

## Eliphaz's First Speech (c. 2200 BC)

Job 4–5

### Eliphaz's Surprise at Job's Bitter Words

4:1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said,  
 2 *If we assay to commune with thee, wilt thou be grieved? but who can withhold himself from speaking?*  
 3 Behold, thou hast instructed many, and thou hast strengthened the weak hands.  
 4 Thy words have upholden him that was falling, and thou hast strengthened the feeble knees.  
 5 But now it is come upon thee, and thou faintest; it toucheth thee, and thou art troubled.  
 6 *Is not this thy fear, thy confidence, thy hope, and the uprightness of thy ways?*

### Eliphaz Voices His Worldview

7 Remember, I pray thee, who *ever* perished, being innocent? or where were the righteous cut off?  
 8 Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same.  
 9 By the blast of God they perish, and by the breath of his nostrils are they consumed.  
 10 The roaring of the lion, and the voice of the fierce lion, and the teeth of the young lions, are broken.  
 11 The old lion perisheth for lack of prey, and the stout lion's whelps are scattered abroad.

### Eliphaz's Vision

12 Now a thing was secretly brought to me, and mine ear received a little thereof.  
 13 In thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falleth on men,  
 14 Fear came upon me, and trembling, which made all my bones to shake.  
 15 Then a spirit passed before my face; the hair of my flesh stood up:  
 16 It stood still, but I could not discern the form thereof: an image *was* before mine eyes, *there was* silence, and I heard a voice, *saying*,  
 17 Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his maker?  
 18 Behold, he put no trust in his servants; and his angels he charged with folly:  
 19 How much less *in* them that dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation *is* in the dust, *which* are crushed before the moth?  
 20 They are destroyed from morning to evening: they perish for ever without any regarding *it*.  
 21 Doth not their excellency *which is* in them go away? they die, even without wisdom.

### "Man is born to trouble"

5:1 Call now, if there be any that will answer thee; and to which of the saints wilt thou turn?  
 2 For wrath killeth the foolish man, and envy slayeth the silly one.  
 3 I have seen the foolish taking root: but suddenly I cursed his habitation.  
 4 His children are far from safety, and they are crushed in the gate, neither *is there* any to deliver *them*.  
 5 Whose harvest the hungry eateth up, and taketh it even out of the thorns, and the robber swalloweth up their substance.  
 6 Although affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground;  
 7 Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.

### Eliphaz's Advice—Appeal to the God of Justice

8 I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause:  
 9 Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvelous things without number:  
 10 Who giveth rain upon the earth, and sendeth waters upon the fields:  
 11 To set up on high those that be low; that those which mourn may be exalted to safety.  
 12 He disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform *their* enterprise.  
 13 He taketh the wise in their own craftiness: [cf. [1 Cor 3:19](#)] and the counsel of the froward is carried headlong.  
 14 They meet with darkness in the daytime, and grope in the noonday as in the night.  
 15 But he saveth the poor from the sword, from their mouth, and from the hand of the mighty.  
 16 So the poor hath hope, and iniquity stoppeth her mouth.

### Eliphaz's Advice—The God Who Disciplines Also Restores

17 Behold, happy *is* the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty: [cf. [Prov 3:11–12](#); [Heb 12:5–6](#)]  
 18 For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole.  
 19 He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee.  
 20 In famine he shall redeem thee from death: and in war from the power of the sword.  
 21 Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue: neither shalt thou be afraid of destruction when it cometh.  
 22 At destruction and famine thou shalt laugh: neither shalt thou be afraid of the beasts of the earth.

23 For thou shalt be in league with the stones of the field: and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with thee.  
 24 And thou shalt know that thy tabernacle *shall be* in peace; and thou shalt visit thy habitation, and shalt not sin.  
 25 Thou shalt know also that thy seed *shall be* great, and thine offspring as the grass of the earth.  
 26 Thou shalt come to *thy* grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season.  
 27 Lo this, we have searched it, so it *is*; hear it, and know thou *it* for thy good.

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

Job 6–7

### Job Defends His Bitter Words

6:1 But Job answered and said,  
 2 Oh that my grief were thoroughly weighed, and my calamity laid in the balances together!  
 3 For now it would be heavier than the sand of the sea: therefore my words are swallowed up.  
 4 For the arrows of the Almighty *are* within me, the poison whereof drinketh up my spirit: the terrors of God do set themselves in array against me.  
 5 Doth the wild ass bray when he hath grass? or loweth the ox over his fodder?  
 6 Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt? or is there *any* taste in the white of an egg?  
 7 The things *that* my soul refused to touch *are* as my sorrowful meat.

