

**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.

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| 13 | “If I look for Sheol as my home,<br>I make my bed in the darkness;                    |
| 14 | If I call to the pit, ‘You are my father’;<br>To the worm, ‘my mother and my sister’; |
| 15 | Where now is my hope?<br>And who regards my hope?                                     |
| 16 | “Will it go down with me to Sheol?<br>Shall we together go down into the dust?”       |

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