

Job Excerpts



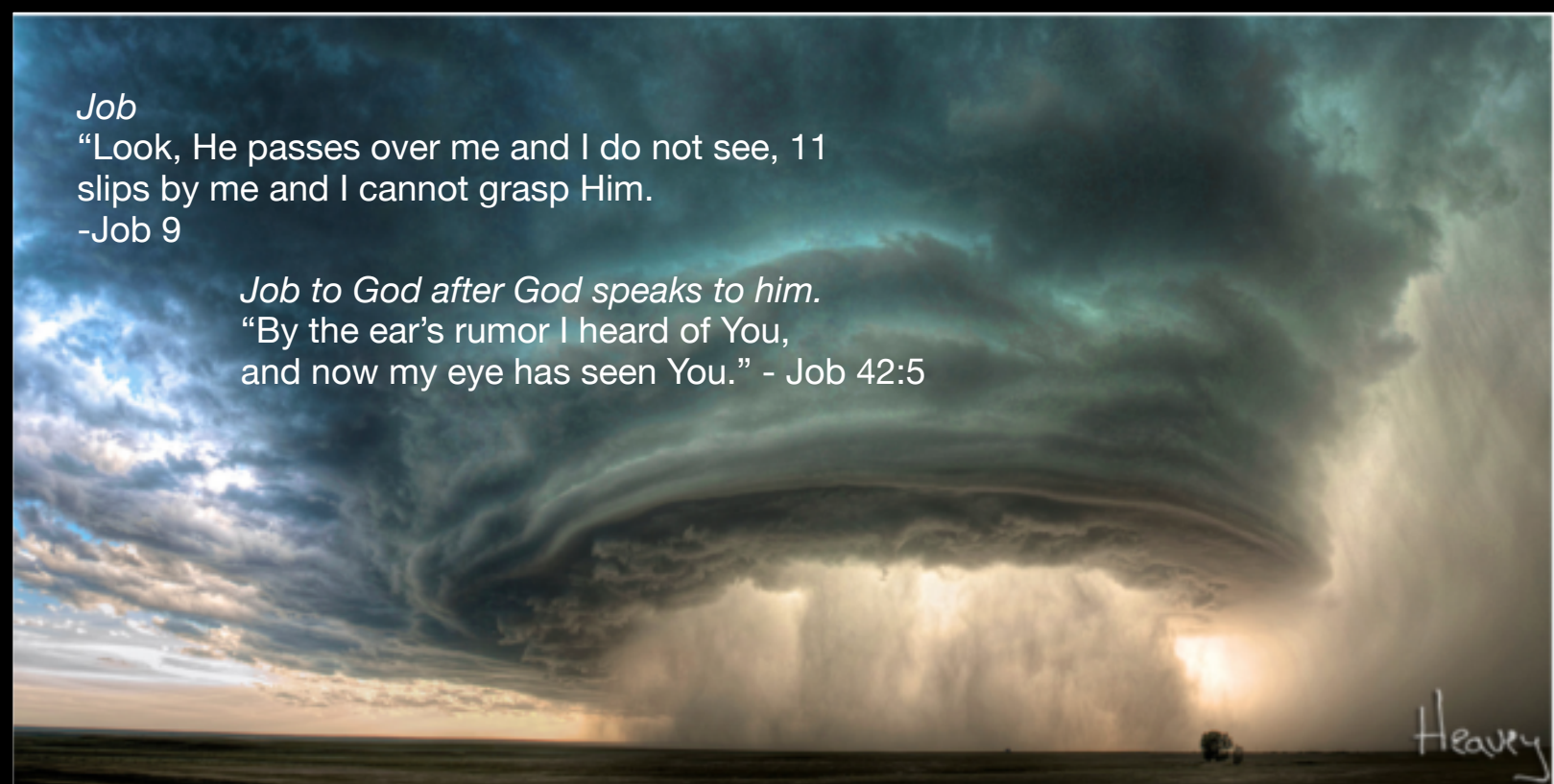
Job

"Look, He passes over me and I do not see, 11
slips by me and I cannot grasp Him.

