

# Speech from the Whirlwind as Religious Recovery Resource from the Babylonian Trauma

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## Handouts

### Job 38:1-11

- 38** Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:  
**2** "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?  
**3** Gird up your loins like a man,  
I will question you, and you shall declare to me.  
**4** "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?  
Tell me, if you have understanding.  
**5** Who determined its measurements—surely you know!  
Or who stretched the line upon it?  
**6** On what were its bases sunk,  
or who laid its cornerstone  
**7** when the morning stars sang together  
and all the heavenly beings[a] shouted for joy?  
**8** "Or who shut in the sea with doors  
when it burst out from the womb?—  
**9** when I made the clouds its garment,  
and thick darkness its swaddling band,  
**10** and prescribed bounds for it,  
and set bars and doors,  
**11** and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther,  
and here shall your proud waves be stopped?'

<b>Chapter 3 (Job's Lamentation)</b>	<b>Chapter 38.1-11 (Divine Speech from the Whirlwind)</b>
v.9 Let the stars of its dawn be dark; let it hope for light, but have none; may it not see the eyelids of the morning—	v.4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? v.7 when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings[Heb sons of God] shouted for joy?
v.10 because it did not shut the doors of my mother's womb, and hide trouble from my eyes.	v.8 "Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb?— v.9 when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band,

## Proposed structure and dating of the book of Job

<b>Chapters</b>	<b>1 – 2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 – 27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29 – 31</b>	<b>32 – 37</b>	<b>38 – 41</b>	<b>42:1-9</b>	<b>42:10-17</b>
<b>Description</b>	Modified extant didactic tale from Edom	Job's lamentation	Wisdom disputations with friends	Poem to wisdom	Job's monologue	Elihu's speeches	Speeches from the whirlwind	Speech from God to Job & 3 friends	Added conclusion to didactic tale
<b>Dates BCE</b>	ca. 1000 – 800, ca. 538--520	538 – 520		ca. 220 – 167	538 – 520	220 –167 (Under Seleucid rule)	53 – 520		538--520

### Job 2.9

**9** Then his wife said to him, "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse[Heb bless] God, and die."

This verse is what I refer to as the didactic dichotomy. The dichotomy is structured in a way that presents the protagonist and the audience with only one choice, the choice that is being taught in the story.

## Job 4.12-21

- 12**“Now a word came stealing to me,  
my ear received the whisper of it.
- 13** Amid thoughts from visions of the night,  
when deep sleep falls on mortals,
- 14** dread came upon me, and trembling,  
which made all my bones shake.
- 15** A spirit glided past my face;  
the hair of my flesh bristled.
- 16** It stood still,  
but I could not discern its appearance.  
A form was before my eyes;  
there was silence, then I heard a voice:
- 17** ‘Can mortals be righteous before[a] God?  
Can human beings be pure before[b] their Maker?
- 18** Even in his servants he puts no trust,  
and his angels he charges with error;
- 19** how much more those who live in houses of clay,  
whose foundation is in the dust,  
who are crushed like a moth.
- 20** Between morning and evening they are destroyed;  
they perish forever without any regarding it.
- 21** Their tent-cord is plucked up within them,  
and they die devoid of wisdom.’

Many scholars believe that these verses were moved from the end of chapter 3 to this location at the end of chapter 4. I suggest that they were moved so that the divine speech from the whirlwind in chapters 38 and following could provide a different ending to the Job's lament.