

Job 9

JPS [\[Online\]](#)

Job: How Can I Contend with God?

¹Then Job answered and said:

²Of a truth I know that it is so; And how can man be just with God?

- 3**If one should desire to contend with Him, He could not answer Him one of a thousand.
- 4**He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength; Who hath hardened himself against Him, and prospered?
- 5**Who removeth the mountains, and they know it not, When He overturneth them in His anger.
- 6**Who shaketh the earth out of her place, And the pillars thereof tremble.
- 7**Who commandeth the sun, and it riseth not; And seaeth up the stars.
- 8**Who alone stretcheth out the heavens, And treadeth upon the waves of the sea.
- 9**Who maketh the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, And the chambers of the south.
- 10**Who doeth great things past finding out; Yea, marvellous things without number.
- 11**Lo, He goeth by me, and I see Him not. He passeth on also, but I perceive Him not.
- 12**Behold, He snatcheth away, who can hinder Him? Who will say unto Him: 'What doest Thou?'
- 13**God will not withdraw His anger; The helpers of Rahab did stoop under Him.
- 14**How much less shall I answer Him, And choose out my arguments with Him?
- 15**Whom, though I were righteous, yet would I not answer; I would make supplication to Him that contendeth with me.
- 16**If I had called, and He had answered me; Yet would I not believe that He would hearken unto my voice—
- 17**He that would break me with a tempest, And multiply my wounds without cause;
- 18**That would not suffer me to take my breath, But fill me with bitterness.
- 19**If it be a matter of strength, lo, He is mighty! And if of justice, who will appoint me a time?
- 20**Though I be righteous, mine own mouth shall condemn me; Though I be innocent, He shall prove me perverse.
- 21**I am innocent—I regard not myself, I despise my life.
- 22**It is all one—therefore I say: He destroyeth the innocent and the wicked.
- 23**If the scourge slay suddenly, He will mock at the calamity of the guiltless.
- 24**The earth is given into the hand of the wicked; He covereth the faces of the judges thereof; If it be not He, who then is it?
- 25**Now my days are swifter than a runner; They flee away, they see no good.

- 26 They are passed away as the swift ships; As the vulture that swoopeth on the prey.
- 27 If I say: 'I will forget my complaint, I will put off my sad countenance, and be of good cheer',
- 28 I am afraid of all my pains, I know that Thou wilt not hold me guiltless.
- 29 I shall be condemned; Why then do I labour in vain?
- 30 If I wash myself with snow water, And make my hands never so clean;
- 31 Yet wilt Thou plunge me in the ditch, And mine own clothes shall abhor me.
- 32 For He is not a man, as I am, that I should answer Him, That we should come together in judgment.
- 33 There is no arbiter betwixt us, That might lay his hand upon us both.
- 34 Let Him take His rod away from me, And let not His terror make me afraid;
- 35 Then would I speak, and not fear Him; For I am not so with myself.