



## THE DIVINE DIALOGUE

An Excerpt from the Book of Job in the Holy Bible

Chapters 38, 39, 40, 41, 42

Circa 6th Century BCE

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## When God Speaks

### An Excerpt from the Book of Job in the Holy Bible

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#### INTRO

23 In the opening chapters of the Book of Job, Satan approaches God and challenges Him,  
24 stating that Job's faith is only strong because God has blessed him with good fortune and  
25 prosperity. Satan suggests that if Job were to lose everything he had, including his  
26 wealth, family, and health, he would surely curse God and lose his faith. God agrees and  
27 permits Satan to test Job's faith. Satan proceeds to cause a series of calamities to befall  
28 Job, including the destruction of his property, the death of his children, and the onset of a  
29 painful and debilitating illness. Despite these losses, Job remains steadfast in his faith and  
30 refuses to curse God. Although throughout his ordeal, Job has been questioning God's  
31 justice and demanding an explanation for the suffering and hardship that he has endured.  
32 Job's friends have offered explanations for his suffering, suggesting that he must have  
33 done something to deserve it. But Job has maintained his innocence and has challenged  
34 God to explain the reason for his suffering.

35

#### CHAPTER 38

36 [1] Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said,  
37 [2] Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?  
38 [3] Gird up your loins like a man.  
39 For I will demand a response from you,  
40 And you will answer me.  
41  
42 [4] Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?  
43 Declare it to me if you have understanding.  
44 [5] Who has laid the measures of it, if you know?  
45 Or who has stretched the line upon it?  
46 [6] Whereupon are the foundations fastened?

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47 Or who laid the cornerstone of it,  
48 [7] When the morning stars sang together,  
49 And all the sons of God shouted for joy?  
50  
51 [8] Or who shut up the sea with doors when it broke forth,  
52 As if it had issued out of the womb?  
53 [9] When I made the cloud its garment,  
54 And thick darkness a swaddling band for it,  
55 [10] And broke up for it my decreed place,  
56 And set bars and doors,  
57 [11] And said, thus far shall you come, but no further.  
58 Here shall your proud waves be stayed.  
59  
60

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61 [12] Have you commanded the morning since your days,  
62 And caused the dayspring to know its place,  
63 [13] That it might take hold of the ends of the earth.  
64 That the wicked might be shaken out of it.  
65 [14] It is turned as clay to the seal.  
66 And now they stand as a garment.  
67 [15] From the wicked, their light is withholden,  
68 And their high arm shall be broken.  
69  
70 [16] Have you entered into the springs of the sea?  
71 Or have you walked in search of the depth?  
72 [17] Have the gates of death been opened unto you?  
73 Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death?  
74 [18] Have you perceived the breadth of the earth?  
75 Declare if you know it all.  
76  
77 [19] Where is the way where light dwells?  
78 And as for darkness, where is its place,  
79 [20] That you should take it to its bounds,  
80 That you should know the paths to its house?  
81 [21] Do you know it, because you were born then?  
82 Or because the number of your days is great?  
83  
84  
85

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86 [22] Have you entered into the treasures of the snow?  
87 or have you seen the treasures of the hail,  
88 [23] Which I have reserved against the time of trouble,  
89 Against the day of battle and war?  
90 [24] By what way is the light parted,  
91 Which scatters the east wind upon the earth?  
92  
93 [25] Who has divided a watercourse for the overflowing of waters,  
94 Or a way for the lightning and thunder,  
95 [26] To cause it to rain on the earth, where no man is,  
96 On the wilderness, wherein there is no man,  
97 [27] To satisfy the desolate and waste ground,  
98 To cause the bud of the tender herb to spring forth?  
99  
100 [28] Has the rain a father?  
101 Or who has begotten the drops of dew?  
102 [29] Out of whose womb came the ice?  
103 And who has gendered the snowy frost of heaven?  
104 [30] The waters are hid as with a stone,  
105 And the face of the deep is frozen.  
106  
107  
108

