

22:15-20 Wicked people like you have always been punished

1. 22:16 16:8

2. 22:17-18 21:14-16

22:21-30 Recant and repent, and Gd will accept you back

3. Malbim to 22:22

קח נא מפיו תורה, שלא תבחר בנימוסים השכליים, רק לקבל תורה האלקית הבאה בנבואה...

"Take Torah from His mouth" – Do not opt for rational law, but only to accept the Divine Torah, via prophecy.

4. Talmud, Taanit 23a

תנו רבנן: מה שלחו בני לשכת הגזית לחוני המעגל? "ותגזר אמר ויקם לך ועל דרכיך נגה אור" – "ותגזר אמר" אתה גזרת מלמטה והקב"ה מקיים מאמריך מלמעלה. "ועל דרכיך נגה אור" – דור שהיה אפל הארת בתפלתך. "כי השפילו ותאמר גוה" – דור שהיה שפל הגבתו בתפלתך. "ושח עינים יושע" – דור ששח בעונו הושעתו בתפלתך. "ימלט אי נקי" – דור שלא היה נקי מלטתו בתפלתך. "ונמלט בבר כפיך" – מלטתו במעשה ידיך הברורין.

Our sages taught: What did the Sanhedrin send to Choni the Circle-Drawer? "And you will decree and He will uphold it for you, and upon your paths light will shine."

"And you will decree" – You decreed below, and Gd upholds your declaration above.

"And upon your paths light will shine" – The generation that was dark, you illuminated with your prayers.

"For they were low, and you declared, 'Ascent!'" – The generation that was low, you elevated with your prayers.

"And the one of low eyes, He will rescue" – The generation that was low in its sins, you rescued with your prayers.

"He will deliver those who are not innocent" – The generation that was not innocent, you delivered with your prayers.

"And he will be delivered with the purity of your hands" – You delivered him with your pure deeds.

5. Jerusalem Talmud, Taanit 3:10

"ותגזר אמר ויקם לך" - מה ת"ל "לך"? אלא אפילו הוא אמר הכין ואת אמר הכין, דידך קיימא ודידי לא קיימא.

"And you will decree and He will uphold it for you" – What is "for you" teaching? Even if He says thus and you say thus, yours will stand, Mine will not.

6. Talmud, Moed Katan 16b

"אמר אלקי ישראל, לי דבר צור ישראל, מושל באדם, מי מושל בי? צדיק, שאני גזר ומבטלה. מושל באדם, מי מושל בי? צדיק, שאני גזר ומבטלה."

"So declared the Gd of Israel, to me spoke the *Tzur* of Israel, ruler of Man, the righteous person shall rule, awe of Gd shall rule. (Samuel II 23:3)" What did he say? Rabbi Avahu said: He said: "The Gd of Israel declared, the *Tzur* of Israel said to me: I rule over Man, who rules over Me? The righteous person, for I issue a decree and he cancels it."

7. Midrash, Pesikta Rabti 3

ביום השמיני נשיא לבני מנשה (במדבר ז' נ"ד)... לא יאמר אדם איני מקיים מצות זקנים הואיל ואינם מן התורה, אמר לו הקב"ה לאו בני, אלא כל מה שהם גוזרים עליך קיים, שנאמר "על פי התורה אשר ירוך." (דברים י"ז י"א) למה? שאף עלי הן גוזרין שנאמר "ותגזר אומר ויקם לך." (איוב כ"ב כ"ה)

תדע לך, יעקב מהו אומר בשעה שהיה מברך אפרים ומנשה? "וישם אפרים לפני מנשה" (בראשית מ"ח כ') עשה את הקטון קודם לגדול, ונתקיימה גזירתו. אימתי? בקרבנות הנשיאים הקריב שבט אפרים תחילה...

"On the eighth day, the prince of Menasheh"... One should not say, "I will not fulfill the commands of the elders, since they are not biblical." Gd says to him, "No, my son, but fulfill all that they decree upon you, as Devarim 17:11 says, 'According to the Torah that they teach you.' Why? For they decree upon Me as well, as Job 22:28 says, 'And you will decree and He will uphold it for you.'"

You know this, for what did Yaakov say when he blessed Ephraim and Menasheh? Bereishit 48:20 says, "And he placed Ephraim before Menasheh." He put the younger before the older, and his decree was fulfilled. When? With the offerings of the princes, the tribe of Ephraim went first...

8. Outline of Chapters 23-24

- 23:1-2 Introduction: I am still miserable
- 23:3-9 I long to summon Gd to a trial
- 23:10-12 Gd knows that I am good
- 23:13-17 But there is no arguing with Gd, and this is why I fear Him
- 24:1-17 Why doesn't Gd punish the wicked?
- 24:18-24 *Huh?*
- 24:25 Can you prove me wrong?

9. Eliphaz vs. Job

Eliphaz's First Speech (4-5)	Job's Reply (6-7)
	I never asked for your help
People deserve their suffering	Gd has smashed me, or allowed me to be smashed
Outrage is foolish	Gd has forced my outrage
Turn to Gd for help	There is no hopeful narrative; I turn to Gd in defiance

Eliphaz's Second Speech (15)	Job's Reply (16-17)
Job, you wickedly deny the value of goodness!	Stop judging me!
Job, you are arrogant!	
The wicked suffer psychologically and lack a future	-
	Gd has become my enemy; I suffer greatly; I demand justice from Gd

Eliphaz's Third Speech (22)	Job's Reply (23-24)
Gd will not debate you, but I will	I still want the trial; Gd knows I am good, and He is ducking me
You have sinned horribly against people, saying that Gd would not notice	The wicked thrive, despite your narrative
Gd sees all, and punishes the wicked	24:18-24 – I agree?
Recant, repent, and Gd will take you back	

10. Metzudat David to 23:5

יודע הייתי מה ישיב לי כי אבין אמריו על הכל אחזור ואשיב לו:

I would know what He would answer me, for I would know His statements, and to all of it I could respond.

11. Metzudat David to 23:6

וכי יריב עמדי ברב כח בזולת שמירת המשפט? הלא בודאי לא! אך הוא ישים בי כפי הראוי בשמירת המשפט.

Would He battle me with His great force, without justice? Certainly not! He will place upon me as is appropriate within justice.