

God's Answer to Iyov

Rabbi Richard Hidary

Job Chapter 3 איוב 3

- 1** After this opened Job his mouth, and cursed his day. {P}
א אַחֲרֵי-כֵן, פָּתַח אִיּוֹב אֶת-פִּיהוּ, וַיְקַלֵּל, אֶת-יְוֹמוֹ. {פ}
- 2** {S} And Job spoke, and said:
ב וַיַּעַן אִיּוֹב, וַיֹּאמֶר.
- 3** Let the day perish wherein I was born, and the night wherein it was said: 'A man-child is brought forth.'
ג יֵאבֹד יוֹם, אֲנֹלָד בוֹ; וְהַלַּיְלָה אָמַר, הֲרָה גִבֹר.
- 4** Let that day be darkness; {N}
ד הַיּוֹם הַהוּא, יְהִי-חֹשֶׁךְ;
אֶל-יִדְרָשׁוּהוּ אֱלֹהִים מִמַּעַל; וְאֶל-תּוֹפֵעַ עָלָיו נִהְרָה.
- 5** Let darkness and the shadow of death claim it for their own; let a cloud dwell upon it; let all that maketh black the day terrify it.
ה וַיִּגְאֲלֵהוּ, חֹשֶׁךְ וְצִלְמוֹת--תִּשְׁכֹּן-עָלָיו
עֲנָנָה; יִבְעַתְהוּ, כְּמַרְיָרֵי יוֹם.
- 6** As for that night, let thick darkness seize upon it; {N}
ו הַלַּיְלָה הַהוּא, יִקְחֵהוּ-אֶפֶל;
אֶל-יַחַד, בַּיְמֵי שָׁנָה; בְּמִסְפַּר יָרְחִים, אֶל-גְּבֹא.
- 7** Lo, let that night be desolate; let no joyful voice come therein.
ז הִנֵּה הַלַּיְלָה הַהוּא, יְהִי גְלוּמוֹד; אֶל-תְּבוֹא רִנְנָה בוֹ.
- 8** Let them curse it that curse the day, who are ready to rouse up leviathan.
ח יִקְבְּהוּ אַרְרֵי-יוֹם; הַעֲתִידִים, עֲרַר לְוִיתָן.
- 9** Let the stars of the twilight thereof be dark; let it look for light, but have none; neither let it behold the eyelids of the morning;
ט חֹשֶׁכוֹ, כּוֹכְבֵי נֶשֶׁף: יִקּוּ-לָאוֹר וְאִין; וְאֶל-רְאָה, בְּעַפְעַפֵּי-שָׁחַר.
- 10** Because it shut not up the doors of my [mother's] womb, nor hid trouble from mine eyes.
י כִּי לֹא סָגַר, דְּלֹתַי בְּטֶנִי; וַיִּסְתֵּר עֵמֶל, מֵעֵינַי.
- 11** Why died I not from the womb? Why did I not perish at birth?
יא לָמָּה לֹא מָרַחֵם אֲמוֹת; מִבֶּטֶן יִצְאֵתִי וְאָגוּעַ.
- 12** Why did the knees receive me? And wherefore the breasts, that I should suck?
יב מִדּוּעַ, קִדְמוּנֵי בְרֻכָּיִם; וּמַה-שָּׁדִים, כִּי אֵינְקָ.
- 13** For now should I have lain still and been quiet; I should have slept; then had I been at rest--
יג כִּי-עַתָּה, שָׁכַבְתִּי וְאָשְׁקוּט; יִשְׁנֹתִי, אֲזִי נִיחַ לִי.
- 14** With kings and counsellors of the earth, who built up waste places for themselves;
יד עִם-מְלָכִים, וְיֹעֲצֵי אֶרֶץ; הַבְּנִים חָרְבוֹת לָמוֹ.
- 15** Or with princes that had gold, who filled their houses with silver;
טו אוֹ עִם-שָׂרִים, זָהָב לָהֶם; הִמְמַלְאִים בְּתִיחֶם כֶּסֶף.
- 16** Or as a hidden untimely birth I had not been; as infants that never saw light.
טז אוֹ כְּנֶפֶל טְמוּן, לֹא אֶהְיֶה; כְּעַלְלִים, לֹא-רָאוּ אוֹר.
- 17** There the wicked cease from troubling; and there the weary are at rest.
יז שָׁם רְשָׁעִים, חָדְלוּ רָגֹז; וְשָׁם נִוְחוּ, יָגִיעֵי כֹחַ.
- 18** There the prisoners are at ease together; they hear not the voice of the taskmaster.
יח יַחַד, אֲסִירִים שְׂאֲנָנוּ; לֹא שָׁמְעוּ, קוֹל נֹגֵשׁ.
- 19** The small and great are there alike; and the servant is free from his master.
יט קָטָן וְגָדוֹל, שָׁם הוּא; וְעַבְד, חֲפָשִׁי מֵאֲדֹנָיו.
- 20** Wherewith is light given to him that is in misery, and life unto the bitter in soul--
כ לָמָּה יִתֵּן לְעַמֵּל אוֹר; וְחַיִּים, לְמַרְי נֶפֶשׁ.
- 21** Who long for death, but it cometh not; and dig for it more than for hid treasures;
כא הַמְּחַפְּזִים לָמוֹת וְאֵינָנוּ; וַיִּחְפְּרוּהוּ, מִמִּטְמוּנִים.
- 22** Who rejoice unto exultation, and are glad, when they can find the grave?--
כב הַשְּׂמֵחִים אֵלֵי-גִיל-- שְׂשִׂישׁוּ, כִּי יִמְצְאוּ-קִבְרָה.
- 23** To a man whose way is hid, and whom God hath hedged in?
כג לְגִבֹר, אֲשֶׁר-דָּרְכוֹ נִסְתָּרָה; וַיִּסְדֵּךְ אֱלֹהִים בְּעָדוֹ.