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- 109 [31] Can you bind the sweet influences of Pleiades<sup>1</sup> (**plee-a-dezz**),  
110 Or loose the bands of Orion?  
111 [32] Can you bring forth Mazzaroth<sup>2</sup> in his season?  
112 Or can you guide Arcturus<sup>3</sup> (**arc-tur-us**) with his sons?  
113 [33] Do you know the ordinances of heaven?  
114 Can you set its dominion in the earth?  
115 [34] Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,  
116 So that an abundance of waters may cover you?  
117 [35] Can you send lightning,  
118 That they may go and say unto you, “Here we are?”  
119 [36] Who has put wisdom in the inward parts of the soul?  
120 Or who has given understanding to the heart?  
121 [37] Who can number the clouds in wisdom?  
122 Or who can stay the bottles of heaven,  
123 [38] When the dust grows into hardness,  
124 And the clods cleave fast together?  
125  
126 [39] Will you hunt the prey for the lion?  
127 Or fill the appetite of their young cubs,  
128 [40] When they couch in their dens,  
129 And abide in the covert to lie in wait?  
130 [41] Who provides for the raven its food  
131 When its young ones cry unto God,  
132 When they wander for lack of meat?

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<sup>1</sup> PLEIADES: The seven daughters of the Titan Atlas.

<sup>2</sup> MAZZAROTH: the twelve signs of the Zodiac.

<sup>3</sup> ARCTURUS: The brightest star in the northern constellation of Boötes.

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CHAPTER 39

134 [1] So you know the time when the wild goats of the rock bring birth?

135 Or mark the day when the hinds do calve?

136 [2] Can you number the months that they fulfill?

137 Or know the time when they give birth?

138 [3] They bow themselves,

139 They give birth to their young ones,

140 They cast out their sorrows.

141 [4] Their young ones are in good liking,

142 They grow up with corn.

143 They go forth and return not unto them.

144 [5] Who has sent out the wild ass free?

145 Or who has loosed the bands of the wild ass?

146 Whose house I have made the wilderness,

147 And the barren land his dwellings.

148

149 Who is he that scorns the multitude of the city,

150 He neither regards the crying of the driver.

151 The range of the mountains is his pasture,

152 And he searches after every green thing.

153 Will the unicorn be willing to serve you,

154 Or abide by your crib?

155

156

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157 [10] Can you bind the unicorn with his band in the furrow?  
158 Or will he harrow the valleys after you?  
159 [11] Will you trust him because his strength is great?  
160 Or will you leave your labor to him?  
161 [12] Will you believe him,  
162 That he will bring home your seed,  
163 And gather it into your barn?  
164  
165 [13] Did you give the goodly wings unto the peacocks?  
166 Or wings and feathers unto the ostrich?  
167 [14] Who leaves her eggs in the earth,  
168 And warms them in dust,  
169 [15] And forgets that the foot may crush them,  
170 Or that the wild beast may break them.  
171 [16] She is hardened against her young ones,  
172 As though they were not hers.  
173 Her labor is in vain without fear,  
174 [17] Because God has deprived her of wisdom,  
175 Neither has he imparted to her understanding.  
176 [18] Do you know what time she lifts herself up on high,  
177 So that she scorns the horse and his rider?  
178  
179  
180



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181 [19] Have you given the horse its strength?  
182 Have you clothed his neck with thunder?  
183 [20] Can you make him afraid as a grasshopper?  
184 The glory of his nostrils is terrible.  
185 [21] He paws in the valley and rejoices in his strength,  
186 He goes on to meet the armed men.  
187 [22] He mocks at fear and is not frightened,  
188 Nor does he turn back from the sword.  
189 [23] The quiver rattles against him,  
190 The glittering spear and the shield.  
191 [24] He swallows the ground with fierceness and rage,  
192 Nor does he believe that it is the sound of the trumpet.  
193 [25] He says among the trumpets, Ha, ha,  
194 and he smells the battle afar off,  
195 the thunder of the captains, and the shouting.  
196  
197 [26] Does the hawk fly by your wisdom,  
198 And stretch her wings toward the south?  
199 [27] Does the eagle mount up at your command  
200 And make her nest on high?  
201 [28] She dwells and abides on the rock,  
202 Upon the crag of the rock, and the strong place.  
203 [29] From there she seeks the prey,  
204 and her eyes behold afar off.  
205 [30] Her young ones also suck up blood,  
206 And where the slain are, there is she.