-Job 9

Job to God after God speaks to him.

"By the ear's rumor I heard of You,
and now my eye has seen You." - Job 42:5



Job Begins To Speak

3 “Annul the day that I was born
and the night that said, “A man is conceived.”

4 That day, let it be darkness.
Let God above not seek it out,
nor brightness shine upon it.
Let darkness, death’s shadow, foul it, 5
let a cloud-mass rest upon it,
let day-gloom dismay it.

Oh, let that night be barren, 7
let it have no song of joy.
Let the day-cursers hex it, 8
those ready to rouse Leviathan.
Let its twilight stars go dark. 9
Let it hope for day in vain,
and let it not see the eyelids of dawn.

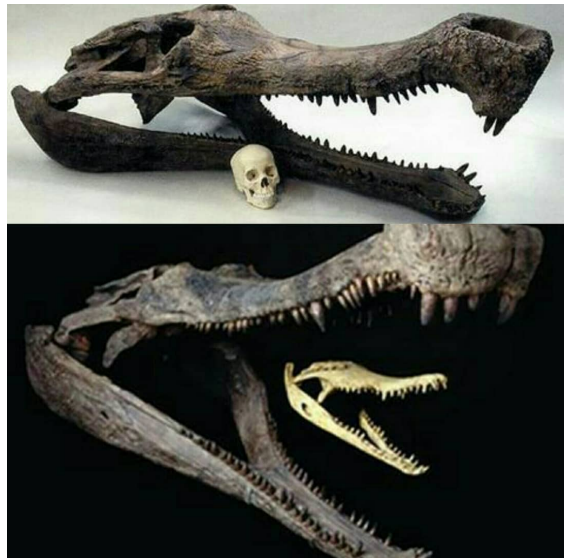
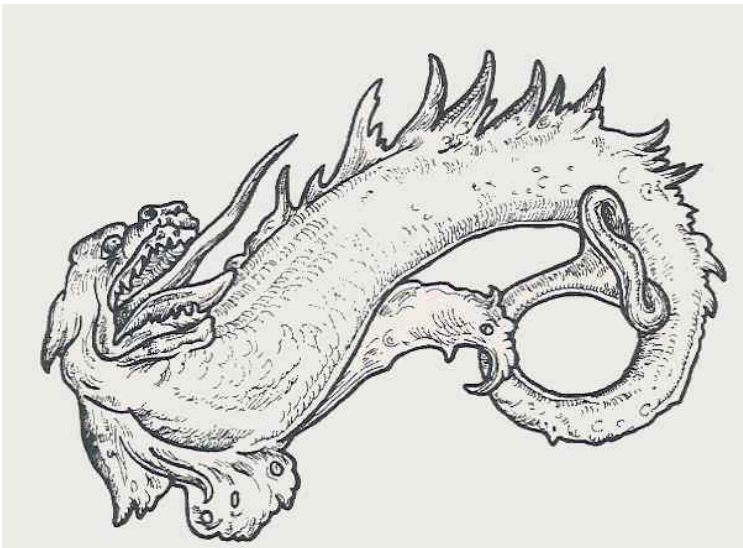
10 For it did not shut the belly’s doors
to hide wretchedness from my eyes.
11 Why did I not die from the womb,
from the belly come out, breathe my last?

Why give light to the wretched 20
and life to the deeply embittered,
who wait for death in vain, 21
dig for it more than for treasure,
who rejoice at the tomb, 22
are glad when they find the grave?

—To a man whose way is obscured, 23
and God has hedged him about.
24 For before my bread my moaning comes,
and my roar pours out like water.
25 For I feared a thing—it befell me,
what I dreaded came upon me.
26 I was not quiet, I was not still,
I had no repose, and trouble came.”