- 24** For my sighing cometh instead of my food, and my roarings
 are poured out like water.
כד כִּי-לִפְנֵי לַחֲמִי, אֲנַחֲתִי תָבֵא; וַיִּתְּכוּ כַּמַּיִם,
 שֶׁאֲגַתִּי.
- 25** For the thing which I did fear is come upon me, and that which
 I was afraid of hath overtaken me.
כה כִּי פַחַד פְּחַדַּתִּי, וַיִּצְטַנְנֵנִי; וְאֲשֶׁר יִגְרַתִּי, גָּבַא
 לִי.
- 26** I was not at ease, neither was I quiet, neither had I rest; but
 trouble came.
כו לֹא שָׁלוֹתִי, וְלֹא שָׁקֵטוֹתִי וְלֹא-נַחֲתִי; וַיָּבֵא רָגֹז.

Job Chapter 38 איוב

- 1** Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:
 הַסְעָרָה; וַיֹּאמֶר.
א וַיַּעַן-יְהוָה אֶת-אִיּוֹב, מִנַּהֲסֵעֶרָה (מִן)
- 2** Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?
ב מִי זֶה, מַחְשִׁיב עֲצָה בְּמַלְיוֹן-- בְּלִי-דַעַת.
- 3** Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and
 declare thou unto Me.
ג אֲזַר-נָא כַּגִּבֹר חֲלָצִיד; וְאֲשַׁאלְךָ, וְהוֹדִיעַנִי.
- 4** Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?
 Declare, if thou hast the understanding.
ד אֵיפֹה הָיִיתָ, בְּיִסְדֵי-אָרֶץ; הַגֹּד, אִם-יָדַעְתָּ
 בִּינָה.
- 5** Who determined the measures thereof, if thou knowest? Or who
 stretched the line upon it?
ה מִי-שָׁם מְמַדִּיחָ, כִּי תַדַּע; אוּ מִי-נָטָה עָלֶיהָ
 קוֹ.
- 6** Whereupon were the foundations thereof fastened? Or who laid
 the corner-stone thereof,
ו עַל-מָה, אֲדַנְיָה הִטְבְּעוּ; אוּ מִי-יָרָה, אָבֹן
 פְּנֵתָהּ.
- 7** When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God
 shouted for joy?
ז בְּרֶן-יַחַד, כּוֹכְבֵי בֹקֶר; וַיְרִיעוּ, כָּל-בְּנֵי אֱלֹהִים.
- 8** Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it broke forth, and issued
 out of the womb;
ח וַיִּסַּד בְּדֹלֵתַיִם יָם; בְּגִיחוֹ, מֵרְחֹם יֵצֵא.
- 9** When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a
 swaddlingband for it,
ט בְּשׁוּמֵי עָנָן לְבָשׁוּ; וַעֲרַפֵּל, חֲתָלְתּוֹ.
- 10** And prescribed for it My decree, and set bars and doors,
י וְאֲשַׁבֵּר עָלָיו חֻקִּי; וְאָשִׁים, בָּרִיחַ וּדְלֵתַיִם.
