

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

Job 35

### Elihu Again Twists Job's Words

- 1 Moreover, Elihu spoke up and said,
- 2 “Do you think this *is* justice when you say,  
‘I am right before God’?
- 3 If you ask what it profits you:  
‘How do I benefit by refraining from my sin?’

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

- 4 I myself will give answer to you  
and *to* your friends with you.
- 5 “Look at *the* heavens, and see;  
and observe *the* clouds *that* are higher than you.
- 6 If you have sinned, what do you accomplish against him?  
And *if* your transgressions are multiplied, what do you do to him?
- 7 If you are righteous, what do you give to him,  
or what does he receive from your hand?
- 8 Your wickedness *affects* a person like yourself,  
and your righteousness *affects* humans.

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

- 9 “Because of *the* multitude of oppressions, they cry out;  
they cry for help because of *the* arm of *the* mighty.
- 10 But no one says, ‘Where *is* God my Maker,  
*who* gives songs in the night,  
11 *who* teaches us more than *the* animals of *the* earth  
and makes us wiser than the birds of the heavens?’
- 12 There they cry out, but he does not answer  
because of the pride of evildoers.
- 13 “Surely God does not hear an empty plea,  
and Shaddai does not regard it.
- 14 How much less *when* you say *that* you do not see him,  
that *the* case *is* before him, and you are waiting for him!
- 15 But now, because his anger does not punish,  
and he does not acknowledge the transgression at all,

### Elihu Concludes With a Harsh Judgment against Job

- 16 therefore Job opens his mouth in empty talk—  
without knowledge he multiplies words.”

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

Job 36–37

### Elihu Claims to Have Perfect Knowledge

- 36:1 Then Elihu continued and said,
- 2 “Bear with me a little longer, and I will explain,  
for I still have something to say on God's behalf.
- 3 I will bring my knowledge from far away,  
and I will ascribe righteousness to my maker,  
4 for truly my words *are* not falsehood;  
*one who has* perfect knowledge *is* with you.

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

- 5 Look, God *is* mighty but does not despise *anyone*;

*he is mighty and good* in understanding.

- 6 He does not keep *the* wicked alive  
but grants justice *to the* afflicted.
- 7 He does not withdraw his eyes from *the* righteous,  
but he sets them forever with kings on the throne, and they are exalted.
- 8 “And if *they* are tied up with fetters,  
*if* they are caught in *the* cords of misery,  
9 then he declares their work to them,  
and their transgressions, that they are behaving arrogantly.
- 10 So he opens their ear to the discipline,  
and he commands that they return from mischief.
- 11 If they listen and serve *him*,  
they complete their days in prosperity and their years in pleasantness.
- 12 But if they do not listen, they perish by *the* sword,  
and they pass away without knowledge.
- 13 And *the* godless of heart cherish anger;  
they do not cry for help when he binds them.
- 14 They die in their youth,  
and their life *ends* among the male shrine prostitutes.
- 15 He delivers *the* afflicted by his misery,  
and he opens their ears by the adversity.

#### **Elihu Again Urges Job to Repent**

- 16 And what’s more, he allured you out of distress  
*into* a broad place, *where* in place of it *was* no constraint;  
and *what* was set on your table is full of fatness.
- 17 But you are obsessed with *the* judgment of *the* wicked;  
judgment and justice take hold of you.
- 18 Yes, *it is* wrath, so that it will not incite you into mockery;  
and do not let *the* ransom’s greatness turn you aside.
- 19 Will your cry for help sustain *you* without distress,  
or all *the* efforts of *your* strength?
- 20 You must not long for the night,  
to cut off people in their place.
- 21 Take care, you must not turn to mischief,  
for because of this you have been tried by misery.

#### **Elihu’s Description of God’s Power—The Thunderstorm**

- 22 “Look, God is exalted in his power;  
who *is* a teacher like him?
- 23 Who has prescribed his way for him?  
Or who says, ‘You have done wrong’?
- 24 Remember that you should extol his work,  
*of* which people have sung.
- 25 All human beings have looked on it;  
everyone watches from afar.
- 26 “Look, God *is* exalted, and we do not know *him*;  
the number of his years is unsearchable.
- 27 Indeed, he draws up *the* drops of water;  
he distills *the* rain into its mist,  
28 which *the* clouds pour down;  
they shower abundantly on human beings.
- 29 “Moreover, can anyone understand *the* spreading of clouds,  
*the* thundering of his dwelling place?
- 30 Look, he scatters his lightning around him,  
and he covers the roots of the sea.
- 31 Indeed, he judges people by them;  
he gives food in abundance.

- 32 He covers *his* hands *with* lightning,  
and he commands it the place at *which* to strike.
- 33 His thundering tells about him;  
*the* livestock also *tell* concerning what rises.

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

- 37:1 "About this also my heart trembles,  
and it leaps from its place.
- 2 Listen carefully to his voice's thunder  
and *the* rumbling *that* goes out from his mouth.
- 3 He lets it loose under all the heavens,  
and his lightning to the earth's corners.
- 4 After it, his voice roars;  
it thunders with his majestic voice,  
and he does not restrain it when his voice is heard.
- 5 "God thunders with his voice in marvelous ways;  
he does great things, and we cannot comprehend.
- 6 For to the snow he says, 'Fall *on the* earth';  
and the shower of rain, his heavy shower of rain—  
7 he stops all human beings from working  
so that everyone whom he has made may know it.
- 8 Then *the* animal goes into *its* den,  
and it remains in its den.
- 9 "*The* storm wind comes from its chamber  
and cold from *the* north wind.
- 10 By God's breath, ice is given,  
and *the* broad waters *are* frozen.
- 11 Also, he loads down thick clouds with moisture;  
his lightning scatters *the* clouds.
- 12 And they turn around by his guidance  
to accomplish all that he has commanded them  
on *the* face of the habitable world.
- 13 Whether as correction or for his land,  
or as loyal love, he lets it happen.

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

- 14 "Hear this, Job;  
stand *still* and consider carefully God's wondrous works.
- 15 Do you know how God commands them  
and *how* he causes his cloud's lightning to shine?
- 16 Do you know about the hovering of the clouds,  
the marvelous works of the one with perfect knowledge?
- 17 *You* whose garments *are* hot,  
when *the* earth is being still because of *the* south wind,  
18 with him can you spread out *the* skies,  
hard as a molten mirror?
- 19 "Teach us what we should say to him;  
we cannot draw up our case because of *the* presence of darkness.
- 20 Should he be told that I want to speak?  
Or did a man say that he would be communicated with?

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

- 21 So then, they do not look at the light *when it is* bright in the skies,  
when *the* wind has passed and has cleansed them.
- 22 From *the* north comes gold—  
awesome majesty *is* around God.
- 23 *As for* Shaddai, we cannot attain him;  
*he is* exalted *in* power,

and he does not oppress justice and abundant righteousness.

24 Therefore people revered him;

he does not regard any who think that they are wise.”

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