר מִנִּי־חֹשֶׁךְ יִנָּקוּתוֹ תְּיַבֵּשׁ שַׁלְהֶבֶת וְיָסוּר בְּרוּחַ פִּיו׃ אַל־יַאֲמֵן בַּשָּׁוְא יִו נְתָעֶה כִּי־שָׁוְא תִּהְיֶה תְמוּרָתוֹ׃	He will not grow rich, and his wealth will not last, nor will his possessions spread over the land.[31] He will not escape from darkness; a flame will wither his shoots, and he will pass away at the breath of his mouth. Let him not trust in emptiness and be led astray, for emptiness will be his reward.
Job 15:32	בְּלֹא־יוֹמוֹ תִּמָּלֵא וְכַפָּתוֹ לֹא רַעֲנָנָה׃ יַחְמֹס כַּגֶּפֶן בִּסְרוֹ	Before his day comes it will be paid in full, and his branch will not be green. He will be like a vine that sheds its unripe grapes,

31 The meaning of the word rendered "possessions" is uncertain.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
	וְיַשֵּׁלֵךְ כַּזַּיִת נִצָּתוֹ׃ כִּי־עֲדַת חָנֵף גַּלְמוּד וְאֵשׁ אָכְלָה אָהֳלֵי־שֹׁחַד׃ הָרֹה עָמָל וְיָלַד אָוֶן וּבִטְנָם תָּכִין מִרְמָה׃	like an olive tree that casts off its blossom. For the company of the godless is barren, and fire consumes the tents of bribery. They conceive trouble and give birth to evil, and their womb prepares deceit.

JOB: MY WITNESS IS IN HEAVEN

Job calls his friends miserable comforters, describes God's assault on him, and appeals to a heavenly witness.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
Job 16:1	וַיַּעַן אִיּוֹב וַיֹּאמַר׃	Then Job answered and said:
Job 16:2	JOB שָׁמַעְתִּי כָאֵלֶּה רַבּוֹת מְנַחֲמֵי עָמָל כֻּלְּכֶם׃ הֲקֵץ לְדִבְרֵי־רוּחַ אוֹ מַה־יַּמְרִיצְךָ כִּי תַעֲנֶה׃ גַּם אֲנֹכִי כָּכֶם אֲדַבֵּרָה לוּ־יֵשׁ נַפְשְׁכֶם תַּחַת נַפְשִׁי אַחְבִּירָה עֲלֵיכֶם בְּמִלִּים וְאָנִיעָה עֲלֵיכֶם בְּמוֹ רֹאשִׁי׃	JOB I have heard many things like these; miserable comforters are you all! Is there no end to windy words? Or what provokes you, that you keep answering? I too could talk as you do, if you were in my place; I could string words together against you and shake my head at you.
Job 16:5	אֲאַמַּצְכֶם בְּמוֹ־פִי וְנִיד שְׂפָתַי יַחְשֹׂךְ׃ אִם־אֲדַבְּרָה לֹא־יֶחְשַׂךְ כְּאֵבִי וְאַחְדְּלָה מַה־מִּנִּי יֵהָלֵךְ׃ אַךְ־עַתָּה הֶלְאָנִי הֲשִׁמּוֹתָ כָּל־עֲדָתִי׃ וַתִּקְמְטֵנִי לְעֵד הָיָה וַיָּקָם בִּי כַחֲשִׁי בְּפָנַי יַעֲנֶה׃	I could strengthen you with my mouth, and the comfort of my lips would ease your pain. If I speak, my pain is not eased, and if I hold back, how much of it leaves me? But now he has worn me out; you have devastated my whole household. You have shriveled me up, and it has become a witness; my gauntness rises up against me and testifies to my face.
Job 16:9	אַפּוֹ טָרַף וַיִּשְׂטְמֵנִי חָרַק עָלַי בְּשִׁנָּיו צָרִי יְלַטּוֹשׁ עֵינָיו לִי׃ פָּעֲרוּ עָלַי בְּפִיהֶם בְּחֶרְפָּה הִכּוּ לְחָיַי יַחַד עָלַי יִתְמַלָּאוּן׃ יַסְגִּירֵנִי אֵל אֶל עָוִיל וְעַל־יְדֵי רְשָׁעִים יְרִטֵנִי׃	His anger has torn me, and he hates me; he has gnashed his teeth at me; my enemy sharpens his eyes against me. They have gaped at me with their mouths; they have struck my cheeks in scorn; together they mass against me. God hands me over to the unjust and throws me into the hands of the wicked.
Job 16:12	שַׁלֵּו הָיִיתִי וַיְפָרְפְּרֵנִי וְאֹחֵז בָּעָרְפִּי וַיְפַצְפְּצֵנִי וַיְקִימֵנִי לוֹ לְמַטָּרָה׃ יָסֹבּוּ עָלַי רַבָּיו יְפַלַּח כִּלְיוֹתַי וְלֹא יַחְמוֹל יִשְׁפֹּךְ לָאָרֶץ מְרֵרָתִי׃ יִפְרְצֵנִי פֶּרֶץ עַל־פְּנֵי־פָרֶץ יָרֻץ עָלַי כְּגִבּוֹר׃	I was at ease, and he shattered me; he seized me by the neck and dashed me to pieces; he set me up as his target. His archers surround me; he pierces my kidneys and does not spare; he pours out my gall on the ground. He breaks through me, breach upon breach; he rushes at me like a warrior.
Job 16:15	שַׂק תָּפַרְתִּי עָלַי גִּלְדִּי וְעִלַּלְתִּי בֶעָפָר קַרְנִי׃ פָּנַי חָמְרְמְרוּ מִנִּי־בֶכִי	I have sewn sackcloth over my skin and thrust my horn into the dust. My face is red with weeping,

HEBREW		ENGLISH
	וְעַל עַפְעַפַּי צַלְמָוֶת׃ עַל לֹא־חָמָס בְּכַפָּי וּתְפִלָּתִי זַכָּה׃ אֶרֶץ אַל־תְּכַסִּי דָמִי וְאַל־יְהִי מָקוֹם לְזַעֲקָתִי׃	and deep darkness lies on my eyelids, though there is no violence in my hands and my prayer is pure. Earth, do not cover my blood; let my cry find no resting place.[32]
Job 16:19	גַּם־עַתָּה הִנֵּה־בַשָּׁמַיִם עֵדִי וְשָׂהֲדִי בַּמְּרוֹמִים׃ מְלִיצַי רֵעָי אֶל־אֱלוֹהַ דָּלְפָה עֵינִי׃ וְיוֹכַח לְגֶבֶר עִם־אֱלוֹהַּ וּבֶן־אָדָם לְרֵעֵהוּ׃ כִּי־שְׁנוֹת מִסְפָּר יֶאֱתָיוּ וְאֹרַח לֹא־אָשׁוּב אֵהֵלֵךְ׃	Even now, look, my witness is in heaven, and the one who vouches for me is on high. My friends scorn me; my eye drips tears to God, that he would argue a man's case with God, as a human being does for his friend. For only a few years will pass, and I will go the way from which I will not return.[33]
Job 17:1	רוּחִי חַבָּלָה יָמַי נִזְעָכוּ קְבָרִים לִי׃ אִם־לֹא הָתֻלִים עִמָּדִי וּבְהַמְרוֹתָם תָּלַן עֵינִי׃ שִׂימָה־נָּא עָרְבֵנִי עִמָּךְ מִי הוּא לְיָדִי יִתְקָע׃ כִּי־לִבָּם צָפַנְתָּ מִשֹּׂכֶל עַל־כֵּן לֹא תְרֹמֵם׃	My spirit is broken, my days are snuffed out; the grave is waiting for me. Surely mockers surround me, and my eye dwells on their provocation. Lay down a pledge for me with yourself; who else will strike hands with me? Since you have closed their hearts to understanding, you will not let them triumph.[34]
Job 17:5	לְחֵלֶק יַגִּיד רֵעִים וְעֵינֵי בָנָיו תִּכְלֶינָה׃ וְהִצִּגַנִי לְמָשָׁל עַמִּים וְתֹפֶת לְפָנִים אֶהְיֶה׃ וַתֵּכַהּ מִכַּעַשׂ עֵינִי וַיִּצְרְרֵי כַּצֵּל כֻּלָּם׃ יְשֹׁמּוּ יְשָׁרִים עַל־זֹאת וְנָקִי עַל־חָנֵף יִתְעוֹרָר׃	One who denounces his friends for a share of the spoil— the eyes of his children will fail. He has made me a byword among peoples, one in whose face they spit. My eye has grown dim with grief, and all my limbs are like a shadow. The upright are appalled at this, and the innocent stirs himself up against the godless.[35]
Job 17:9	וְיֹאחֵז צַדִּיק דַּרְכּוֹ וּטְהַר־יָדַיִם יֹסִיף אֹמֶץ׃ וְאוּלָם כֻּלָּם תָּשֻׁבוּ וּבֹאוּ נָא וְלֹא־אֶמְצָא בָכֶם חָכָם׃ יָמַי עָבְרוּ זִמֹּתַי נִתְקוּ מוֹרָשֵׁי לִבָּבִי׃ לַיְלָה לְיוֹם יָשִׂימוּ אוֹר קָרוֹב מִפְּנֵי־חֹשֶׁךְ׃	Yet the righteous holds to his way, and the one with clean hands grows stronger. But you—all of you, come back again, and I will not find a wise man among you. My days are past, my plans are torn apart, the desires of my heart. They turn night into day: "Light is near," they say, in the face of darkness.
Job 17:13	אִם־אֲקַוֶּה שְׁאוֹל בֵּיתִי בַּחֹשֶׁךְ רִפַּדְתִּי יְצוּעָי׃ לַשַּׁחַת קָרָאתִי אָבִי אָתָּה	If I hope for Sheol as my home, if I spread my bed in darkness, if I say to the Pit, "You are my father,"

32 The horn is an image of strength and dignity. Blood left uncovered was thought to cry out for justice (compare Gen 4:10).
33 The Hebrew of "My friends scorn me" is uncertain; it may mean "My advocate is my friend."
34 Striking hands sealed an agreement to stand surety for someone.
35 The Hebrew of 17:5 is uncertain.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
	אִמִּי וַאֲחוֹתִי לָרִמָּה׃	and to the worm, “My mother,” and “My sister,”
	וְאַיֵּה אֵפוֹ תִקְוָתִי	where then is my hope?
	וְתִקְוָתִי מִי יְשׁוּרֶנָּה׃	And my hope—who will see it?
	בַּדֵּי שְׁאוֹל תֵּרַדְנָה	Will it go down to the bars of Sheol?
	אִם־יַחַד עַל־עָפָר נָחַת׃	Shall we descend together into the dust?

BILDAD: THE LAMP OF THE WICKED GOES OUT

Bildad describes the traps, disease and oblivion that overtake the wicked.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
Job 18:1	וַיַּעַן בִּלְדַּד הַשּׁוּחִי וַיֹּאמַר׃	Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:
Job 18:2	BILDAD עַד־אָנָה תְּשִׂימוּן קִנְצֵי לְמִלִּין	**BILDAD** How long until you put an end to words?
	תָּבִינוּ וְאַחַר נְדַבֵּר׃	Consider, and then we will speak.
	מַדּוּעַ נֶחְשַׁבְנוּ כַּבְּהֵמָה	Why are we counted as cattle,
	נִטְמֵינוּ בְּעֵינֵיכֶם׃	stupid in your eyes?
	טֹרֵף נַפְשׁוֹ בְּאַפּוֹ	You who tear yourself apart in your anger—
	הַלְמַעַנְךָ תֵּעָזֵב אֶרֶץ	is the earth to be abandoned for your sake,
	וְיֶעְתַּק־צוּר מִמְּקֹמוֹ׃	or the rock moved from its place?
	גַּם אוֹר רְשָׁעִים יִדְעָךְ	Yes, the light of the wicked goes out,
	וְלֹא־יַגַּהּ שְׁבִיב אִשּׁוֹ׃	and the flame of his fire does not shine.[36]
Job 18:6	אוֹר חָשַׁךְ בְּאָהֳלוֹ	The light grows dark in his tent,
	וְנֵרוֹ עָלָיו יִדְעָךְ׃	and his lamp above him goes out.
	יֵצְרוּ צַעֲדֵי אוֹנוֹ	His strong strides are hemmed in,
	וְתַשְׁלִיכֵהוּ עֲצָתוֹ׃	and his own scheme throws him down.
	כִּי־שֻׁלַּח בְּרֶשֶׁת בְּרַגְלָיו	For his own feet thrust him into a net,
	וְעַל־שְׂבָכָה יִתְהַלָּךְ׃	and he walks onto a mesh.
	יֹאחֵז בְּעָקֵב פַּח	A trap seizes him by the heel;
	יַחֲזֵק עָלָיו צַמִּים׃	a snare grips him tight.
Job 18:10	טָמוּן בָּאָרֶץ חַבְלוֹ	A noose is hidden for him in the ground,
	וּמַלְכָּדְתּוֹ עָלֵי נָתִיב׃	a trap for him on the path.
	סָבִיב בִּעֲתָהוּ בַלָּהוֹת	Terrors frighten him on every side
	וְהֵפִיצָהוּ לְרַגְלָיו׃	and chase him at his heels.
	יְהִי־רָעֵב אֹנוֹ	His strength is famished,
	וְאֵיד נָכוֹן לְצַלְעוֹ׃	and disaster stands ready at his side.
	יֹאכַל בַּדֵּי עוֹרוֹ	It eats away the parts of his skin;
	יֹאכַל בַּדָּיו בְּכוֹר מָוֶת׃	the firstborn of Death eats away his limbs.[37]
Job 18:14	יִנָּתֵק מֵאָהֳלוֹ מִבְטַחוֹ	He is torn from the tent where he felt safe
	וְתַצְעִדֵהוּ לְמֶלֶךְ בַּלָּהוֹת׃	and marched off to the king of terrors.
	תִּשְׁכֹּן בְּאָהֳלוֹ מִבְלִי־לוֹ	What is none of his dwells in his tent;
	יְזֹרֶה עַל־נָוֵהוּ גָּפְרִית׃	sulfur is scattered over his home.
	מִתַּחַת שָׁרָשָׁיו יִבָּשׁוּ	Below, his roots dry up,
	וּמִמַּעַל יִמַּל קְצִירוֹ׃	and above, his branches wither.
	זִכְרוֹ־אָבַד מִנִּי־אֶרֶץ	His memory perishes from the earth,
	וְלֹא־שֵׁם לוֹ עַל־פְּנֵי־חוּץ׃	and he has no name in the street.[38]

36 The Hebrew of the first line is uncertain.
37 “The firstborn of Death” is probably a deadly disease, pictured as the eldest child of personified Death.
38 The Hebrew of “What is none of his dwells in his tent” is uncertain.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 18:18	יֶהְדְּפֶהוּ מֵאוֹר אֶל־חֹשֶׁךְ וּמִתֵּבֵל יְנֻדֶּהוּ׃ לֹא נִין לוֹ וְלֹא־נֶכֶד בְּעַמּוֹ וְאֵין שָׂרִיד בְּמָגוּרָיו׃ עַל־יוֹמוֹ נָשַׁמּוּ אַחֲרֹנִים וְקַדְמֹנִים אָחֲזוּ שְׂעָר׃ אַךְ־אֵלֶּה מִשְׁכְּנוֹת עַוָּל וְזֶה מְקוֹם לֹא־יָדַע־אֵל׃	He is thrust from light into darkness and driven out of the world. He has no offspring or descendant among his people, no survivor where he once lived. Those in the west are appalled at his day, and those in the east are seized with horror. Surely such are the dwellings of the unjust, and this is the place of one who does not know God.

JOB: I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES

Abandoned by family and friends, Job wishes his words carved in rock and declares he will see God.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 19:1	וַיַּעַן אִיּוֹב וַיֹּאמַר׃	Then Job answered and said:
Job 19:2	עַד־אָנָה תּוֹגִיוּן נַפְשִׁי JOB וּתְדַכְּאוּנַנִי בְּמִלִּים׃ זֶה עֶשֶׂר פְּעָמִים תַּכְלִימוּנִי לֹא־תֵבֹשׁוּ תַּהְכְּרוּ־לִי׃ וְאַף־אָמְנָם שָׁגִיתִי אִתִּי תָּלִין מִשְׁוָגָתִי׃ אִם־אָמְנָם עָלַי תַּגְדִּילוּ וְתוֹכִיחוּ עָלַי חֶרְפָּתִי׃ דְּעוּ־אֲפוֹ כִּי־אֱלוֹהַּ עִוָּתָנִי וּמְצוּדוֹ עָלַי הִקִּיף׃	JOB How long will you torment me and crush me with words? These ten times you have insulted me; are you not ashamed to wrong me? Even if it is true that I have erred, my error stays with me. If indeed you would make yourselves great against me and use my disgrace as an argument against me, then know that God has wronged me and has closed his net around me.
Job 19:7	הֵן אֶצְעַק חָמָס וְלֹא אֵעָנֶה אֲשַׁוַּע וְאֵין מִשְׁפָּט׃ אָרְחִי גָדַר וְלֹא אֶעֱבוֹר וְעַל נְתִיבוֹתַי חֹשֶׁךְ יָשִׂים׃ כְּבוֹדִי מֵעָלַי הִפְשִׁיט וַיָּסַר עֲטֶרֶת רֹאשִׁי׃ יִתְּצֵנִי סָבִיב וְאֵלֵךְ וַיִּסַּע כָּעֵץ תִּקְוָתִי׃	Look, I cry out, “Violence!” but I get no answer; I call for help, but there is no justice. He has walled up my way so that I cannot pass, and he has set darkness on my paths. He has stripped my glory from me and taken the crown from my head. He tears me down on every side, and I am gone; he has uprooted my hope like a tree.
Job 19:11	וַיַּחַר עָלַי אַפּוֹ וַיַּחְשְׁבֵנִי לוֹ כְּצָרָיו׃ יַחַד יָבֹאוּ גְדוּדָיו וַיָּסֹלּוּ עָלַי דַּרְכָּם וַיַּחֲנוּ סָבִיב לְאָהֳלִי׃ אַחַי מֵעָלַי הִרְחִיק וְיֹדְעַי אַךְ־זָרוּ מִמֶּנִּי׃ חָדְלוּ קְרוֹבָי וּמְיֻדָּעַי שְׁכֵחוּנִי׃	His anger burns against me; he counts me as one of his enemies. His troops come on together; they build their siege ramp against me and camp all around my tent. He has put my brothers far from me; my acquaintances are wholly estranged from me. My relatives have failed me, and my close friends have forgotten me.
Job 19:15	גֵּרֵי בֵיתִי וְאַמְהֹתַי לְזָר תַּחְשְׁבֵנִי נָכְרִי הָיִיתִי בְעֵינֵיהֶם׃ לְעַבְדִּי קָרָאתִי וְלֹא יַעֲנֶה בְּמוֹ־פִי אֶתְחַנֶּן־לוֹ׃	The guests in my house and my maidservants count me a stranger; I have become a foreigner in their eyes. I call to my servant, but he does not answer;

