

¹Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said,²Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?³Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.⁴Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.⁵Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?⁶Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;⁷When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?⁸Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb?⁹When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it,¹⁰And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors,¹¹And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?¹²Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; and caused the dayspring to know his place;¹³That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it?¹⁴It is turned as clay to the seal; and they stand as a garment.¹⁵And from the wicked their light is withholden, and the high arm shall be broken.¹⁶Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth?¹⁷Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death?¹⁸Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth? declare if thou knowest it all.¹⁹Where is the

¹قَالَ الرَّبُّ لِأَيُّوبَ مِنَ الْعَاصِقَةِ² مَنْ هَذَا الَّذِي يُظْلِمُ الْقَضَاءَ بِكَلَامٍ بِلَا مَعْرِفَةٍ³ أَشَدُّ الْآنَ حَقُّوْنِكَ كَرَجُلٍ، قَائِلِي أَسْأَلُكَ فَتُعَلِّمْنِي⁴ أَيْنَ كُنْتَ حِينَ أَسَسْتُ الْأَرْضَ. أَخْبِرْ إِنْ كَانَ عِنْدَكَ فَهْمٌ⁵ مِنْ وَضْعِ قِيَاسِهَا. لَأَتْلُكَ تَعْلَمُ. أَوْ مِنْ مَدِّ عَلَيْهَا مِطْمَارًا⁶ عَلَى أَيِّ شَيْءٍ قَرَرْتُ قَوَاعِدَهَا، أَوْ مِنْ وَضْعِ حَجَرٍ رَاوِيَتِهَا⁷ عِنْدَمَا تَرْتَمَتْ كَوَاكِبُ الصُّبْحِ مَعًا، وَهَفَفَ جَمِيعُ بَنِي اللَّهِ⁸ وَمَنْ حَجَرَ الْبَحْرَ بِمَصَارِيحَ حِينَ انْدَفَقَ فَخَرَجَ مِنَ الرَّجَمِ⁹ إِذْ جَعَلْتُ السَّحَابَ لِبَاسَهُ وَالصَّاتِبَ قِمَاطَهُ¹⁰ وَجَرَمْتُ عَلَيْهِ حِدْيًى وَأَقَمْتُ لَهُ مَعَالِيْقَ وَمَصَارِيحَ¹¹ وَقُلْتُ، إِلَى هُنَا تَأْتِي وَلَا تَتَعَدَّى، وَهُنَا تُخَمُّ كَيْرِبَاءُ لِحَجَلِكِ¹² هَلْ فِي أَيَّامِكَ أَمَرْتُ الصُّبْحَ. هَلْ عَرَّفْتُ الْقَجَرَ مَوْضِعَهُ¹³ لِيُمْسِكَ بِأَطْرَافِ الْأَرْضِ فَيُبْقِضَ الْأَسْرَارَ مِنْهَا¹⁴ تَتَحَوَّلُ كَطَيْسِ الْخَائِمِ، وَتَقِفُ كَأَنَّهُا لِابْنَةٍ¹⁵ وَيُمْتَعُ عَنِ الْأَسْرَارِ نُورُهُمْ، وَتُكْسِرُ الذَّرَاغُ الْمُرْتَفِعَةَ¹⁶ هَلْ انْتَهَيْتُ إِلَى يَتَابِيعِ الْبَحْرِ، أَوْ فِي مَقْصُورَةِ الْعُمُرِ تَمَسَّيْتُ¹⁷ هَلْ انْكَشَفَتْ لَكَ أَبْوَابُ الْمَوْتِ، أَوْ غَايَنْتُ أَبْوَابَ طِلِّ الْمَوْتِ¹⁸ هَلْ أَذْرَكْتُ عَرْضَ الْأَرْضِ. أَخْبِرْ إِنْ عَرَفْتَهُ كُلَّهُ¹⁹ أَيْنَ الطَّرِيقُ إِلَى حَيْثُ يَسْكُنُ الثَّوْرُ، وَالظَّلْمَةُ أَيْنَ مَقَامُهَا²⁰ حَتَّى تَأْخُذَهَا إِلَى ثُجُومِهَا وَتَعْرِفَ سُبُلَ بَنِيهَا²¹ تَعْلَمُ، لَأَتْلُكَ حِينَئِذٍ كُنْتُ قَدْ وُلِدْتُ، وَعَدَدْتُ أَيَّامِي كَثِيرًا²² أَدَخَلْتُ إِلَى خَزَائِنِ التَّلْجِ، أَمْ أَبْصُرْتُ مَخَارِنَ الْبَرَدِ الَّتِي أَبْقَيْتَهَا لِيُوقِبَ الضَّرَّ، لِيَوْمِ الْقِتَالِ وَالْحَرْبِ²⁴ فِي أَيِّ طَرِيقٍ يَتَوَرَّعُ الثَّوْرُ وَتَتَفَرَّقُ الرِّيحُ الشَّرْقِيَّةُ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ²⁵ مَنْ قَرَعَ قَتَوَاتٍ لِلْهَطْلِ وَطَرِيقًا لِلصَّوَاعِقِ²⁶ يَفْطُرُ عَلَى أَرْضٍ حَيْثُ لَا إِنْسَانٌ، عَلَى قَفْرِ لَا أَحَدَ فِيهِ²⁷ لِيُزَوِّيَ الْبَلَقَعَ وَالْخَلَاءَ وَبُنِيَتْ مَخْرَجُ الْعُشْبِ²⁸ هَلْ لِلْمَطَرِ أَبٌ، وَمَنْ وَلَدَ مَاجِلَ الطَّلِّ²⁹ مِنْ بَطْنٍ مَنْ حَرَجَ الْجَلِيدُ صَفِيعَ السَّمَاءِ، مَنْ وَلَدَهُ³⁰ كَحَجَرٍ صَارَتْ الْمِيَاهُ. احْتَبَأْتُ. وَلَكِنَّ وَجْهَ الْعُمُرِ³¹ هَلْ تَرَبَّطُ أَنْتَ عُقْدَ الثَّرْيَا أَوْ تَفُكُ رُبْطَ الْجَبَّارِ³² أَنْتَ خَرَجَ الْقِتَارِلَ فِي أَوْقَاتِهَا وَتَهْدِي النَّعْشَ مَعَ بَنَاتِهِ³³ هَلْ عَرَفْتَ سُنَنَ السَّمَاوَاتِ أَوْ جَعَلْتَ تَسْلُطَهَا عَلَى الْأَرْضِ³⁴ أَنْتَ رَفَعْتَ صَوْتَكَ إِلَى السَّحْبِ فَيُعْطِيكَ قَبْضَ الْمِيَاهِ³⁵ أَنْتَ رَسَلْتَ الْبُرُوقَ فَتَذْهَبُ وَتَقُولُ لَكَ، هَا نَحْنُ³⁶ مَنْ وَضَعَ فِي الطَّخَاءِ حِكْمَةً، أَوْ مَنْ أَظْهَرَ فِي الشَّهْبِ فُطْنَهُ³⁷ مَنْ يُخْصِي الْغَيْوَمَ بِالْحِكْمَةِ، وَمَنْ يَسْكُبُ أَرْقَاقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ³⁸ إِذْ يَنْسِكُ التُّرَابَ سَبْكَاً وَتَبْلَاصِقُ الطَّيْنِ³⁹ أَتَضْطَاذُ لِلْبَوَةِ قَرِيسَةً، أَمْ تُسْبِغُ نَفْسَ