- Chapter 3

“Oh, let that night be barren,
let it have no song of joy.
Let the day-cursers hex it,
those ready to rouse Leviathan.
Let its twilight stars go dark.
Let it hope for day in vain,
and let it not see the eyelids of
dawn.” - Job 3:6-9



For God is my King of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth.
You divided the sea by Your strength
You smashed the heads of the dragons in the sea.
You crushed the heads of the Leviathan in pieces
You gave him as food to the creatures of the wilderness. - Psalm 74:12-14



Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar

Eliphaz's "Revelation"

"12 And to me came a word in secret,
and my ear caught a tag-end of it,
13 in musings from nighttime's visions
when slumber falls upon men.
14 Fear called to me, and trembling,
and all my limbs it gripped with fear.
And a spirit passed over my face, 15
made the hair on my flesh stand on end.
"It halted, its look unfamiliar, 16
an image before my eyes,
stillness, and a sound did I hear:
'Can a mortal be cleared before God, 17
can a man be made pure by his Maker?'" - Job 4

Bildad

"If your children offended Him, 4
He dispatched them because of their crime.
If you yourself sought out El, 5
and pleaded to The Almighty,
if you were honest and pure, 6
by now He would rouse Himself for you,
and would make your righteous home whole.
Then your beginning would seem a trifle 7
and your latter day very grand.
8 For ask, pray, generations of old,
take in what their fathers found out." - Job 8

Zophar

"Yet, if only God would speak, 5
and He would open His lips against you,
would tell you wisdom's secrets, 6
for prudence is double-edged.
And know, God leaves some of your crime
forgotten.
7 Can you find what God has probed,
can you find Shaddai's last end?
8 Higher than heaven, what can you do,
deeper than Sheol, what can you know?" - Job 11

Debates

Bildad

2 How long till you both put an end to words?...

3 Why are we reckoned as beasts?...

(On the wicked person)

“For his feet are caught in a net 8

and he treads on a tangle of lines.

The trap grips his heel, 9

the trip-cord seizes him.

A rope is hidden for him in the ground, 10

his snare upon the path.” - Job 18

Job

How long will you cause me grief?... 2

“If in fact you vaunt over me 5

and reprove me with my disgrace,

know, then, that God has undone me 6

and encircled me with His net.”

“Look, I scream “Outrage!” and I am not answered, 7

I shout and there is no justice.”

“13 My brothers He distanced from me,

and my comrades turned strangers to me.” - Job 19

More Excerpts of Job Speaking

“21 He pours forth scorn on princes,

and the belt of the nobles He slackens,

22 lays bare depths from the darkness

and brings out to light death’s shadow,

23 raises nations high and destroys them,

flattens nations and leads them away,

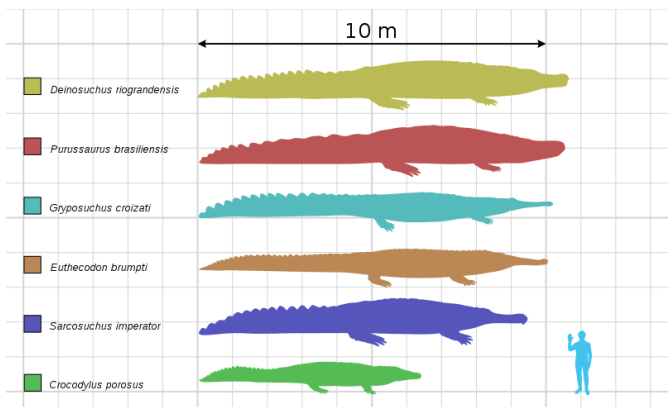
stuns the minds of the people’s leaders, 24

makes them wander in trackless wastes—

they grope in darkness without light, 25

He makes them wander like drunken men.” - Job 12

“Am I Yamm or am I the Sea Beast,
that You should put a watch upon me?
When I thought my couch would console me,
that my bed would bear my lament,
You panicked me in dreams
and in visions You struck me with terror.” - Job 7:12-14



Psalm 8:6

“When I consider your heavens, the work of
your fingers, the moon and the stars, which
you have set in place,
what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?

