



Job's Friends Speak Selected Scriptures in Job

At first, Job's friends were silent for 7 days and nights because they saw how intense his suffering was. Then Job spoke, then they debated Job in three series of speeches. Their advice was unhelpful and wrong. God commanded them to offer sacrifices and have Job pray for them because they hadn't spoken truth about God.

Eliphaz – “God is gold” or “God Dispenses (judgment)”

Characteristic: Theologian

Personality: Considerate

Relies on: Observation, Experience

Voice of: Philosophy

Argument: “**If** you sin, you suffer.”

Advice to Job: Only the wicked suffer

Key Verse: 4:8; 5:17

Concept of God: God is righteous. He punishes the wicked and blesses the good.

Bildad – “Son of Contention”

Characteristic: Historian, Legalist

Personality: Argumentative

Relies on: Tradition

Voice of: History

Argument: “You **must** be sinning.”

Advice to Job: The wicked always suffer

Key Verse: 8:3-7

Concept of God: Judge; immovable lawgiver

Zophar – “Rough” or “Chirper”

Characteristic: Moralist, dogmatist

Personality: Rude, blunt

Relies on: Assumption

Voice of: Orthodoxy

Argument: “You **are** sinning.”

Advice to Job: The wicked are short-lived

Key Verse: 20:5

Concept of God: Unbending, merciless

Elihu – “He is Holy”

Characteristic: Young theologian, intellectual

Personality: Perceptive, some conceit

Relies on: Education

Voice of: Logic

Argument: “God purifies and teaches.”

Advice to Job: Humble yourself and submit to God

Key Verse: 37:23

Concept of God: Disciplinarian, teacher

Chart from *The Wilkinson & Boa Bible Handbook*, page, 147.