HEBREW		ENGLISH
	רוּחִי זָרָה לְאִשְׁתִּי וְחַנּוֹתִי לִבְנֵי בִטְנִי׃ גַּם־עֲוִילִים מָאֲסוּ בִי אָקוּמָה וַיְדַבְּרוּ־בִי׃	I must plead with him with my own mouth. My breath is repulsive to my wife, and I am loathsome to my own brothers. Even young children despise me; when I get up, they talk against me.
Job 19:19	תִּעֲבוּנִי כָּל־מְתֵי סוֹדִי וְזֶה־אָהַבְתִּי נֶהְפְּכוּ־בִי׃ בְּעוֹרִי וּבִבְשָׂרִי דָּבְקָה עַצְמִי וָאֶתְמַלְּטָה בְּעוֹר שִׁנָּי׃ חָנֵּנִי חָנֵּנִי אַתֶּם רֵעָי כִּי יַד־אֱלוֹהַּ נָגְעָה בִּי׃ לָמָּה תִרְדְּפֻנִי כְמוֹ־אֵל וּמִבְּשָׂרִי לֹא תִשְׂבָּעוּ׃	All my intimate friends abhor me, and those I loved have turned against me. My bones cling to my skin and my flesh, and I have escaped by the skin of my teeth. Have pity on me, have pity on me, you my friends, for the hand of God has struck me! Why do you pursue me as God does? Will you never have enough of my flesh?
Job 19:23	מִי־יִתֵּן אֵפוֹ וְיִכָּתְבוּן מִלָּי מִי־יִתֵּן בַּסֵּפֶר וְיֵחָקוּ׃ בְּעֵט־בַּרְזֶל וְעֹפֶרֶת לָעַד בַּצּוּר יֵחָצְבוּן׃ וַאֲנִי יָדַעְתִּי גֹּאֲלִי חָי וְאַחֲרוֹן עַל־עָפָר יָקוּם׃ וְאַחַר עוֹרִי נִקְפוּ־זֹאת וּמִבְּשָׂרִי אֶחֱזֶה אֱלוֹהַּ׃	Oh, that my words were written down! Oh, that they were inscribed in a scroll, with an iron stylus and with lead, carved in the rock forever! But I know that my redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand up upon the dust. And after my skin has been stripped off like this, yet from my flesh I will see God,[39]
Job 19:27	אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי אֶחֱזֶה־לִּי וְעֵינַי רָאוּ וְלֹא־זָר כָּלוּ כִלְיֹתַי בְּחֵקִי׃ כִּי תֹאמְרוּ מַה־נִּרְדְּף־לוֹ וְשֹׁרֶשׁ דָּבָר נִמְצָא־בִי׃ גּוּרוּ לָכֶם מִפְּנֵי־חֶרֶב כִּי־חֵמָה עֲוֹנוֹת חָרֶב לְמַעַן תֵּדְעוּן שַׁדּוֹן׃	whom I myself will see, whom my own eyes will behold, and not a stranger. My insides waste away within me! If you say, “How we will hound him!” and “The root of the matter is found in him,” then be afraid of the sword yourselves, for wrath brings the punishments of the sword, so that you may know there is a judgment.[40]

ZOPHAR: THE JOY OF THE WICKED IS BRIEF

Zophar says the wicked must vomit up the riches they have swallowed.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
Job 20:1	וַיַּעַן צֹפַר הַנַּעֲמָתִי וַיֹּאמַר׃	Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said:
Job 20:2	ZOPHAR לָכֵן שְׂעָפַי יְשִׁיבוּנִי וּבַעֲבוּר חוּשִׁי בִּי׃ מוּסַר כְּלִמָּתִי אֶשְׁמָע וְרוּחַ מִבִּינָתִי יַעֲנֵנִי׃ הֲזֹאת יָדַעְתָּ מִנִּי־עַד מִנִּי שִׂים אָדָם עֲלֵי־אָרֶץ׃ כִּי רִנַּת רְשָׁעִים מִקָּרוֹב וְשִׂמְחַת חָנֵף עֲדֵי־רָגַע׃	ZOPHAR So my troubled thoughts compel me to answer, because of the agitation within me. I hear a rebuke that insults me, and out of my understanding a spirit gives me an answer. Do you not know this from of old, since humankind was placed on the earth: that the joy of the wicked is brief,

39 A redeemer (Hebrew *go’el*) was a kinsman who vindicated or avenged a family member. Verses 19:25–27 are textually difficult; “from my flesh” can also mean “without my flesh.”
40 The Hebrew of 19:29 is uncertain.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
		and the gladness of the godless lasts but a moment?
Job 20:6	אִם־יַעֲלֶה לַשָּׁמַיִם שְׁאֵתוֹ וְרֹאשׁוֹ לֶעָב יַגִּיעַ׃ כְּגֵלָלוֹ לָנֶצַח יֹאבֵד רֹאָיו יֹאמְרוּ אַיּוֹ׃ כַּחֲלוֹם יָעוּף וְלֹא יִמְצָאוּהוּ וְיִדַּד כְּחֶזְיוֹן לָיְלָה׃ עַיִן שְׁזָפָתּוּ וְלֹא תוֹסִיף וְלֹא־עוֹד תְּשׁוּרֶנּוּ מְקוֹמוֹ׃	Though his pride rises up to the heavens and his head reaches the clouds, he will perish forever like his own dung; those who saw him will say, “Where is he?” He will fly away like a dream and not be found; he will be chased away like a vision of the night. The eye that glimpsed him will see him no more, and his place will look on him no more.
Job 20:10	בָּנָיו יְרַצּוּ דַלִּים וְיָדָיו תְּשֵׁבֶנָה אוֹנוֹ׃ עַצְמוֹתָיו מָלְאוּ עֲלוּמָיו וְעִמּוֹ עַל־עָפָר תִּשְׁכָּב׃ אִם־תַּמְתִּיק בְּפִיו רָעָה יַכְחִידֶנָּה תַּחַת לְשׁוֹנוֹ׃ יַחְמֹל עָלֶיהָ וְלֹא יַעַזְבֶנָּה וְיִמְנָעֶנָּה בְּתוֹךְ חִכּוֹ׃	His children will seek the favor of the poor, and his own hands will give back his wealth. His bones were full of youthful vigor, but it will lie down with him in the dust. Though evil tastes sweet in his mouth, though he hides it under his tongue, though he savors it and will not let it go, and keeps it back in his mouth,
Job 20:14	לַחְמוֹ בְּמֵעָיו נֶהְפָּךְ מְרוֹרַת פְּתָנִים בְּקִרְבּוֹ׃ חַיִל בָּלַע וַיְקִאֶנּוּ מִבִּטְנוֹ יוֹרִשֶׁנּוּ אֵל׃ רֹאשׁ־פְּתָנִים יִינָק תַּהַרְגֵהוּ לְשׁוֹן אֶפְעֶה׃ אַל־יֶרֶא בְּפַלְגֹּות נַהֲרֵי נַחֲלֵי דְּבַשׁ וְחֶמְאָה׃	his food turns sour in his stomach; it becomes the venom of cobras within him. He swallowed riches, and he vomits them up; God drives them out of his belly. He will suck the poison of cobras; the viper’s tongue will kill him. He will not look upon the streams, the rivers flowing with honey and curds.
Job 20:18	מֵשִׁיב יָגַע וְלֹא יִבְלָע כְּחַיִל תְּמוּרָתוֹ וְלֹא יַעֲלֹס׃ כִּי־רָצַץ עָזַב דַּלִּים בַּיִת גָּזַל וְלֹא יִבְנֵהוּ׃ כִּי לֹא־יָדַע שַׁלְוָ בְּבִטְנוֹ בַּחֲמוּדוֹ לֹא יְמַלֵּט׃	He gives back what he toiled for and does not swallow it; he does not enjoy the profit of his trading. For he crushed and abandoned the poor; he seized a house he did not build. Because he knew no contentment in his belly, he will not escape with what he desires.
Job 20:21	אֵין־שָׂרִיד לְאָכְלוֹ עַל־כֵּן לֹא־יַחִיל טוּבוֹ׃ בִּמְלֹאת שְׂפָקוֹ יֵצֶר לוֹ כָּל־יַד עָמֵל תְּבוֹאֵנוּ׃ יְהִי לְמַלֵּא בִטְנוֹ יְשַׁלַּח־בּוֹ חֲרוֹן אַפּוֹ וְיַמְטֵר עָלֵימוֹ בְּלֶחוּמוֹ׃	Nothing was left over after he had eaten; therefore his prosperity will not endure. In the fullness of his plenty he will be in distress; the full force of misery will come upon him. When he is about to fill his belly, he will send his burning anger against him and rain it down on him as his food.
Job 20:24	יִבְרַח מִנֶּשֶׁק בַּרְזֶל תַּחְלְפֵהוּ קֶשֶׁת נְחוּשָׁה׃ שָׁלַף וַיֵּצֵא מִגֵּוָה וּבָרָק מִמְּרֹרָתוֹ יַהֲלֹךְ עָלָיו אֵמִים׃ כָּל־חֹשֶׁךְ טָמוּן לִצְפוּנָיו תְּאָכְלֵהוּ אֵשׁ לֹא־נֻפָּח יֵרַע שָׂרִיד בְּאָהֳלוֹ׃	He flees from an iron weapon; a bronze bow pierces him through. He draws it out, and it comes out of his back; the glittering point comes out of his gallbladder; terrors come upon him. Utter darkness lies in wait for his treasures; a fire not fanned will devour him; it will consume what is left in his tent.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 20:27	יְגַלּוּ שָׁמַיִם עֲוֹנוֹ וְאֶרֶץ מִתְקוֹמָמָה לוֹ׃ יִגֶּל יְבוּל בֵּיתוֹ נִגָּרוֹת בְּיוֹם אַפּוֹ׃ זֶה חֵלֶק־אָדָם רָשָׁע מֵאֱלֹהִים וְנַחֲלַת אִמְרוֹ מֵאֵל׃	The heavens will reveal his guilt, and the earth will rise up against him. The produce of his house will be carried off, swept away on the day of his anger. This is the wicked man's portion from God, the inheritance decreed for him by God.

JOB: WHY DO THE WICKED PROSPER?

Job points out that the wicked live long, prosper, and go to their graves in peace.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 21:1	וַיַּעַן אִיּוֹב וַיֹּאמַר׃	Then Job answered and said:
Job 21:2	שִׁמְעוּ שָׁמוֹעַ מִלְּתִי JOB וּתְהִי־זֹאת תַּנְחוּמֹתֵיכֶם׃ שְׂאוּנִי וְאֲנֹכִי אֲדַבֵּר וְאַחַר דַּבְּרִי תַלְעִיג׃ הֶאָנֹכִי לְאָדָם שִׂיחִי וְאִם־מַדּוּעַ לֹא־תִקְצַר רוּחִי׃ פְּנוּ־אֵלַי וְהָשֵׁמּוּ וְשִׂימוּ יָד עַל־פֶּה׃	JOB Listen closely to my words, and let this be the comfort you give me. Bear with me while I speak, and after I have spoken, mock on. As for me, is my complaint against a human being? And why should I not be impatient? Look at me and be appalled, and lay your hand over your mouth.
Job 21:6	וְאִם־זָכַרְתִּי וְנִבְהָלְתִּי וְאָחַז בְּשָׂרִי פַּלָּצוּת׃ מַדּוּעַ רְשָׁעִים יִחְיוּ עָתְקוּ גַּם־גָּבְרוּ חָיִל׃ זַרְעָם נָכוֹן לִפְנֵיהֶם עִמָּם וְצֶאֱצָאֵיהֶם לְעֵינֵיהֶם׃ בָּתֵּיהֶם שָׁלוֹם מִפָּחַד וְלֹא שֵׁבֶט אֱלוֹהַּ עֲלֵיהֶם׃	When I think of it, I am dismayed, and shuddering seizes my flesh. Why do the wicked live on, grow old, and even grow mighty in power? Their offspring are established in their presence, and their descendants before their eyes. Their houses are safe from fear, and no rod of God is upon them.
Job 21:10	שׁוֹרוֹ עִבַּר וְלֹא יַגְעֶל תְּפַלֵּט פָּרָתוֹ וְלֹא תְשַׁכֵּל׃ יְשַׁלְּחוּ כַצֹּאן עֲוִילֵיהֶם וְיַלְדֵיהֶם יְרַקֵּדוּן׃ יִשְׂאוּ כְתֹף וְכִנּוֹר וְיִשְׂמְחוּ לְקוֹל עוּגָב׃ יְכַלּוּ בַטּוֹב יְמֵיהֶם וּבְרֶגַע שְׁאוֹל יֵחָתּוּ׃	Their bull breeds without fail; their cow calves and does not miscarry. They send out their little ones like a flock, and their children dance. They sing to the tambourine and the lyre and rejoice at the sound of the pipe. They spend their days in prosperity, and in a moment they go down to Sheol.
Job 21:14	וַיֹּאמְרוּ לְאֵל סוּר מִמֶּנּוּ וְדַעַת דְּרָכֶיךָ לֹא חָפָצְנוּ׃ מַה־שַּׁדַּי כִּי־נַעַבְדֶנּוּ וּמַה־נּוֹעִיל כִּי נִפְגַּע־בּוֹ׃ הֵן לֹא בְיָדָם טוּבָם עֲצַת רְשָׁעִים רָחֲקָה מֶנִּי׃	They say to God, "Leave us alone! We have no desire to know your ways. What is Shaddai, that we should serve him? What would we gain by praying to him?" Look, their prosperity is not in their own hands; the counsel of the wicked is far from me.
Job 21:17	כַּמָּה נֵר־רְשָׁעִים יִדְעָךְ וְיָבֹא עֲלֵימוֹ אֵידָם חֲבָלִים יְחַלֵּק בְּאַפּוֹ׃ יִהְיוּ כְּתֶבֶן לִפְנֵי־רוּחַ וּכְמֹץ גְּנָבַתּוּ סוּפָה׃	How often is the lamp of the wicked put out? How often does disaster come upon them, does he deal out pains in his anger? How often are they like straw before the wind,

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
	אֱלוֹהַּ יִצְפֹּן־לִבְנָיו אוֹנוֹ יְשַׁלֵּם אֵלָיו וְיֵדָע׃	like chaff that the storm carries off? God stores up a man's guilt for his children? Let him pay the man himself back, so that he knows it!
Job 21:20	יִרְאוּ עֵינָיו כִּידוֹ וּמֵחֲמַת שַׁדַּי יִשְׁתֶּה׃ כִּי מַה־חֶפְצוֹ בְּבֵיתוֹ אַחֲרָיו וּמִסְפַּר חֳדָשָׁיו חֻצָּצוּ׃ הַלְאֵל יְלַמֶּד־דָּעַת וְהוּא רָמִים יִשְׁפּוֹט׃ זֶה יָמוּת בְּעָצֶם תֻּמּוֹ כֻּלּוֹ שַׁלְוָנַן וְשַׁלְיָו׃	Let his own eyes see his ruin, and let him drink of the wrath of Shaddai. For what does he care about his household after him, when the number of his months is cut off? Can anyone teach God knowledge, seeing that he judges those on high? One person dies in full vigor, wholly at ease and secure,
Job 21:24	עֲטִינָיו מָלְאוּ חָלָב וּמֹחַ עַצְמוֹתָיו יְשֻׁקֶּה׃ וְזֶה יָמוּת בְּנֶפֶשׁ מָרָה וְלֹא־אָכַל בַּטּוֹבָה׃ יַחַד עַל־עָפָר יִשְׁכָּבוּ וְרִמָּה תְּכַסֶּה עֲלֵיהֶם׃ הֵן יָדַעְתִּי מַחְשְׁבוֹתֵיכֶם וּמְזִמּוֹת עָלַי תַּחְמֹסוּ׃	his pails full of milk and the marrow of his bones moist. Another dies with a bitter soul, never having tasted good things. Together they lie down in the dust, and worms cover them both. Look, I know your thoughts, the schemes by which you would wrong me.[41]
Job 21:28	כִּי תֹאמְרוּ אַיֵּה בֵּית־נָדִיב וְאֵיֵּה אֹהֶל מִשְׁכְּנוֹת רְשָׁעִים׃ הֲלֹא שְׁאֶלְתֶּם עוֹבְרֵי דָּרֶךְ וְאֹתֹתָם לֹא תְנַכֵּרוּ׃ כִּי לְיוֹם אֵיד יֵחָשֵׂךְ רָע לְיוֹם עֲבָרוֹת יוּבָלוּ׃	For you say, "Where is the house of the nobleman? Where is the tent where the wicked lived?" Have you not asked those who travel the roads? Do you not accept their testimony, that the evil man is spared on the day of disaster, that he is led to safety on the day of wrath?
Job 21:31	מִי־יַגִּיד עַל־פָּנָיו דַּרְכּוֹ וְהוּא־עָשָׂה מִי יְשַׁלֶּם־לוֹ׃ וְהוּא לְקִבְרוֹת יוּבָל וְעַל־גְּדִישׁ יִשְׁקוֹד׃ מָתְקוּ־לוֹ רִגְבֵי נָחַל וְאַחֲרָיו כָּל־אָדָם יִמְשׁוֹךְ וּלְפָנָיו אֵין מִסְפָּר׃ וְאֵיךְ תְּנַחֲמוּנִי הֶבֶל וּתְשׁוּבֹתֵיכֶם נִשְׁאַר־מָעַל׃	Who will denounce his way to his face? Who will repay him for what he has done? He is carried to the grave, and a watch is kept over his tomb. The clods of the valley are sweet to him; everyone follows after him, and those who went before him are without number. How then can you comfort me with empty breath? Your answers are nothing but betrayal.

THE THIRD CYCLE OF SPEECHES

Eliphaz accuses Job outright, Bildad speaks briefly, and Job swears to his integrity.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 22:1	וַיַּעַן אֱלִיפַז הַתֵּמָנִי וַיֹּאמַר׃	Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

41 The word rendered "pails" is uncertain.

ELIPHAZ: YOUR WICKEDNESS IS GREAT

Eliphaz charges Job with crimes against the poor and urges him to return to Shaddai.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
Job 22:2	**ELIPHAZ** הֲלְאֵל יִסְכָּן־גָּבֶר כִּי־יִסְכֹּן עָלֵימוֹ מַשְׂכִּיל׃ הַחֵפֶץ לְשַׁדַּי כִּי תִצְדָּק וְאִם־בֶּצַע כִּי־תַתֵּם דְּרָכֶיךָ׃ הֲמִיִּרְאָתְךָ יֹכִיחֶךָּ יָבוֹא עִמְּךָ בַּמִּשְׁפָּט׃ הֲלֹא רָעָתְךָ רַבָּה וְאֵין־קֵץ לַעֲוֹנֹתֶיךָ׃	**ELIPHAZ** Can a man be of use to God? Even a wise man is of use only to himself. Does it give Shaddai pleasure if you are righteous, or profit if you make your ways blameless? Is it for your fear of him that he rebukes you and enters into judgment with you? Is not your wickedness great, and is there no end to your iniquities?
Job 22:6	כִּי־תַחְבֹּל אַחֶיךָ חִנָּם וּבִגְדֵי עֲרוּמִּים תַּפְשִׁיט׃ לֹא־מַיִם עָיֵף תַּשְׁקֶה וּמֵרָעֵב תִּמְנַע־לָחֶם׃ וְאִישׁ זְרוֹעַ לוֹ הָאָרֶץ וּנְשׂוּא פָנִים יֵשֵׁב בָּהּ׃ אַלְמָנוֹת שִׁלַּחְתָּ רֵיקָם וּזְרֹעוֹת יְתֹמִים יְדֻכָּא׃	For you have taken pledges from your brothers for nothing and stripped the naked of their clothing. You have given no water to the weary and withheld bread from the hungry. The man with power owned the land, and the favored man lived in it. You have sent widows away empty-handed, and the arms of the orphans were crushed.
Job 22:10	עַל־כֵּן סְבִיבוֹתֶיךָ פַּחִים וִיבַהֶלְךָ פַּחַד פִּתְאֹם׃ אוֹ־חֹשֶׁךְ לֹא־תִרְאֶה וְשִׁפְעַת־מַיִם תְּכַסֶּךָּ׃ הֲלֹא־אֱלוֹהַּ גֹּבַהּ שָׁמָיִם וּרְאֵה רֹאשׁ כּוֹכָבִים כִּי־רָמּוּ׃ וְאָמַרְתָּ מַה־יָּדַע אֵל הַבְעַד עֲרָפֶל יִשְׁפּוֹט׃	That is why snares are all around you and sudden terror dismays you, or darkness, so that you cannot see, and a flood of water covers you. Is not God high in the heavens? See the highest stars, how lofty they are! Yet you say, “What does God know? Can he judge through the thick darkness?
Job 22:14	עָבִים סֵתֶר־לוֹ וְלֹא יִרְאֶה וְחוּג שָׁמַיִם יִתְהַלָּךְ׃ הַאֹרַח עוֹלָם תִּשְׁמֹר אֲשֶׁר דָּרְכוּ מְתֵי־אָוֶן׃ אֲשֶׁר־קָמְטוּ וְלֹא־עֵת נָהָר יוּצַק יְסוֹדָם׃ הָאֹמְרִים לָאֵל סוּר מִמֶּנּוּ וּמַה־יִּפְעַל שַׁדַּי לָמוֹ׃	Thick clouds veil him so that he does not see, as he walks on the circle of the heavens.” Will you keep to the ancient path that wicked men have trodden? They were snatched away before their time; their foundation was washed away by a river. They said to God, “Leave us alone!” and “What can Shaddai do to us?”
Job 22:18	וְהוּא מִלֵּא בָתֵּיהֶם טוֹב וַעֲצַת רְשָׁעִים רָחֲקָה מֶּנִּי׃ יִרְאוּ צַדִּיקִים וְיִשְׂמָחוּ וְנָקִי יִלְעַג־לָמוֹ׃ אִם־לֹא נִכְחַד קִימָנוּ וְיִתְרָם אָכְלָה אֵשׁ׃ הַסְכֶּן־נָא עִמּוֹ וּשְׁלֹם בָּהֶם תְּבוֹאָתְךָ טוֹבָה׃	Yet it was he who filled their houses with good things— but the counsel of the wicked is far from me. The righteous see it and are glad, and the innocent mock them: “Surely our foes are destroyed, and fire has consumed what they left.” Come to terms with him and be at peace; in this way good will come to you.[42]