- 11** And said: 'Thus far shalt thou come, but no further; and here
 shall thy proud waves be stayed.'
יא וַאֲמַר--עַד-פֹּה תָבֹא, וְלֹא תִסִּיף; וּפֹא-
 יִשְׁתֵּי, בְּגֵאוֹן גְּלִיד.
- 12** Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days began, and
 caused the dayspring to know its place;
יב הֲמִנְמִידָ, צִוִּיתָ בֹקֶר; יָדַעְתָּ שַׁחַר (יָדַעְתָּ
 הַשַּׁחַר) מְקוֹמוֹ.
- 13** That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, and the wicked
 be shaken out of it?
יג לְאַחֹז, בְּכַנְפוֹת הָאָרֶץ; וַיִּנְעָרוּ רַשְׁעִים מִמְּנָהּ.
- 14** It is changed as clay under the seal; and they stand as a garment.
יד תִּתְהַפֵּף, כַּחֲמֹר חוֹתָם; וַיִּתְנַצְּבוּ, כְּמוֹ לְבוּשׁ.
- 15** But from the wicked their light is withholden, and the high arm
 is broken.
טו וַיִּמְנַע מֵרַשְׁעִים אוֹרָם; וַיִּזְרַע רְמָה, תִּשְׁבֵּר.
- 16** Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? Or hast thou
 walked in the recesses of the deep?
טז הֲבָאתָ, עַד-נְבִכֵי-יָם; וַיִּבְחַקֵּר תְּהוֹם,
 הַתְּהַלְכָתָּ.
- 17** Have the gates of death been revealed unto thee? Or hast thou
 seen the gates of the shadow of death?
יז הֲנִגְלוּ לְךָ, שַׁעְרֵי-מָוֶת; וְשַׁעְרֵי צִלְמוֹת תִּרְאָה.
- 18** Hast thou surveyed unto the breadths of the earth? Declare, if
 thou knowest it all.
יח הֲתִבְנִנְתָּ, עַד-רַחְבֵי-אָרֶץ; הַגֹּד, אִם-יָדַעְתָּ
 כְּלָהּ.
- 19** Where is the way to the dwelling of light, and as for darkness,
 where is the place thereof;
יט אֵי-זֶה הַדֶּרֶךְ, יִשְׁכֹּן-אוֹר; וְחֹשֶׁךְ, אֵי-זֶה
 מְקוֹמוֹ.
- 20** That thou shouldest take it to the bound thereof, and that thou
 shouldest know the paths to the house thereof?
כ כִּי תִקְחֶנּוּ אֶל-גְּבוּלוֹ; וְכִי-תִבִּין, נְתִיבוֹת בֵּיתוֹ.
- 21** Thou knowest it, for thou wast then born, and the number of thy
 days is great!
כא יָדַעְתָּ, כִּי-אַז תִּוָּלַד; וּמִסְפַּר יָמֶיךָ רַבִּים.
- 22** Hast thou entered the treasures of the snow, or hast thou seen
 the treasures of the hail,
כב הֲבָאתָ, אֶל-אֲצִרוֹת שֶׁלֵּג; וְאוֹצְרוֹת בְּרֹד
 תִּרְאָה.