### Job's Desire for Death

8 Oh that I might have my request; and that God would grant *me* the thing that I long for!  
 9 Even that it would please God to destroy me; that he would let loose his hand, and cut me off!  
 10 Then should I yet have comfort; yea, I would harden myself in sorrow: let him not spare; for I have not concealed the words of the Holy One.  
 11 What *is* my strength, that I should hope? and what *is* mine end, that I should prolong my life?  
 12 *Is* my strength the strength of stones? or *is* my flesh of brass?  
 13 *Is* not my help in me? and is wisdom driven quite from me?

### Job's Disappointment With His Former Friends and Acquaintances

14 To him that is afflicted pity *should be shewed* from his friend; but he forsaketh the fear of the Almighty.  
 15 My brethren have dealt deceitfully as a brook, *and* as the stream of brooks they pass away;  
 16 Which are blackish by reason of the ice, *and* wherein the snow is hid:  
 17 What time they wax warm, they vanish: when it is hot, they are consumed out of their place.  
 18 The paths of their way are turned aside; they go to nothing, and perish.  
 19 The troops of Tema looked, the companies of Sheba waited for them.  
 20 They were confounded because they had hoped; they came thither, and were ashamed.

### Job's Disappointment With Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar

21 For now ye are nothing; ye see *my* casting down, and are afraid.  
 22 Did I say, Bring unto me? or, Give a reward for me of your substance?  
 23 Or, Deliver me from the enemy's hand? or, Redeem me from the hand of the mighty?

### Job Pleads for Genuine Help

24 Teach me, and I will hold my tongue: and cause me to understand wherein I have erred.  
 25 How forcible are right words! but what doth your arguing reprove?  
 26 Do ye imagine to reprove words, and the speeches of one that is desperate, *which are* as wind?  
 27 Yea, ye overwhelm the fatherless, and ye dig *a pit* for your friend.

### Job Insists that He is Innocent

28 Now therefore be content, look upon me; for *it is* evident unto you if I lie.  
 29 Return, I pray you, let it not be iniquity; yea, return again, my righteousness *is* in it.  
 30 Is there iniquity in my tongue? cannot my taste discern perverse things?

### Job Describes His Suffering

7:1 *Is there* not an appointed time to man upon earth? *are not* his days also like the days of an hireling?  
 2 As a servant earnestly desireth the shadow, and as an hireling looketh for *the reward* of his work:  
 3 So am I made to possess months of vanity, and wearisome nights are appointed to me.  
 4 When I lie down, I say, When shall I arise, and the night be gone? and I am full of tossings to and fro unto the dawning of the day.

5 My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of dust; my skin is broken, and become loathsome.

6 My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope.

**Job Speaks to God—Remember How Brief My Life Is!**

7 O remember that my life *is* wind: mine eye shall no more see good.

8 The eye of him that hath seen me shall see me no *more*: thine eyes *are* upon me, and I *am* not.

9 As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away: so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no *more*.

10 He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more.

**Job Speaks to God—Why Do You Torture Me? Leave Me Alone!**

11 Therefore I will not refrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.

12 *Am* I a sea, or a whale, that thou settest a watch over me?

13 When I say, My bed shall comfort me, my couch shall ease my complaint;

14 Then thou scarest me with dreams, and terrifiest me through visions:

15 So that my soul chooseth strangling, *and* death rather than my life.

16 I loathe *it*; I would not live alway: let me alone; for my days *are* vanity.

**Job Speaks to God—Why Do You Put Men Under Such Intense Scrutiny?**

17 What *is* man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him?

18 And *that* thou shouldest visit him every morning, *and* try him every moment?

19 How long wilt thou not depart from me, nor let me alone till I swallow down my spittle?

20 I have sinned; what shall I do unto thee, O thou preserver of men? why hast thou set me as a mark against thee, so that I am a burden to myself?

21 And why dost thou not pardon my transgression, and take away mine iniquity? for now shall I sleep in the dust; and thou shalt seek me in the morning, but I *shall* not *be*.

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