

Young Elihu's Third Speech (c. 2200 BC)

Job 35

Elihu Again Twists Job's Words

- 1 Elihu spake moreover, and said,
- 2 Thinkest thou this to be right, *that* thou saidst, My righteousness *is* more than God's?
- 3 For thou saidst, What advantage will it be unto thee? *and*, What profit shall I have, *if I be cleansed* from my sin?

Elihu's Answer—Nothing You Do Obligates God in Any Way

- 4 I will answer thee, and thy companions with thee.
- 5 Look unto the heavens, and see; and behold the clouds *which* are higher than thou.
- 6 If thou sinnest, what doest thou against him? or *if* thy transgressions be multiplied, what doest thou unto him?
- 7 If thou be righteous, what givest thou him? or what receiveth he of thine hand?
- 8 Thy wickedness *may hurt* a man as thou *art*; and thy righteousness *may profit* the son of man.

Elihu's Answer—God Does Not Hear You Because He Does Not Hear the Wicked

- 9 By reason of the multitude of oppressions they make *the oppressed* to cry: they cry out by reason of the arm of the mighty.
- 10 But none saith, Where *is* God my maker, who giveth songs in the night;
- 11 Who teacheth us more than the beasts of the earth, and maketh us wiser than the fowls of heaven?
- 12 There they cry, but none giveth answer, because of the pride of evil men.
- 13 Surely God will not hear vanity, neither will the Almighty regard it.
- 14 Although thou sayest thou shalt not see him, *yet* judgment *is* before him; therefore trust thou in him.
- 15 But now, because *it is* not so, he hath visited in his anger; yet he knoweth *it* not in great extremity:

Elihu Concludes With a Harsh Judgment against Job

- 16 Therefore doth Job open his mouth in vain; he multiplieth words without knowledge.

Young Elihu's Fourth and Final Speech (c. 2200 BC)

Job 36–37

Elihu Claims to Have Perfect Knowledge

- 36:1 Elihu also proceeded, and said,
- 2 Suffer me a little, and I will shew thee that *I have* yet to speak on God's behalf.
- 3 I will fetch my knowledge from afar, and will ascribe righteousness to my Maker.
- 4 For truly my words *shall* not *be* false: he that is perfect in knowledge *is* with thee.

Elihu's Central Message—God Uses Suffering to Turn People from Their Sin

- 5 Behold, God *is* mighty, and despiseth not *any*: *he is* mighty in strength *and* wisdom.
- 6 He preserveth not the life of the wicked: but giveth right to the poor.
- 7 He withdraweth not his eyes from the righteous: but with kings *are they* on the throne; yea, he doth establish them for ever, and they are exalted.
- 8 And if *they be* bound in fetters, *and* be holden in cords of affliction;
- 9 Then he sheweth them their work, and their transgressions that they have exceeded.
- 10 He openeth also their ear to discipline, and commandeth that they return from iniquity.
- 11 If they obey and serve *him*, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures.
- 12 But if they obey not, they shall perish by the sword, and they shall die without knowledge.
- 13 But the hypocrites in heart heap up wrath: they cry not when he bindeth them.
- 14 They die in youth, and their life *is* among the unclean.
- 15 He delivereth the poor in his affliction, and openeth their ears in oppression.

Elihu Again Urges Job to Repent

- 16 Even so would he have removed thee out of the strait *into* a broad place, where *there is* no straightness; and that which should be set on thy table *should be* full of fatness.
- 17 But thou hast fulfilled the judgment of the wicked: judgment and justice take hold *on thee*.
- 18 Because *there is* wrath, *beware* lest he take thee away with *his* stroke: then a great ransom cannot deliver thee.
- 19 Will he esteem thy riches? *no*, not gold, nor all the forces of strength.
- 20 Desire not the night, when people are cut off in their place.
- 21 Take heed, regard not iniquity: for this hast thou chosen rather than affliction.

Elihu's Description of God's Power—The Thunderstorm

- 22 Behold, God exalteth by his power: who teacheth like him?
 23 Who hath enjoined him his way? or who can say, Thou hast wrought iniquity?
 24 Remember that thou magnify his work, which men behold.
 25 Every man may see it; man may behold *it* afar off.
 26 Behold, God *is* great, and we know *him* not, neither can the number of his years be searched out.
 27 For he maketh small the drops of water: they pour down rain according to the vapor thereof:
 28 Which the clouds do drop *and* distil upon man abundantly.
 29 Also can *any* understand the spreadings of the clouds, *or* the noise of his tabernacle?
 30 Behold, he spreadeth his light upon it, and covereth the bottom of the sea.
 31 For by them judgeth he the people; he giveth meat in abundance.
 32 With clouds he covereth the light; and commandeth *not to shine* by *the cloud* that cometh betwixt.
 33 The noise thereof sheweth concerning it, the cattle also concerning the vapor.

Elihu's Description of God's Power—The Icy Blasts of Winter

- 37:1 At this also my heart trembleth, and is moved out of his place.
 2 Hear attentively the noise of his voice, and the sound *that* goeth out of his mouth.
 3 He directeth it under the whole heaven, and his lightning unto the ends of the earth.
 4 After it a voice roareth: he thundereth with the voice of his excellency; and he will not stay them when his voice is heard.
 5 God thundereth marvellously with his voice; great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend.
 6 For he saith to the snow, Be thou *on* the earth; likewise to the small rain, and to the great rain of his strength.
 7 He sealeth up the hand of every man; that all men may know his work.
 8 Then the beasts go into dens, and remain in their places.
 9 Out of the south cometh the whirlwind: and cold out of the north.
 10 By the breath of God frost is given: and the breadth of the waters is straitened.
 11 Also by watering he wearieth the thick cloud: he scattereth his bright cloud:
 12 And it is turned round about by his counsels: that they may do whatsoever he commandeth them upon the face of the world in the earth.
 13 He causeth it to come, whether for correction, or for his land, or for mercy.

Elihu's Rebuke—God's Greatness Precludes Any Attempt by Job to Present His Case

- 14 Harken unto this, O Job: stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God.
 15 Dost thou know when God disposed them, and caused the light of his cloud to shine?
 16 Dost thou know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him which is perfect in knowledge?
 17 How thy garments *are* warm, when he quieteth the earth by the south *wind*?
 18 Hast thou with him spread out the sky, *which is* strong, *and* as a molten looking glass?
 19 Teach us what we shall say unto him; *for* we cannot order *our speech* by reason of darkness.
 20 Shall it be told him that I speak? if a man speak, surely he shall be swallowed up.

Elihu's Concluding Description of God's Greatness—The Brilliance of the Sun After the Storm

- 21 And now *men* see not the bright light which *is* in the clouds: but the wind passeth, and cleanseth them.
 22 Fair weather cometh out of the north: with God *is* terrible majesty.
 23 *Touching* the Almighty, we cannot find him out: *he is* excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict.
 24 Men do therefore fear him: he respecteth not any *that are* wise of heart.

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