

Eliphaz's Second Speech (c. 2200 BC)

Job 15

Eliphaz Attacks—Your Own Words Prove Your Guilt

- 1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite responded,
- 2 “Should a wise man answer with windy knowledge
And fill himself with the east wind?
- 3 “Should he argue with useless talk,
Or with words which are not profitable?
- 4 “Indeed, you do away with reverence
And hinder meditation before God.
- 5 “For your guilt teaches your mouth,
And you choose the language of the crafty.
- 6 “Your own mouth condemns you, and not I;
And your own lips testify against you.

Eliphaz Attacks—Who Do You Think You Are?

- 7 “Were you the first man to be born,
Or were you brought forth before the hills?
- 8 “Do you hear the secret counsel of God,
And limit wisdom to yourself?
- 9 “What do you know that we do not know?
What do you understand that we do not?
- 10 “Both the gray-haired and the aged are among us,
Older than your father.
- 11 “Are the consolations of God too small for you,
Even the word *spoken* gently with you?
- 12 “Why does your heart carry you away?
And why do your eyes flash,
- 13 That you should turn your spirit against God
And allow *such* words to go out of your mouth?

Eliphaz Lectures—The Sinfulness of Man

- 14 “What is man, that he should be pure,
Or he who is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?
- 15 “Behold, He puts no trust in His holy ones,
And the heavens are not pure in His sight;
- 16 How much less one who is detestable and corrupt,
Man, who drinks iniquity like water!

Eliphaz Lectures—The Fate of the Wicked

- 17 “I will tell you, listen to me;
And what I have seen I will also declare;
- 18 What wise men have told,
And have not concealed from their fathers,
- 19 To whom alone the land was given,
And no alien passed among them.
- 20 “The wicked man writhes in pain all *his* days,

And numbered are the years stored up for the ruthless.

- 21 “Sounds of terror are in his ears;
While at peace the destroyer comes upon him.
- 22 “He does not believe that he will return from darkness,
And he is destined for the sword.
- 23 “He wanders about for food, saying, ‘Where is it?’
He knows that a day of darkness is at hand.
- 24 “Distress and anguish terrify him,
They overpower him like a king ready for the attack,
- 25 Because he has stretched out his hand against God
And conducts himself arrogantly against the Almighty.
- 26 “He rushes headlong at Him
With his massive shield.
- 27 “For he has covered his face with his fat
And made his thighs heavy with flesh.
- 28 “He has lived in desolate cities,
In houses no one would inhabit,
Which are destined to become ruins.
- 29 “He will not become rich, nor will his wealth endure;
And his grain will not bend down to the ground.
- 30 “He will not escape from darkness;
The flame will wither his shoots,
And by the breath of His mouth he will go away.
- 31 “Let him not trust in emptiness, deceiving himself;
For emptiness will be his reward.
- 32 “It will be accomplished before his time,
And his palm branch will not be green.
- 33 “He will drop off his unripe grape like the vine,
And will cast off his flower like the olive tree.
- 34 “For the company of the godless is barren,
And fire consumes the tents of the corrupt.
- 35 “They conceive mischief and bring forth iniquity,
And their mind prepares deception.”

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

Job 16–17

Job Wishes He Could Be His Own Friend

16:1 Then Job answered,

- 2 “I have heard many such things;
Sorry comforters are you all.
- 3 “Is there *no* limit to windy words?
Or what plagues you that you answer?
- 4 “I too could speak like you,
If I were in your place.
I could compose words against you
And shake my head at you.
- 5 “I could strengthen you with my mouth,

And the solace of my lips could lessen *your pain*.

Job Graphically Describes How God Has Treated Him

- 6 “If I speak, my pain is not lessened,
And if I hold back, what has left me?
7 “But now He has exhausted me;
You have laid waste all my company.
8 “You have shriveled me up,
It has become a witness;
And my leanness rises up against me,
It testifies to my face.
9 “His anger has torn me and hunted me down,
He has gnashed at me with His teeth;
My adversary glares at me.
10 “They have gaped at me with their mouth,
They have slapped me on the cheek with contempt;
They have massed themselves against me.
11 “God hands me over to ruffians
And tosses me into the hands of the wicked.
12 “I was at ease, but He shattered me,
And He has grasped me by the neck and shaken me to pieces;
He has also set me up as His target.
13 “His arrows surround me.
Without mercy He splits my kidneys open;
He pours out my gall on the ground.
14 “He breaks through me with breach after breach;
He runs at me like a warrior.

Job’s Response to God’s Destruction Is Humility

- 15 “I have sewed sackcloth over my skin
And thrust my horn in the dust.
16 “My face is flushed from weeping,
And deep darkness is on my eyelids,
17 Although there is no violence in my hands,
And my prayer is pure.

Job Longs for an Intercessor Between Him and God

- 18 “O earth, do not cover my blood,
And let there be no *resting* place for my cry.
19 “Even now, behold, my witness is in heaven,
And my advocate is on high.
20 “My friends are my scoffers;
My eye weeps to God.
21 “O that a man might plead with God
As a man with his neighbor!

Job’s Thoughts Return to Death...

- 22 “For when a few years are past,
I shall go the way of no return.

17:1 “My spirit is broken, my days are extinguished,
The grave is *ready* for me.

