

## Eliphaz's Third and Last Speech (c. 2200 BC)

Job 22

### Eliphaz Accuses Job of Specific Sins

- 1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said,
- 2 Can a man be profitable unto God, as he that is wise may be profitable unto himself?
- 3 *Is it* any pleasure to the Almighty, that thou art righteous? or *is it* gain to *him*, that thou makest thy ways perfect?
- 4 Will he reprove thee for fear of thee? will he enter with thee into judgment?
- 5 *Is* not thy wickedness great? and thine iniquities infinite?
- 6 For thou hast taken a pledge from thy brother for nought, and stripped the naked of their clothing.
- 7 Thou hast not given water to the weary to drink, and thou hast withholden bread from the hungry.
- 8 But *as for* the mighty man, he had the earth; and the honorable man dwelt in it.
- 9 Thou hast sent widows away empty, and the arms of the fatherless have been broken.
- 10 Therefore snares *are* round about thee, and sudden fear troubleth thee;
- 11 Or darkness, *that* thou canst not see; and abundance of waters cover thee.

### You Cannot Escape Punishment for Sin

- 12 *Is* not God in the height of heaven? and behold the height of the stars, how high they are!
- 13 And thou sayest, How doth God know? can he judge through the dark cloud?
- 14 Thick clouds *are* a covering to him, that he seeth not; and he walketh in the circuit of heaven.
- 15 Hast thou marked the old way which wicked men have trodden?
- 16 Which were cut down out of time, whose foundation was overflown with a flood:
- 17 Which said unto God, Depart from us: and what can the Almighty do for them?
- 18 Yet he filled their houses with good *things*: but the counsel of the wicked is far from me.
- 19 The righteous see *it*, and are glad: and the innocent laugh them to scorn.
- 20 Whereas our substance is not cut down, but the remnant of them the fire consumeth.

### Eliphaz Urges Job to Repent

- 21 Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.
- 22 Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart.
- 23 If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up, thou shalt put away iniquity far from thy tabernacles.
- 24 Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust, and the *gold* of Ophir as the stones of the brooks.
- 25 Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defense, and thou shalt have plenty of silver.
- 26 For then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty, and shalt lift up thy face unto God.
- 27 Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee, and thou shalt pay thy vows.
- 28 Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.
- 29 When *men* are cast down, then thou shalt say, *There is* lifting up; and he shall save the humble person.
- 30 He shall deliver the island of the innocent: and it is delivered by the pureness of thine hands.

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

Job 23–24

### Job Ignores Eliphaz and Yearns for an Audience With God

- 23:1 Then Job answered and said,
- 2 Even to day *is* my complaint bitter: my stroke is heavier than my groaning.
- 3 Oh that I knew where I might find him! *that* I might come *even* to his seat!
- 4 I would order *my* cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments.
- 5 I would know the words *which* he would answer me, and understand what he would say unto me.
- 6 Will he plead against me with *his* great power? No; but he would put *strength* in me.
- 7 There the righteous might dispute with him; so should I be delivered for ever from my judge.

### I May Not Know Where God Is, But He Knows Where I Am—"I Shall Come Forth as Gold"

- 8 Behold, I go forward, but he *is* not *there*; and backward, but I cannot perceive him:
- 9 On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold *him*: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see *him*:
- 10 But he knoweth the way that I take: *when* he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.
- 11 My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined.
- 12 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary *food*.

**Job Believes That God Decried His Suffering**

- 13 But he *is* in one *mind*, and who can turn him? and *what* his soul desireth, even *that* he doeth.  
14 For he performeth *the thing that is* appointed for me: and many such *things are* with him.  
15 Therefore am I troubled at his presence: when I consider, I am afraid of him.  
16 For God maketh my heart soft, and the Almighty troubleth me:  
17 Because I was not cut off before the darkness, *neither* hath he covered the darkness from my face.

**Job Describes the Suffering Caused by Greed, Exploitation and Injustice**

- 24:1 Why, seeing times are not hidden from the Almighty, do they that know him not see his days?  
2 *Some* remove the landmarks; they violently take away flocks, and feed *thereof*.  
3 They drive away the ass of the fatherless, they take the widow's ox for a pledge.  
4 They turn the needy out of the way: the poor of the earth hide themselves together.  
5 Behold, *as* wild asses in the desert, go they forth to their work; rising betimes for a prey: the wilderness *yieldeth* food for them *and* for *their* children.  
6 They reap *every one* his corn in the field: and they gather the vintage of the wicked.  
7 They cause the naked to lodge without clothing, that *they have* no covering in the cold.  
8 They are wet with the showers of the mountains, and embrace the rock for want of a shelter.  
9 They pluck the fatherless from the breast, and take a pledge of the poor.  
10 They cause *him* to go naked without clothing, and they take away the sheaf *from* the hungry;  
11 *Which* make oil within their walls, *and* tread *their* winepresses, and suffer thirst.  
12 Men groan from out of the city, and the soul of the wounded crieth out: yet God layeth not folly *to them*.  
13 They are of those that rebel against the light; they know not the ways thereof, nor abide in the paths thereof.  
14 The murderer rising with the light killeth the poor and needy, and in the night is as a thief.  
15 The eye also of the adulterer waiteth for the twilight, saying, No eye shall see me: and disguiseth *his* face.  
16 In the dark they dig through houses, *which* they had marked for themselves in the daytime: they know not the light.  
17 For the morning *is* to them even as the shadow of death: if *one* know *them*, *they are in* the terrors of the shadow of death.

**Let the Wicked Be Accursed**

- 18 He *is* swift as the waters; their portion is cursed in the earth: he beholdeth not the way of the vineyards.  
19 Drought and heat consume the snow waters: *so doth* the grave *those which* have sinned.  
20 The womb shall forget him; the worm shall feed sweetly on him; he shall be no more remembered; and wickedness shall be broken as a tree.  
21 He evil entreateth the barren *that* beareth not: and doeth not good to the widow.  
22 He draweth also the mighty with his power: he riseth up, and no *man* is sure of life.  
23 *Though* it be given him *to be* in safety, whereon he resteth; yet his eyes *are* upon their ways.  
24 They are exalted for a little while, but are gone and brought low; they are taken out of the way as all *other*, and cut off as the tops of the ears of corn.  
25 And if *it be* not *so* now, who will make me a liar, and make my speech nothing worth?

*Scripture quotations are from The King James Version (KJV). The KJV is in the public domain.*