42 Eliphaz here takes up Job’s own words from 21:16.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
Job 22:22	קַח־נָא מִפִּיו תּוֹרָה וְשִׂים אֲמָרָיו בִּלְבָבֶךָ׃ אִם־תָּשׁוּב עַד־שַׁדַּי תִּבָּנֶה תַּרְחִיק עַוְלָה מֵאָהֳלֶךָ׃ וְשִׁית־עַל־עָפָר בָּצָר וּבְצוּר נְחָלִים אוֹפִיר׃ וְהָיָה שַׁדַּי בְּצָרֶיךָ וְכֶסֶף תּוֹעָפוֹת לָךְ׃	Accept teaching from his mouth and lay up his words in your heart. If you return to Shaddai, you will be restored; if you put wrongdoing far from your tent, if you lay your gold in the dust and the gold of Ophir among the stones of the streams, then Shaddai will be your gold and your silver piled high.[43]
Job 22:26	כִּי־אָז עַל־שַׁדַּי תִּתְעַנָּג וְתִשָּׂא אֶל־אֱלוֹהַּ פָּנֶיךָ׃ תַּעְתִּיר אֵלָיו וְיִשְׁמָעֶךָּ וּנְדָרֶיךָ תְשַׁלֵּם׃ וְתִגְזַר־אוֹמֶר וְיָקָם לָךְ וְעַל־דְּרָכֶיךָ נֻגַּהּ אוֹר׃ כִּי־הִשְׁפִּילוּ וַתֹּאמֶר גֵּוֶה וְשַׁח עֵינַיִם יוֹשִׁעַ׃ יְמַלֵּט אִי־נָקִי וְנִמְלַט בְּבֹר כַּפֶּיךָ׃	For then you will delight in Shaddai and lift up your face to God. You will pray to him, and he will hear you, and you will fulfill your vows. You will decide on a matter, and it will be done for you, and light will shine on your ways. When they are brought low, you will say, “Up!” and he will save the downcast. He will rescue even one who is not innocent; he will be rescued through the cleanness of your hands.[44]

JOB: IF ONLY I KNEW WHERE TO FIND HIM

Job longs to lay his case before God and describes the misery of the poor.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
Job 23:1	וַיַּעַן אִיּוֹב וַיֹּאמַר׃	Then Job answered and said:
Job 23:2	JOB גַּם־הַיּוֹם מְרִי שִׂחִי יָדִי כָּבְדָה עַל־אַנְחָתִי׃ מִי־יִתֵּן יְדַעְתִּי וְאֶמְצָאֵהוּ אָבוֹא עַד־תְּכוּנָתוֹ׃ אֶעֱרְכָה לְפָנָיו מִשְׁפָּט וּפִי אֲמַלֵּא תוֹכָחוֹת׃ אֵדְעָה מִלִּים יַעֲנֵנִי וְאָבִינָה מַה־יֹּאמַר לִי׃	JOB Even today my complaint is bitter; my hand is heavy on my groaning. Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come to his dwelling! I would lay out my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments. I would learn what he would answer me and understand what he would say to me.[45]
Job 23:6	הַבְרֹב־כֹּחַ יָרִיב עִמָּדִי לֹא אַךְ־הוּא יָשֶׂם בִּי׃ שָׁם יִשָּׁר נוֹכַח עִמּוֹ וַאֲפַלְּטָה לָנֶצַח מִשֹּׁפְטִי׃ הֵן קֶדֶם אֵהָלֵךְ וְאֵינֶנּוּ וְאָחוֹר וְלֹא־אָבִין לוֹ׃ שְׂמֹאול בַּעֲשֹׂתוֹ וְלֹא־אֶחֱזֶה יַעְטֹף יָמִין וְלֹא אֶרְאֶה׃	Would he contend with me in his great power? No, he would surely pay attention to me. There an upright person could reason with him, and I would be acquitted by my judge forever. Look, I go east, but he is not there; west, but I do not perceive him; north, where he is at work, but I do not catch sight of him; he turns south, but I do not see him.

43 Ophir was a distant land famed for its fine gold.
44 The Hebrew of 22:29–30 is uncertain.
45 The Hebrew is uncertain; some ancient versions read “his hand.”

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 23:10	כִּי־יָדַע דָּרֶךְ עִמָּדִי בְּחָנַנִי כַּזָּהָב אֵצֵא: בַּאֲשֻׁרוֹ אָחֲזָה רַגְלִי דַּרְכּוֹ שָׁמַרְתִּי וְלֹא־אָט: מִצְוַת שְׂפָתָיו וְלֹא אָמִישׁ מֵחֻקִּי צָפַנְתִּי אִמְרֵי־פִיו: וְהוּא בְּאֶחָד וּמִי יְשִׁיבֶנּוּ וְנַפְשׁוֹ אִוְּתָה וַיַּעַשׂ:	Yet he knows the way I take; if he tested me, I would come out like gold. My foot has held fast to his steps; I have kept his way and not turned aside. I have not departed from the command of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread. But he stands alone, and who can turn him back? What he desires, that he does.
Job 23:14	כִּי יַשְׁלִים חֻקִּי וְכָהֵנָּה רַבּוֹת עִמּוֹ: עַל־כֵּן מִפָּנָיו אֶבָּהֵל אֶתְבּוֹנֵן וְאֶפְחַד מִמֶּנּוּ: וְאֵל הֵרַךְ לִבִּי וְשַׁדַּי הִבְהִילָנִי: כִּי־לֹא נִצְמַתִּי מִפָּנַי־חֹשֶׁךְ וּמִפָּנַי כִּסָּה־אֹפֶל:	For he will carry out what he has decreed for me, and many such things are in his mind. That is why I am terrified in his presence; when I consider, I am afraid of him. God has made my heart faint; Shaddai has terrified me. Yet I am not silenced by the darkness, nor by the thick gloom that covers my face.
Job 24:1	מַדּוּעַ מִשַּׁדַּי לֹא־נִצְפְּנוּ עִתִּים וְיֹדְעָיו לֹא־חָזוּ יָמָיו: גְּבֻלוֹת יַשִּׂיגוּ עֵדֶר גָּזְלוּ וַיִּרְעוּ: חֲמוֹר יְתוֹמִים יְנָהֲגוּ יַחְבְּלוּ שׁוֹר אַלְמָנָה: יַטּוּ אֶבְיוֹנִים מִדֶּרֶךְ יַחַד חָבְאוּ עֲנִיֵּי־אָרֶץ:	Why are times not stored up by Shaddai, and why do those who know him never see his days? People move boundary stones; they seize flocks and pasture them. They drive away the orphan's donkey; they take the widow's ox as a pledge. They push the needy off the road; the poor of the land all hide together.[46]
Job 24:5	הֵן פְּרָאִים בַּמִּדְבָּר יֵצְאוּ בְּפָעֳלָם מְשַׁחֲרֵי לַטָּרֶף עֲרָבָה לוֹ לֶחֶם לַנְּעָרִים: בַּשָּׂדֶה בְּלִילוֹ יִקְצֹרוּ וְכֶרֶם רָשָׁע יְלַקֵּשׁוּ: עָרוֹם יָלִינוּ מִבְּלִי לְבוּשׁ וְאֵין כְּסוּת בַּקָּרָה:	Look, like wild donkeys in the wilderness, they go out to their work, searching for food; the desert gives them bread for their children. They harvest fodder in the field and glean in the vineyard of the wicked. They spend the night naked, without clothing, with no covering against the cold.
Job 24:8	מִזֶּרֶם הָרִים יִרְטָבוּ וּמִבְּלִי מַחְסֶה חִבְּקוּ־צוּר: יִגְזְלוּ מִשֹּׁד יָתוֹם וְעַל־עָנִי יַחְבֹּלוּ: עָרוֹם הִלְכוּ בְּלִי לְבוּשׁ וּרְעֵבִים נָשְׂאוּ עֹמֶר: בֵּין־שׁוּרֹתָם יַצְהִירוּ יִקְבִים דָּרְכוּ וַיִּצְמָאוּ:	They are drenched by the mountain rains and cling to the rock for want of shelter. The fatherless child is snatched from the breast, and they take pledges from the poor. They go about naked, without clothing; hungry, they carry the sheaves. Between the terraces they press out oil; they tread the winepresses yet go thirsty.
Job 24:12	מֵעִיר מְתִים יִנְאָקוּ וְנֶפֶשׁ־חֲלָלִים תְּשַׁוֵּעַ וֵאלוֹהַּ לֹא־יָשִׂים תִּפְלָה: הֵמָּה הָיוּ בְּמֹרְדֵי־אוֹר לֹא־הִכִּירוּ דְרָכָיו וְלֹא יָשָׁבוּ בְּנְתִיבֹתָיו:	From the city people groan, and the throats of the wounded cry for help, yet God pays no heed to the outrage. These are among those who rebel against the light; they do not know its ways

46 "Times" and "his days" are times of judgment.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
	לָאוֹר יָקוּם רוֹצֵחַ יִקְטָל־עָנִי וְאֶבְיוֹן וּבַלַּיְלָה יְהִי כַגַּנָּב:	and do not stay in its paths. At first light the murderer rises; he kills the poor and the needy, and in the night he is like a thief.
Job 24:15	וְעֵין נֹאֵף שָׁמְרָה נֶשֶׁף לֵאמֹר לֹא־תְשׁוּרֵנִי עָיִן וְסֵתֶר פָּנִים יָשִׂים: חָתַר בַּחשֶׁךְ בָּתִּים יוֹמָם חָתָמוּ־לָמוֹ לֹא־יָדְעוּ אוֹר: כִּי יַחְדָּו בֹּקֶר לְמוֹ צַלְמָוֶת כִּי־יַכִּיר בַּלְהוֹת צַלְמָוֶת:	The adulterer's eye watches for twilight, thinking, "No eye will see me," and he puts a cover over his face. In the dark they dig through houses; by day they shut themselves in; they do not know the light. For to all of them morning is deep darkness; they are friends with the terrors of deep darkness.
Job 24:18	קַל־הוּא עַל־פְּנֵי־מַיִם תְּקֻלַּל חֶלְקָתָם בָּאָרֶץ לֹא־יִפְנֶה דֶּרֶךְ כְּרָמִים: צִיָּה גַּם־חֹם יִגְזְלוּ מֵימֵי־שָׁלֶג שְׁאוֹל חָטָאוּ: יִשְׁכָּחֵהוּ רֶחֶם מָתְקוֹ רִמָּה עוֹד לֹא־יִזָּכֵר וַתִּשָּׁבֵר כָּעֵץ עַוְלָה: רֹעֶה עָקָרָה לֹא תֵלֵד וְאַלְמָנָה לֹא יֵיטִיב:	He is swift on the face of the waters; their portion in the land is cursed; no one turns toward their vineyards. Drought and heat snatch away the snow waters; so Sheol snatches those who have sinned. The womb forgets him; the worm feeds sweetly on him; he is remembered no more; so wrongdoing is broken like a tree. He preys on the barren woman who bears no children and does no good to the widow.[47]
Job 24:22	וּמָשַׁךְ אַבִּירִים בְּכֹחוֹ יָקוּם וְלֹא־יַאֲמִין בַּחַיִּין: יִתֶּן־לוֹ לָבֶטַח וְיִשָּׁעֵן וְעֵינֵיהוּ עַל־דַּרְכֵיהֶם: רוֹמּוּ מְעַט וְאֵינֶנּוּ וְהֻמְכוּ כַּכֹּל יִקָּפְצוּן וּכְרֹאשׁ שִׁבֳלֶת יִמָּלוּ: וְאִם־לֹא אֵפוֹ מִי יַכְזִיבֵנִי וְיָשֵׂם לְאַל מִלָּתִי:	Yet he drags off the mighty by his power; they rise up, but have no assurance of life. He gives them security, and they rely on it, but his eyes are on their ways. They are exalted a little while, and then are gone; they are brought low and gathered up like everything else; they wither like the heads of grain. If it is not so, who will prove me a liar and show that my words are worth nothing?

BILDAD: HOW CAN A MORTAL BE RIGHTEOUS?

Bildad praises God's dominion and calls a human being a maggot and a worm.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 25:1	וַיַּעַן בִּלְדַּד הַשּׁוּחִי וַיֹּאמַר:	Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:
Job 25:2	הַמְשָׁל **BILDAD** וָפַחַד עִמּוֹ עֹשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם בִּמְרוֹמָיו: הֲיֵשׁ מִסְפָּר לִגְדוּדָיו וְעַל־מִי לֹא־יָקוּם אוֹרֹהוּ: וּמַה־יִּצְדַּק אֱנוֹשׁ עִם־אֵל וּמַה־יִּזְכֶּה יְלוּד אִשָּׁה: הֵן עַד־יָרֵחַ וְלֹא יָאִהִיל	**BILDAD** Dominion and dread are with him; he makes peace in his heights. Can his troops be numbered? On whom does his light not rise? How then can a mortal be righteous before God? How can one born of woman be pure? Look, even the moon is not bright,

47 The Hebrew of 24:18–24 is uncertain; some scholars think these verses voice the friends' view, quoted by Job.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
	וְכוֹכָבִים לֹא־זַכּוּ בְעֵינָיו׃ אַף כִּי־אֱנוֹשׁ רִמָּה וּבֶן־אָדָם תּוֹלָעָה׃	and the stars are not pure in his eyes— how much less a mortal, who is a maggot, a human being, who is a worm!

JOB: THE FRINGES OF HIS WAYS

Job mocks Bildad's help and describes God's power over the dead, the clouds and the sea.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
Job 26:1	וַיַּעַן אִיּוֹב וַיֹּאמַר׃	Then Job answered and said:
Job 26:2	מָה־עָזַרְתָּ לְלֹא־כֹחַ הוֹשַׁעְתָּ זְרוֹעַ לֹא־עֹז׃ מַה־יָּעַצְתָּ לְלֹא חָכְמָה וְתוּשִׁיָּה לָרֹב הוֹדָעְתָּ׃ אֶת־מִי הִגַּדְתָּ מִלִּין וְנִשְׁמַת־מִי יָצְאָה מִמֶּךָּ׃ הָרְפָאִים יְחוֹלָלוּ מִתַּחַת מַיִם וְשֹׁכְנֵיהֶם׃ עָרוֹם שְׁאוֹל נֶגְדּוֹ וְאֵין כְּסוּת לָאֲבַדּוֹן׃	**JOB** How you have helped the powerless! How you have saved the arm without strength! How you have counseled one without wisdom, and what sound advice you have displayed in abundance! To whom have you uttered these words, and whose breath has come out of you? The shades writhe beneath the waters and those who dwell in them. Sheol is naked before him, and Abaddon has no covering.[48]
Job 26:7	נֹטֶה צָפוֹן עַל־תֹּהוּ תֹּלֶה אֶרֶץ עַל־בְּלִי־מָה׃ צֹרֵר־מַיִם בְּעָבָיו וְלֹא־נִבְקַע עָנָן תַּחְתָּם׃ מְאַחֵז פְּנֵי־כִסֵּה פָּרַשׂ עָלָיו עֲנָנוֹ׃ חָק־חָג עַל־פְּנֵי־מָיִם עַד־תַּכְלִית אוֹר עִם־חֹשֶׁךְ׃ עַמּוּדֵי שָׁמַיִם יְרוֹפָפוּ וְיִתְמְהוּ מִגַּעֲרָתוֹ׃	He stretches out the north over the void and hangs the earth upon nothing. He wraps up the waters in his thick clouds, and the cloud does not burst beneath them. He covers the face of the full moon and spreads his cloud over it. He has marked out a circle on the face of the waters, at the boundary between light and darkness. The pillars of heaven tremble and are astounded at his rebuke.[49]
Job 26:12	בְּכֹחוֹ רָגַע הַיָּם וּבִתְבוּנָתוֹ מָחַץ רָהַב׃ בְּרוּחוֹ שָׁמַיִם שִׁפְרָה חֹלָלָה יָדוֹ נָחָשׁ בָּרִיחַ׃ הֵן־אֵלֶּה קְצוֹת דְּרָכָיו וּמַה־שֵּׁמֶץ דָּבָר נִשְׁמַע־בּוֹ וְרַעַם גְּבוּרוֹתָיו מִי יִתְבּוֹנָן׃	By his power he stilled the sea; by his understanding he struck down Rahab. By his wind the heavens were made fair; his hand pierced the fleeing serpent. Look, these are but the fringes of his ways; how faint a whisper we hear of him! But the thunder of his mighty deeds—who can understand it?[50]

48 The shades (Hebrew *rephaim*) are the dead; Abaddon ("Destruction") is another name for the realm of the dead.
49 "The full moon" may also be read "the throne."
50 The "fleeing serpent," like Rahab, is a monster of chaos from ancient Near Eastern myth.

JOB: I WILL NOT PUT AWAY MY INTEGRITY

Job swears he will never concede his friends are right, then describes the portion of the wicked.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
Job 27:1	וַיֹּסֶף אִיּוֹב שְׂאֵת מְשָׁלוֹ וַיֹּאמַר:	Job again took up his discourse and said:
Job 27:2	JOB חַי־אֵל הֵסִיר מִשְׁפָּטִי וְשַׁדַּי הֵמַר נַפְשִׁי: כִּי־כָל־עוֹד נִשְׁמָתִי בִּי וְרוּחַ אֱלוֹהַּ בְּאַפִּי: אִם־תְּדַבֵּרְנָה שְׂפָתַי עַוְלָה וּלְשׁוֹנִי אִם־יֶהְגֶּה רְמִיָּה: חָלִילָה לִּי אִם־אַצְדִּיק אֶתְכֶם עַד־אֶגְוָע לֹא־אָסִיר תֻּמָּתִי מִמֶּנִּי:	JOB As God lives, who has denied me justice, and Shaddai, who has made my life bitter, as long as my breath is in me and the breath of God is in my nostrils, my lips will not speak falsehood, and my tongue will not utter deceit. Far be it from me to declare you in the right! Until I die I will not put away my integrity.
Job 27:6	בְּצִדְקָתִי הֶחֱזַקְתִּי וְלֹא אַרְפֶּהָ לֹא־יֶחֱרַף לְבָבִי מִיָּמָי: יְהִי כָרָשָׁע אֹיְבִי וּמִתְקוֹמְמַי כְּעַוָּל: כִּי מַה־תִּקְוַת חָנֵף כִּי יִבְצָע כִּי יֵשֶׁל אֱלוֹהַּ נַפְשׁוֹ:	I hold fast to my righteousness and will not let it go; my heart does not reproach me for any of my days. Let my enemy be like the wicked, and my opponent like the unjust. For what hope has the godless when he is cut off, when God takes away his life?
Job 27:9	הַצַּעֲקָתוֹ יִשְׁמַע אֵל כִּי־תָבוֹא עָלָיו צָרָה: אִם־עַל־שַׁדַּי יִתְעַנָּג יִקְרָא אֱלוֹהַּ בְּכָל־עֵת: אוֹרֶה אֶתְכֶם בְּיַד־אֵל אֲשֶׁר עִם־שַׁדַּי לֹא אֲכַחֵד: הֵן־אַתֶּם כֻּלְּכֶם חֲזִיתֶם וְלָמָּה־זֶּה הֶבֶל תֶּהְבָּלוּ:	Will God hear his cry when distress comes upon him? Will he delight in Shaddai? Will he call upon God at all times? I will teach you about the hand of God; what is with Shaddai I will not conceal. Look, all of you have seen it yourselves; why then do you speak such empty vapor?
Job 27:13	זֶה חֵלֶק־אָדָם רָשָׁע עִם־אֵל וְנַחֲלַת עָרִיצִים מִשַּׁדַּי יִקָּחוּ: אִם־יִרְבּוּ בָנָיו לְמוֹ־חָרֶב וְצֶאֱצָאָיו לֹא יִשְׂבְּעוּ־לָחֶם: שְׂרִידָיו בַּמָּוֶת יִקָּבֵרוּ וְאַלְמְנֹתָיו לֹא תִבְכֶּינָה:	This is the wicked man's portion from God, the inheritance that tyrants receive from Shaddai: If his children are many, they are for the sword, and his offspring will not have enough bread. Those who survive him are buried by plague, and his widows do not weep.[51]
Job 27:16	אִם־יִצְבֹּר כָּעָפָר כָּסֶף וְכַחֹמֶר יָכִין מַלְבּוּשׁ: יָכִין וְצַדִּיק יִלְבָּשׁ וְכֶסֶף נָקִי יַחֲלֹק: בָּנָה כָעָשׁ בֵּיתוֹ וּכְסֻכָּה עָשָׂה נֹצֵר: עָשִׁיר יִשְׁכַּב וְלֹא יֵאָסֵף עֵינָיו פָּקַח וְאֵינֶנּוּ:	Though he heaps up silver like dust and piles up clothing like clay, he may pile it up, but the righteous will wear it, and the innocent will divide the silver. He builds his house like a moth's, like a hut that a watchman makes. He lies down rich, but will do so no more; he opens his eyes, and it is gone.
Job 27:20	תַּשִּׂג יַגָּהוּ כַמַּיִם בַּלַּיְלָה גְּנָבַתּוּ סוּפָה: יִשָּׂאֵהוּ קָדִים וְיֵלַךְ	Terrors overtake him like a flood; in the night a storm carries him off. The east wind lifts him up, and he is gone;

51 Some scholars think 27:13–23 belonged originally to a third speech of Zophar, since it echoes the friends' views.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
	וישערהו ממקמו׃	it sweeps him from his place.
	ויסלך עליו ולא יחמל	It hurls itself at him without pity,
	ממידו ברוח יברח׃	as he flees headlong from its power.
	ישפק עליו כפימו	It claps its hands at him
	וישרק עליו ממקמו׃	and hisses at him from its place.