Job 7

“I am sickened—I won’t live forever. 16
Let me be, for my days are mere breath.
What is man that You make him great 17
and that You pay heed to him?
You single him out every morning, 18
every moment examine him.
How long till You turn away from me? 19
You don’t let me go while I swallow my spit...
...For soon I shall lie in the dust. 21
You will seek me, and I shall be gone.”

Job on Wisdom

“An end has man set to darkness, 3
and each limit he has probed,
the stone of deep gloom and death’s shadow...
A path that the vulture knows not 7
nor the eye of the falcon beholds.
The proud beasts have never trod on it, 8
nor the lion passed over it...
“21 It is hidden from the eye of all living,
from the fowl of the heavens, concealed.”

“28 And He said to man:
Look, fear of the Master, that is wisdom,
and the shunning of evil is insight” - Job 28

Job’s feelings are complex

“Why do you hound me like God, 22
and of my flesh you are not sated?
Would, then, that my words were written, 23
that they were inscribed in a book,
with an iron pen and lead 24
to be hewn in rock forever.
But *I know my redeemer lives*, 25
and in the end he will stand up on earth,
26 and after they flay my skin,
from my flesh I shall behold God.” - Job 19

Isaiah 27:1

“In that day, the Lord will punish with his sword—
his fierce, great and powerful sword

—
Leviathan the gliding serpent,
Leviathan the coiling serpent;
he will slay the monster of the sea.” -
Isaiah 27:1

Psalms 104:25-27

“Here is the sea, great and wide, which
teems with creatures innumerable, living
things both small and great.

There go the ships, and Leviathan,
which you formed to play in it. These all
look to you, to give them their food in due
season.”

Ezekiel 29:2-5

“Son of man, set your face against
Pharaoh king of Egypt and prophesy
against him and against all Egypt. Speak to him and say: ‘This is what the
Sovereign Lord says:

“‘I am against you, Pharaoh king of Egypt,
you great monster lying among your streams.

You say, “The Nile belongs to me;
I made it for myself.”

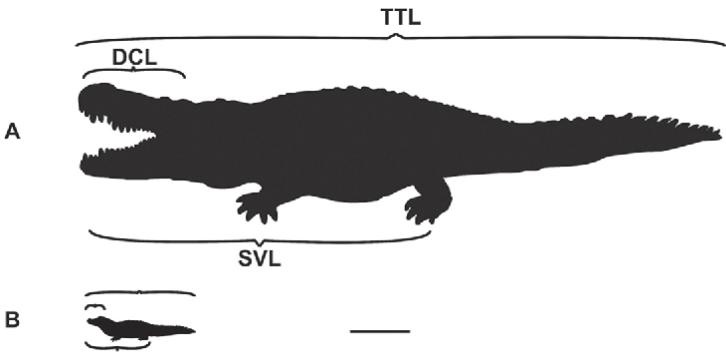
But I will put hooks in your jaws
and make the fish of your streams stick to your scales.

I will pull you out from among your streams,
with all the fish sticking to your scales.

I will leave you in the desert,
you and all the fish of your streams.

You will fall on the open field
and not be gathered or picked up.

I will give you as food
to the beasts of the earth and the birds of the sky. - Ezekiel 29:2-5



Elihu

“This flared up the nostrils of Elihu (He is my God) son of Barachel (God does bless) the Buzite (contempt/springing from prosperity/judgement) of the family of Ram (exalted) whose nostrils flared up against Job for justifying himself rather than God.” - Job 32:2

“I, too, will speak out my part,
I will speak my mind, I, too.
For I am full up with words,
the wind in my belly constrains me.
Look, my belly is like unopened wine,
like new wineskins it bursts.
Let me speak that I may be eased,
let me open my lips and speak out.” - Job 32:17-20

“For God speaks in one way
or in two, and no one perceives Him:
In a dream, a night’s vision,
when slumber falls upon men,
in sleep upon their couch.” - Job 33:14-15

“For, indeed, my words are no lie,
one perfect in knowledge is with you.” - Job 36:3

