

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

Job 22

Eliphaz Accuses Job of Specific Sins

- 1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite responded,
- 2 "Can a vigorous man be of use to God,
Or a wise man be useful to himself?
- 3 "Is there any pleasure to the Almighty if you are righteous,
Or profit if you make your ways perfect?
- 4 "Is it because of your reverence that He reproves you,
That He enters into judgment against you?
- 5 "Is not your wickedness great,
And your iniquities without end?
- 6 "For you have taken pledges of your brothers without cause,
And stripped men naked.
- 7 "To the weary you have given no water to drink,
And from the hungry you have withheld bread.
- 8 "But the earth belongs to the mighty man,
And the honorable man dwells in it.
- 9 "You have sent widows away empty,
And the strength of the orphans has been crushed.
- 10 "Therefore snares surround you,
And sudden dread terrifies you,
- 11 Or darkness, so that you cannot see,
And an abundance of water covers you.

You Cannot Escape Punishment for Sin

- 12 "Is not God *in* the height of heaven?
Look also at the distant stars, how high they are!
- 13 "You say, 'What does God know?
Can He judge through the thick darkness?
- 14 'Clouds are a hiding place for Him, so that He cannot see;
And He walks on the vault of heaven.'
- 15 "Will you keep to the ancient path
Which wicked men have trod,
- 16 Who were snatched away before their time,
Whose foundations were washed away by a river?
- 17 "They said to God, 'Depart from us!'
And 'What can the Almighty do to them?'
- 18 "Yet He filled their houses with good *things*;
But the counsel of the wicked is far from me.
- 19 "The righteous see and are glad,
And the innocent mock them,
- 20 *Saying*, 'Truly our adversaries are cut off,
And their abundance the fire has consumed.'

Eliphaz Urges Job to Repent

- 21 "Yield now and be at peace with Him;
Thereby good will come to you.
- 22 "Please receive instruction from His mouth
And establish His words in your heart.
- 23 "If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored;
If you remove unrighteousness far from your tent,
- 24 And place *your* gold in the dust,
And *the gold of* Ophir among the stones of the brooks,
- 25 Then the Almighty will be your gold
And choice silver to you.
- 26 "For then you will delight in the Almighty
And lift up your face to God.

- 27 “You will pray to Him, and He will hear you;
And you will pay your vows.
- 28 “You will also decree a thing, and it will be established for you;
And light will shine on your ways.
- 29 “When you are cast down, you will speak with confidence,
And the humble person He will save.
- 30 “He will deliver one who is not innocent,
And he will be delivered through 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 replied,

- 2 “Even today my complaint is rebellion;
His hand is heavy despite my groaning.
- 3 “Oh that I knew where I might find Him,
That I might come to His seat!
- 4 “I would present *my* case before Him
And fill my mouth with arguments.
- 5 “I would learn the words *which* He would answer,
And perceive what He would say to me.
- 6 “Would He contend with me by the greatness of *His* power?
No, surely He would pay attention to me.
- 7 “There the upright would reason with Him;
And I would be delivered forever 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 When He acts on the left, I cannot behold *Him*;
He turns on the right, I cannot see Him.
- 10 “But He knows the way I take;
When He has tried me,
I shall come forth as gold.
- 11 “My foot has held fast to His path;
I have kept His way and not turned aside.
- 12 “I have not departed from the command of His lips;
I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.

Job Believes That God Decreed His Suffering

- 13 “But He is unique and who can turn Him?
And *what* His soul desires, that He does.
- 14 “For He performs what is appointed for me,
And many such *decrees* are with Him.
- 15 “Therefore, I would be dismayed at His presence;
When I consider, I am terrified of Him.
- 16 “*It is* God *who* has made my heart faint,
And the Almighty *who* has dismayed me,
- 17 But I am not silenced by the darkness,
Nor deep gloom *which* covers me.

Job Describes the Suffering Caused by Greed, Exploitation and Injustice

- 24:1 “Why are times not stored up by the Almighty,
And why do those who know Him not see His days?
- 2 “Some remove the landmarks;
They seize and devour flocks.
- 3 “They drive away the donkeys of the orphans;
They take the widow’s ox for a pledge.

- 4 “They push the needy aside from the road;
The poor of the land are made to hide themselves altogether.
- 5 “Behold, as wild donkeys in the wilderness
They go forth seeking food in their activity,
As bread for *their* children in the desert.
- 6 “They harvest their fodder in the field
And glean the vineyard of the wicked.
- 7 “They spend the night naked, without clothing,
And have no covering against the cold.
- 8 “They are wet with the mountain rains
And hug the rock for want of a shelter.
- 9 “Others snatch the orphan from the breast,
And against the poor they take a pledge.
- 10 “They cause *the poor* to go about naked without clothing,
And they take away the sheaves from the hungry.
- 11 “Within the walls they produce oil;
They tread wine presses but thirst.
- 12 “From the city men groan,
And the souls of the wounded cry out;
Yet God does not pay attention to folly.
- 13 “Others have been with those who rebel against the light;
They do not want to know its ways
Nor abide in its paths.
- 14 “The murderer arises at dawn;
He kills the poor and the needy,
And at night he is as a thief.
- 15 “The eye of the adulterer waits for the twilight,
Saying, ‘No eye will see me.’
And he disguises his face.
- 16 “In the dark they dig into houses,
They shut themselves up by day;
They do not know the light.
- 17 “For the morning is the same to him as thick darkness,
For he is familiar with the terrors of thick darkness.

Let the Wicked Be Accursed

- 18 “They are insignificant on the surface of the water;
Their portion is cursed on the earth.
They do not turn toward the vineyards.
- 19 “Drought and heat consume the snow waters,
So does Sheol those who have sinned.
- 20 “A mother will forget him;
The worm feeds sweetly till he is no longer remembered.
And wickedness will be broken like a tree.
- 21 “He wrongs the barren woman
And does no good for the widow.
- 22 “But He drags off the valiant by His power;
He rises, but no one has assurance of life.
- 23 “He provides them with security, and they are supported;
And His eyes are on their ways.
- 24 “They are exalted a little while, then they are gone;
Moreover, they are brought low and like everything gathered up;
Even like the heads of grain they are cut off.
- 25 “Now if it is not so, who can prove me a liar,
And make my speech worthless?”