- 23 Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war? **כג** אֲשֶׁר-חִשְׁכֵּתִי לְעֵת-צָר; לְיוֹם קָרָב, וּמִלְחָמָה.
- 24 By what way is the light parted, or the east wind scattered upon the earth? **כד** אִי-זֶה הַדְרָדָה, וַחֲלָק אֹר; זָפַץ קָדִים עַל-אֶרֶץ.
- 25 Who hath cleft a channel for the waterflood, or a way for the lightning of the thunder; **כה** מִי-פָלַג לְשֹׁטֵף תַּעֲלָה; וַדְרָדָה, לַחֲזוּי קִלּוֹת.
- 26 To cause it to rain on a land where no man is, on the wilderness, wherein there is no man; **כו** לְהַמְטִיר, עַל-אֶרֶץ לֹא-אִישׁ-- מִדְבָּר, לֹא-אָדָם בּוֹ.
- 27 To satisfy the desolate and waste ground, and to cause the bud of the tender herb to spring forth? **כז** לְהַשְׂבִּיעַ שָׂאֵה, וּמִשְׂאָה; וּלְהַצְמִיחַ, מִצָּא דָשָׂא.
- 28 Hath the rain a father? Or who hath begotten the drops of dew? **כח** הֲיֵשׁ-לַמָּטָר אָב; אוּ מִי-הוֹלִיד, אֲגַלִּי-טָל.
- 29 Out of whose womb came the ice? And the hoar-frost of heaven, who hath gendered it? **כט** מִבֶּטֶן מִי, יֵצֵא הַקָּרָח; וּכְפָר שָׁמַיִם, מִי יִלְדוּ.
- 30 The waters are congealed like stone, and the face of the deep is frozen. **ל** כָּאֲבָן, מֵיִם יִתְחַבְּאוּ; וּפְנֵי תְהוֹם, יִתְלַכְּדוּ.
- 31 Canst thou bind the chains of the Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion? **לא** הֲתִקְשֶׁר, מַעֲדָנוֹת בְּיָמָה; אוּ-מִשְׁכוֹת כְּסִיל תִּפְתַּח.
- 32 Canst thou lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season? Or canst thou guide the Bear with her sons? **לב** הֲתִצִּיא מַזָּרוֹת בְּעֵתוֹ; וְעִישׁ, עַל-בְּנֵיהֶם תִּנְחֵם.
- 33 Knowest thou the ordinances of the heavens? Canst thou establish the dominion thereof in the earth? **לג** הֲיַדְעֵת, חֻקּוֹת שָׁמַיִם; אִם-תִּשְׁמֵם מִשְׁטָרוֹ בְּאֶרֶץ.
- 34 Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee? **לד** הֲתִרִים לְעַב קוֹלְךָ; וְשִׁפְעֵת-מַיִם תִּכְסֶּךָ.
- 35 Canst thou send forth lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee: 'Here we are'? **לה** הֲתִשְׁלַח בְּרָקִים וַיֵּלְכוּ; וַיֹּאמְרוּ לְךָ הֲנֵנוּ.
- 36 Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? Or who hath given understanding to the mind? **לו** מִי-שָׂת, בְּטֹחוֹת חֲכָמָה; אוּ מִי-נָתַן לְשִׁכּוֹן בִּינָה.
- 37 Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can pour out the bottles of heaven, **לז** מִי-יִסְפֹּר שְׁחָקִים בְּחֲכָמָה; וַנִּבְּלֵי שָׁמַיִם, מִי יִשְׁכִּיב.
- 38 When the dust runneth into a mass, and the clods cleave fast together? **לח** בְּצָקָת עָפָר, לְמוֹצָק; וּרְגָבִים יִדְבְּקוּ.
- 39 Wilt thou hunt the prey for the lioness? Or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, **לט** הֲתִצַּוֵּד לְלִבְיַא טָרֶף; וַחַיֵּת כְּפִירִים תִּמְלֵא.
- 40 When they couch in their dens, and abide in the covert to lie in wait? **מ** כִּי-יִשְׁחוּ בְּמַעוֹנוֹת; וְשָׁבוּ בְּסֻכָּה לְמוֹ-אָרֶב.
- 41 Who provideth for the raven his prey, {N} when his young ones cry unto God, and wander for lack of food? **מא** מִי יִכִּין לְעֹרֵב, צִידוֹ; כִּי-יִלְדוּ, אֶל-אֵל יִשְׁוּעוּ; יִתְעוּ, לְבָלִי-אֶכֶל.

איוב Chapter 40

- 1 {S} Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said: **א** וַיַּעַן יְהוָה אֶת-אִיּוֹב; וַיֹּאמֶר.
- 2 Shall he that reproveth contend with the Almighty? He that argueth with God, let him answer it. {P} **ב** הֲרֹב, עִם-שְׂדֵי יְסוֹר; מוֹכִיחַ אֱלֹהִים יַעֲנֶנָּה.
- 3 {S} Then Job answered the LORD, and said: **ג** וַיַּעַן אִיּוֹב אֶת-יְהוָה; וַיֹּאמֶר.
- 4 Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer Thee? I lay my hand upon my mouth. **ד** הֵן קִלְתִּי, מָה אֲשַׁיְבֶּךָ; יָדִי, שְׁמֹתִי לְמוֹ-פִי.
- 5 Once have I spoken, but I will not answer again; yea, twice, but I will proceed no further. {P} **ה** אַחַת דִּבַּרְתִּי, וְלֹא אֶעֱנֶה; וּשְׁתַּיִם, וְלֹא אוֹסִיף.
- 6 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: **ו** וַיַּעַן-יְהוָה אֶת-אִיּוֹב, מִן סַעֲרָה; וַיֹּאמֶר.

