

Eliphaz's Second Speech (c. 2200 BC)

Job 15

Eliphaz Attacks—Your Own Words Prove Your Guilt

- 1 Then answered Eliphaz the Temanite, and said,
- 2 Should a wise man utter vain knowledge, and fill his belly with the east wind?
- 3 Should he reason with unprofitable talk? or with speeches wherewith he can do no good?
- 4 Yea, thou castest off fear, and restrainest prayer before God.
- 5 For thy mouth uttereth thine iniquity, and thou choosest the tongue of the crafty.
- 6 Thine own mouth condemneth thee, and not I: yea, thine own lips testify against thee.

Eliphaz Attacks—Who Do You Think You Are?

- 7 *Art* thou the first man *that* was born? or wast thou made before the hills?
- 8 Hast thou heard the secret of God? and dost thou restrain wisdom to thyself?
- 9 What knowest thou, that we know not? *what* understandest thou, which *is* not in us?
- 10 With us *are* both the grayheaded and very aged men, much elder than thy father.
- 11 *Are* the consolations of God small with thee? is there any secret thing with thee?
- 12 Why doth thine heart carry thee away? and what do thy eyes wink at,
- 13 That thou turnest thy spirit against God, and lettest *such* words go out of thy mouth?

Eliphaz Lectures—The Sinfulness of Man

- 14 What *is* man, that he should be clean? and *he which is* born of a woman, that he should be righteous?
- 15 Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight.
- 16 How much more abominable and filthy *is* man, which drinketh iniquity like water?

Eliphaz Lectures—The Fate of the Wicked

- 17 I will shew thee, hear me; and that *which* I have seen I will declare;
- 18 Which wise men have told from their fathers, and have not hid *it*:
- 19 Unto whom alone the earth was given, and no stranger passed among them.
- 20 The wicked man travaileth with pain all *his* days, and the number of years is hidden to the oppressor.
- 21 A dreadful sound *is* in his ears: in prosperity the destroyer shall come upon him.
- 22 He believeth not that he shall return out of darkness, and he is waited for of the sword.
- 23 He wandereth abroad for bread, *saying*, Where *is it*? he knoweth that the day of darkness is ready at his hand.
- 24 Trouble and anguish shall make him afraid; they shall prevail against him, as a king ready to the battle.
- 25 For he stretcheth out his hand against God, and strengtheneth himself against the Almighty.
- 26 He runneth upon him, *even on his* neck, upon the thick bosses of his bucklers:
- 27 Because he covereth his face with his fatness, and maketh collops of fat on *his* flanks.
- 28 And he dwelleth in desolate cities, *and* in houses which no man inhabiteth, which are ready to become heaps.
- 29 He shall not be rich, neither shall his substance continue, neither shall he prolong the perfection thereof upon the earth.
- 30 He shall not depart out of darkness; the flame shall dry up his branches, and by the breath of his mouth shall he go away.
- 31 Let not him that is deceived trust in vanity: for vanity shall be his recompense.
- 32 It shall be accomplished before his time, and his branch shall not be green.
- 33 He shall shake off his unripe grape as the vine, and shall cast off his flower as the olive.
- 34 For the congregation of hypocrites *shall be* desolate, and fire shall consume the tabernacles of bribery.
- 35 They conceive mischief, and bring forth vanity, and their belly prepareth deceit.

Job's Response to Eliphaz (c. 2200 BC)

Job 16–17

Job Wishes He Could Be His Own Friend

- 16:1 Then Job answered and said,
- 2 I have heard many such things: miserable comforters *are* ye all.
- 3 Shall vain words have an end? or what emboldeneth thee that thou answerest?
- 4 I also could speak as ye *do*: if your soul were in my soul's stead, I could heap up words against you, and shake mine head at you.
- 5 *But* I would strengthen you with my mouth, and the moving of my lips should assuage *your grief*.

Job Graphically Describes How God Has Treated Him

- 6 Though I speak, my grief is not assuaged: and *though* I forbear, what am I eased?
- 7 But now he hath made me weary: thou hast made desolate all my company.

8 And thou hast filled me with wrinkles, *which* is a witness *against me*: and my leanness rising up in me beareth witness to my face.
9 He teareth *me* in his wrath, who hateth me: he gnasheth upon me with his teeth; mine enemy sharpeneth his eyes upon me.
10 They have gaped upon me with their mouth; they have smitten me upon the cheek reproachfully; they have gathered themselves together against me.
11 God hath delivered me to the ungodly, and turned me over into the hands of the wicked.
12 I was at ease, but he hath broken me asunder: he hath also taken *me* by my neck, and shaken me to pieces, and set me up for his mark.
13 His archers compass me round about, he cleaveth my reins asunder, and doth not spare; he poureth out my gall upon the ground.
14 He breaketh me with breach upon breach, he runneth upon me like a giant.

Job's Response to God's Destruction is Humility

15 I have sewed sackcloth upon my skin, and defiled my horn in the dust.
16 My face is foul with weeping, and on my eyelids *is* the shadow of death;
17 Not for *any* injustice in mine hands: also my prayer *is* pure.

Job Longs for an Intercessor Between Him and God

18 O earth, cover not thou my blood, and let my cry have no place.
19 Also now, behold, my witness *is* in heaven, and my record *is* on high.
20 My friends scorn me: *but* mine eye poureth out *tears* unto God.
21 O that one might plead for a man with God, as a man *pleadeth* for his neighbor!

Job's Thoughts Return to Death...

22 When a few years are come, then I shall go the way *whence* I shall not return.
17:1 My breath is corrupt, my days are extinct, the graves *are ready* for me.

...And He Looks Once More at His Friends

2 *Are there* not mockers with me? and doth not mine eye continue in their provocation?
3 Lay down now, put me in a surety with thee; who *is* he *that* will strike hands with me?
4 For thou hast hid their heart from understanding: therefore shalt thou not exalt *them*.
5 He that speaketh flattery to *his* friends, even the eyes of his children shall fail.
6 He hath made me also a byword of the people; and aforetime I was as a tabret.
7 Mine eye also is dim by reason of sorrow, and all my members *are* as a shadow.
8 Upright *men* shall be astonished at this, and the innocent shall stir up himself against the hypocrite.
9 The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger.

Job Sarcastically Asks His Friends to Share Their Wisdom

10 But as for you all, do ye return, and come now: for I cannot find *one* wise *man* among you.
11 My days are past, my purposes are broken off, *even* the thoughts of my heart.
12 They change the night into day: the light *is* short because of darkness.
13 If I wait, the grave *is* mine house: I have made my bed in the darkness.
14 I have said to corruption, Thou *art* my father: to the worm, *Thou art* my mother, and my sister.
15 And where *is* now my hope? as for my hope, who shall see it?
16 They shall go down to the bars of the pit, when *our* rest together *is* in the dust.

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