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CHAPTER 40

208 [1] Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said,

209 [2] Shall he that contends with the Almighty instruct him?

210 He that reproves God, let him answer it.

211

212 [3] Then Job answered the LORD, and said,

213 [4] Behold, I am vile, what shall I answer you?

214 I will lay my hand upon my mouth.

215 [5] Once have I spoken,

216 but I will not answer, yea, twice,

217 but I will proceed no further.

218

219 Then answered the LORD unto Job out of the whirlwind, and said,

220 Gird up your loins like a man,

221 I will demand of you, and you will declare unto me.

222 Will you also disannul my judgment?

223 Will you condemn me that you may be righteous?

224 Have you an arm like God?

225 Or can you thunder with a voice like him?

226 [10] Deck yourself now with majesty and excellency,

227 and array yourself with glory and beauty.

228 [11] Cast abroad the rage of your wrath,

229 And behold everyone that is proud and abase him.

230 [12] Look on everyone that is proud, and bring him low,

231 And tread down the wicked in their place.

232 [13]

233

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234 Hide them in the dust together,  
235 and bind their faces in secret.  
236 [14] Then will I also confess unto you  
237 That your own right hand can save you.  
238  
239 [15] Behold now behemoth, which I made with you,  
240 He eats grass as an ox.  
241 [16] Lo now, his strength is in his loins,  
242 And his force is in the navel of his belly.  
243 [17] He moves his tail like a cedar,  
244 The sinews of his stones are wrapped together.  
245 [18] His bones are as strong pieces of brass,  
246 His bones are like bars of iron.  
247 [19] He is the chief of the ways of God,  
248 He that made him can make his sword to approach him.  
249 [20] Surely the mountains bring him forth food,  
250 Where all the beasts of the field play.  
251 [21] He lies under the shady trees,  
252 In the covert of the reed and fens.  
253 [22] The shady trees cover him with their shadow,  
254 The willows of the brook compass about him.  
255 [23] Behold, he drinks up a river, and hastens not,  
256 He trusts that he can draw up Jordan into his mouth.  
257 [24] He takes it with his eyes,  
258 His nose pierces through snares.

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CHAPTER 41

- 260 [1] Can you draw out Leviathan with a hook?  
261 Or his tongue with a cord which you let down?  
262 [2] Can you put a hook into his nose?  
263 Or bore his jaw through with a thorn?  
264 [3] Will he make many supplications unto you?  
265 Will he speak soft words unto you?  
266 [4] Will he make a covenant with you?  
267 Will you take him for a servant forever?  
268 [5] Will you play with him as with a bird?  
269 Or will you bind him for your maidens?  
270 Shall the companions make a banquet of him?  
271 Shall they part him among the merchants?  
272 Can you fill his skin with barbed iron?  
273 Or his head with fish spears?  
274 Lay your hand upon him,  
275 Remember the battle, and do no more.  
276 Behold, the hope of him that attempts this feat is in vain,  
277 Shall not one be cast down even at the sight of him?  
278 [10] None is so fierce that dare stir him up,  
279 Who then can stand before me?  
280 [11] Who has prevented me, that I should repay him?  
281 All that is under the whole of heaven is mine.  
282 [12] I will not conceal his parts, nor his power,  
283 Nor his beauteous proportion.  
284 [13]  
285

