



# ELIHU'S SPEECH: What Job Must Realize

Job 32-37

DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NEVADA • FEBRUARY 12, 2023

• 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.

**E**lihu is like the young preacher fresh out of seminary who hasn't lived long enough to be cynical and hasn't hurt enough to be quiet. – Dr. Max Lucado

**I**t is easy to fly into a passion—anybody can do that, but to be angry with the right person to the right extent and at the right time and with the right objective and in the right way—that is not easy, and it is not everyone who can do it. – Aristotle

**T**he essence of idolatry is the entertainment of thoughts about God that are unworthy or inaccurate of Him. – A. W. Tozer

## A. Job Chapters 32-37 (Overview)

### Ch. 32 – Elihu speaks to Job and his friends.

**Setting:** We are at the ash heap where Job, his three friends, and God are all silent. Now, an angry Elihu speaks.

**Summary:** Job is rebuked for his pride and self-centricity; the three friends are rebuked for their pride and lack of true understanding.

**Job 32:2-3, NLT** -<sup>2</sup> Then Elihu...became angry. He was angry because Job refused to admit that he had sinned and that God was right in punishing him.<sup>3</sup> He was also angry with Job's three friends, for they made God appear to be wrong by their inability to answer Job's arguments.

### Ch. 33 – Elihu's First Speech: "God is not silent."

**Job 33:13, NCV** -<sup>13</sup> Why do you accuse God of not answering anyone?...<sup>16</sup> He speaks in their ears and frightens them with warnings...

God can speak through visions, storm, angels, friends, letters.

He is superior to all others • He is ever communicating with everyone.

### Ch. 34 – Elihu's Second Speech: "God is not unjust."

**Job 34:10, NCV** -<sup>10</sup> "So listen to me, you who can understand. God can never do wrong! It is impossible for the Almighty to do evil.

### Ch. 35 – Elihu's Third Speech: "God is not uncaring."

**Job 35:10, NLT** -<sup>10</sup> Yet they don't ask, 'Where is God my Creator, the one who gives songs in the night?'



First, in the night of suffering, God is our only song. Second, only God can inspire us to sing "songs in the night." – C.H. Spurgeon, Sermon/Book: *Songs of the Night*, pp. 21-22

### Ch. 36 – Elihu's Fourth Speech: "God is not powerless."

**Job 36:5-6, NLT** -<sup>5</sup> "God is mighty, but he does not despise anyone! He is mighty in both power and understanding."<sup>6</sup> He does not let the wicked live but gives justice to the afflicted.

### Ch. 37 – Elihu's Final Speech: "God controls the future."

**Job 37:5, NIV84** -<sup>5</sup> God's voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding...<sup>13</sup> He causes [the future] to happen.<sup>14</sup> "Listen to this, Job; stop and consider God's wonders.

## B. Application: What We Must Realize

- 1. You need to seek humility in all things.** (Ch. 32)
- 2. You need to look at your storms differently.** (Ch. 33)
- 3. You need to quit fixating on the past.** (Ch. 34)
- 4. You need to let God give you a "song in the night."** (Ch. 35)
- 5. You need to look at your future differently.** (Ch. 36)
- 6. In God's time, He will make all things right.** (Ch. 37)

**G**od whispers to us in our pleasure, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts to us in our pains. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world. – C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*