

. Job 21
New King James Version (NKJV)

. Job 21
Job's Discourse on the Wicked

. 1 Then Job answered and said:

. 2 "Listen carefully to my speech, And let this be your consolation.

. 3 Bear with me that I may speak,
And after I have spoken, keep mocking.

. 4 "As for me, is my complaint against man?
And if it were, why should I not be impatient?

. 5 Look at me and be astonished; Put your hand over your mouth.

. 6 Even when I remember I am terrified,
And trembling takes hold of my flesh.

. 7 Why do the wicked live and become old, Yes, become mighty in power?

. 8 Their descendants are established with

them in their sight,

. And their offspring before their eyes. 9
Their houses are safe from fear,

. Neither is the rod of God upon them.

. 10 Their bull breeds without failure; Their
cow calves without miscarriage.

. 11 They send forth their little ones like a
flock, And their children dance.

. 12 They sing to the tambourine and harp,
And rejoice to the sound of the flute.

. 13 They spend their days in wealth,
And in a moment go down to the grave.

. 14 Yet they say to God, ‘Depart from us,
For we do not desire the knowledge of Your
ways.

- . 15 Who is the Almighty, that we should serve Him? And what profit do we have if we pray to Him?’

- . 16 Indeed their prosperity is not in their hand; The counsel of the wicked is far from me.

- . 17 “How often is the lamp of the wicked put out? How often does their destruction come upon them, The sorrows God distributes in His anger?

- . 18 They are like straw before the wind, And like chaff that a storm carries away.
 - . 19 They say, ‘God lays up one’s iniquity for his children’;
 - . Let Him recompense him, that he may know it.
 - . 20 Let his eyes see his destruction,

And let him drink of the wrath of the Almighty.

- . 21 For what does he care about his household after him, When the number of his months is cut in half?
- . 22 “Can anyone teach God knowledge, Since He judges those on high?
- . 23 One dies in his full strength, Being wholly at ease and secure;
- . 24 His pails are full of milk, And the marrow of his bones is moist.
- . 25 Another man dies in the bitterness of his soul, Never having eaten with pleasure.
- . 26 They lie down alike in the dust, And worms cover them.

- . 27 “Look, I know your thoughts,
And the schemes with which you would
wrong me.

- . 28 For you say,
 - . ‘ Where is the house of the prince?
 - . And where is the tent,
 - . The dwelling place of the wicked?’

- . 29 Have you not asked those who travel the
road? And do you not know their signs?

- . 30 For the wicked are reserved for the day
of doom; They shall be brought out on the
day of wrath.

- . 31 Who condemns his way to his face?
And who repays him for what he has done?

- . 32 Yet he shall be brought to the grave,
And a vigil kept over the tomb.

- . 33 The clods of the valley shall be sweet to
him; Everyone shall follow him,
As countless have gone before him.

- . 34 How then can you comfort me with
empty words, Since falsehood remains in
your answers?”