WHERE CAN WISDOM BE FOUND?

A poem says humans mine the earth for treasure, but only God knows the way to wisdom.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
Job 28:1	כי יש לכסף מוצא **JOB**	**JOB** There is a mine for silver,
	ומקום לזהב יזקקו׃	and a place where gold is refined.
	ברזל מעפר יקח	Iron is taken from the dust,
	ואבן יצוק נחושה׃	and copper is smelted from the stone.
	קץ שם לחשך וכל־תכלית הוא חוקר	Someone puts an end to darkness and searches out the farthest limits
	אבן אפל וצלמות׃	for the ore in gloom and deep darkness.
Job 28:4	פרץ נחל מעם־גר הנשכחים מני־רגל	He opens a shaft far from where people live, in
	דלו מאנוש נעו׃	places forgotten by any foot;
	ארץ ממנה יצא־לחם	far from humans they dangle and sway.
	ותחתיה נהפך כמו־אש׃	The earth—out of it comes bread,
	מקום־ספיר אבניה	but underneath it is turned up as by fire.
	ועפרת זהב לו׃	Its stones are the place of sapphires,
	נתיב לא־ידעו עיט	and it holds dust of gold.
	ולא שזפתו עין איה׃	That path no bird of prey knows,
		and the falcon's eye has not seen it.[52]
Job 28:8	לא־הדריכהו בני־שחץ	Proud beasts have not trodden it;
	לא־עדה עליו שחל׃	the lion has not passed over it.
	בחלמיש שלח ידו	He puts his hand to the flint
	הפך משרש הרים׃	and overturns mountains by the roots.
	בצורות יאורים בקע	He cuts channels in the rocks,
	וכל־יקר ראתה עינו׃	and his eye sees every precious thing.
	מבכי נהרות חבש	He dams up the sources of the rivers
	ותעלמה יצא אור׃	and brings hidden things to light.
Job 28:12	והחכמה מאין תמצא	But wisdom—where can it be found?
	ואי זה מקום בינה׃	And where is the place of understanding?
	לא־ידע אנוש ערכה	No mortal knows its worth,
	ולא תמצא בארץ החיים׃	and it is not found in the land of the living.
	תהום אמר לא בי־היא	The deep says, "It is not in me,"
	וים אמר אין עמדי׃	and the sea says, "It is not with me."
	לא־יתן סגור תחתיה	It cannot be bought with fine gold,
	ולא ישקל כסף מחירה׃	nor can silver be weighed out as its price.
Job 28:16	לא־תסלה בכתם אופיר	It cannot be paid for with the gold of Ophir,
	בשהם יקר וספיר׃	with precious onyx or sapphire.
	לא־יערכנה זהב וזכוכית	Gold and glass cannot equal it,
	ותמורתה כלי־פז׃	nor can it be exchanged for vessels of fine gold.

52 The Hebrew of 28:4 is uncertain.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
	רְאמוֹת וְגָבִישׁ לֹא יִזָּכֵר וּמָשְׁךְ חָכְמָה מִפְּנִינִים׃ לֹא־יַעַרְכֶנָּה פִּטְדַת־כּוּשׁ בְּכֶתֶם טָהוֹר לֹא תְסֻלֶּה׃	Coral and crystal are not worth mentioning; the price of wisdom is above pearls. The topaz of Cush cannot equal it; it cannot be paid for with pure gold.[53]
Job 28:20	וְהַחָכְמָה מֵאַיִן תָּבוֹא וְאֵי זֶה מְקוֹם בִּינָה׃ וְנֶעְלָמָה מֵעֵינֵי כָל־חָי וּמֵעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם נִסְתָּרָה׃ אֲבַדּוֹן וָמָוֶת אָמְרוּ בְאָזְנֵינוּ שָׁמַעְנוּ שְׁמֻעָה׃ אֱלֹהִים הֵבִין דַּרְכָּהּ וְהוּא יָדַע אֶת־מְקוֹמָהּ׃ כִּי־הוּא לִקְצוֹת־הָאָרֶץ יַבִּיט תַּחַת כָּל־הַשָּׁמַיִם יִרְאֶה׃	But wisdom—where does it come from? And where is the place of understanding? It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing and concealed from the birds of the air. Abaddon and Death say, “With our ears we have heard a rumor of it.” God understands the way to it, and he knows its place. For he looks to the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens.
Job 28:25	לַעֲשׂוֹת לָרוּחַ מִשְׁקָל וּמַיִם תִּכֵּן בְּמִדָּה׃ בַּעֲשׂתּוֹ לַמָּטָר חֹק וְדֶרֶךְ לַחֲזִיז קֹלוֹת׃ אָז רָאָהּ וַיְסַפְּרָהּ הֱכִינָהּ וְגַם־חֲקָרָהּ׃ וַיֹּאמֶר לָאָדָם הֵן יִרְאַת אֲדֹנָי הִיא חָכְמָה וְסוּר מֵרָע בִּינָה׃	When he gave the wind its weight and measured out the waters, when he made a decree for the rain and a path for the thunderbolt, then he saw it and declared it; he established it and searched it out. And he said to humankind, “Look, the fear of the Lord—that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.”

JOB’S FINAL DEFENSE: THE DAYS OF OLD

Job recalls the days when God watched over him and he was honored at the city gate.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 29:1	וַיֹּסֶף אִיּוֹב שְׂאֵת מְשָׁלוֹ וַיֹּאמַר׃	Job again took up his discourse and said:
Job 29:2	JOB מִי־יִתְּנֵנִי כְיַרְחֵי־קֶדֶם כִּימֵי אֱלוֹהַּ יִשְׁמְרֵנִי׃ בְּהִלּוֹ נֵרוֹ עָלַי רֹאשִׁי לְאוֹרוֹ אֵלֶךְ חֹשֶׁךְ׃ כַּאֲשֶׁר הָיִיתִי בִּימֵי חָרְפִּי בְּסוֹד אֱלוֹהַּ עֲלֵי אָהֳלִי׃ בְּעוֹד שַׁדַּי עִמָּדִי סְבִיבוֹתַי נְעָרָי׃	JOB Oh, that I were as in the months of old, as in the days when God watched over me, when his lamp shone above my head and by his light I walked through darkness, as I was in the prime of my life, when the friendship of God was upon my tent, when Shaddai was still with me and my children were all around me,
Job 29:6	בִּרְחֹץ הֲלִיכַי בְּחֶמְאָה וְצוּר יָצוּק עִמָּדִי פַּלְגֵי־שָׁמֶן׃ בְּצֵאתִי שַׁעַר עָלֵי־קָרֶת בָּרְחוֹב אָכִין מוֹשָׁבִי׃ רָאוּנִי נְעָרִים וְנֶחְבָּאוּ וִישִׁישִׁים קָמוּ עָמָדוּ׃ שָׂרִים עָצְרוּ בְמִלִּים וְכַף יָשִׂימוּ לְפִיהֶם׃	when my steps were bathed in cream and the rock poured out streams of oil for me, when I went out to the gate of the town and took my seat in the square! The young men saw me and stepped aside, and the old men rose and stood. Princes held back their words and laid their hands on their mouths.

53 Cush is the land south of Egypt, on the upper Nile.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 29:10	קוֹל־נְגִידִים נֶחְבָּאוּ וּלְשׁוֹנָם לְחִכָּם דָּבֵקָה׃ כִּי אֹזֶן שָׁמְעָה וַתְּאַשְּׁרֵנִי וְעַיִן רָאָתָה וַתְּעִידֵנִי׃ כִּי־אֲמַלֵּט עָנִי מְשַׁוֵּעַ וְיָתוֹם וְלֹא־עֹזֵר לוֹ׃ בִּרְכַּת אֹבֵד עָלַי תָּבֹא וְלֵב אַלְמָנָה אַרְנֵן׃	The voices of the nobles were hushed, and their tongues stuck to the roofs of their mouths. For the ear that heard me called me blessed, and the eye that saw me bore witness for me, because I rescued the poor who cried for help, and the orphan who had no one to help him. The blessing of the one about to perish came upon me, and I made the widow's heart sing.
Job 29:14	צֶדֶק לָבַשְׁתִּי וַיִּלְבָּשֵׁנִי כִּמְעִיל וְצָנִיף מִשְׁפָּטִי׃ עֵינַיִם הָיִיתִי לַעִוֵּר וְרַגְלַיִם לַפִּסֵּחַ אָנִי׃ אָב אָנֹכִי לָאֶבְיוֹנִים וְרִב לֹא־יָדַעְתִּי אֶחְקְרֵהוּ׃ וָאֲשַׁבְּרָה מְתַלְּעוֹת עַוָּל וּמִשִּׁנָּיו אַשְׁלִיךְ טָרֶף׃ וָאֹמַר עִם־קִנִּי אֶגְוָע וְכַחוֹל אַרְבֶּה יָמִים׃	I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my justice was like a robe and a turban. I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame. I was a father to the needy, and I investigated the case of the one I did not know. I broke the fangs of the unjust and snatched the prey from his teeth. I thought, "I will die in my nest, and I will multiply my days like the sand."[54]
Job 29:19	שָׁרְשִׁי פָּתוּחַ אֶל־מָיִם וְטַל יָלִין בִּקְצִירִי׃ כְּבוֹדִי חָדָשׁ עִמָּדִי וְקַשְׁתִּי בְיָדִי תַּחֲלִיף׃ לִי־שָׁמְעוּ וְיִחֲלוּ וְיִדְּמוּ לְמוֹ עֲצָתִי׃ אַחֲרֵי דְבָרִי לֹא יִשְׁנוּ וְעָלֵימוֹ תִּטֹּף מִלָּתִי׃	My roots spread out to the water, with the dew all night on my branches. My glory was always fresh with me, and my bow ever new in my hand. People listened to me and waited and kept silent for my counsel. After I spoke they did not speak again, and my words fell on them like drops.
Job 29:23	וְיִחֲלוּ כַמָּטָר לִי וּפִיהֶם פָּעֲרוּ לְמַלְקוֹשׁ׃ אֶשְׂחַק אֲלֵהֶם לֹא יַאֲמִינוּ וְאוֹר פָּנַי לֹא יַפִּילוּן׃ אֶבְחַר דַּרְכָּם וְאֵשֵׁב רֹאשׁ וְאֶשְׁכֹּון כְּמֶלֶךְ בַּגְּדוּד כַּאֲשֶׁר אֲבֵלִים יְנַחֵם׃	They waited for me as for the rain and opened their mouths as for the spring rain. I smiled at them when they had no confidence, and they did not cast down the light of my face. I chose their way and sat as their chief; I lived like a king among his troops, like one who comforts mourners.

JOB: BUT NOW THEY LAUGH AT ME

Job describes the outcasts who now mock him and God's cruelty toward him.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 30:1	JOB וְעַתָּה שָׂחֲקוּ עָלַי צְעִירִים מִמֶּנִּי לְיָמִים אֲשֶׁר־מָאַסְתִּי אֲבוֹתָם לָשִׁית עִם־כַּלְבֵי צֹאנִי׃ גַּם־כֹּחַ יְדֵיהֶם לָמָּה לִי עָלֵימוֹ אָבַד כָּלַח׃	**JOB** But now they laugh at me, those younger than I in years, whose fathers I would have disdained to set with the dogs of my flock. What use to me was the strength of their hands,

54 "Like the sand" may also be read "like the phoenix," as in some Jewish tradition.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
	בְּחֶסֶר וּבְכָפֶן גְּלֻמוּד הַעֹרְקִים צִיָּה אֶמֶשׁ שׁוֹאָה וּמְשֹׁאָה:	men whose vigor had perished? Gaunt with want and hunger, they gnaw the dry ground, in the gloom of desolation and waste.[55]
Job 30:4	הַקֹּטְפִים מַלּוּחַ עֲלֵי־שִׂיחַ וְשֹׁרֶשׁ רְתָמִים לַחְמָם: מִן־גֵּו יְגֹרָשׁוּ יָרִיעוּ עָלֵימוֹ כַּגַּנָּב: בַּעֲרוּץ נְחָלִים לִשְׁכֹּן חֹרֵי עָפָר וְכֵפִים: בֵּין־שִׂיחִים יִנְהָקוּ תַּחַת חָרוּל יִסָּפָחוּ: בְּנֵי־נָבָל גַּם־בְּנֵי בְלִי־שֵׁם נִכְּאוּ מִן־הָאָרֶץ:	They pluck saltwort among the bushes, and the roots of the broom tree are their food. They are driven out from human company; people shout after them as after a thief. They must live in the gullies of the wadis, in holes in the ground and among the rocks. Among the bushes they bray; under the nettles they huddle together. A senseless brood, a nameless brood, they have been whipped out of the land.
Job 30:9	וְעַתָּה נְגִינָתָם הָיִיתִי וָאֱהִי לָהֶם לְמִלָּה: תִּעֲבוּנִי רָחֲקוּ מֶנִּי וּמִפָּנַי לֹא־חָשְׂכוּ רֹק: כִּי־יִתְרִי פִתַּח וַיְעַנֵּנִי וָרֶסֶן מִפָּנַי שִׁלֵּחוּ: עַל־יָמִין פִּרְחַח יָקוּמוּ רַגְלַי שִׁלֵּחוּ וַיְסֹלּוּ עָלַי אָרְחוֹת אֵידָם:	And now I have become their song; I have become a byword to them. They abhor me; they keep their distance from me; they do not hold back from spitting in my face. Because he has loosened my bowstring and humbled me, they have cast off restraint in my presence. On my right the rabble rise up; they push my feet aside and build their roads of ruin against me.
Job 30:13	נָתְסוּ נְתִיבָתִי לְהַוָּתִי יֹעִילוּ לֹא עֹזֵר לָמוֹ: כְּפֶרֶץ רָחָב יֶאֱתָיוּ תַּחַת שֹׁאָה הִתְגַּלָּגוּ: הָהְפַּךְ עָלַי בַּלָּהוֹת תִּרְדֹּף כָּרוּחַ נְדִבָתִי וּכְעָב עָבְרָה יְשֻׁעָתִי:	They break up my path; they profit from my ruin; they need no one to help them. As through a wide breach they come; amid the crash they roll on. Terrors are turned upon me; my dignity is chased away like the wind, and my safety has passed away like a cloud.
Job 30:16	וְעַתָּה עָלַי תִּשְׁתַּפֵּךְ נַפְשִׁי יֹאחֲזוּנִי יְמֵי־עֹנִי: לַיְלָה עֲצָמַי נִקַּר מֵעָלָי וְעֹרְקַי לֹא יִשְׁכָּבוּן: בְּרַב־כֹּחַ יִתְחַפֵּשׂ לְבוּשִׁי כְּפִי כָּתָּנְתִּי יַאַזְרֵנִי: הֹרָנִי לַחֹמֶר וָאֶתְמַשֵּׁל כֶּעָפָר וָאֵפֶר:	And now my life is poured out within me; days of affliction have seized me. At night my bones are pierced within me, and the pains that gnaw me take no rest. With great force my garment is disfigured; it binds me like the collar of my tunic. He has thrown me into the mud, and I have become like dust and ashes.
Job 30:20	אֲשַׁוַּע אֵלֶיךָ וְלֹא תַעֲנֵנִי עָמַדְתִּי וַתִּתְבֹּנֶן בִּי: תֵּהָפֵךְ לְאַכְזָר לִי בְּעֹצֶם יָדְךָ תִּשְׂטְמֵנִי: תִּשָּׂאֵנִי אֶל־רוּחַ תַּרְכִּיבֵנִי וּתְמֹגְגֵנִי תוּשִׁיָּה:	I cry to you, and you do not answer me; I stand, and you merely look at me. You have turned cruel to me; with the might of your hand you persecute me. You lift me up on the wind and make me ride it, and you toss me about in the roar of the storm.

55 The Hebrew of 30:3 is uncertain.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
	כִּי־יָדַעְתִּי תָּמוּת תְּשִׁיבֵנִי וּבֵית מוֹעֵד לְכָל־חָי׃	I know that you will bring me to death, to the house appointed for all the living.
Job 30:24	אַךְ לֹא־בְעִי יִשְׁלַח־יָד אִם־בְּפִידוֹ לָהֶן שׁוּעַ׃ אִם־לֹא בָכִיתִי לְקֻשֵׁה־יוֹם עָגְמָה נַפְשִׁי לָאֶבְיוֹן׃ כִּי טוֹב קִוִּיתִי וַיָּבֹא רָע וָאֲיַחֲלָה לְאוֹר וַיָּבֹא אֹפֶל׃ מֵעַי רֻתְּחוּ וְלֹא־דָמּוּ קִדְּמָנִי יְמֵי־עֹנִי׃	Yet does not one in a heap of ruins stretch out a hand, and in his disaster cry for help? Did I not weep for one whose day was hard? Was not my soul grieved for the needy? But when I hoped for good, evil came; when I waited for light, darkness came. My insides are in turmoil and never still; days of affliction confront me.[56]
Job 30:28	קֹדֵר הִלַּכְתִּי בְּלֹא חַמָּה קַמְתִּי בַקָּהָל אֲשַׁוֵּעַ׃ אָח הָיִיתִי לְתַנִּים וְרֵעַ לִבְנוֹת יַעֲנָה׃ עוֹרִי שָׁחַר מֵעָלָי וְעַצְמִי־חָרָה מִנִּי־חֹרֶב׃ וַיְהִי לְאֵבֶל כִּנֹּרִי וְעֻגָבִי לְקוֹל בֹּכִים׃	I go about blackened, but not by the sun; I stand up in the assembly and cry for help. I have become a brother to jackals and a companion to ostriches. My skin turns black and peels from me, and my bones burn with fever. My lyre is turned to mourning, and my pipe to the sound of weepers.

JOB'S OATH OF INNOCENCE

Job lists wrongs he has not done, calls curses on himself if guilty, and demands God's answer.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
Job 31:1	בְּרִית כָּרַתִּי לְעֵינָי **JOB** וּמָה אֶתְבּוֹנַן עַל־בְּתוּלָה׃ וּמָה חֵלֶק אֱלוֹהַּ מִמָּעַל וְנַחֲלַת שַׁדַּי מִמְּרוֹמִים׃ הֲלֹא־אֵיד לְעַוָּל וְנֵכָר לְפֹעֲלֵי אָוֶן׃ הֲלֹא־הוּא יִרְאֶה דְרָכָי וְכָל־צְעָדַי יִסְפּוֹר׃	**JOB** I made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a young woman? What share would I have from God above, what inheritance from Shaddai on high? Is it not ruin for the wrongdoer, disaster for those who do evil? Does he not see my ways and count my every step?
Job 31:5	אִם־הָלַכְתִּי עִם־שָׁוְא וַתַּחַשׁ עַל־מִרְמָה רַגְלִי׃ יִשְׁקְלֵנִי בְמֹאזְנֵי־צֶדֶק וְיֵדַע אֱלוֹהַּ תֻּמָּתִי׃ אִם תִּטֶּה אֲשֻׁרִי מִנִּי הַדָּרֶךְ וְאַחַר עֵינַי הָלַךְ לִבִּי וּבְכַפַּי דָּבַק מאום׃	If I have walked with falsehood, if my foot has hurried toward deceit— let him weigh me on honest scales, and God will know my integrity!— if my steps have turned aside from the path, if my heart has followed my eyes, if any stain has clung to my hands,
Job 31:8	אֶזְרְעָה וְאַחֵר יֹאכֵל וְצֶאֱצָאַי יְשֹׁרָשׁוּ׃ אִם־נִפְתָּה לִבִּי עַל־אִשָּׁה וְעַל־פֶּתַח רֵעִי אָרָבְתִּי׃ תִּטְחַן לְאַחֵר אִשְׁתִּי וְעָלֶיהָ יִכְרְעוּן אֲחֵרִין׃	then let me sow, and another eat, and let my crops be uprooted. If my heart has been lured by a woman, and I have lain in wait at my neighbor's door, then let my wife grind grain for another man, and let other men crouch over her.

