

Recordings of previous sessions

- Audio (downloadable) - <http://www.yutorah.org/browse/browse.cfm#speaker=81072&category=234868>
- Video - http://koshertube.com/videos/index.php?option=com_seyret&Itemid=4

Basic structure of the book

- Chapters 1-2 Dialogue between Gd and Satan
- Chapter 3 Job suffers, and comes to curse his own birth
- Chapters 4-14 First round of debates: Eliphaz, Job, Bildad, Job, Tzofar, Job
- Chapters 15-21 Second round of debates: Eliphaz, Job, Bildad, Job, Tzofar, Job
- Chapters 22-26 Third round of debates: Eliphaz, Job, Bildad, Job
- Chapters 27-31 Job's closing arguments
- Chapters 32-37 Elihu's arguments
- Chapters 38-41 Gd addresses Job
- Chapter 42 Job responds, and Epilogue

- Chapter 1 Gd seeks to prove the possibility that a human being could want a relationship with Gd
Satan strikes Job's children and property; this begins the Trial of Man by Gd
Job responds by acknowledging the Divine right to all that is his
- Chapter 2 Job suffers physically
Job rebukes his blasphemous wife, but is less pious
Visitors arrive from afar, express their grief with actions, and remain in silence for 7 days
- Chapter 3 Job lashes out against his birthday/the stars
Job desires to roll back his own creation, and perhaps all of Creation
- Chapter 4-5 Round One: Does approaching Gd lead to a happy ending?
Eliphaz argues for a narrative of hope – Gd helps those who seek it
People deserve their suffering, for their wickedness
One cannot be more righteous than Gd
Eliphaz urges Job to appeal to Gd
- Chapters 6-7 New element: Job's anger at Gd
Job rebukes Eliphaz for not helping; the lack of empathy makes Job bitter
Job makes a statement about Gd:
 1. Either Job challenges Gd to leave him alone, or
 2. Job claims that Gd does not run the world, as that would be beneath Him
There is no hopeful narrative; I will turn to Gd, but in defiance, not for help
- Chapter 8 Bildad defends Divine justice
Bildad offers two plant parables:
The Thirsty Reed – Those who are wicked will perish
The Lush Plant – May be the same as the Reed, or may be describing suffering ending in prosperity, proving that the pain was actually building toward a positive end

Chapters 9-10	<p>New element: Job's desire to sue Gd in court</p> <p>A trial of Gd by Man, instead of a trial of Man by Gd</p> <p>Job rebukes Bildad; I cannot convince Gd that I am right, and Gd is hostile to me</p> <p>The world is run unjustly, and I cannot even get a day in court!</p> <p>If I were to talk to Gd, it would be to challenge Him for what He has done to me</p>
Chapter 11	<p>Tzofar says that Gd's wisdom involves hidden elements, beyond human ken</p> <p>An example of a hidden element: One may be judged for failure to fulfill potential</p> <p>Turn to Gd, and life will improve</p>
Chapters 12-14	<p>New element: Job insists that he is the pious one</p> <p>Job responds to the entire set of speakers from the first round</p> <p>You cannot convince me that there is justice in this world; you only mock me with your speech</p> <p>I will speak truth, regardless of what Gd does to me</p> <p>I am the true believer. You are false flatterers who misrepresent Gd, and Gd will punish you.</p> <p>Job wishes to bring Gd to justice in court, on three claims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1: I am righteous 2: Even if I have sinned, I am insignificant and unworthy of Your attention 3: I am temporary and lowly, and therefore I am no threat to You <p>There is no hope for a happy ending, including resurrection of the dead</p>
Chapter 15	<p>Round Two: Do the wicked suffer?</p> <p>Eliphaz tries again, arguing that Job fails to value righteousness, and is arrogant</p> <p>The wicked may not appear to suffer, but they suffer psychologically</p> <p>The wicked lack a future</p>
Chapter 16-17	<p>New elements: Gd as Enemy; A plea for empathy</p> <p>Job demands that Eliphaz stop judging him; if I were in your shoes, I would offer empathy</p> <p>Gd has become my enemy</p> <p>I demand justice from Gd</p>
Chapter 18	<p>Bildad rebukes Job, or his fellow visitors, for not listening</p> <p>Wicked people cause their own suffering</p> <p>Wicked people lose everything – as Job did</p> <p>Wicked people lack a future</p>
Chapter 19	<p>New element: An elaborate plea for empathy, companionship, and aid with his cause</p> <p>Job responds that the visitors are making him miserable</p> <p>Job feels surrounded, crushed and estranged from all around him</p> <p>Job pleads for someone to record his words, creating his posterity</p> <p>In a cryptic ending, Job says that someone, someday, will take his side – and that the visitors, and those who take their side, will be punished.</p>
Chapter 20	<p>Tzofar responds to Job's insults by becoming personal</p> <p>Wicked people suffer as a result of their wickedness</p>
Chapter 21	<p>New element: Job contends that there is no reasonable narrative for the universe</p> <p>The wicked are not punished; they thrive</p> <p>Suffering is not proof of wickedness</p>

Chapter 22	<p>Round Three: Sharp closing remarks</p> <p>New element: Actual charges against Job</p> <p>Eliphaz alleges that Job harmed the vulnerable and warped justice</p> <p>Eliphaz still says that Gd would take Job back</p> <p>Does Eliphaz truly believe the charges he is laying against Job? Or are they rhetorical?</p>
Chapters 23-24	<p>New element: Job adds a layer of complication by contradicting himself</p> <p>Job longs for a trial of Gd, but cannot get such a trial</p> <p>Job closes the speech by saying the wicked do suffer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has he changed? Is this sarcasm? • Is Job trying to confuse them? Or to send a message?
Chapter 25	Bildad briefly says that power and justice are with Gd
Chapter 26	Job agrees with the greatness of Divine might, just not with Divine actions
Chapter 27	<p>Job's Closing Address, Part I: Summary of Hatred for the Visitors</p> <p>Gd will punish your wicked flattery</p>
Chapter 28	<p>Job's Closing Address, Part II: The Search for Wisdom</p> <p>New: A rejection of the Wisdom Dialogue altogether</p> <p>Precious metals and minerals are available, but terminal</p> <p>Wisdom is not available to humans</p> <p>Wisdom is in Divine action</p>
Chapters 29-31	<p>Job's Closing Address, Part III: Summary of what Gd has done</p> <p>Life was wonderful: I helped others, and was honoured</p> <p>Now I am mocked by the lowly, and I suffer brutally</p> <p>And I do not deserve this; I have not sinned</p>