7 Gird up thy loins now like a man; I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto Me. אָזֶר-נָא כְּגִבֹר חֲלָצִיד; אֲשַׁאלְךָ, וְהוֹדִיעַנִי.

8 Wilt thou even make void My judgment? Wilt thou condemn Me, that thou mayest be justified? ח הַאֵף, תִּפְרֶם מִשְׁפָּטִי; תִּרְשִׁיעַנִי, לְמַעַן תִּצְדָּק.

9 Or hast thou an arm like God? And canst thou thunder with a voice like Him? ט וְאִם-זְרוּעַ כְּאֵל לָךְ; וּבְקוֹל, כְּמֹהוּ תִרְעַם.

10 Deck thyself now with majesty and excellency, and array thyself with glory and beauty. י עֲדָה נָא גְאוֹן וְגִבּוֹה; וְהוֹד וְהִדָּר תִּלְבָּשׁ.

11 Cast abroad the rage of thy wrath; and look upon every one that is proud, and abase him. יא הִפֵּץ, עֲבָרוֹת אַפְּךָ; וּרְאֵה כָל-גָּאֹה, וְהִשְׁפִּילְהוּ.

12 Look on every one that is proud, and bring him low; and tread down the wicked in their place. יב רְאֵה כָל-גָּאֹה, הַכְנִיעֵהוּ; וְהִדְדָּה רְשָׁעִים תַּחְתָּם.

13 Hide them in the dust together; bind their faces in the hidden place. יג טָמְנֵם בְּעָפָר יַחַד; פְּנֵיהֶם, חִבֵּשׁ בַּטָּמוֹן.

14 Then will I also confess unto thee that thine own right hand can save thee. יד וְגַם-אֲנִי אֹדְדָךְ: כִּי-תוֹשַׁע לָךְ יִמִּינְךָ.

איוב 42 Job Chapter 42

1 Then Job answered the LORD, and said: וַיַּעַן אִיּוֹב אֶת-יְהוָה; וַיֹּאמֶר.

2 I know that Thou canst do every thing, and that no purpose can be withhelden from Thee. ב יָדַעַת (וְדַעְתָּ), כִּי-כָל תּוּכֵל; וְלֹא-יִבָּצֵר מִמֶּךָּ מְזִמָּה.

3 Who is this that hideth counsel without knowledge? {N} Therefore have I uttered that which I understood not, things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. ג מִי זֶה, מְעֲלִים עֲצָה-- בְּלִי-דַעַת: לָכֵן הִגַּדְתִּי, וְלֹא אָבִין; נִפְלְאוֹת מִמֶּנִּי, וְלֹא אָדַע.

4 Hear, I beseech Thee, and I will speak; I will demand of Thee, and declare Thou unto me. ד שְׁמַע-נָא, וְאֲנֹכִי אֲדַבֵּר; אֲשַׁאלְךָ, וְהוֹדִיעַנִי.

5 I had heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear; but now mine eye seeth Thee; ה לִשְׁמַע-אֲזוֹן שָׁמַעְתִּיד; וְעַתָּה, עֵינֵי רָאִיתִךָ.

6 Wherefore I abhor my words, and repent, seeing I am dust and ashes. {P} ו עַל-כֵּן, אֶמְאָס וְנִחַמְתִּי-- עַל-עַפְרָא וְאָפָר.

7 And it was so, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite: 'My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends; for ye have not spoken of Me the thing that is right, as My servant Job hath. {S} ז וַיְהִי, אַחֲרֵי דְבַר יְהוָה אֶת-הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה-- אֶל-אִיּוֹב; וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-אֱלִיפַז הַתֵּמַנִּי, חֲרָה אַפִּי בְּךָ וּבְשְׁנֵי רֵעֶיךָ-- כִּי לֹא דִבַּרְתֶּם אֵלַי נְכוֹנָה, כְּעַבְדִּי אִיּוֹב. {ס}

8 Now therefore, take unto you seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to My servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt-offering; and My servant Job shall pray for you; for him will I accept, that I do not unto you aught unseemly; for ye have not spoken of Me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath. ח וְעַתָּה קְחוּ-לָכֶם שִׁבְעָה פָרִים וְשִׁבְעָה אֵילִים, וּלְכוּ אֶל-עַבְדִּי אִיּוֹב, וְהַעֲלִיתֶם עוֹלָה בְּעֲדָכֶם, וְאִיּוֹב עַבְדִּי, יִתְפַּלֵּל עֲלֵיכֶם: כִּי אִם-פָּגְיוֹ אֲשָׂא, לְבַלְתִּי עֲשׂוֹת עִמָּכֶם נְבִלָה-- כִּי לֹא דִבַּרְתֶּם אֵלַי נְכוֹנָה, כְּעַבְדִּי אִיּוֹב.