56 The Hebrew of 30:24 is uncertain.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
	כִּי־הִיא זִמָּה וְהוּא עָוֹן פְּלִילִים:	For that would be a shameful crime, an offense for the judges.
Job 31:12	כִּי אֵשׁ הִיא עַד־אֲבַדּוֹן תֹּאכֵל וּבְכָל־תְּבוּאָתִי תְשָׁרֵשׁ:	It would be a fire that consumes all the way to Abaddon, and it would uproot all my harvest.
	אִם־אֶמְאַס מִשְׁפַּט עַבְדִּי וַאֲמָתִי בְּרִבָם עִמָּדִי:	If I have rejected the case of my male or female servant when they brought a dispute against me,
	וּמָה אֶעֱשֶׂה כִּי־יָקוּם אֵל וְכִי־יִפְקֹד מָה אֲשִׁיבֶנּוּ:	what would I do when God rose up? When he called me to account, what would I answer him?
Job 31:15	הֲלֹא־בַבֶּטֶן עֹשַׂנִי עָשֵׂהוּ וַיְכֻנֵנוּ בָּרֶחֶם אֶחָד:	Did not the one who made me in the womb make him too? Did not the same one form us in the womb?
	אִם־אֶמְנַע מֵחֵפֶץ דַּלִּ ים וְעֵינֵי אַלְמָנָה אֲכַלֶּה:	If I have denied the poor what they wanted, or let a widow's eyes grow dim with longing,
	וְאֹכַל פִּתִּי לְבַדִּי וְלֹא־אָכַל יָתוֹם מִמֶּנָּה:	or eaten my morsel of bread alone without the orphan eating from it—
	כִּי מִנְּעוּרַי גְּדָלַנִי כְאָב וּמִבֶּטֶן אִמִּי אַנְחֶנָּה:	for from my youth he grew up with me as with a father, and from my mother's womb I guided her—[57]
Job 31:19	אִם־אֶרְאֶה אוֹבֵד מִבְּלִי לְבוּשׁ וְאֵין כְּסוּת לָאֶבְיוֹן:	if I have seen anyone perishing for lack of clothing,
	אִם־לֹא בֵּרֲכוּנִי חֲלָצָיו וּמִגֵּז כְּבָשַׂי יִתְחַמָּם:	or a needy person with nothing to cover him, and his loins did not bless me, warmed by the fleece of my sheep;
	אִם־הֲנִיפוֹתִי עַל־יָתוֹם יָדִי כִּי־אֶרְאֶה בַשַּׁעַר עֶזְרָתִי:	if I have raised my hand against an orphan because I saw I had support at the gate—
	כְּתֵפִי מִשִּׁכְמָה תִּפּוֹל וְאֶזְרֹעִי מִקָּנָה תִּשָּׁבֵר:	then let my shoulder fall from its socket, and my arm be broken off at the elbow.
Job 31:23	כִּי פַחַד אֵלַי אֵיד אֵל וּמִשְּׂאֵתוֹ לֹא אוּכָל:	For disaster from God was a terror to me, and before his majesty I could do nothing.
	אִם־שַׂמְתִּי זָהָב כִּסְלִי וְלַכֶּתֶם אָמַרְתִּי מִבְטַחִי:	If I have made gold my trust, or called fine gold my security;
	אִם־אֶשְׂמַח כִּי־רַב חֵילִי וְכִי־כַבִּיר מָצְאָה יָדִי:	if I have rejoiced that my wealth was great, that my hand had gained so much;
Job 31:26	אִם־אֶרְאֶה אוֹר כִּי יָהֵל וְיָרֵחַ יָקָר הלֹךְ:	if I have looked at the sun as it shone, or the moon moving in splendor,
	וַיִּפְתְּ בַּסֵּתֶר לִבִּי וַתִּשַּׁ ק יָדִי לְפִי:	and my heart was secretly enticed, and my hand blew them a kiss from my mouth—
	גַּם־הוּא עָוֹן פְּלִילִי כִּי־כִחַשְׁתִּי לְאֵל מִמָּעַל:	that too would be an offense for the judges, for I would have denied God above;
	אִם־אֶשְׂמַח בְּפִיד מְשַׂנְאִי וְהִתְעֹרַרְתִּי כִּי־מְצָאוֹ רָע:	if I have rejoiced at the ruin of the one who hated me, or gloated when evil found him—[58]
Job 31:30		

57 The Hebrew of this verse is uncertain; "he" is the orphan and "her" the widow.
58 Kissing the hand toward the sun or moon was a gesture of worship.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
	וְלֹא־נָתַתִּי לְחָטֹא חִכִּי לִשְׁאֹל בְּאָלָה נַפְשׁוֹ׃ אִם־לֹא אָמְרוּ מְתֵי אָהֳלִי מִי־יִתֵּן מִבְּשָׂרוֹ לֹא נִשְׂבָּע׃ בַּחוּץ לֹא־יָלִין גֵּר דְּלָתַי לָאֹרַח אֶפְתָּח׃ אִם־כִּסִּיתִי כְאָדָם פִּשָׁעִי לִטְמוֹן בְּחֻבִּי עֲוֹנִי׃	but I did not let my mouth sin by asking for his life with a curse; if the men of my tent have not said, “Who can find anyone who has not had his fill of his meat?”— no stranger spent the night outside; I opened my doors to the traveler— if I have hidden my wrongs as humans do, burying my guilt in my bosom,[59]
Job 31:34	כִּי אֶעֱרוֹץ הָמוֹן רַבָּה וּבוּז־מִשְׁפָּחוֹת יְחִתֵּנִי וְאֶדֹּם לֹא־אֵצֵא פָתַח׃ מִי יִתֶּן־לִי שֹׁמֵעַ לִי הֶן־תָּוִי שַׁדַּי יַעֲנֵנִי וְסֵפֶר כָּתַב אִישׁ רִיבִי׃ אִם־לֹא עַל־שִׁכְמִי אֶשָּׂא אֲנִוֹ אֶעֱנֶדְנּוּ עֲטָרוֹת לִי׃	because I feared the great crowd, and the contempt of the clans terrified me, so that I kept quiet and did not go out of my door— Oh, that I had someone to hear me! Here is my signature: let Shaddai answer me! Let my opponent write out his indictment! Surely I would carry it on my shoulder; I would bind it on me like a crown.[60]
Job 31:37	מִסְפַּר צְעָדַי אַגִּידֶנּוּ כְּמוֹ־נָגִיד אֶקְרָבֶנּוּ׃ אִם־עָלַי אַדְמָתִי תִזְעָק וְיַחַד תְּלָמֶיהָ יִבְכְּיוּן׃ אִם־כֹּחָהּ אָכַלְתִּי בְלִי־כָסֶף וְנֶפֶשׁ בְּעָלֶיהָ הִפָּחְתִּי׃ תַּחַת חִטָּה יֵצֵא חוֹחַ וְתַחַת־שְׂעֹרָה בָּאְשָׁה	I would give him an account of my every step; like a prince I would approach him. If my land has cried out against me, and its furrows have wept together; if I have eaten its produce without paying, or made its owners breathe their last— then let thorns grow instead of wheat, and stinking weeds instead of barley.
Job 31:40	תַּמּוּ דִבְרֵי אִיּוֹב׃	The words of Job are ended.

THE SPEECHES OF ELIHU

A young bystander, angry with Job and the friends, speaks four times in defense of God.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 32:1	וַיִּשְׁבְּתוּ שְׁלֹשֶׁת הָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה מֵעֲנוֹת אֶת־אִיּוֹב כִּי הוּא צַדִּיק בְּעֵינָיו׃	So these three men stopped answering Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes.
Job 32:2	וַיִּחַר אַף אֱלִיהוּא בֶן־בַּרַכְאֵל הַבּוּזִי מִמִּשְׁפַּחַת רָם בְּאִיּוֹב חָרָה אַפּוֹ עַל־צַדְּקוֹ נַפְשׁוֹ מֵאֱלֹהִים׃ וּבִשְׁלֹשֶׁת רֵעָיו חָרָה אַפּוֹ עַל אֲשֶׁר לֹא־מָצְאוּ מַעֲנֶה וַיַּרְשִׁיעוּ אֶת־אִיּוֹב׃	Then Elihu son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, became angry. He was angry with Job because he justified himself rather than God. And he was angry with his three friends because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job.[61]
Job 32:4	וֶאֱלִיהוּ חִכָּה אֶת־אִיּוֹב בִּדְבָרִים כִּי זְקֵנִים־הֵמָּה מִמֶּנּוּ לְיָמִים׃ וַיַּרְא אֱלִיהוּא כִּי אֵין מַעֲנֶה בְּפִי שְׁלֹשֶׁת הָאֲנָשִׁים וַיִּחַר אַפּוֹ׃	Now Elihu had waited before speaking to Job, because they were older than he was. But when Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouths of the three men, he became angry.

59 “As humans do” could also be read “as Adam did.”
60 “My signature” is literally “my *taw*,” the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet, used as a mark.
61 An ancient scribal tradition holds that the text originally read “condemned God.”

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 32:6	וַיַּעַן אֱלִיהוּא בֶן־בַּרַכְאֵל הַבּוּזִי וַיֹּאמַר	Then Elihu son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said:

ELIHU: GOD SPEAKS THROUGH DREAMS AND PAIN

Elihu explains why he waited, then argues that God warns people through dreams and sickness.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
	ELIHU צָעִיר אֲנִי לְיָמִים וְאַתֶּם יְשִׁישִׁים עַל־כֵּן זָחַלְתִּי וָאִירָא מֵחַוֹת דֵּעִי אֶתְכֶם: אָמַרְתִּי יָמִים יְדַבֵּרוּ וְרֹב שָׁנִים יֹדִיעוּ חָכְמָה: אָכֵן רוּחַ־הִיא בֶּאֱנוֹשׁ וְנִשְׁמַת שַׁדַּי תְּבִינֵם:	**ELIHU** I am young in years, and you are old; so I held back, afraid to tell you what I know. I said, "Let age speak, and many years teach wisdom." But it is the spirit in a person, the breath of Shaddai, that gives them understanding.
Job 32:9	לֹא־רַבִּים יֶחְכָּמוּ וּזְקֵנִים יָבִינוּ מִשְׁפָּט: לָכֵן אָמַרְתִּי שִׁמְעָה־לִּי אֲחַוֶּה דֵּעִי אַף־אָנִי: הֵן הוֹחַלְתִּי לְדִבְרֵיכֶם אֲזִין עַד־תְּבוּנֹתֵיכֶם עַד־תַּחְקְרוּן מִלִּין:	It is not the aged who are wise, nor the old who understand what is right. So I say, "Listen to me; let me too tell what I know." Look, I waited for your words; I listened for your insights while you searched for what to say.
Job 32:12	וְעַדֵּיכֶם אֶתְבּוֹנָן וְהִנֵּה אֵין לְאִיּוֹב מוֹכִיחַ עוֹנָה אֲמָרָיו מִכֶּם: פֶּן־תֹּאמְרוּ מָצָאנוּ חָכְמָה אֵל יִדְּפֶנּוּ לֹא־אִישׁ: וְלֹא־עָרַךְ אֵלַי מִלִּין וּבְאִמְרֵיכֶם לֹא אֶשִׁיבֶנּוּ:	I paid close attention to you, and there was no one to prove Job wrong, not one of you who answered his words. Do not say, "We have found wisdom; let God rout him, not a human." He has not set out his words against me, and I will not answer him with your arguments.
Job 32:15	חַתּוּ לֹא־עָנוּ עוֹד הֶעְתִּיקוּ מֵהֶם מִלִּים: וְהוֹחַלְתִּי כִּי־לֹא יְדַבֵּרוּ כִּי עָמְדוּ לֹא־עָנוּ עוֹד: אַעֲנֶה אַף־אֲנִי חֶלְקִי אֲחַוֶּה דֵּעִי אַף־אָנִי: כִּי מָלֵתִי מִלִּים תֶּצִיקַתְנִי רוּחַ בִּטְנִי:	They are dismayed; they answer no more; words have deserted them. Must I wait, because they do not speak, because they stand there and answer no more? I too will give my answer; I too will tell what I know. For I am full of words; the spirit within me presses me.
Job 32:19	הִנֵּה־בִטְנִי כְיַיִן לֹא־יִפָּתֵחַ כְּאֹבוֹת חֲדָשִׁים יִבָּקֵעַ: אֲדַבְּרָה וְיִרְוַח־לִי אֶפְתַּח שְׂפָתַי וְאֶעֱנֶה: אַל־נָא אֶשָּׂא פְנֵי־אִישׁ וְאֶל־אָדָם לֹא אֲכַנֶּה: כִּי לֹא יָדַעְתִּי אֲכַנֶּה כִּמְעַט יִשָּׂאֵנִי עֹשֵׂנִי:	My belly is like wine with no vent; like new wineskins it is ready to burst. Let me speak and find relief; let me open my lips and answer. I will not show partiality to anyone, or flatter any human being. For I do not know how to flatter— else my Maker would soon carry me off.
Job 33:1	וְאוּלָם שְׁמַע־נָא אִיּוֹב מִלָּי וְכָל־דְּבָרַי הַאֲזִינָה: הִנֵּה־נָא פָּתַחְתִּי פִי	But now, Job, hear my speech; listen to all my words. Look, I have opened my mouth;

HEBREW		ENGLISH
	דִּבְּרָה לְשׁוֹנִי בְחִכִּי׃	my tongue is speaking in my palate.
	יְשָׁר־לִבִּי אֲמָרָי	My words come from an upright heart;
	וְדַעַת שְׂפָתַי בָּרוּר מְלֵלוּ׃	what my lips know they speak sincerely.
	רוּחַ־אֵל עָשָׂתְנִי	The spirit of God has made me;
	וְנִשְׁמַת שַׁדַּי תְּחַיֵּנִי׃	the breath of Shaddai gives me life.
Job 33:5	אִם־תּוּכַל הֲשִׁיבֵנִי	Answer me if you can;
	עֲרָכָה לְפָנַי הִתְיַצָּבָה׃	set out your case before me; take your stand.
	הֵן־אֲנִי כְפִיךָ לָאֵל	Look, before God I am just as you are;
	מֵחֹמֶר קֹרַצְתִּי גַּם־אָנִי׃	I too was pinched off from clay.
	הִנֵּה אֵמָתִי לֹא תְבַעֲתֶךָּ	So no fear of me need terrify you;
	וְאַכְפִּי עָלֶיךָ לֹא־יִכְבָּד׃	my pressure will not weigh heavily on you.
	אַךְ אָמַרְתָּ בְאָזְנָי	But you have said in my hearing—
	וְקוֹל מִלִּין אֶשְׁמָע׃	I heard the sound of your words—
Job 33:9	זַךְ אֲנִי בְּלִי פָּשַׁע	“I am pure, without transgression;
	חַף אָנֹכִי	I am clean,
	וְלֹא עָוֹן לִי׃	and there is no guilt in me.
	הֵן תְּנוּאוֹת עָלַי יִמְצָא	Yet he finds pretexts against me;
	יַחְשְׁבֵנִי לְאוֹיֵב לוֹ׃	he counts me as his enemy.
	יָשֵׂם בַּסַּד רַגְלָי	He puts my feet in the stocks;
	יִשְׁמֹר כָּל־אָרְחֹתָי׃	he watches all my paths.”
	הֶן־זֹאת לֹא־צָדַקְתָּ אֶעֱנֶךָּ	In this you are not in the right—I will answer you—
	כִּי־יִרְבֶּה אֱלוֹהַּ מֵאֱנוֹשׁ׃	for God is greater than any mortal.
Job 33:13	מַדּוּעַ אֵלָיו רִיבוֹתָ	Why do you bring a case against him,
	כִּי כָל־דְּבָרָיו לֹא־יַעֲנֶה׃	saying he answers none of your words?
	כִּי־בְאַחַת יְדַבֵּר־אֵל	For God speaks in one way,
	וּבִשְׁתַּיִם לֹא יְשׂוּרֶנָּה׃	and in two, though no one perceives it:
	בַּחֲלוֹם חֶזְיוֹן לָיְלָה בִּנְפֹל תַּרְדֵּמָה עַל־אֲנָשִׁים	in a dream, a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on people,
	בְּתְנוּמוֹת עֲלֵי מִשְׁכָּב׃	as they slumber on their beds.
	אָז יְגַלֶּה אׇזֶן אֲנָשִׁים	Then he opens people’s ears
	וּבְמוּסָרָם יַחְתֹּם׃	and seals their warning,
Job 33:17	לְהָסִיר אָדָם מַעֲשֵׂהוּ	to turn a person from his deeds
	וְגֵוֶה מִגֶּבֶר יְכַסֶּה׃	and to cover a man’s pride.
	יַחְשֹׂךְ נַפְשׁוֹ מִנִּי־שָׁחַת	He keeps back his life from the Pit,
	וְחַיָּתוֹ מֵעָבֹר בַּשֶּׁלַח׃	his very being from crossing the River.
	וְהוּכַח בְּמַכְאוֹב עַל־מִשְׁכָּבוֹ	He is also rebuked with pain on his bed,
	וְרוֹב עֲצָמָיו אֵתָן׃	with ceaseless strife in his bones,
	וְזָהֲמַתּוּ חַיָּתוֹ לֶחֶם	so that his very being loathes bread,
	וְנַפְשׁוֹ מַאֲכַל תַּאֲוָה׃	and his appetite the choicest food.[62]
Job 33:21	יִכְלֶה בְשָׂרוֹ מֵרֹאִי	His flesh wastes away until it can no longer be seen,
	וְשֶׁפּוּ עַצְמוֹתָיו לֹא רָאוּ׃	and his bones, once hidden, stick out.
	וַתִּקְרַב לַשַּׁחַת נַפְשׁוֹ	His life draws near to the Pit,
	וְחַיָּתוֹ לַמְמִתִים׃	his very being to those who bring death.
	אִם־יֵשׁ עָלָיו מַלְאָךְ מֵלִיץ אֶחָד מִנִּי־אָלֶף	If there is an angel beside him, a mediator, one in
	לְהַגִּיד לְאָדָם יָשְׁרוֹ׃	

62 “The River” renders Hebrew *shelach,* perhaps a channel of the underworld; others take it as “the spear.”

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
		a thousand, to vouch for a person's uprightness,
Job 33:24	וַיְחֻנֶּנּוּ וַיֹּאמֶר פְּדֵעֵהוּ מֵרֶדֶת שָׁחַת מָצָאתִי כֹפֶר׃ רָטְפַשׂ בְּשָׂרוֹ מִנֹּעַר יָשׁוּב לִימֵי עֲלוּמָיו׃ יֶעְתַּר אֶל־אֱלוֹהַּ וַיִּרְצֵהוּ וַיַּרְא פָּנָיו בִּתְרוּעָה וַיָּשֶׁב לֶאֱנוֹשׁ צִדְקָתוֹ׃	and he is gracious to him and says, "Spare him from going down to the Pit; I have found a ransom"— then his flesh grows fresher than a child's; he returns to the days of his youth. He prays to God, who accepts him; he sees God's face with a shout of joy, and God restores to the person his righteousness.
Job 33:27	יָשֹׁר עַל־אֲנָשִׁים וַיֹּאמֶר חָטָאתִי וְיָשָׁר הֶעֱוֵיתִי וְלֹא־שָׁוָה לִי׃ פָּדָה נַפְשׁוֹ מֵעֲבֹר בַּשַּׁחַת וְחַיָּתוֹ בָּאוֹר תִּרְאֶה׃ הֶן־כָּל־אֵלֶּה יִפְעַל־אֵל פַּעֲמַיִם שָׁלוֹשׁ עִם־גָּבֶר׃	He sings out before others and says, "I sinned and twisted what was right, and it was not repaid to me." He has redeemed his life from passing into the Pit, and his life will look upon the light. Look, God does all these things, twice, three times, with a person,
Job 33:30	לְהָשִׁיב נַפְשׁוֹ מִנִּי־שָׁחַת לֵאוֹר בְּאוֹר הַחַיִּים׃ הַקְשֵׁב אִיּוֹב שְׁמַע־לִי הַחֲרֵשׁ וְאָנֹכִי אֲדַבֵּר׃ אִם־יֵשׁ־מִלִּין הָשִׁיבֵנִי דַּבֵּר כִּי־חָפַצְתִּי צַדָּקֶךָּ׃ אִם־אַיִן אַתָּה שְׁמַע־לִי הַחֲרֵשׁ וַאֲאַלֶּפְךָ חָכְמָה׃	to bring his life back from the Pit, so that he may be lit with the light of life. Pay attention, Job, listen to me; be silent, and I will speak. If you have anything to say, answer me; speak, for I would like to vindicate you. If not, then listen to me; be silent, and I will teach you wisdom.

