



THE ERROR OF ELIPHAZ

The Issue of Personal Suffering - Job 4

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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. Introduction to the "Three Friends"

1. This long section is where Job's friends rebuke him, and he responds.
2. A brief outline:
 - Eliphaz's** first discourse chapters 4-5
Job's response chapters 6-7
 - Bildad's** first discourse chapter 8
Job's response chapters 9-10
 - Zophar's** first discourse chapter 11
Job's response chapters 12-14
3. Job's friends will speak 'some truth' but 'much error.'
4. Their main theory is false. Their position is that 'the righteous will never suffer.' All three men gave the same reason why Job was suffering: "You have sinned!"
5. Eliphaz bases his 'rebuke' on two things: His misuse of Scripture and a vision.
6. Eliphaz the Temanite was from Teman, an Edomite city that was known as a center of wisdom (Jeremiah 49:7).

B. Eliphaz's First Speech (Part One)

1. Eliphaz's Approach (vv. 1-6)

Job 4:3-6, NASB -³ "Behold, you have taught many, And you have strengthened weak hands. ⁴ "Your words have helped the stumbling to stand, And you have strengthened feeble knees. ⁵ "But now it comes to you, and you are impatient; It touches you, and you are horrified. ⁶ "Is your fear of God not your confidence, And the integrity of your ways your hope?"

- You have helped so many people with your preaching.
- Now, it's time to practice what you preach.

2. Eliphaz's Accusation (vv. 5-11)

Job 4:7, NASB -⁷ "Remember now, who ever perished being innocent? Or where were the upright destroyed?"

- "Do the innocent really suffer? (Answer: Yes, of course)

Job 4:8, NASB -⁸ "According to what I have seen, those who plow wrongdoing And those who sow trouble harvest it.

- "You reap what you sow, Job, and you really asked for this."

3. Eliphaz's Argument (vv. 12-21)

Job 4:12-17, NASB -¹² "Now a word was brought to me secretly, And my ear received a whisper of it. ¹³ "Amid disquieting thoughts from visions of the night, When deep sleep falls on people, ¹⁴ Dread came upon me, and trembling, And made all my bones shake. ¹⁵ "Then a spirit passed by my face; The hair of my flesh stood up. ¹⁶ "Something was standing still, but I could not recognize its appearance; A form was before my eyes; There was silence, then I heard a voice: ¹⁷ "Can mankind be righteous before God? Can a man be pure before his Maker?..."

- "Who do you think you are, Job?"
- "Who ever perished being innocent, Job?"
- "Do you really think you are not suffering because of your sin?"

C. How to respond to those who are suffering

Who is someone you know, right now, going through the fire, like Job did?

1. **Bring Friendship—not flattery.** ("The Ministry of Presence")
2. **Bring Comfort—not condemnation.** (Don't talk; do something)
3. **Bring Encouragement—not "holier-than-thou" experience.**