

The TanakhML Project

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King James Version
Job 21-24

21 ¹ But Job answered and said, ² Hear diligently my speech, and let this be your consolations. ³ Suffer me that I may speak; and after that I have spoken, mock on. ⁴ As for me, is my complaint to man? and if it were so, why should not my spirit be troubled? ⁵ Mark me, and be astonished, and lay your hand upon your mouth. ⁶ Even when I remember I am afraid, and trembling taketh hold on my flesh. ⁷ Wherefore do the wicked live, become old, yea, are mighty in power? ⁸ Their seed is established in their sight with them, and their offspring before their eyes. ⁹ Their houses are safe from fear, neither is the rod of God upon them. ¹⁰ Their bull gendereth, and faileth not; their cow calveth, and casteth not her calf. ¹¹ They send forth their little ones like a flock, and their children dance. ¹² They take the timbrel and harp, and rejoice at the sound of the organ. ¹³ They spend their days in wealth, and in a moment go down to the grave. ¹⁴ Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways. ¹⁵ What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him? ¹⁶ Lo, their good is not in their hand: the counsel of the wicked is far from me. ¹⁷ How oft is the candle of the wicked put out! and how oft cometh their destruction upon them! God distributeth sorrows in his anger. ¹⁸ They are as stubble before the wind, and as chaff that the storm carrieth away. ¹⁹ God layeth up his iniquity for his children: he rewardeth him, and he shall know it. ²⁰ His eyes shall see his destruction, and he shall drink of the wrath of the Almighty. ²¹ For what pleasure hath he in his house after him, when the number of his months is cut off in the midst? ²² Shall any teach God knowledge? seeing he judgeth those that are high. ²³ One dieth in his full strength, being wholly at ease and quiet. ²⁴ His breasts are full of milk, and his bones are moistened with marrow. ²⁵ And another dieth in the bitterness of his soul, and never eateth with pleasure. ²⁶ They shall lie down alike in the dust, and the worms shall cover them. ²⁷ Behold, I know your thoughts, and the devices which ye wrongfully imagine against me. ²⁸ For ye say, Where is the house of the prince? and where are the dwelling places of the wicked? ²⁹ Have ye not asked them that go by the way? and do ye not know their tokens, ³⁰ That the wicked is reserved to the day of destruction? they shall be brought forth to the day of wrath. ³¹ Who shall declare his way to his face? and who shall repay him what he hath done? ³² Yet shall he be brought to the grave, and shall remain in the tomb. ³³ The clods of the valley shall be sweet unto him, and every man shall draw after him, as there are innumerable before him. ³⁴ How then comfort ye me in vain, seeing in your answers there remaineth falsehood?

22 ¹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said, ² Can a man be profitable unto God, as he that is wise may be profitable unto himself? ³ Is it any pleasure to the Almighty, that thou art righteous? or is it gain to him, that thou makest thy ways perfect? ⁴ Will he reprove thee for fear of thee? will he enter with thee into judgment? ⁵ Is not thy wickedness great? and thine iniquities infinite? ⁶ For thou hast taken a pledge from thy brother for nought, and stripped the naked of their clothing. ⁷ Thou hast not given water to the weary to drink, and thou hast withholden bread from the hungry. ⁸ But as for the mighty man, he had the earth; and the honourable man dwelt in it. ⁹ Thou hast sent widows away empty, and the arms of the fatherless have been broken. ¹⁰ Therefore snares are round about thee, and sudden fear troubleth thee; ¹¹ Or darkness, that thou canst not see; and abundance of waters cover thee. ¹² Is not God in the height of heaven? and behold