ELIHU: FAR BE IT FROM GOD TO DO WRONG

Elihu insists that God repays everyone justly and that Job speaks without knowledge.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 34:1	וַיַּעַן אֱלִיהוּא וַיֹּאמַר׃	Then Elihu answered and said:
Job 34:2	שִׁמְעוּ חֲכָמִים מִלָּי ELIHU וְיֹדְעִים הַאֲזִינוּ לִי׃ כִּי־אֹזֶן מִלִּין תִּבְחָן וְחֵךְ יִטְעַם לֶאֱכֹל׃ מִשְׁפָּט נִבְחֲרָה־לָּנוּ נֵדְעָה בֵינֵינוּ מַה־טּוֹב׃ כִּי־אָמַר אִיּוֹב צָדַקְתִּי וְאֵל הֵסִיר מִשְׁפָּטִי׃ עַל־מִשְׁפָּטִי אֲכַזֵּב אָנוּשׁ חִצִּי בְלִי־פָשַׁע׃	**ELIHU** Hear my words, you wise men; give ear to me, you who know. For the ear tests words as the palate tastes food. Let us choose for ourselves what is just; let us decide among ourselves what is good. For Job has said, "I am in the right, and God has taken away my justice. In my own case I am counted a liar; the arrow in me is incurable, though I have not transgressed."
Job 34:7	מִי־גֶבֶר כְּאִיּוֹב יִשְׁתֶּה־לֵעַג כַּמָּיִם׃ וְאָרַח לְחֶבְרָה עִם־פֹּעֲלֵי אָוֶן וְלַלֶּכֶת עִם־אַנְשֵׁי־רֶשַׁע׃ כִּי־אָמַר לֹא יִסְכָּן־גָּבֶר בִּרְצֹתוֹ עִם־אֱלֹהִים׃	What man is like Job, who drinks up scorn like water, who keeps company with evildoers and walks with wicked men? For he has said, "It profits a man nothing to be in favor with God."

HEBREW		ENGLISH
	לָכֵן אַנָשֵׁי לֵבָב שִׁמְעוּ לִי חָלִלָה לָאֵל מֵרֶשַׁע וְשַׁדַי מֵעָוֶל:	So listen to me, you men of understanding: far be it from God to do wickedness, from Shaddai to do wrong!
Job 34:11	כִּי פֹעַל אָדָם יְשַׁלֶּם־לוֹ וּכְאֹרַח אִישׁ יַמְצִאֶנּוּ: אַף־אָמְנָם אֵל לֹא־יַרְשִׁיעַ וְשַׁדַי לֹא־יְעַוֵּת מִשְׁפָּט: מִי־פָקַד עָלָיו אָרְצָה וּמִי שָׂם תֵּבֵל כֻּלָּהּ: אִם־יָשִׂים אֵלָיו לִבּוֹ רוּחוֹ וְנִשְׁמָתוֹ אֵלָיו יֶאֱסֹף:	For he repays a person for what he has done; he brings on each one what his ways deserve. Truly, God does not act wickedly; Shaddai does not pervert justice. Who put him in charge of the earth? Who laid on him the whole world? If he were to set his heart on it and gather his spirit and breath back to himself,
Job 34:15	יִגְוַע כָּל־בָּשָׂר יָחַד וְאָדָם עַל־עָפָר יָשׁוּב: וְאִם־בִּינָה שִׁמְעָה־זֹּאת הַאֲזִינָה לְקוֹל מִלָּי: הַאַף שׂוֹנֵא מִשְׁפָּט יַחֲבוֹשׁ וְאִם־צַדִּיק כַּבִּיר תַּרְשִׁיעַ: הַאָמֹר לְמֶלֶךְ בְּלִיָּעַל רָשָׁע אֶל־נְדִיבִים:	all flesh would perish together, and humankind would return to dust. If you have understanding, hear this; listen to the sound of my words. Can one who hates justice govern? Will you condemn the Righteous and Mighty One? Does one say to a king, “Worthless!” or to nobles, “Wicked!”?
Job 34:19	אֲשֶׁר לֹא־נָשָׂא פְנֵי שָׂרִים וְלֹא נִכַּר־שׁוֹעַ לִפְנֵי־דָל כִּי־מַעֲשֵׂה יָדָיו כֻּלָּם: רֶגַע יָמֻתוּ וַחֲצוֹת לַיְלָה יִגְעֲשׁוּ עָם וְיַעֲבֹרוּ וְיָסִירוּ אַבִּיר לֹא בְיָד: כִּי־עֵינָיו עַל־דַּרְכֵי־אִישׁ וְכָל־צְעָדָיו יִרְאֶה:	He shows no partiality to princes and does not favor the rich over the poor, for they are all the work of his hands. In a moment they die, at midnight; people are shaken and pass away, and the mighty are removed by no human hand. For his eyes are on a person’s ways; he sees all his steps.
Job 34:22	אֵין־חֹשֶׁךְ וְאֵין צַלְמָוֶת לְהִסָּתֶר שָׁם פֹּעֲלֵי אָוֶן: כִּי לֹא עַל־אִישׁ יָשִׂים עוֹד לַהֲלֹךְ אֶל־אֵל בַּמִּשְׁפָּט: יָרַעַ כַּבִּירִים לֹא־חֵקֶר וַיַּעֲמֵד אֲחֵרִים תַּחְתָּם:	There is no darkness, no deep shadow, where evildoers can hide. For he need not set a time for anyone to come before God in judgment. He shatters the mighty without inquiry and sets others in their place.
Job 34:25	לָכֵן יַכִּיר מַעַבָדֵיהֶם וְהָפַךְ לַיְלָה וְיִדַּכְּאוּ: תַּחַת־רְשָׁעִים סְפָקָם בִּמְקוֹם רֹאִים: אֲשֶׁר עַל־כֵּן סָרוּ מֵאַחֲרָיו וְכָל־דְּרָכָיו לֹא הִשְׂכִּילוּ: לְהָבִיא עָלָיו צַעֲקַת־דָּל וְצַעֲקַת עֲנִיִּים יִשְׁמָע:	So he knows their deeds; he overturns them in the night, and they are crushed. He strikes them down for their wickedness where everyone can see, because they turned away from following him and paid no heed to any of his ways, so that they brought the cry of the poor before him, and he hears the cry of the afflicted.
Job 34:29	וְהוּא יַשְׁקִט וּמִי יַרְשִׁיעַ וַיַּסְתֵּר פָּנִים וּמִי יְשׁוּרֶנּוּ וְעַל־גּוֹי וְעַל־אָדָם יָחַד: מִמְלֹךְ אָדָם חָנֵף מִמֹּקְשֵׁי עָם:	If he stays quiet, who can condemn him? If he hides his face, who can see him? Yet he watches over nation and person alike, so that the godless may not reign, and there be no snares for the people.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
	כִּי־אֶל־אֵל הֶאָמַר נָשָׂאתִי לֹא אֶחְבֹּל׃	For has anyone said to God, “I have borne punishment; I will offend no more.[63]
Job 34:32	בִּלְעָדַי אֶחֱזֶה אַתָּה הוֹרֵנִי אִם־עָוֶל פָּעַלְתִּי לֹא אֹסִיף׃ הֵמֵעִמְּךָ יְשֻׁלְּמֶנָּה כִּי־מָאַסְתָּ כִּי־אַתָּה תִבְחַר וְלֹא־אָנִי וּמַה־יָּדַעְתָּ דַּבֵּר׃ אַנְשֵׁי־לֵבָב יֹאמְרוּ לִי וְגֶבֶר חָכָם שֹׁמֵעַ לִי׃	“Teach me what I cannot see; if I have done wrong, I will not do it again”? Should he repay you on your terms, when you have rejected him? For you must choose, and not I; so tell us what you know. People of understanding will say to me, and any wise man who hears me:
Job 34:35	אִיּוֹב לֹא־בְדַעַת יְדַבֵּר וּדְבָרָיו לֹא בְהַשְׂכֵּיל׃ אָבִי יִבָּחֵן אִיּוֹב עַד־נֶצַח עַל־תְּשֻׁבֹתוֹ בְּאַנְשֵׁי־אָוֶן׃ כִּי יֹסִיף עַל־חַטָּאתוֹ פֶּשַׁע בֵּינֵינוּ יִסְפּוֹק וְיֶרֶב אֲמָרָיו לָאֵל׃	“Job speaks without knowledge; his words are without insight.” Would that Job were tried to the end for answering like evil men! For he adds rebellion to his sin; he claps his hands among us and multiplies his words against God.

ELIHU: WHAT DO YOU GIVE TO GOD?

Elihu argues that human sin and righteousness affect only other humans, not God.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 35:1	וַיַּעַן אֱלִיהוּ וַיֹּאמַר׃	Then Elihu answered and said:
Job 35:2	ELIHU הֲזֹאת חָשַׁבְתָּ לְמִשְׁפָּט אָמַרְתָּ צִדְקִי מֵאֵל׃ כִּי־תֹאמַר מַה־יִּסְכָּן־לָךְ מָה־אֹעִיל מֵחַטָּאתִי׃ אֲנִי אֲשִׁיבְךָ מִלִּין וְאֶת־רֵעֶיךָ עִמָּךְ׃ הַבֶּט שָׁמַיִם וּרְאֵה וְשׁוּר שְׁחָקִים גָּבְהוּ מִמֶּךָּ׃	ELIHU Do you think this is just, when you say, “My righteousness is greater than God’s”? For you ask, “What use is it to you? What do I gain by not sinning?” I will answer you, and your friends with you. Look up at the heavens and see; gaze at the clouds, high above you.
Job 35:6	אִם־חָטָאתָ מַה־תִּפְעָל־בּוֹ וְרַבּוּ פְשָׁעֶיךָ מַה־תַּעֲשֶׂה־לּוֹ׃ אִם־צָדַקְתָּ מַה־תִּתֶּן־לוֹ אוֹ מַה־מִּיָּדְךָ יִקָּח׃ לְאִישׁ־כָּמוֹךָ רִשְׁעֶךָ וּלְבֶן־אָדָם צִדְקָתֶךָ׃ מֵרֹב עֲשׁוּקִים יַזְעִיקוּ יְשַׁוְּעוּ מִזְּרוֹעַ רַבִּים׃	If you sin, what do you do to him? If your transgressions are many, what do you do to him? If you are in the right, what do you give him? Or what does he receive from your hand? Your wickedness affects someone like yourself, and your righteousness a fellow human. Under the weight of oppression people cry out; they call for help against the arm of the mighty.
Job 35:10	וְלֹא־אָמַר אַיֵּה אֱלוֹהַּ עֹשָׂי נֹתֵן זְמִרוֹת בַּלָּיְלָה׃ מַלְּפֵנוּ מִבַּהֲמוֹת אֶרֶץ וּמֵעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם יְחַכְּמֵנוּ׃ שָׁם יִצְעֲקוּ וְלֹא יַעֲנֶה	But no one says, “Where is God my Maker, who gives songs in the night, who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth and makes us wiser than the birds of the sky?” There they cry out, but he does not answer,

63 The Hebrew of verses 29–33 is very uncertain.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
	מִפְּנֵי גְּאוֹן רָעִים׃ אַךְ־שָׁוְא לֹא־יִשְׁמַע אֵל וְשַׁדַּי לֹא יְשׁוּרֶנָּה׃	because of the pride of the wicked. Surely God does not hear an empty cry; Shaddai does not regard it.
Job 35:14	אַף כִּי־תֹאמַר לֹא תְשׁוּרֶנּוּ דִּין לְפָנָיו וּתְחוֹלַל לוֹ׃ וְעַתָּה כִּי־אַיִן פָּקַד אַפּוֹ וְלֹא־יָדַע בַּפַּשׁ מְאֹד׃ וְאִיּוֹב הֶבֶל יִפְצֶה־פִּיהוּ בִּבְלִי־דַעַת מִלִּין יַכְבִּר׃	How much less when you say you do not see him, that the case is before him, and you are waiting for him! And now, because his anger does not punish, and he takes little note of folly, Job opens his mouth in empty talk and multiplies words without knowledge.[64]

ELIHU: GOD'S GREATNESS IN THE STORM

Elihu says God disciplines in order to teach, and describes his power in rain and thunder.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 36:1	וַיֹּסֶף אֱלִיהוּא וַיֹּאמַר׃	Elihu continued and said:
Job 36:2	ELIHU כַּתַּר־לִי זְעֵיר וַאֲחַוֶּךָּ כִּי עוֹד לֶאֱלוֹהַּ מִלִּים׃ אֶשָּׂא דַעִי לְמֵרָחוֹק וּלְפֹעֲלִי אֶתֵּן־צֶדֶק׃ כִּי־אָמְנָם לֹא־שֶׁקֶר מִלָּי תְּמִים דֵּעוֹת עִמָּךְ׃ הֵן־אֵל כַּבִּיר וְלֹא יִמְאָס כַּבִּיר כֹּחַ לֵב׃	**ELIHU** Bear with me a little, and I will show you, for there is still more to say on God's behalf. I will bring my knowledge from far away and ascribe righteousness to my Maker. For truly my words are no lie; one perfect in knowledge is with you. Look, God is mighty and does not reject anyone; he is mighty in strength of understanding.
Job 36:6	לֹא־יְחַיֶּה רָשָׁע וּמִשְׁפַּט עֲנִיִּים יִתֵּן׃ לֹא־יִגְרַע מִצַּדִּיק עֵינָיו וְאֶת־מְלָכִים לַכִּסֵּא וַיֹּשִׁיבֵם לָנֶצַח וַיִּגְבָּהוּ׃ וְאִם־אֲסוּרִים בַּזִּקִּים יִלָּכְדוּן בְּחַבְלֵי־עֹנִי׃ וַיַּגֶּד לָהֶם פָּעָלָם וּפִשְׁעֵיהֶם כִּי יִתְגַּבָּרוּ׃	He does not keep the wicked alive, but gives the afflicted their justice. He does not take his eyes off the righteous; with kings on the throne he seats them forever, and they are exalted. And if they are bound in chains, caught in the cords of affliction, he declares to them what they have done, their transgressions, that they have acted arrogantly.
Job 36:10	וַיְגַל אָזְנָם לַמּוּסָר וַיֹּאמֶר כִּי־יְשֻׁבוּן מֵאָוֶן׃ אִם־יִשְׁמְעוּ וְיַעֲבֹדוּ יְכַלּוּ יְמֵיהֶם בַּטּוֹב וּשְׁנֵיהֶם בַּנְּעִימִים׃ וְאִם־לֹא יִשְׁמְעוּ בְּשֶׁלַח יַעֲבֹרוּ וְיִגְוָעוּ כְּבְלִי־דָעַת׃ וְחַנְפֵי־לֵב יָשִׂימוּ אַף לֹא יְשַׁוְּעוּ כִּי אָסָרָם׃	He opens their ears to discipline and tells them to turn back from evil. If they listen and serve him, they will complete their days in prosperity and their years in delight. But if they do not listen, they will cross the River and die for lack of knowledge. The godless in heart harbor anger; they do not cry for help when he binds them.
Job 36:14	תָּמֹת בַּנֹּעַר נַפְשָׁם וְחַיָּתָם בַּקְּדֵשִׁים׃ יְחַלֵּץ עָנִי בְעָנְיוֹ	They die in their youth; their life ends among the *qedeshim*. He rescues the afflicted through their affliction

64 The Hebrew word translated "folly" is uncertain.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
	וְיִגֶּל בַּלַּחַץ אָזְנָם׃ וְאַף הֱסִיתְךָ מִפִּי־צָר רַחַב לֹא־מוּצָק תַּחְתֶּיהָ וְנַחַת שָׁלְחָנְךָ מָלֵא דָּשֶׁן׃ וְדִין־רָשָׁע מָלֵאתָ דִּין וּמִשְׁפָּט יִתְמֹכוּ׃	and opens their ears through distress. He also lured you out of the jaws of distress into a broad place with no constraint beneath it, and what was set on your table was full of rich food. But you are full of the judgment due the wicked; judgment and justice take hold of you.[65]
Job 36:18	כִּי־חֵמָה פֶּן־יְסִיתְךָ בְסֶפֶק וְרֹב־כֹּפֶר אַל־יַטֶּךָּ׃ הֲיַעֲרֹךְ שׁוּעֲךָ לֹא בְצָר וְכֹל מַאֲמַצֵּי־כֹחַ׃ אַל־תִּשְׁאַף הַלַּיְלָה לַעֲלוֹת עַמִּים תַּחְתָּם׃ הִשָּׁמֶר אַל־תֵּפֶן אֶל־אָוֶן כִּי־עַל־זֶה בָּחַרְתָּ מֵעֹנִי׃	Beware that anger does not lure you into mockery, and do not let a large bribe turn you aside. Will your cry for help keep you out of distress, or all your exertions of strength? Do not long for the night, when peoples vanish from their place. Take care not to turn to evil, for this you have chosen rather than affliction.[66]
Job 36:22	הֵן־אֵל יַשְׂגִּיב בְּכֹחוֹ מִי כָמֹהוּ מוֹרֶה׃ מִי־פָקַד עָלָיו דַּרְכּוֹ וּמִי־אָמַר פָּעַלְתָּ עַוְלָה׃ זְכֹר כִּי־תַשְׂגִּיא פָּעֳלוֹ אֲשֶׁר שֹׁרְרוּ אֲנָשִׁים׃ כָּל־אָדָם חָזוּ־בוֹ אֱנוֹשׁ יַבִּיט מֵרָחוֹק׃	Look, God is exalted in his power; who is a teacher like him? Who has prescribed his way for him, or who can say, “You have done wrong”? Remember to extol his work, of which people have sung. All humankind has looked on it; mortals gaze at it from afar.
Job 36:26	הֵן־אֵל שַׂגִּיא וְלֹא נֵדָע מִסְפַּר שָׁנָיו וְלֹא־חֵקֶר׃ כִּי יִגְרַע נִטְפֵי־מָיִם יְזַקּוּ מָטָר לְאֵדוֹ׃ אֲשֶׁר־יִזְלוּ שְׁחָקִים יִרְעֲפוּ עָלֵי אָדָם רָב׃ אַף אִם־יָבִין מִפְרְשֵׂי־עָב תְּשָׁאוֹת סֻכָּתוֹ׃	Look, God is great beyond our knowing; the number of his years is past searching out. For he draws up the drops of water; they distill rain from his mist, which the clouds pour down and shower on humankind in abundance. Can anyone understand how the clouds spread out, the thunderings of his pavilion?
Job 36:30	הֵן־פָּרַשׂ עָלָיו אוֹרוֹ וְשָׁרְשֵׁי הַיָּם כִּסָּה׃ כִּי־בָם יָדִין עַמִּים יִתֶּן־אֹכֶל לְמַכְבִּיר׃ עַל־כַּפַּיִם כִּסָּה־אוֹר וַיְצַו עָלֶיהָ בְמַפְגִּיעַ׃ יַגִּיד עָלָיו רֵעוֹ מִקְנֶה אַף עַל־עוֹלֶה׃	Look, he spreads his light around him and covers the roots of the sea. For by these he governs peoples; he gives food in abundance. He covers his hands with lightning and commands it to strike the mark. Its crash tells of him; even the cattle tell of what is rising.[67]
Job 37:1	אַף־לְזֹאת יֶחֱרַד לִבִּי וְיִתַּר מִמְּקוֹמוֹ׃ שִׁמְעוּ שָׁמוֹעַ בְּרַגְזָ קוֹלוֹ וְהֶגֶה מִפִּיו יֵצֵא׃ תַּחַת־כָּל־הַשָּׁ מַיִם יְשָׁרֵהוּ	At this too my heart trembles and leaps from its place. Listen, listen to the roar of his voice, the rumbling that comes from his mouth.

