

and his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Whose donkey have I taken? Whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed? From whose hand have I accepted a bribe to make me shut my eyes? If I have done any of these things, I will make it right.”

⁴“You have not cheated or oppressed us,” they replied. “You have not taken anything from anyone’s hand.”

⁵Samuel said to them, “The LORD is witness against you, and also his anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand.”

“He is witness,” they said.

⁶Then Samuel said to the people, “It is the LORD who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your ancestors up out of Egypt. ⁷Now then, stand here, because I am going to confront you with evidence before the LORD as to all the righteous acts performed by the LORD for you and your ancestors.

⁸“After Jacob entered Egypt, they cried to the LORD for help, and the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, who brought your ancestors out of Egypt and settled them in this place.

⁹“But they forgot the LORD their God; so he sold them into the hand of Sisera, the commander of the army of Hazor, and into the hands of the Philistines and the king of Moab, who fought against them. ¹⁰They cried out to the LORD and said, ‘We have sinned; we have forsaken the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths. But now deliver us from the hands of our enemies, and we will serve you.’ ¹¹Then the LORD sent Jerub-Baal,^a Barak,^b Jephthah and Samuel,^c and he delivered you from the hands of your enemies all around you, so that you lived in safety.

¹²“But when you saw that Nahash king of the Ammonites was moving against you, you said to me, ‘No, we want a king to rule over us’ — even though the LORD your God was your king. ¹³Now here is the king you have chosen, the one you asked for; see, the LORD has set a king over you. ¹⁴If you fear the LORD and serve and obey him and do not rebel against his commands, and if both you and the king who reigns over you follow the LORD your God — good! ¹⁵But if you do not obey the LORD, and if you rebel against his commands, his hand will be against you, as it was against your ancestors.

¹⁶“Now then, stand still and see this great thing the LORD is about to do before your eyes! ¹⁷Is it not wheat harvest now? I will call on the LORD to send thunder and rain. And you will realize what an evil thing you did in the eyes of the LORD when you asked for a king.”

¹⁸Then Samuel called on the LORD, and that same day the LORD sent thunder and rain. So all the people stood in awe of the LORD and of Samuel.

¹⁹The people all said to Samuel, “Pray to the LORD your God for your servants so that we will not die, for we have added to all our other sins the evil of asking for a king.”

²⁰“Do not be afraid,” Samuel replied. “You have done all this evil; yet do not turn away from the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. ²¹Do not turn away after useless idols. They can do you no good, nor can they rescue you, because they are useless. ²²For the sake of his great name the LORD will not reject his people, because the LORD was pleased to make you his own. ²³As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right. ²⁴But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you. ²⁵Yet if you persist in doing evil, both you and your king will perish.”

Samuel Rebukes Saul

13 Saul was thirty^d years old when he became king, and he reigned over Israel forty-^e two years.

²Saul chose three thousand men from Israel; two thousand were with him at

^a 11 Also called *Gideon* ^b 11 Some Septuagint manuscripts and Syriac; Hebrew *Bedan*

^c 11 Hebrew; some Septuagint manuscripts and Syriac *Samson* ^d 1 A few late manuscripts of the Septuagint; Hebrew does not have *thirty*.

^e 1 Probable reading of the original Hebrew text (see Acts 13:21); Masoretic Text does not have *forty*-.

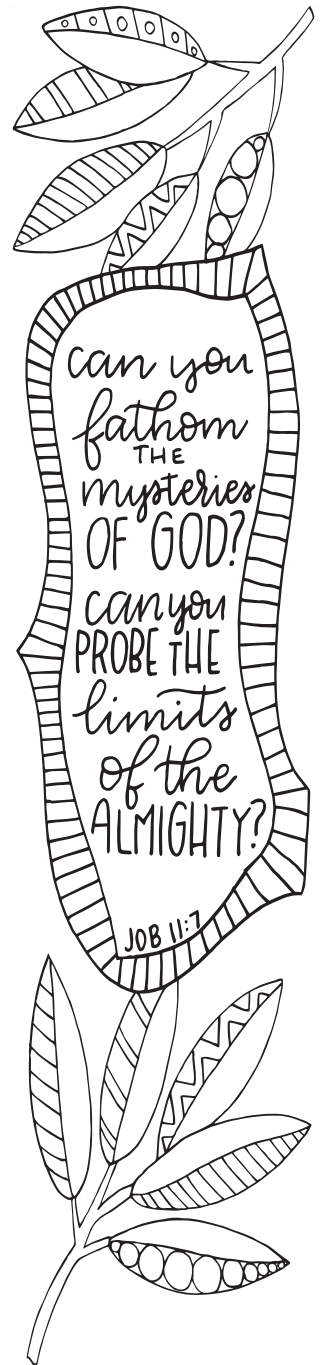


- ⁶and disclose to you the secrets of wisdom,
for true wisdom has two sides.
Know this: God has even forgotten some of your sin.
- ⁷"Can you fathom the mysteries of God?
Can you probe the limits of the Almighty?"
- ⁸They are higher than the heavens above — what can you do?
They are deeper than the depths below — what can you know?
- ⁹Their measure is longer than the earth
and wider than the sea.
- ¹⁰"If he comes along and confines you in prison
and convenes a court, who can oppose him?"
- ¹¹Surely he recognizes deceivers;
and when he sees evil, does he not take note?
- ¹²But the witless can no more become wise
than a wild donkey's colt can be born human.^a
- ¹³"Yet if you devote your heart to him
and stretch out your hands to him,
¹⁴if you put away the sin that is in your hand
and allow no evil to dwell in your tent,
¹⁵then, free of fault, you will lift up your face;
you will stand firm and without fear.
- ¹⁶You will surely forget your trouble,
recalling it only as waters gone by.
- ¹⁷Life will be brighter than noonday,
and darkness will become like morning.
- ¹⁸You will be secure, because there is hope;
you will look about you and take your rest in safety.
- ¹⁹You will lie down, with no one to make you afraid,
and many will court your favor.
- ²⁰But the eyes of the wicked will fail,
and escape will elude them;
their hope will become a dying gasp."

