

Job 21

Chapter 21 of 42 · 34 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Job's Reply: Why Do the Wicked Prosper?

- ¹ But Job answered and said,
 - ² Hear diligently my speech, and let this be your consolations.
 - ³ Suffer me that I may speak; and after that I have spoken, mock on.
 - ⁴ As for me, is my complaint to man? and if it were so, why should not my spirit be troubled?
 - ⁵ Mark me, and be astonished, and lay your hand upon your mouth.
 - ⁶ Even when I remember I am afraid, and trembling taketh hold on my flesh.
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- ⁷ Wherefore do the wicked live, become old, yea, are mighty in power?
 - ⁸ Their seed is established in their sight with them, and their offspring before their eyes.
 - ⁹ Their houses are safe from fear, neither is the rod of God upon them.
 - ¹⁰ Their bull gendereth, and faileth not; their cow calveth, and casteth not her calf.
 - ¹¹ They send forth their little ones like a flock, and their children dance.
 - ¹² They take the timbrel and harp, and rejoice at the sound of the organ.
 - ¹³ They spend their days in wealth, and in a moment go down to the grave.
 - ¹⁴ Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways.

15 What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?

16 Lo, their good is not in their hand: the counsel of the wicked is far from me.

17 How oft is the candle of the wicked put out! and how oft cometh their destruction upon them! God distributeth sorrows in his anger.

18 They are as stubble before the wind, and as chaff that the storm carrieth away.

19 God layeth up his iniquity for his children: he rewardeth him, and he shall know it.

20 His eyes shall see his destruction, and he shall drink of the wrath of the Almighty.

21 For what pleasure hath he in his house after him, when the number of his months is cut off in the midst?

22 Shall any teach God knowledge? seeing he judgeth those that are high.

23 One dieth in his full strength, being wholly at ease and quiet.

24 His breasts are full of milk, and his bones are moistened with marrow.

25 And another dieth in the bitterness of his soul, and never eateth with pleasure.

26 They shall lie down alike in the dust, and the worms shall cover them.

27 Behold, I know your thoughts, and the devices which ye wrongfully imagine against me.

28 For ye say, Where is the house of the prince? and where are the dwelling places of the wicked?

29 Have ye not asked them that go by the way? and do ye not know their tokens,

- 30** That the wicked is reserved to the day of destruction? they shall be brought forth to the day of wrath.
- 31** Who shall declare his way to his face? and who shall repay him what he hath done?
- 32** Yet shall he be brought to the grave, and shall remain in the tomb.
- 33** The clods of the valley shall be sweet unto him, and every man shall draw after him, as there are innumerable before him.
- 34** How then comfort ye me in vain, seeing in your answers there remaineth falsehood?

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

God — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

Wrath — אַף (Aph)

Wrath, anger

The Hebrew **aph** (אַף) literally means 'nose' or 'nostrils,' idiomatically expressing wrath or anger—God's righteous indignation against sin. Yet God is 'slow to anger' (Exodus 34:6) and 'abundant in mercy.'

Spirit — רוּחַ (Ruach)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Hebrew **ruach** (רוּחַ) means spirit, wind, or breath—invisible but powerful. It describes both the Holy Spirit and the human spirit. God's Spirit gives life and empowers His people.

CROSS REFERENCES

Job 21:2 **Parallel theme:** Hebrews 2:1

Job 21:3 **Parallel theme:** Job 16:10; 16:20; 17:2

Job 21:4 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 42:11

Job 21:5 **Parallel theme:** Job 29:9; 40:4; Judges 18:19; Proverbs 30:32

Job 21:7 **Parallel theme:** Job 12:6; Psalms 17:10; Daniel 4:17. **Evil:** Psalms 37:35; Habakkuk 1:13

Job 21:9 **Parallel theme:** Job 9:34; Psalms 73:5

Job 21:10 **Parallel theme:** Exodus 23:26

Job 21:12 **Parallel theme:** Genesis 4:21; Isaiah 5:12

Job 21:13 **Parallel theme:** Job 36:11

Job 21:14 **References God:** Job 22:17; Psalms 10:4; Romans 8:7. **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 1:29

Job 21:15 **Parallel theme:** Job 34:9; Exodus 5:2

Job 21:16 **Evil:** Job 22:18. **Parallel theme:** Genesis 49:6; Psalms 1:1; Proverbs 1:10

Job 21:18 **Parallel theme:** Job 13:25; Psalms 1:4; 35:5; 83:13; Isaiah 17:13; 29:5

Job 21:19 **Sin:** Exodus 20:5; Isaiah 14:21. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 31:29; Ezekiel 18:2

Job 21:20 **Judgment:** Revelation 14:10. **Parallel theme:** Psalms 75:8; Isaiah 51:17

Job 21:21 **Parallel theme:** Job 14:5

Job 21:22 **Parallel theme:** Romans 11:34; 1 Corinthians 2:16

Job 21:24 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 3:8

Job 21:25 **Parallel theme:** Job 7:11

Job 21:26 **Parallel theme:** Job 20:11; Ecclesiastes 9:2; Isaiah 14:11

Job 21:27 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 119:86; Luke 5:22

Job 21:28 **Parallel theme:** Job 20:7. **Evil:** Job 8:22

Job 21:29 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 129:8

Job 21:30 **Evil:** Proverbs 16:4. **Judgment:** Job 20:28; Romans 2:5; 2 Peter 3:7

Job 21:31 **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 7:10; Galatians 2:11

Job 21:32 **Parallel theme:** Luke 16:22

Job 21:33 **Parallel theme:** Job 30:23; Hebrews 9:27

Job 21:34 **Parallel theme:** Job 16:2; 32:3

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