65 Hebrew *qedeshim,* men attached to shrines, traditionally understood as cult prostitutes; the line pictures a dishonored death.
66 The Hebrew of verses 16–20 is uncertain.
67 The Hebrew of verse 33 is uncertain.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
	וְאוֹרוֹ עַל־כַּנְפוֹת הָאָרֶץ׃ אַחֲרָיו יִשְׁאַג־קוֹל יַרְעֵם בְּקוֹל גְּאוֹנוֹ וְלֹא יְעַקְּבֵם כִּי־יִשָּׁמַע קוֹלוֹ׃	Under the whole sky he lets it loose, and his lightning to the corners of the earth. After it a voice roars; he thunders with his majestic voice, and he does not hold back the bolts when his voice is heard.
Job 37:5	יַרְעֵם אֵל בְּקוֹלוֹ נִפְלָאוֹת עֹשֶׂה גְדֹלוֹת וְלֹא נֵדָע׃ כִּי לַשֶּׁלֶג יֹאמַר הֱוֵא אָרֶץ וְגֶשֶׁם מָטָר וְגֶשֶׁם מִטְרוֹת עֻזּוֹ׃ בְּיַד־כָּל־אָדָם יַחְתּוֹם לְדַעַת כָּל־אַנְשֵׁי מַעֲשֵׂהוּ׃ וַתָּבֹא חַיָּה בְמוֹ־אָרֶב וּבִמְעוֹנֹתֶיהָ תִּשְׁכֹּן׃	God thunders wondrously with his voice; he does great things beyond our knowing. For to the snow he says, “Fall on the earth,” and so to the shower of rain, the showers of his mighty rain. He seals up the hand of every person, so that all whom he has made may know it. Then the beasts go into their lairs and stay in their dens.
Job 37:9	מִן־הַחֶדֶר תָּבוֹא סוּפָה וּמִמְּזָרִים קָרָה׃ מִנִּשְׁמַת־אֵל יִתֵּן־קֶרַח וְרֹחַב מַיִם בְּמוּצָק׃ אַף־בָּרִי יַטְרִיחַ עָב יָפִיץ עֲנַן אוֹרוֹ׃ וְהוּא מְסִבּוֹת מִתְהַפֵּךְ בְּתַחְבּוּלֹתָיו לְפָעֳלָם כֹּל אֲשֶׁר יְצַוֵּם עַל־פְּנֵי תֵבֵל אַרְצָה׃	From its chamber comes the storm, and cold from the scattering winds. By the breath of God ice is given, and the broad waters are frozen hard. He loads the clouds with moisture; the clouds scatter his lightning. They turn round and round by his guidance to do all that he commands them over the face of the inhabited earth.
Job 37:13	אִם־לְשֵׁבֶט אִם־לְאַרְצוֹ אִם־לְחֶסֶד יַמְצִאֵהוּ׃ הַאֲזִינָה זֹאת אִיּוֹב עֲמֹד וְהִתְבּוֹנֵן נִפְלְאוֹת אֵל׃ הֲתֵדַע בְּשׂוּם־אֱלוֹהַּ עֲלֵיהֶם וְהוֹפִיעַ אוֹר עֲנָנוֹ׃ הֲתֵדַע עַל־מִפְלְשֵׂי־עָב מִפְלְאוֹת תְּמִים דֵּעִים׃	Whether as a rod, or for his land, or for steadfast love, he brings it about. Listen to this, Job; stand still and consider the wonders of God. Do you know how God lays his command on them and makes the lightning of his cloud shine? Do you know how the clouds are balanced, the wonders of the one perfect in knowledge?
Job 37:17	אֲשֶׁר־בְּגָדֶיךָ חַמִּים בְּהַשְׁקִט אֶרֶץ מִדָּרוֹם׃ תַּרְקִיעַ עִמּוֹ לִשְׁחָקִים חֲזָקִים כְּרְאִי מוּצָק׃ הוֹדִיעֵנוּ מַה־נֹּאמַר לוֹ לֹא־נַעֲרֹךְ מִפָּנֵי־חֹשֶׁךְ׃ הֲיְסֻפַּר־לוֹ כִּי אֲדַבֵּר אִם־אָמַר אִישׁ כִּי יְבֻלָּע׃	You whose clothes grow hot when the earth lies still under the south wind, can you, with him, spread out the skies, hard as a mirror of cast metal? Teach us what we should say to him; we cannot set out our case because of darkness. Should he be told that I want to speak? Would anyone ask to be swallowed up?
Job 37:21	וְעַתָּה לֹא רָאוּ אוֹר בָּהִיר הוּא בַּשְּׁחָקִים וְרוּחַ עָבְרָה וַתְּטַהֲרֵם׃ מִצָּפוֹן זָהָב יֵאָתֶה עַל־אֱלוֹהַּ נוֹרָא הוֹד׃ שַׁדַּי לֹא־מְצָאנֻהוּ שַׂגִּיא־כֹחַ וּמִשְׁפָּט וְרֹב־צְדָקָה לֹא יְעַנֶּה׃ לָכֵן יְרֵאוּהוּ אֲנָשִׁים לֹא־יִרְאֶה כָּל־חַכְמֵי־לֵב׃	And now no one can look at the light when it is bright in the skies, when the wind has passed and swept them clean. Out of the north comes golden splendor; around God is awesome majesty. Shaddai—we cannot find him; he is great in power, and in justice and abundant righteousness he does not oppress.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
		Therefore people fear him; he does not regard any who are wise in their own heart.

THE WHIRLWIND SPEECHES

The LORD answers Job out of the storm with a torrent of questions about creation.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 38:1	וַיַּעַן־יְהוָה אֶת־אִיּוֹב מִן הַסְּעָרָה וַיֹּאמַר:	Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:[68]

WHERE WERE YOU WHEN I FOUNDED THE EARTH?

God questions Job about the earth, the sea, the dawn, the snow and the stars.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 38:2	מִי זֶה מַחְשִׁיךְ עֵצָה בְּמִלִּין בְּלִי־דָעַת: אֱזָר־נָא כְגֶבֶר חָלָצֶיךָ וְאֶשְׁאָלְךָ וְהוֹדִיעֵנִי: אֵיפֹה הָיִיתָ בְּיָסְדִי־אָרֶץ הַגֶּד אִם־יָדַעְתָּ בִינָה: מִי־שָׂם מְמַדֶּיהָ כִּי תֵדָע אוֹ מִי־נָטָה עָלֶיהָ קָו:	**GOD** Who is this who darkens counsel with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you will inform me. Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who fixed its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched a measuring line over it?
Job 38:6	עַל־מָה אֲדָנֶיהָ הָטְבָּעוּ אוֹ מִי־יָרָה אֶבֶן פִּנָּתָהּ: בְּרָן־יַחַד כּוֹכְבֵי בֹקֶר וַיָּרִיעוּ כָּל־בְּנֵי אֱלֹהִים: וַיָּסֶךְ בְּדָלְתַיִם יָם בְּגִיחוֹ מֵרֶחֶם יֵצֵא: בְּשׂוּמִי עָנָן לְבֻשׁוֹ וַעֲרָפֶל חֲתֻלָּתוֹ:	On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the members of the divine court shouted for joy? Who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out, coming from the womb, when I made the clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band,
Job 38:10	וָאֶשְׁבֹּר עָלָיו חֻקִּי וָאָשִׂים בְּרִיחַ וּדְלָתָיִם: וָאֹמַר עַד־פֹּה תָּבוֹא וְלֹא תֹסִיף וּפֹא־יָשִׁית בִּגְאוֹן גַּלֶּיךָ: הֲמִיָּמֶיךָ צִוִּיתָ בֹּקֶר יְדַעְתָּה הַשַּׁחַר מְקֹמוֹ: לֶאֱחֹז בְּכַנְפוֹת הָאָרֶץ וְיִנָּעֲרוּ רְשָׁעִים מִמֶּנָּה:	when I fixed my limit for it and set bars and doors, and said, “This far you may come, and no farther; here your proud waves must stop”? Have you ever in your life commanded the morning, or shown the dawn its place, so that it might seize the edges of the earth and shake the wicked out of it?
Job 38:14	תִּתְהַפֵּךְ כְּחֹמֶר חוֹתָם וְיִתְיַצְּבוּ כְּמוֹ לְבוּשׁ: וְיִמָּנַע מֵרְשָׁעִים אוֹרָם וּזְרוֹעַ רָמָה תִּשָּׁבֵר:	It is changed like clay under a seal, and its features stand out like a garment. The wicked are denied their light, and the arm raised high is broken.

68 The whirlwind (Hebrew *se‘arah*) is a violent storm; in the Hebrew Bible storms often accompany the appearance of God.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
	הֲבָאתָ עַד־נִבְכֵי־יָם וּבְחֵקֶר תְּהוֹם הִתְהַלָּכְתָּ׃ הֲנִגְלוּ לְךָ שַׁעֲרֵי־מָוֶת וְשַׁעֲרֵי צַלְמָוֶת תִּרְאֶה׃	Have you gone down to the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Have you seen the gates of deep darkness?
Job 38:18	הִתְבֹּנַנְתָּ עַד־רָחְבֵי־אָרֶץ הַגֶּד אִם־יָדַעְתָּ כֻּלָּהּ׃ אֵי־זֶה הַדֶּרֶךְ יִשְׁכָּן־אוֹר וְחֹשֶׁךְ אֵי־זֶה מְקוֹמוֹ׃ כִּי תִקָּחֶנּוּ אֶל־גְּבוּלוֹ וְכִי־תָבִין נְתִיבוֹת בֵּיתוֹ׃ יָדַעְתָּ כִּי־אָז תִּוָּלֵד וּמִסְפַּר יָמֶיךָ רַבִּים׃	Have you grasped the breadth of the earth? Tell me, if you know all this. Where is the way to where light dwells, and darkness—where is its place, that you might take it to its territory and know the paths to its home? You know, for you were born then, and the number of your days is great!
Job 38:22	הֲבָאתָ אֶל־אֹצְרוֹת שָׁלֶג וְאֹצְרוֹת בָּרָד תִּרְאֶה׃ אֲשֶׁר־חָשַׂכְתִּי לְעֶת־צָר לְיוֹם קְרָב וּמִלְחָמָה׃ אֵי־זֶה הַדֶּרֶךְ יֵחָלֵק אוֹר יָפֵץ קָדִים עָלֵי־אָרֶץ׃ מִי־פִלַּג לַשֶּׁטֶף תְּעָלָה וְדֶרֶךְ לַחֶזְיז קֹלוֹת׃	Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, or seen the storehouses of the hail, which I have kept for a time of trouble, for a day of battle and war? What is the way to where the light is divided, where the east wind is scattered over the earth? Who has cut a channel for the downpour, and a way for the thunderbolt,
Job 38:26	לְהַמְטִיר עַל־אֶרֶץ לֹא־אִישׁ מִדְבָּר לֹא־אָדָם בּוֹ׃ לְהַשְׂבִּיעַ שֹׁאָה וּמְשֹׁאָה וּלְהַצְמִיחַ מֹצָא דֶשֶׁא׃ הֲיֵשׁ־לַמָּטָר אָב אוֹ מִי־הוֹלִיד אֶגְלֵי־טָל׃ מִבֶּטֶן מִי יָצָא הַקָּרַח וּכְפֹר שָׁמַיִם מִי יְלָדוֹ׃	to bring rain on a land where no one lives, on a wilderness with no human in it, to satisfy the desolate wasteland and make the ground sprout with grass? Does the rain have a father? Or who fathered the drops of dew? From whose womb did the ice come forth? And the frost of the heavens—who gave birth to it?
Job 38:30	כָּאֶבֶן מַיִם יִתְחַבָּאוּ וּפְנֵי תְהוֹם יִתְלַכָּדוּ׃ הַתְקַשֵּׁר מַעֲדַנּוֹת כִּימָה אוֹ־מֹשְׁכוֹת כְּסִיל תְּפַתֵּחַ׃ הֲתֹצִיא מַזָּרוֹת בְּעִתּוֹ וְעַיִשׁ עַל־בָּנֶיהָ תַנְחֵם׃ הֲיָדַעְתָּ חֻקּוֹת שָׁמָיִם אִם־תָּשִׂים מִשְׁטָרוֹ בָּאָרֶץ׃	The waters harden like stone, and the face of the deep is frozen. Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades, or loosen the cords of Orion? Can you lead out the Mazzaroth in their season, or guide the Bear with her children? Do you know the laws of the heavens? Can you establish their rule on the earth?[69]
Job 38:34	הֲתָרִים לָעָב קוֹלֶךָ וְשִׁפְעַת־מַיִם תְּכַסֶּךָּ׃ הַתְשַׁלַּח בְּרָקִים וְיֵלֵכוּ וְיֹאמְרוּ לְךָ הִנֵּנוּ׃ מִי־שָׁת בַּטְּחוֹת חָכְמָה אוֹ מִי־נָתַן לַשֶּׂכְוִי בִינָה׃ מִי־יִסְפַּר שְׁחָקִים בְּחָכְמָה וְנִבְלֵי שָׁמַיִם מִי יַשְׁכִּיב׃	Can you raise your voice to the clouds, so that a flood of water covers you? Can you send out lightning bolts so that they go and say to you, “Here we are”? Who has put wisdom in the ibis, or given understanding to the rooster? Who can number the clouds by wisdom? And who can tip over the water jars of the heavens,[70]

69 The identification of these constellations is uncertain; *Mazzaroth* may be the signs of the zodiac.
70 The Hebrew words for “ibis” and “rooster” are uncertain; some take them as “inward parts” and “mind.”

THE WILD ANIMALS

God asks Job about lions, ravens, goats, the wild donkey and ox, the ostrich, the horse and the eagle.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
Job 38:38	GOD בְּצָקֶת עָפָר לַמּוּצָק וּרְגָבִים יִדָּבָקוּ׃ הָתָצוּד לְלָבִיא טָרָף וְחַיַּת כְּפִירִים תְּמַלֵּא׃ כִּי־יִשְׁחוּ בַמְּעוֹנוֹת יֵשְׁבוּ בַסֻּכָּה לְמוֹ־אָרֶב׃ מִי יָכִין לָעֹרֵב צֵידוֹ כִּי־יְלָדָיו אֶל־אֵל יְשַׁוֵּעוּ יִתְעוּ לִבְלִי־אֹכֶל׃	**GOD** when the dust runs into a mass and the clods stick together? Can you hunt prey for the lioness, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, when they crouch in their dens and lie in wait in the thicket? Who provides the raven its prey when its young cry out to God and wander about without food?
Job 39:1	הֲיָדַעְתָּ עֵת לֶדֶת יַעֲלֵי־סָלַע חֹלֶל אַיָּלוֹת תִּשְׁמֹר׃ תִּסְפֹּר יְרָחִים תְּמַלֶּאנָה וְיָדַעְתָּ עֵת לִדְתָּנָה׃ תִּכְרַעְנָה יַלְדֵיהֶן תְּפַלַּחְנָה חֶבְלֵיהֶם תְּשַׁלַּחְנָה׃ יַחְלְמוּ בְנֵיהֶם יִרְבּוּ בַבָּר יָצְאוּ וְלֹא־שָׁבוּ לָמוֹ׃	Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you watch the does in labor? Can you count the months they must complete, and do you know the time they give birth? They crouch, they bring forth their young; they are rid of their labor pains. Their young grow strong and grow up in the open; they go off and do not return to them.
Job 39:5	מִי־שִׁלַּח פֶּרֶא חָפְשִׁי וּמֹסְרוֹת עָרוֹד מִי פִתָּחַ׃ אֲשֶׁר־שַׂמְתִּי עֲרָבָה בֵיתוֹ וּמִשְׁכְּנוֹתָיו מְלֵחָה׃ יִשְׂחַק לַהֲמוֹן קִרְיָה תְּשֻׁאוֹת נוֹגֵשׂ לֹא יִשְׁמָע׃	Who let the wild donkey go free? Who untied the ropes of the onager, to whom I gave the steppe as his home, the salt flats as his dwelling? He laughs at the commotion of the city; he does not hear the shouts of the driver.
Job 39:8	יְתוּר הָרִים מִרְעֵהוּ וְאַחַר כָּל־יָרֹק יִדְרוֹשׁ׃ הֲיֹאבֶה רֵים עָבְדֶךָ אִם־יָלִין עַל־אֲבוּסֶךָ׃ הֲתִקְשָׁר־רֵים בְּתֶלֶם עֲבֹתוֹ אִם־יְשַׂדֵּד עֲמָקִים אַחֲרֶיךָ׃ הֲתִבְטַח־בּוֹ כִּי־רַב כֹּחוֹ וְתַעֲזֹב אֵלָיו יְגִיעֶךָ׃	He ranges the mountains as his pasture and searches after every green thing. Is the wild ox willing to serve you? Will he spend the night at your manger? Can you tie the wild ox in the furrow with a rope? Will he harrow the valleys behind you? Will you rely on him because his strength is great, and leave your labor to him?
Job 39:12	הֲתַאֲמִין בּוֹ כִּי־יְשִׁיב זַרְעֶךָ וְגָרְנְךָ יֶאֱסֹף׃ כְּנַף־רְנָנִים נֶעֱלָסָה אִם־אֶבְרָה חֲסִידָה וְנֹצָה׃ כִּי־תַעֲזֹב לָאָרֶץ בֵּיצֶיהָ וְעַל־עָפָר תְּחַמֵּם׃ וַתִּשְׁכַּח כִּי־רֶגֶל תְּזוּרֶהָ וְחַיַּת הַשָּׂדֶה תְּדוּשֶׁהָ׃	Can you trust him to bring your grain home and gather it to your threshing floor? The ostrich's wings flap joyfully, but are they the pinions and plumage of the stork? For she leaves her eggs on the ground and lets them warm in the dust, forgetting that a foot may crush them, or a wild animal trample them.[71]
Job 39:16	הִקְשִׁיחַ בָּנֶיהָ לְלֹא־לָהּ לְרִיק יְגִיעָהּ בְּלִי־פָחַד׃ כִּי־הִשָּׁה אֱלוֹהַּ חָכְמָה	She treats her young harshly, as if they were not hers; she has no fear that her labor may be in vain,

71 The Hebrew of verse 13 is uncertain; the bird is probably the ostrich, and "stork" (*hasidah*) may play on *hasid*, "loyal."

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
	וְלֹא־חָלַק לָהּ בַּבִּינָה׃ כָּעֵת בַּמָּרוֹם תַּמְרִיא תִּשְׂחַק לַסּוּס וּלְרֹכְבוֹ׃ הֲתִתֵּן לַסּוּס גְּבוּרָה הֲתַלְבִּישׁ צַוָּארוֹ רַעְמָה׃	for God has made her forget wisdom and given her no share in understanding. But when she rouses herself to run, she laughs at the horse and its rider. Do you give the horse its might? Do you clothe its neck with a quivering mane?
Job 39:20	הְתַרְעִישֶׁנּוּ כָּאַרְבֶּה הוֹד נַחְרוֹ אֵימָה׃ יַחְפְּרוּ בָעֵמֶק וְיָשִׂישׂ בְּכֹחַ יֵצֵא לִקְרַאת־נָשֶׁק׃ יִשְׂחַק לְפַחַד וְלֹא יֵחָת וְלֹא־יָשׁוּב מִפְּנֵי־חָרֶב׃ עָלָיו תִּרְנֶה אַשְׁפָּה לַהַב חֲנִית וְכִידוֹן׃	Do you make it leap like a locust? Its majestic snorting is terrifying. It paws in the valley and exults in its strength; it goes out to meet the weapons. It laughs at fear and is not dismayed; it does not turn back from the sword. The quiver rattles against it, the flashing spear and javelin.
Job 39:24	בְּרַעַשׁ וְרֹגֶז יְגַמֶּא־אֶרֶץ וְלֹא־יַאֲמִין כִּי־קוֹל שׁוֹפָר׃ בְּדֵי שֹׁפָר יֹאמַר הֶאָח וּמֵרָחוֹק יָרִיחַ מִלְחָמָה רַעַם שָׂרִים וּתְרוּעָה׃ הֲמִבִינָתְךָ יַאֲבֶר־נֵץ יִפְרֹשׂ כְּנָפָיו לְתֵימָן׃	With trembling and rage it swallows the ground; it cannot stand still when the trumpet sounds. At every blast of the trumpet it says, “Aha!” From far off it smells the battle, the thunder of the commanders and the war cry. Is it by your understanding that the hawk soars and spreads its wings toward the south?
Job 39:27	אִם־עַל־פִּיךָ יַגְבִּיהַּ נָשֶׁר וְכִי יָרִים קִנּוֹ׃ סֶלַע יִשְׁכֹּן וְיִתְלַנָּן עַל־שֶׁן־סֶלַע וּמְצוּדָה׃ מִשָּׁם חָפַר־אֹכֶל לְמַרְחוֹק עֵינָיו יַבִּיטוּ׃ וְאֶפְרֹחָיו יְעַלְעוּ־דָם וּבַאֲשֶׁר חֲלָלִים שָׁם הוּא׃	Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up and builds its nest on high? It dwells on the cliff and lodges there, on a jagged crag, a stronghold. From there it searches out food; its eyes see it from far away. Its young gulp down blood, and where the slain are, there it is.