...And He Looks Once More at His Friends

- 2 “Surely mockers are with me,
And my eye gazes on their provocation.
- 3 “Lay down, now, a pledge for me with Yourself;
Who is there that will be my guarantor?
- 4 “For You have kept their heart from understanding,
Therefore You will not exalt *them*.
- 5 “He who informs against friends for a share *of the spoil*,
The eyes of his children also will languish.
- 6 “But He has made me a byword of the people,
And I am one at whom men spit.
- 7 “My eye has also grown dim because of grief,
And all my members are as a shadow.
- 8 “The upright will be appalled at this,
And the innocent will stir up himself against the godless.
- 9 “Nevertheless the righteous will hold to his way,
And he who has clean hands will grow stronger and stronger.

Job Sarcastically Asks His Friends to Share Their Wisdom

- 10 “But come again all of you now,
For I do not find a wise man among you.
- 11 “My days are past, my plans are torn apart,
Even the wishes of my heart.
- 12 “They make night into day, *saying*,
‘The light is near,’ in the presence of darkness.
- 13 “If I look for Sheol as my home,
I make my bed in the darkness;
- 14 If I call to the pit, ‘You are my father’;
To the worm, ‘my mother and my sister’;
- 15 Where now is my hope?
And who regards my hope?
- 16 “Will it go down with me to Sheol?
Shall we together go down into the dust?”

Bildad’s Second Speech (c. 2200 BC)

Job 18

Bildad Criticizes Job Harshly

- 1 Then Bildad the Shuhite responded,
- 2 “How long will you hunt for words?
Show understanding and then we can talk.
- 3 “Why are we regarded as beasts,
As stupid in your eyes?
- 4 “O you who tear yourself in your anger—
For your sake is the earth to be abandoned,

Or the rock to be moved from its place?

Bildad’s Claim—The Wicked are Dogged by Calamity

- 5 “Indeed, the light of the wicked goes out,
And the flame of his fire gives no light.
- 6 “The light in his tent is darkened,
And his lamp goes out above him.
- 7 “His vigorous stride is shortened,
And his own scheme brings him down.
- 8 “For he is thrown into the net by his own feet,
And he steps on the webbing.
- 9 “A snare seizes *him* by the heel,
And a trap snaps shut on him.
- 10 “A noose for him is hidden in the ground,
And a trap for him on the path.
- 11 “All around terrors frighten him,
And harry him at every step.
- 12 “His strength is famished,
And calamity is ready at his side.
- 13 “His skin is devoured by disease,
The firstborn of death devours his limbs.
- 14 “He is torn from the security of his tent,
And they march him before the king of terrors.
- 15 “There dwells in his tent nothing of his;
Brimstone is scattered on his habitation.
- 16 “His roots are dried below,
And his branch is cut off above.
- 17 “Memory of him perishes from the earth,
And he has no name abroad.
- 18 “He is driven from light into darkness,
And chased from the inhabited world.
- 19 “He has no offspring or posterity among his people,
Nor any survivor where he sojourned.
- 20 “Those in the west are appalled at his fate,
And those in the east are seized with horror.
- 21 “Surely such are the dwellings of the wicked,
And this is the place of him who does not know God.”

Job’s Response to Bildad (c. 2200 BC)

Job 19

Job Bitterly Accuses His Friends of Tormenting Him

- 1 Then Job responded,
- 2 “How long will you torment me
And crush me with words?
- 3 “These ten times you have insulted me;
You are not ashamed to wrong me.
- 4 “Even if I have truly erred,

My error lodges with me.

- 5 “If indeed you vaunt yourselves against me
And prove my disgrace to me,
6 Know then that God has wronged me
And has closed His net around me.

Job Complains that Nobody Helps Him

- 7 “Behold, I cry, ‘Violence!’ but I get no answer;
I shout for help, but there is no justice.
8 “He has walled up my way so that I cannot pass,
And He has put darkness on my paths.
9 “He has stripped my honor from me
And removed the crown from my head.
10 “He breaks me down on every side, and I am gone;
And He has uprooted my hope like a tree.
11 “He has also kindled His anger against me
And considered me as His enemy.
12 “His troops come together,
And build up their way against me
And camp around my tent.

Job Feels Isolated and Alone

- 13 “He has removed my brothers far from me,
And my acquaintances are completely estranged from me.
14 “My relatives have failed,
And my intimate friends have forgotten me.
15 “Those who live in my house and my maids consider me a stranger.
I am a foreigner in their sight.
16 “I call to my servant, but he does not answer;
I have to implore him with my mouth.
17 “My breath is offensive to my wife,
And I am loathsome to my own brothers.
18 “Even young children despise me;
I rise up and they speak against me.
19 “All my associates abhor me,
And those I love have turned against me.
20 “My bone clings to my skin and my flesh,
And I have escaped *only* by the skin of my teeth.

Job Cries Out for Mercy

- 21 “Pity me, pity me, O you my friends,
For the hand of God has struck me.
22 “Why do you persecute me as God *does*,
And are not satisfied with my flesh?

Job’s Certainty of Vindication—I Shall See God!

- 23 “Oh that my words were written!
Oh that they were inscribed in a book!
24 “That with an iron stylus and lead

They were engraved in the rock forever!

- 25 “As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,
And at the last He will take His stand on the earth.
- 26 “Even after my skin is destroyed,
Yet from my flesh I shall see God;
27 Whom I myself shall behold,
And whom my eyes will see and not another.
My heart faints within me!

Job Warns His Friends

- 28 “If you say, ‘How shall we persecute him?’
And ‘What pretext for a case against him can we find?’
- 29 “*Then* be afraid of the sword for yourselves,
For wrath *brings* the punishment of the sword,
So that you may know there is judgment.”

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