the height of the stars, how high they are! ¹³ And thou sayest, How doth God know? can he judge through the dark cloud? ¹⁴ Thick clouds are a covering to him, that he seeth not; and he walketh in the circuit of heaven. ¹⁵ Hast thou marked the old way which wicked men have trodden? ¹⁶ Which were cut down out of time, whose foundation was overflowed with a flood: ¹⁷ Which said unto God, Depart from us: and what can the Almighty do for them? ¹⁸ Yet he filled their houses with good things: but the counsel of the wicked is far from me. ¹⁹ The righteous see it, and are glad: and the innocent laugh them to scorn. ²⁰ Whereas our substance is not cut down, but the remnant of them the fire consumeth. ²¹ Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee. ²² Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart. ²³ If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up, thou shalt put away iniquity far from thy tabernacles. ²⁴ Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust, and the gold of Ophir as the stones of the brooks. ²⁵ Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defence, and thou shalt have plenty of silver. ²⁶ For then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty, and shalt lift up thy face unto God. ²⁷ Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee, and thou shalt pay thy vows. ²⁸ Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways. ²⁹ When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, There is lifting up; and he shall save the humble person. ³⁰ He shall deliver the island of the innocent: and it is delivered by the pureness of thine hands. **23** ¹ Then Job answered and said, ² Even to day is my complaint bitter: my stroke is heavier than my groaning. ³ Oh that I knew where I might find him! that I might come even to his seat! ⁴ I would order my cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments. ⁵ I would know the words which he would answer me, and understand what he would say unto me. ⁶ Will he plead against me with his great power? No; but he would put strength in me. ⁷ There the righteous might dispute with him; so should I be delivered for ever from my judge. ⁸ Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: ⁹ On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: ¹⁰ But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. ¹¹ My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined. ¹² Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food. ¹³ But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? and what his soul desireth, even that he doeth. ¹⁴ For he performeth the thing that is appointed for me: and many such things are with him. ¹⁵ Therefore am I troubled at his presence: when I consider, I am afraid of him. ¹⁶ For God maketh my heart soft, and the Almighty troubleth me: ¹⁷ Because I was not cut off before the darkness, neither hath he covered the darkness from my face. **24** ¹ Why, seeing times are not hidden from the Almighty, do they that know him not see his days? ² Some remove the landmarks; they violently take away flocks, and feed thereof. ³ They drive away the ass of the fatherless, they take the widow's ox for a pledge. ⁴ They turn the needy out of the way: the poor of the earth hide themselves together. ⁵ Behold, as wild asses in the desert, go they forth to their work; rising betimes for a prey: the wilderness yieldeth food for them and for their children. ⁶ They reap every one his corn in the field: and they gather the vintage of the wicked. ⁷ They cause the naked to lodge without clothing, that they

have no covering in the cold. ⁸ They are wet with the showers of the mountains, and embrace the rock for want of a shelter. ⁹ They pluck the fatherless from the breast, and take a pledge of the poor. ¹⁰ They cause him to go naked without clothing, and they take away the sheaf from the hungry; ¹¹ Which make oil within their walls, and tread their winepresses, and suffer thirst. ¹² Men groan from out of the city, and the soul of the wounded crieth out: yet God layeth not folly to them. ¹³ They are of those that rebel against the light; they know not the ways thereof, nor abide in the paths thereof. ¹⁴ The murderer rising with the light killeth the poor and needy, and in the night is as a thief. ¹⁵ The eye also of the adulterer waiteth for the twilight, saying, No eye shall see me: and disguiseth his face. ¹⁶ In the dark they dig through houses, which they had marked for themselves in the daytime: they know not the light. ¹⁷ For the morning is to them even as the shadow of death: if one know them, they are in the terrors of the shadow of death. ¹⁸ He is swift as the waters; their portion is cursed in the earth: he beholdeth not the way of the vineyards. ¹⁹ Drought and heat consume the snow waters: so doth the grave those which have sinned. ²⁰ The womb shall forget him; the worm shall feed sweetly on him; he shall be no more remembered; and wickedness shall be broken as a tree. ²¹ He evil entreateth the barren that beareth not: and doeth not good to the widow. ²² He draweth also the mighty with his power: he riseth up, and no man is sure of life. ²³ Though it be given him to be in safety, whereon he resteth; yet his eyes are upon their ways. ²⁴ They are exalted for a little while, but are gone and brought low; they are taken out of the way as all other, and cut off as the tops of the ears of corn. ²⁵ And if it be not so now, who will make me a liar, and make my speech nothing worth?

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