

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 of use to God?
Yes, can *the* wise be of use to him?
- 3 *Is* it a pleasure to Shaddai if you are righteous,
or a gain if you make your ways blameless?
- 4 Does he reprove you because of your reverence
or enter into judgment with you?
- 5 *Is* not your wickedness great,
and there is no end to your iniquities?
- 6 “Indeed, you have required a pledge from your family for nothing,
and you have stripped off *the* clothes of *the* naked.
- 7 You have given no water *for the* weary to drink,
and you withheld food from *the* hungry.
- 8 And the land belongs to the man of power,
and the favored lives in it.
- 9 You have sent widows away empty-handed,
and *the* arms of orphans were crushed.
- 10 Therefore trapping nets *are* all around you,
and panic suddenly terrifies you,
11 *or it is so* dark you cannot see,
and a flood of water covers you.

You Cannot Escape Punishment for Sin

- 12 “*Is* not God *in the* height of *the* heavens?
But see how lofty are the highest stars.
- 13 And you ask, ‘What does God know?
Can he judge through deep gloom?’
- 14 Thick clouds *are* a covering for him, so that he does not see;
and he walks about on *the* dome of heaven.’
- 15 Will you keep *to the* way of old
that *the* people of mischief have trod,
16 who were snatched away before their time,
whose foundation was washed away *by* a current?
- 17 *Those* who said to God, ‘Turn away from us,’
and ‘What can Shaddai do to us?’
- 18 Yet he himself filled up their houses *with* good *things*,
but *the* schemes of *the* wicked are repugnant to me.
- 19 *The* righteous see, and they rejoice,
but *the* innocent *one* mocks at them.
- 20 Surely our foe perishes,
and fire has consumed their remainder.

Eliphaz Urges Job to Repent

- 21 “Please reconcile yourself with him,
and be at peace; in this way, good will come to you.
- 22 Please receive instruction from his mouth,
and place his words in your heart.
- 23 If you return to Shaddai, you will be restored;
if you remove wickedness from your tent,
24 and *if* you put gold ore in *the* dust,
and *the* gold of Ophir in *the* rock of wadis,
25 then Shaddai will be your gold ore
and your precious silver.
- 26 Indeed, then you will delight yourself in Shaddai,

- and you will expect that God will be good to you.
- 27 You will pray to him, and he will hear you,
and you will pay your vows.
- 28 And you will decide on a matter, and it will be established for you,
and light will shine on your ways.
- 29 When they are humiliated, you say, '*It is pride,*'
for he saves the humble.
- 30 He will deliver the guilty,
and he will escape because of the cleanness of your 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 today my complaint *is* bitter;
my hand is heavy in addition to my groaning.
- 3 O that I knew and *that* I might find him;
O that I might come to his dwelling.
- 4 I would lay *my* case before him,
and I would fill my mouth *with* arguments.
- 5 I want to know *the* words *with which* he would answer me,
and I want to understand what he would say to me.
- 6 Would he contend with me in *the* greatness of *his* strength?
No, but he himself would give heed to me.
- 7 There an upright person could reason with him,
and I would be acquitted forever by my judge.

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

- 8 "When I go forward, he is not there,
or backward, I cannot see him.
- 9 When he works *on the* left, I cannot perceive *him*;
he turns to *the* right, but I cannot see *him*.
- 10 But he knows the way that I take;
he tests me—I shall come out like gold.
- 11 My foot has held on to his steps;
I have kept his way, and I have not turned aside.
- 12 *From* the commandment of his lips, indeed I have not departed;
I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily food.

Job Believes That God Decreed His Suffering

- 13 "But he *is* alone, and who can dissuade him?
And whatever he desires, indeed, he does *it*.
- 14 For he will carry out what he appoints for me,
and many *things* like these *are* with him.
- 15 Therefore, I am horrified because of his presence;
when I consider, I tremble because of him.
- 16 Indeed, God has made my heart faint,
and Shaddai has terrified me.
- 17 Indeed, I have not been silenced because of darkness,
and because of me he conceals thick darkness.

Job Describes the Suffering Caused by Greed, Exploitation and Injustice

- 24:1 "Why are not times kept by Shaddai,
and *why* do not *those who* know him see his days?
- 2 They remove border *stones*;
they seize flocks, and they pasture *them*.
- 3 They drive away *the* donkey of orphans;

- they take *the* widow's ox as a pledge.
- 4 They thrust *the* poor off the road;
the needy of *the* earth hide themselves together.
- 5 "Look, *like* wild donkeys in the desert
they go out to their labor *as* searchers for the prey;
the wilderness *is* their food for the young.
- 6 They reap their fodder in the field,
and they glean *in the* vineyard of *the* wicked.
- 7 They spend the night naked, without clothing,
and *they* have no garment in the cold.
- 8 They are wet from the rainstorm of the mountains,
and they cling to the rock without refuge.
- 9 "They snatch *the* orphan from *the* breast,
and they take a pledge against *the* needy.
- 10 They go about naked, without clothing,
and hungry, they carry *the* sheaves.
- 11 Between their terraces they press out oil;
they tread *the* presses, but they are thirsty.
- 12 From *the* city people groan,
and *the* throat of *the* wounded cries for help;
yet God does not regard it as unseemly.
- 13 "Those are among *the ones* rebelling *against the* light;
they do not recognize his ways,
and they do not stay in his paths.
- 14 At dusk the murderer rises;
he kills *the* needy and *the* poor,
and in the night he is like a thief.
- 15 And *the* eye of *the* adulterer waits for dusk,
saying, 'No eye will see me,'
and he places a covering *on his* face.
- 16 He digs through houses in the darkness;
by day they shut themselves in—
they do not know *the* light
- 17 because morning likewise is to them deep darkness;
indeed, they know about *the* terrors of deep darkness.

Let the Wicked Be Accursed

- 18 "He himself *is* swift on *the* water's surface;
their portion is cursed in the land.
No one turns toward the path of their vineyards.
- 19 Drought and heat snatch away *the* snow waters,
like Sheol *snatches away* those *who have* sinned.
- 20 *The* womb forgets him.
The maggot feasts on him *until* he is no longer remembered,
and wickedness is broken like a tree.
- 21 *He* feeds on *the* barren, *who* does not have a child,
and does no good to *the* widow.
- 22 Yet he carries off *the* tyrants by his strength;
if he rises up, then he cannot be certain of life.
- 23 He gives security to him, and he is supported,
but his eyes *are* upon their ways.
- 24 They are exalted a little while, then they are gone.
And they are brought low; they are cut off like all *others*,
and like *the* heads of grain they wither away.
- 25 "And *if it is* not *so*, then who can prove me a liar
and reduce my word to nothing?"