



When Life Throws You Completely Off Guard

Job 15

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• All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted.

• God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.

• Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. • Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

A. Job 15 (Overview of Eliphaz's Second Speech)

The Second Round of Attacks Against Job:

1. The Criticism against Job—You're Still a Sinner (vv. 1-13)

Job 15:1–5, NLT - ¹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied: ² "A wise man wouldn't answer with such empty talk! You are nothing but a windbag. ³ The wise don't engage in empty chatter. What good are such words? ⁴ Have you no fear of God, no reverence for him? ⁵ Your sins are telling your mouth what to say. Your words are based on clever deception.

2. The Judgement for Job—Sinful People Suffer (vv. 14-35)

Job 15:20, TLB - ²⁰ "A wicked man is always in trouble throughout his life...³⁰ No, darkness shall overtake him forever; the breath of God shall destroy him; the flames shall burn up all he has.

"This discourse has not a word of comfort nor the suggestion of a hope for Job."

- Dr. F. C. Cook

Poor Job! What a fight of affliction had he to contend with! His body wasted and tortured with sore disease, his mind harassed by Satan; and his heart wrung with the unkindness and false accusations of his friends. No wonder he was greatly agitated, often distracted, and sometimes even thrown off his guard. However, all his enemies were chained; and beyond that chain they could not go. God was his unseen Protector, and did not suffer his faithful servant to be greatly moved from his faith. Job was like the great prophet, Elijah, at his bottommost twinkling." - Rev. Adam Clarke (Circa 1827)

B. A Lesson from the Life of Elijah

1. Elijah at His Highest:

- He caused healings.
- He raised the dead.
- He multiplied the food.
- He called fire from Heaven.
- He saw God's faithfulness again and again.

2. Elijah at His Lowest:

- A woman tells him, "I am going to kill you" and he panics and runs for his life—scared, depressed, burned-out and thrown off guard.

1 Kings 19:11–13, NASB95 - ¹¹ So He said, "Go forth and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD was passing by! And a great and strong wind was rending the mountains and breaking in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹² After the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing. [NIV: "A gentle whisper"] ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And behold, a voice came to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

3. A Lesson from the Life of Elijah—I Kings 19:

"You get thrown off guard" when...

- You wear yourself out.** (v. 3)
- You shut people out.** (v. 3)
- You focus on the negative.** (v. 4)
- You forget God's faithfulness.** (v. 9-12)
- You fail to hear His voice saying, "I'm not done with you yet!"** (v. 13)

We are always listening. Like Elijah, we wait through earthquake, wind, and fire for the still, small Voice. - Dr. Richard Foster, *Sanctuary of the Soul*, p. 34