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286           Who can discover the face of his garment?  
287           Or who can come to him with his double bridle?  
288 [14]      Who can open the doors of his face?  
289           His teeth are terrible round about.  
290 [15]      His scales are his pride,  
291           Shut up together as with a close seal.  
292 [16]      One is so near to another,  
293           That no air can come between them.  
294 [17]      They are joined one to another,  
295           They stick together so that they cannot be sundered.  
296 [18]      By his neesings,<sup>4</sup> a light does shine,  
297           and his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning.  
298 [19]      Out of his mouth go burning lamps,  
299           And sparks of fire leap out.  
300 [20]      Out of his nostrils goes smoke,  
301           As out of a seething pot or caldron.  
302 [21]      His breath kindles coals,  
303           And a flame goes out of his mouth.  
304 [22]      In his neck remains strength,  
305           And sorrow is turned into joy before him.  
306 [23]      The flakes of his flesh are joined together,  
307           They are firm in themselves.  
308           They cannot be moved.  
309 [24]  
310

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<sup>4</sup> NESSINGS: To sneeze or snort

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311 His heart is as firm as a stone,  
312 Yea, as hard as a piece of the nether millstone.  
313 [25] When he raises himself up, the mighty are afraid,  
314 By reason of breakings, they purify themselves.  
315 [26] The sword of him that strikes him cannot hold,  
316 Neither the spear, the dart, nor the habergeon.  
317 [27] He esteems iron as straw,  
318 and brass as rotten wood.  
319 [28] The arrow cannot make him flee,  
320 Slingstones are turned by him into stubble.  
321 [29] Darts are counted as debris,  
322 He laughs at the shaking of a spear.  
323 [30] Sharp stones are under him,  
324 He spreads sharp pointed things upon the mire.  
325 [31] He makes the deep to boil like a pot,  
326 He makes the sea like a pot of ointment.  
327 [32] He makes a path to shine after him,  
328 One would think the deep to be snow-white.  
329 [33] Upon earth there is nothing like him,  
330 Him who is made without fear.  
331 [34] He beholds all high things,  
332 He is a king over all the children of pride.  
333  
334

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CHAPTER 42

336 [1] Then Job answered the LORD, and said,  
337 [2] I know that you can do everything,  
338 And that no thought can be withholden from you.  
339 [3] Who is he that hides counsel without knowledge?  
340 Therefore, have I uttered  
341 That I understood not things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.  
342 [4] Hear, I beseech you, and I will speak,  
343 I will demand of you and you will declare unto me.  
344 [5] I have heard you by the hearing of the ear,  
345 But now my eye sees you.  
346 Wherefore I abhor myself,  
347 And repent in dust and ashes.  
348  
349 And it was so,  
350 That after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job,  
351 The LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite,  
352 “My wrath is kindled against you,  
353 And against your two friends,  
354 For you have not spoken of me the thing that is right,  
355 As my servant Job has done.  
356 Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams,  
357 And go to my servant Job,  
358 And offer up for yourselves a burnt offering.  
359

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360 My servant Job shall pray for you, for him will I accept,  
361 Lest I deal with you after your folly,  
362 In that you have not spoken of me the things which are right,  
363 As my servant Job has done.  
364  
365 [9] So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went,  
366 And did according as the LORD commanded them.  
367 The LORD accepted Job.  
368 [10] The LORD turned the captivity of Job,  
369 When he prayed for his friends.  
370 The LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.  
371 [11] Then came there unto him all his brethren and all his sisters,  
372 and all they that had been of his acquaintance before.  
373 They ate bread with him in his house, and they bemoaned him.  
374 They comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him,  
375 And every man gave him a piece of silver,  
376 and everyone an earring of gold.  
377  
378 [12] So, the LORD blessed the latter end of Job's days more than his beginning,  
379 For he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels,  
380 And a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.  
381 [13] He had also seven sons and three daughters.  
382 [14] And he called the name of the first, Jemima,  
383 And the name of the second, Kezia,  
384 And the name of the third, Keren-happuch.  
385 [15]  
386



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387 In all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job,  
388 And their father gave them inheritance among their brethren.  
389 [16] After this lived Job a hundred and forty years,  
390 And saw his sons, and his sons' sons, for four generations.  
391 [17] So Job died, being old and full of days.

392

393

**THE END**

394

395