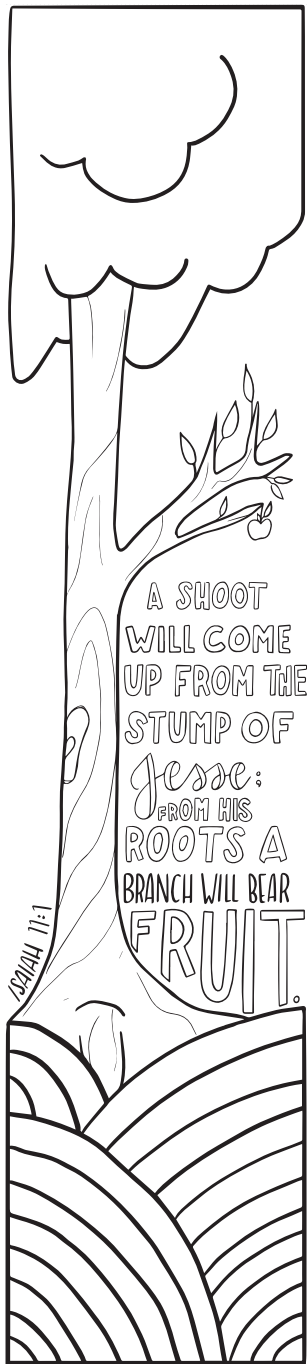
Job

12 Then Job replied:

- ²"Doubtless you are the only people who matter,
and wisdom will die with you!"
- ³But I have a mind as well as you;
I am not inferior to you.
Who does not know all these things?"
- ⁴"I have become a laughingstock to my friends,
though I called on God and he answered —
a mere laughingstock, though righteous and blameless!"
- ⁵Those who are at ease have contempt for misfortune
as the fate of those whose feet are slipping.
- ⁶The tents of marauders are undisturbed,
and those who provoke God are secure —
those God has in his hand.^b
- ⁷"But ask the animals, and they will teach you,
or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you;
⁸or speak to the earth, and it will teach you,
or let the fish in the sea inform you.



^a 12 Or wild donkey can be born tame ^b 6 Or those whose god is in their own hand



The lofty trees will be felled,
the tall ones will be brought low.

³⁴He will cut down the forest thickets with an ax;
Lebanon will fall before the Mighty One.

The Branch From Jesse

11 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him —
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD —
³and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

⁵Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling^a together;
and a little child will lead them.

⁷The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

⁹They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious. ¹¹In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the surviving remnant of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush,^b from Elam, from Babylonia,^c from Hamath and from the islands of the Mediterranean.

¹²He will raise a banner for the nations
and gather the exiles of Israel;
he will assemble the scattered people of Judah
from the four quarters of the earth.

¹³Ephraim's jealousy will vanish,
and Judah's enemies^d will be destroyed;
Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah,
nor Judah hostile toward Ephraim.

¹⁴They will swoop down on the slopes of Philistia to the west;
together they will plunder the people to the east.
They will subdue Edom and Moab,
and the Ammonites will be subject to them.

^a 6 Hebrew; Septuagint *lion will feed*
Shinar

^b 11 That is, the upper Nile region

^c 11 Hebrew

^d 13 Or *hostility*



- 52** Awake, awake, Zion,
 clothe yourself with strength!
 Put on your garments of splendor,
 Jerusalem, the holy city.
 The uncircumcised and defiled
 will not enter you again.
- ² Shake off your dust;
 rise up, sit enthroned, Jerusalem.
 Free yourself from the chains on your neck,
 Daughter Zion, now a captive.
- ³ For this is what the LORD says:
 “You were sold for nothing,
 and without money you will be redeemed.”
- ⁴ For this is what the Sovereign LORD says:
 “At first my people went down to Egypt to live;
 lately, Assyria has oppressed them.
- ⁵ “And now what do I have here?” declares the LORD.
 “For my people have been taken away for nothing,
 and those who rule them mock,^a
- declares the LORD.
- “And all day long
 my name is constantly blasphemed.
- ⁶ Therefore my people will know my name;
 therefore in that day they will know
 that it is I who foretold it.
 Yes, it is I.”
- ⁷ How beautiful on the mountains
 are the feet of those who bring good news,
 who proclaim peace,
 who bring good tidings,
 who proclaim salvation,
 who say to Zion,
 “Your God reigns!”
- ⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;
 together they shout for joy.
 When the LORD returns to Zion,
 they will see it with their own eyes.
- ⁹ Burst into songs of joy together,
 you ruins of Jerusalem,
 for the LORD has comforted his people,
 he has redeemed Jerusalem.
- ¹⁰ The LORD will lay bare his holy arm
 in the sight of all the nations,
 and all the ends of the earth will see
 the salvation of our God.
- ¹¹ Depart, depart, go out from there!
 Touch no unclean thing!
 Come out from it and be pure,
 you who carry the articles of the LORD’s house.
- ¹² But you will not leave in haste
 or go in flight;
 for the LORD will go before you,
 the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

^a 5 Dead Sea Scrolls and Vulgate; Masoretic Text *wail*