

# Job 23:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Job answered and said,

## Analysis

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**Then Job answered and said** (וַיַּעַן אֱיִיב וַיֹּאמֶר, wayya'an 'iyyov wayyo'mar)—This formulaic introduction marks Job's penultimate speech in the third cycle of dialogues (Job 23-24). Following Eliphaz's third accusation (chapter 22), Job shifts from defending himself to desperately seeking God's presence for vindication.

The verb עָנָה ('anah, 'to answer') signals Job's continued engagement despite his friends' increasingly hostile accusations. Chapter 23 represents a theological turning point—Job no longer argues with his friends but addresses God directly, longing for the divine courtroom where he can present his case. This introduction precedes Job's famous declaration: 'But he knoweth the way that I take' (23:10).

## Historical Context

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By the third dialogue cycle, the friends' speeches have deteriorated from lengthy arguments to brief accusations. Job's response reveals spiritual maturity—he no longer wastes energy on human critics but seeks the divine Judge himself, modeling the principle 'it is God that justifieth' (Romans 8:33).

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Job's shift from answering friends to seeking God model proper response to persistent false accusation?
2. When have you realized that defending yourself to critics was futile, and you needed to appeal directly to God?
3. What does Job's continued willingness to 'answer' teach about not abandoning dialogue even when misunderstood?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיַּעֲן	אֵי וּב	וַיֹּאמֶר:
<b>answered</b>	<b>Then Job</b>	<b>and said</b>
H6030	H347	H559

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