“A clear sky arrives out of the north
with God is terrible majesty.
The Almighty, He does not come forth excellent in power,
and in judgment, and in plenty of justice He will not come down.
Therefore men fear him;
for he does not regard any who are wise in heart
- Job 37:21-24

God's Introduction

(Elihu speaking)
“...A clear sky arrives out of the north
with God is terrible majesty.
The Almighty, He does not come forth excellent in power;
and in judgment, and in plenty of justice He will not come down.
Therefore men fear him;
for he does not regard any who are wise in heart’
Then The LORD responded to Job from a hurricane (whirlwind, storm)
and said:”
Job 37:23-38:1

Job and God's Poetry

3 "Annul the **day** that I was **born**
and the night that **shouted**, "A man is conceived."

4 That day, let it be **darkness**.

Let God above not seek it out,
nor **brightness shine** upon it.

Let **darkness**, **death's shadow**, foul it, 5
let a cloud-mass rest upon it,
let day-gloom dismay it.

Oh, let that night be barren, 7
let it have no **song of joy**.

Let the day-cursers hex it, 8
those ready to rouse Leviathan.

Let its **twilight stars** go dark. 9

Let it **hope for day in vain**,
and let it not see the eyelids of **dawn**.

10 For it did not shut the **belly's doors**
to hide wretchedness from my eyes.

11 Why did I not die from the **womb**,
from the belly come out, breathe my last?

Why give **light** to the wretched 20

and life to the deeply embittered,
who wait for death in vain, 21
dig for it more than for treasure,
who rejoice at the tomb, 22
are glad when they find the grave?

—To a man whose **way is obscured**, 23
and God has **hedged him about**.

24 For before my bread my moaning comes,
and my roar **pours out like water**.

25 For I feared a thing—it befell me,
what I dreaded came upon me.

26 I was not quiet, I was not still,
I had no repose, and trouble came."

- Chapter 3

1 And The LORD answered Job from the Whirlwind and He said:

2 Who is this who **darkens/obscures counsel** without knowledge?

- Job 38

4 Where were you when I founded earth?

Tell, if you know understanding.

Who fixed its measures, do you know, 5

or who stretched a line upon it?

In what were its sockets sunk, 6

or who laid its cornerstone,

when the morning stars sang together, 7

and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Who hedged the sea with double doors, 8

when it gushed forth from the womb.

when I made cloud its clothing, 9

and thick mist its swaddling bands?"

"10 I made breakers upon it My limit,

and set a bolt with double doors.

11 And I said, "Thus far come, no farther,

here halt the surge of your waves.

12 Have you ever commanded the morning,

appointed the dawn to its place,

17 Have the gates of death been laid bare to you,

and the gates of death's shadow have you seen?

19 Where is the way that light dwells,

and darkness, where is its place,

that you might take it to its home 20

and understand the paths to its house?

You know, for were you born then, 21

and the number of your days is great!

- Chapter 38

“...Let its twilight stars go dark.

***Let it hope for day in vain,
and let it not see the eyelids of dawn.” -Job 3:8-9***

***“...His sneezings flash forth light,
and his eyes are like the eyelids of the dawn.” -Job 41:18***

This verset is one of the most arresting—and daring—moves of the Job poet. He had used this altogether striking image at the beginning of the book, in Job’s death-wish poem ... Now he brings it back, not hesitating “to locate an image of exquisite beauty at the heart of terror. It is precisely this paradox that epitomizes his vision of Leviathan—a frightening and alien creature—yet, in God’s creation, also a thing of beauty.”

- Robert Alter, The Wisdom Books

***“That day, let it be darkness.
Let God above not seek it out,
nor brightness shine upon it.”
- Job 3:4***

“The last visual sighting of Leviathan is of his wake as he churns through the water and out of the field of human vision.”

- Robert Alter, The Wisdom Books

***“Behind him he leaves a shining
wake...”
- Job 41:32***

“It is notable that this whole poem, which began with the light of the morning stars and a question about where light dwells, concludes with a wake shining on the surface of the abyss.”

- Robert Alter, The Wisdom Books