9 So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went, and did according as the LORD commanded them; and the LORD accepted Job. ט וַיֵּלְכוּ אֱלִיפַז הַתֵּמַנִּי וּבִלְדָד הַשׁוּחִי, צַפֵּר הַנַּעֲמַתִּי, וַיַּעֲשׂוּ, כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר אֲלֵיהֶם יְהוָה; וַיִּשָּׂא יְהוָה, אֶת-פְּנֵי אִיּוֹב.

10 And the LORD changed the fortune of Job, when he prayed for his friends; and the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. י וַיַּחַדֵּשׁ יְהוָה, שֵׁב אֶת-שְׁבִית (שְׁבוֹת) אִיּוֹב, בְּהַתְּפִלּוֹ, בְּעַד רֵעָיו; וַיִּסְף יְהוָה אֶת-כָּל-אֲשֶׁר לְאִיּוֹב, לְמִשְׁנָה.

11 Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house; and they bemoaned him, and comforted him concerning all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him; every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one a ring of gold. יא וַיָּבֹאוּ אֵלָיו כָּל-אֶחָיו וְכָל-אֲחֵיֹתָיו וְכָל-יֹדְעָיו לְפָנָיו, וַיֹּאכְלוּ עִמּוֹ לֶחֶם בְּבֵיתוֹ, וַיִּנְדְּדוּ לוֹ וַיִּנְחָמוּ אוֹתוֹ, עַל כָּל-הָרָעָה אֲשֶׁר-הֵבִיא יְהוָה עָלָיו; וַיִּתְּנוּ-לוֹ, אִישׁ קֶשֶׁטָה אַחַת, וְאִישׁ, נֶזֶם זָהָב אֶחָד.

12 So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she-asses.

13 He had also seven sons and three daughters.

14 And he called the name of the first, Jemimah; and the name of the second, Keziah; and the name of the third, Keren-happuch.

15 And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job; and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren.

16 And after this Job lived a hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, even four generations.

17 So Job died, being old and full of days.

Elie Wiesel, "Job our Contemporary," in Wiesel, Messengers of God

God spoke to Job of everything except that which concerned Him. . . . And yet, instead of becoming indignant, Job declared himself satisfied. . . . He asked for nothing more; as far as he was concerned, justice had been done. . . . No sooner had God spoken than Job repented. . . . And so, there was Job, our hero, our standard-bearer, a broken, defeated man. On his knees, having surrendered unconditionally.

Rabbi Harold Kushner, *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*

- A. God is all-powerful and causes everything that happens in the world. Nothing happens without His willing it.
- B. God is just and fair, and stands for people getting what they deserve, so that the good prosper and the wicked are punished.
- C. Job is a good person.

Job's friends are prepared to stop believing in (C), the assertion that Job is a good person. ...Job's solution is to reject proposition (B), the affirmation of God's goodness. Job is in fact a good man, but God is so powerful that He is not limited by considerations of fairness and justice. ... Let me suggest that the author of the Book of Job takes the position which neither Job nor his friends take. He believes in God's goodness and in Job's goodness, and is prepared to give up his belief in proposition (A): that God is all-powerful...

If God is God of justice and not of power, the He can still be on our side when bad things happen to us. He can know that we are good and honest people who deserve better. Our misfortunes are none of His doing, and so we can turn to Him for help. ... We will turn to God, not to be judged or forgiven, but to be strengthened and comforted.

Rav Soloveitchik: *Kol Dodi Dofek (Fate and Destiny)*

Man's task in the world, according to Judaism, is to transform fate into destiny; a passive existence into an active existence; an existence of compulsion, perplexity and muteness into an existence replete with a powerful will, with resourcefulness, daring and imagination. We ask neither about the cause of evil nor about its purpose but rather about how it might be mended and elevated. How shall a person act in a time of trouble? What ought a man to do so that he not perish in his afflictions? The halakhic answer to this question is very simple. Afflictions come to elevate a person, to purify and sanctify his spirit, to cleanse and purge it of the dross of superficiality and vulgarity, to refine his soul and to broaden his horizons. The halakhah teaches us that the sufferer commits a grave sin if he allows his troubles to go to waste and remain without meaning or purpose.