way where light dwelleth? and as for darkness, where is the place thereof,²⁰ That thou shouldest take it to the bound thereof, and that thou shouldest know the paths to the house thereof?²¹ Knowest thou it , because thou wast then born? or because the number of thy days is great?²² Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail,²³ Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?²⁴ By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the east wind upon the earth?²⁵ Who hath divided a watercourse for the overflowing of waters, or a way for the lightning of thunder;²⁶ To cause it to rain on the earth, where no man is; on the wilderness, wherein there is no man;²⁷ To satisfy the desolate and waste ground ; and to cause the bud of the tender herb to spring forth?²⁸ Hath the rain a father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew?²⁹ Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it?³⁰ The waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen.³¹ Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?³² Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?³³ Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth?³⁴ Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee?³⁵ Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we are ?³⁶ Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given

الْأَسْبَالِ،⁴⁰ حِينَ تَرِضُ فِي عَرِينِهَا وَتَكْمُنُ فِي غَائِبِهَا
لِلْكُمُونِ.⁴¹ مَنْ يُهَيِّئُ لِلْغُرَابِ صَيْدَهُ إِذْ تَنْعَبُ فِرَاحُهُ إِلَى
اللَّهِ، وَتَتَرَدَّدُ لِعَدَمِ الْقُوَّةِ.

understanding to the heart?³⁷ Who can
number the clouds in wisdom? or who can
stay the bottles of heaven,³⁸ When the dust
groweth into hardness, and the clods
cleave fast together?³⁹ Wilt thou hunt the
prey for the lion? or fill the appetite of the
young lions,⁴⁰ When they couch in their
dens, and abide in the covert to lie in
wait?⁴¹ Who provideth for the raven his
food? when his young ones cry unto God,
they wander for lack of meat.