JOB LAYS HIS HAND ON HIS MOUTH

God challenges Job to answer, and Job says he will speak no more.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 40:1	וַיַּעַן יְהוָה אֶת־אִיּוֹב וַיֹּאמַר׃	Then the LORD answered Job and said:
Job 40:2	GOD הָרֹב עִם־שַׁדַּי יִסּוֹר מוֹכִיחַ אֱלוֹהַּ יַעֲנֶנָּה׃	**GOD** Will a faultfinder contend with Shaddai? Let the one who argues against God answer!
Job 40:3	וַיַּעַן אִיּוֹב אֶת־יְהוָה וַיֹּאמַר׃	Then Job answered the LORD and said:
Job 40:4	JOB הֵן קַלֹּתִי מָה אֲשִׁיבֶךָּ יָדִי שַׂמְתִּי לְמוֹ־פִי׃ אַחַת דִּבַּרְתִּי וְלֹא אֶעֱנֶה וּשְׁתַּיִם וְלֹא אוֹסִיף׃	**JOB** Look, I am of small account; what can I answer you? I lay my hand over my mouth. I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, and I will say no more.

BEHEMOTH AND LEVIATHAN

God challenges Job to rule the world as God does, then describes the two great beasts he made.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 40:6	וַיַּעַן־יְהוָה אֶת־אִיּוֹב מִן סְעָרָה וַיֹּאמַר:	Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:
Job 40:7	GOD אֱזָר־נָא כְגֶבֶר חָלְצֶיךָ אֶשְׁאָלְךָ וְהוֹדִיעֵנִי: הַאַף תָּפֵר מִשְׁפָּטִי תַּרְשִׁיעֵנִי לְמַעַן תִּצְדָּק: וְאִם־זְרוֹעַ כָּאֵל לָךְ וּבְקוֹל כָּמֹהוּ תַּרְעֵם: עֲדֵה נָא גָאוֹן וְגָבַהּ וְהוֹד וְהָדָר תִּלְבָּשׁ: הָפֵץ עֶבְרוֹת אַפֶּךָ וּרְאֵה כָל־גֵּאֶה וְהַשְׁפִּילֵהוּ:	GOD Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you will inform me. Would you really annul my justice? Would you condemn me so that you may be in the right? Do you have an arm like God's? Can you thunder with a voice like his? Then adorn yourself with majesty and dignity; clothe yourself with splendor and glory. Let loose the fury of your anger; look at everyone who is proud and bring him low.
Job 40:12	רְאֵה כָל־גֵּאֶה הַכְנִיעֵהוּ וַהֲדֹךְ רְשָׁעִים תְּחָתָם: טָמְנֵם בֶּעָפָר יָחַד פְּנֵיהֶם חֲבשׁ בַּטְמוּן: וְגַם־אֲנִי אוֹדְךָ כִּי־תוֹשִׁעַ לְךָ יְמִינֶךָ: הִנֵּה־נָא בְהֵמוֹת אֲשֶׁר־עָשִׂיתִי עִמָּךְ חָצִיר כַּבָּקָר יֹאכֵל:	Look at everyone who is proud and humble him; tread down the wicked where they stand. Hide them all together in the dust; bind their faces in the hidden place. Then I myself will praise you, for your own right hand can save you. Look now at Behemoth, which I made just as I made you; it eats grass like an ox.[72]
Job 40:16	הִנֵּה־נָא כֹחוֹ בְמָתְנָיו וְאֹנוֹ בִּשְׁרִירֵי בִטְנוֹ: יַחְפֹּץ זְנָבוֹ כְּמוֹ־אָרֶז גִּידֵי פַחֲדָיו יְשֹׂרָגוּ: עַצְמָיו אֲפִיקֵי נְחוּשָׁה גְּרָמָיו כְּמְטִיל בַּרְזֶל: הוּא רֵאשִׁית דַּרְכֵי־אֵל הָעֹשׂוֹ יַגֵּשׁ חַרְבּוֹ:	Look at the strength in its loins, the power in the muscles of its belly. It stiffens its tail like a cedar; the sinews of its thighs are knit together. Its bones are tubes of bronze, its limbs like bars of iron. It is the first of God's works; only its Maker can approach it with his sword.
Job 40:20	כִּי־בוּל הָרִים יִשְׂאוּ־לוֹ וְכָל־חַיַּת הַשָּׂדֶה יְשַׂחֲקוּ־שָׁם: תַּחַת־צֶאֱלִים יִשְׁכָּב בְּסֵתֶר קָנֶה וּבִצָּה: יְסֹכְכוּהוּ צַאֲלִים צַלָּלוֹ יְסֻבּוּהוּ עַרְבֵי־נָחַל: הֵן יַעֲשֹׁק נָהָר לֹא יַחְפּוֹז יִבְטַח כִּי־יָגִיחַ יַרְדֵּן אֶל־פִּיהוּ:	For the mountains bring it their produce, where all the wild animals play. Under the lotus plants it lies, hidden among the reeds and the marsh. The lotus plants cover it with their shade; the willows of the stream surround it. If the river rages, it is not alarmed; it is confident, though a Jordan should surge against its mouth.
Job 40:24	בְּעֵינָיו יִקָּחֶנּוּ בְּמוֹקְשִׁים יִנְקָב־אָף:	Can anyone take it by its eyes, or pierce its nose with snares? Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook,

72 Hebrew *behemot*, "the Beast" par excellence; often identified with the hippopotamus, but drawn on a mythic scale.

HEBREW		ENGLISH
	וּבְחֶבֶל תַּשְׁקִיעַ לְשֹׁנוֹ׃	or press down its tongue with a cord?
	הֲתָשִׂים אַגְמוֹן בְּאַפּוֹ	Can you put a rope through its nose,
	וּבְחוֹחַ תִּקּוֹב לֶחְיוֹ׃	or pierce its jaw with a hook?
	הֲיַרְבֶּה אֵלֶיךָ תַּחֲנוּנִים	Will it plead with you at length?
	אִם־יְדַבֶּר אֵלֶיךָ רַכּוֹת׃	Will it speak to you gently?[73]
Job 40:28	הֲיִכְרֹת בְּרִית עִמָּךְ	Will it make a covenant with you,
	תִּקָּחֶנּוּ לְעֶבֶד עוֹלָם׃	so that you take it as your slave for life?
	הַתְשַׂחֵק־בּוֹ כַּצִּפּוֹר	Will you play with it as with a bird,
	וְתִקְשְׁרֶנּוּ לְנַעֲרוֹתֶיךָ׃	or put it on a leash for your girls?
	יִכְרוּ עָלָיו חַבָּרִים	Will traders bargain over it?
	יֶחֱצוּהוּ בֵּין כְּנַעֲנִים׃	Will they divide it up among the merchants?
	הַתְמַלֵּא בְשֻׂכּוֹת עוֹרוֹ	Can you fill its hide with harpoons,
	וּבְצִלְצַל דָּגִים רֹאשׁוֹ׃	or its head with fishing spears?
	שִׂים־עָלָיו כַּפֶּךָ	Lay your hand on it—
	זְכֹר מִלְחָמָה אַל־תּוֹסֵף׃	remember the battle; you will not do it again![74]
Job 41:1	הֵן־תּוֹחַלְתּוֹ נִכְזָבָה	Look, any hope of capturing it is false;
	הֲגַם אֶל־מַרְאָיו יָטַל׃	one is laid low even at the sight of it.
	לֹא־אַכְזָר כִּי יְעוֹרֶנּוּ	No one is fierce enough to rouse it;
	וּמִי הוּא לְפָנַי יִתְיַצָּב׃	who then can stand before me?
	מִי הִקְדִּימַנִי וַאֲשַׁלֵּם	Who has confronted me first, that I should repay him?
	תַּחַת כָּל־הַשָּׁמַיִם לִי־הוּא׃	Everything under the whole heaven is mine.
	לוֹ־אַחֲרִישׁ בַּדָּיו	I will not keep silent about its limbs,
	וּדְבַר־גְּבוּרוֹת וְחִין עֶרְכּוֹ׃	its mighty strength, and the grace of its frame.[75]
Job 41:5	מִי־גָלָה פְּנֵי לְבוּשׁוֹ	Who can strip off its outer garment?
	בְּכֶפֶל רִסְנוֹ מִי יָבוֹא׃	Who can come at it with a double bridle?
	דַּלְתֵי פָנָיו מִי פִתֵּחַ	Who can open the doors of its face?
	סְבִיבוֹת שִׁנָּיו אֵימָה׃	All around its teeth is terror.
	גֵּאֲוָה אֲפִיקֵי מָגִנִּים	Its pride is its rows of shields,
	סָגוּר חוֹתָם צָר׃	shut up tight as with a seal.
	אֶחָד בְּאֶחָד יִגָּשׁוּ	One is so close to the next
	וְרוּחַ לֹא־יָבוֹא בֵינֵיהֶם׃	that no air can come between them.
Job 41:9	אִישׁ־בְּאָחִיהוּ יִדָּבָקוּ	They are joined each to the other;
	יִתְלַכָּדוּ וְלֹא יִתְפָּרָדוּ׃	they cling together and cannot be parted.
	עָטִישֹׁתָיו תָּהֶל אוֹר	Its sneezes flash out light,
	וְעֵינָיו כְּעַפְעַפֵּי־שָׁחַר׃	and its eyes are like the eyelids of the dawn.
	מִפִּיו לַפִּידִים יְהַלֹּכוּ	From its mouth go flaming torches;
	כִּידוֹדֵי אֵשׁ יִתְמַלָּטוּ׃	sparks of fire leap out.
	מִנְּחִירָיו יֵצֵא עָשָׁן	Smoke pours from its nostrils,
	כְּדוּד נָפוּחַ וְאַגְמֹן׃	as from a boiling pot over burning rushes.
	נַפְשׁוֹ גֶּחָלִים תְּלַהֵט	Its breath sets coals ablaze,
	וְלַהַב מִפִּיו יֵצֵא׃	and a flame comes out of its mouth.
Job 41:14	בְּצַוָּארוֹ יָלִין עֹז	Strength lodges in its neck,
	וּלְפָנָיו תָּדוּץ דְּאָבָה׃	and dismay dances before it.
	מַפְּלֵי בְשָׂרוֹ דָּבֵקוּ	

73 Here Leviathan is described partly in terms of the crocodile.
74 "Merchants" is literally "Canaanites," a word that also meant traders.
75 The Hebrew of verses 1–4 is uncertain; some manuscripts read "before it" instead of "before me."

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
	יְצוּק עָלָיו בַּל־יִמּוֹט׃ לִבּוֹ יָצוּק כְּמוֹ־אָבֶן וְיָצוּק כְּפֶלַח תַּחְתִּית׃ מִשֵּׂתּוֹ יָגוּרוּ אֵלִים מִשְּׁבָרִים יִתְחַטָּאוּ׃	The folds of its flesh cling together, firmly cast on it, immovable. Its heart is as hard as stone, hard as the lower millstone. When it rises up, the mighty are afraid; at the crashing they are beside themselves.[76]
Job 41:18	מַשׂ יִגֵּהוּ חֶרֶב בְּלִי תָקוּם חֲנִית מַסָּע וְשִׁרְיָה׃ יַחְשֹׁב לְתֶבֶן בַּרְזֶל לְעֵץ רִקָּבוֹן נְחוּשָׁה׃ לֹא־יַבְרִיחֶנּוּ בֶּן־קֶשֶׁת לְקַשׁ נֶהְפְּכוּ־לוֹ אַבְנֵי־קָלַע׃ כְּקַשׁ נֶחְשְׁבוּ תוֹתָח וְיִשְׂחַק לְרַעַשׁ כִּידוֹן׃	Though the sword reaches it, it does not prevail, nor the spear, the dart, or the lance. It counts iron as straw, bronze as rotten wood. The arrow cannot make it flee; slingstones turn to stubble for it. Clubs are counted as stubble; it laughs at the rattle of the javelin.
Job 41:22	תַּחְתָּיו חַדּוּדֵי חָרֶשׂ יִרְפַּד חָרוּץ עָלֵי־טִיט׃ יַרְתִּיחַ כַּסִּיר מְצוּלָה יָם יָשִׂים כַּמֶּרְקָחָה׃ אַחֲרָיו יָאִיר נָתִיב יַחְשֹׁב תְּהוֹם לְשֵׂיבָה׃ אֵין־עַל־עָפָר מָשְׁלוֹ הֶעָשׂוּ לִבְלִי־חָת׃ אֵת־כָּל־גָּבֹהַּ יִרְאֶה הוּא מֶלֶךְ עַל־כָּל־בְּנֵי־שָׁחַץ׃	Its underside is jagged potsherds; it spreads itself like a threshing sledge on the mud. It makes the depths boil like a pot; it makes the sea like a pot of ointment. Behind it, it leaves a shining wake; one would think the deep had white hair. On earth there is nothing like it, a creature made without fear. It looks down on everything that is lofty; it is king over all the proud beasts.

JOB: NOW MY EYE HAS SEEN YOU

Job admits he spoke of things too wonderful for him, and retracts.

	HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 42:1	וַיַּעַן אִיּוֹב אֶת־יְהוָה וַיֹּאמַר׃	Then Job answered the LORD and said:
Job 42:2	JOB יָדַעְתִּי כִּי־כֹל תּוּכָל וְלֹא־יִבָּצֵר מִמְּךָ מְזִמָּה׃ מִי זֶה מַעְלִים עֵצָה בְּלִי דָעַת לָכֵן הִגַּדְתִּי וְלֹא אָבִין נִפְלָאוֹת מִמֶּנִּי וְלֹא אֵדָע׃	**JOB** I know that you can do all things, and no purpose of yours can be thwarted. “Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?” Therefore I have spoken, but I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.
Job 42:4	שְׁמַע־נָא וְאָנֹכִי אֲדַבֵּר אֶשְׁאָלְךָ וְהוֹדִיעֵנִי׃ לְשֵׁמַע־אֹזֶן שְׁמַעְתִּיךָ וְעַתָּה עֵינִי רָאָתְךָ׃ עַל־כֵּן אֶמְאַס וְנִחַמְתִּי עַל־עָפָר וָאֵפֶר׃	“Listen, and I will speak; I will question you, and you will inform me.” I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye has seen you. Therefore I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes.[77]

76 “The mighty” may also be read “the gods”; the Hebrew of this verse is uncertain.
77 The Hebrew is uncertain: “retract” may be “despise myself,” and the line may mean “I am comforted concerning dust and ashes,” that is, mortal existence.

EPILOGUE: JOB RESTORED

God rebukes the friends, accepts Job's prayer for them, and restores Job's fortunes twice over.

HEBREW	ENGLISH
Job 42:7 וַיְהִי אַחַר דִּבֶּר יְהוָה אֶת־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה אֶל־אִיּוֹב וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־אֱלִיפַז הַתֵּימָנִי חָרָה אַפִּי בְךָ וּבִשְׁנֵי רֵעֶיךָ כִּי לֹא דִבַּרְתֶּם אֵלַי נְכוֹנָה כְּעַבְדִּי אִיּוֹב:	After the LORD had spoken these words to Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "My anger burns against you and your two friends, because you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.
Job 42:8 וְעַתָּה קְחוּ־לָכֶם שִׁבְעָה־פָרִים וְשִׁבְעָה אֵילִים וּלְכוּ אֶל־עַבְדִּי אִיּוֹב וְהַעֲלִיתֶם עוֹלָה בַּעַדְכֶם וְאִיּוֹב עַבְדִּי יִתְפַּלֶּל עֲלֵיכֶם כִּי אִם־פָּנָיו אֶשָּׂא לְבִלְתִּי עֲשׂוֹת עִמָּכֶם נְבָלָה כִּי לֹא דִבַּרְתֶּם אֵלַי נְכוֹנָה כְּעַבְדִּי אִיּוֹב:	"So now take seven bulls and seven rams, go to my servant Job, and offer a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, for I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly, because you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has."
Job 42:9 וַיֵּלְכוּ אֱלִיפַז הַתֵּימָנִי וּבִלְדַּד הַשּׁוּחִי צֹפַר הַנַּעֲמָתִי וַיַּעֲשׂוּ כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר אֲלֵיהֶם יְהוָה וַיִּשָּׂא יְהוָה אֶת־פְּנֵי אִיּוֹב: וַיהוָה שָׁב אֶת־שְׁבוּת אִיּוֹב בְּהִתְפַּלְלוֹ בְּעַד רֵעֵהוּ וַיֹּסֶף יְהוָה אֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר לְאִיּוֹב לְמִשְׁנֶה:	So Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite went and did as the LORD had told them, and the LORD accepted Job's prayer. And the LORD restored Job's fortunes when he prayed for his friends, and the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.
Job 42:11 וַיָּבֹאוּ אֵלָיו כָּל־אֶחָיו וְכָל־אַחְיוֹתָיו וְכָל־יֹדְעָיו לְפָנִים וַיֹּאכְלוּ עִמּוֹ לֶחֶם בְּבֵיתוֹ וַיָּנֻדוּ לוֹ וַיְנַחֲמוּ אֹתוֹ עַל כָּל־הָרָעָה אֲשֶׁר־הֵבִיא יְהוָה עָלָיו וַיִּתְּנוּ־לוֹ אִישׁ קְשִׂיטָה אֶחָת וְאִישׁ נֶזֶם זָהָב אֶחָד:	Then all his brothers and all his sisters and everyone who had known him before came to him and ate bread with him in his house. They showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the LORD had brought on him, and each of them gave him a piece of money and a gold ring.[78]
Job 42:12 וַיהוָה בֵּרַךְ אֶת־אַחֲרִית אִיּוֹב מֵרֵאשִׁתוֹ וַיְהִי־לוֹ אַרְבָּעָה עָשָׂר אֶלֶף צֹאן וְשֵׁשֶׁת אֲלָפִים גְּמַלִּים וְאֶלֶף־צֶמֶד בָּקָר וְאֶלֶף אֲתוֹנוֹת: וַיְהִי־לוֹ שִׁבְעָנָה בָנִים וְשָׁלוֹשׁ בָּנוֹת:	The LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand female donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters.
Job 42:14 וַיִּקְרָא שֵׁם־הָאַחַת יְמִימָה וְשֵׁם הַשֵּׁנִית קְצִיעָה וְשֵׁם הַשְּׁלִישִׁית קֶרֶן הַפּוּךְ: וְלֹא נִמְצְאָה נָשִׁים יְפוֹת כִּבְנוֹת אִיּוֹב בְּכָל־הָאָרֶץ וַיִּתֵּן לָהֶם אֲבִיהֶם נַחֲלָה בְּתוֹךְ אֲחֵיהֶם:	He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. In all the land no women were found as beautiful as Job's daughters, and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers.[79]
Job 42:16 וַיְחִי אִיּוֹב אַחֲרֵי־זֹאת מֵאָה וְאַרְבָּעִים שָׁנָה וַיִּרְאֶה אֶת־בָּנָיו וְאֶת־בְּנֵי בָנָיו אַרְבָּעָה דֹרוֹת: וַיָּמָת אִיּוֹב זָקֵן וּשְׂבַע יָמִים:	After this Job lived a hundred and forty years, and saw his children and his children's children, four generations. And Job died, old and full of days.

78 "A piece of money" renders Hebrew *qesitah*, a unit of value now unknown.
79 The names mean roughly "Dove," "Cassia" (a fragrant spice), and "Horn of eye-paint."