

# Job 19:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Job answered and said,

## Analysis

**Then Job answered and said** (וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה לְיַעֲנֵה, wayya'an 'iyov wayyo'mar)—This formulaic introduction marks Job's ninth and longest reply to his friends. The verb **ענה** ('anah, 'to answer') implies not mere sequential response but deliberate engagement with their accusations.

Positioned after Bildad's brief third speech (18:1-21), Job's answer in chapter 19 represents a dramatic shift from defensive argument to visceral expression of suffering. The narrative structure emphasizes Job's isolation—he must continually 'answer' accusations rather than engage in genuine dialogue. This verse introduces what becomes Job's most famous discourse, climaxing in his confession of faith in the living Redeemer (19:25).

## Historical Context

This exchange occurs in the second cycle of speeches (Job 15-21), where the friends' arguments have grown shorter and more hostile. Ancient Near Eastern wisdom literature often employed dialogue format, but Job's friends fail the basic requirement of wise counsel—listening before speaking (James 1:19).

## Related Passages

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does Job's continued willingness to 'answer' despite being misunderstood model perseverance in the face of bad counsel?
2. When have you felt compelled to defend yourself repeatedly against those who should have been comforters?
3. What does Job's formulaic response teach about maintaining dignity in suffering even when words seem futile?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֹּאמֶר: אֵי זֶה יְהוָה

**answered**   **Then Job**   **and said**

H6030

H347

H559

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