

The Book of Job

Brokenness, Suffering, & The Presence of God

Rational Thinking & God's Grace

Eliphaz & Job



A. Prologue: Job's Character & The Great Test (1-3)

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B. 3 Cycles: 3 Conversations x 3 (4-26)

Eliphaz-Job

Bildad-Job

Zophar-Job

Job Chapter 3

Job curses the day of his birth (1-10)

Job laments having been born alive (11-19)

Job laments he continues to live (20-26)

Job 4:1-11 Eliphaz & Rational Retribution

- ¹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:
- ² “If one ventures a word with you, will you be impatient?
Yet who can keep from speaking?”
- ³ Behold, you have instructed many,
and you have strengthened the weak hands.
- ⁴ Your words have upheld him who was stumbling,
and you have made firm the feeble knees.
- ⁵ But now it has come to you, and you are impatient;
it touches you, and you are dismayed.
- ⁶ Is not your fear of God your confidence,
and the integrity of your ways your hope?
- ⁷ “Remember: who that was innocent ever perished?
Or where were the upright cut off?”
- ⁸ As I have seen, those who plow iniquity
and sow trouble reap the same.
- ⁹ By the breath of God they perish,
and by the blast of his anger they are consumed.
- ¹⁰ The roar of the lion, the voice of the fierce lion,
the teeth of the young lions are broken.
- ¹¹ The strong lion perishes for lack of prey,
and the cubs of the lioness are scattered. *ESV*



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Job 6:8-16 Job Responds To Eliphaz

- ⁸ *“Oh that I might have my request,
and that God would fulfill my hope,
⁹ that it would please God to crush me,
that he would let loose his hand and cut me off!
¹⁰ This would be my comfort;
I would even exult in pain unsparing,
for I have not denied the words of the Holy One.
¹¹ What is my strength, that I should wait?
And what is my end, that I should be patient?
¹² Is my strength the strength of stones, or is my flesh bronze?
¹³ Have I any help in me,
when resource is driven from me?
¹⁴ “He who withholds kindness from a friend
forsakes the fear of the Almighty.
¹⁵ My brothers are treacherous as a torrent-bed,
as torrential streams that pass away,
¹⁶ which are dark with ice,
and where the snow hides itself. ESV*



JOB IN DESPAIR - CHAGALL - 1960

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Job 15:1-13 Eliphaz Fires Back

1 Then Eliphaz... answered:

*2 “Should a wise man answer with windy knowledge,
and fill his belly with the east wind?*

*3 Should he argue in unprofitable talk,
or in words with which he can do no good?*

*4 But you are doing away with the fear of God
and hindering meditation before God.*

*5 For your iniquity teaches your mouth,
and you choose the tongue of the crafty.*

*6 Your own mouth condemns you, and not I;
your own lips testify against you.*

*7 “Are you the first man who was born?
Or were you brought forth before the hills? ESV*



ELIPHAZ THE TEMANITE

Job 15:1-13 Eliphaz Fires Back

8 *Have you listened in the council of God?*

And do you limit wisdom to yourself?

9 *What do you know that we do not know?*

What do you understand that is not clear to us?

10 *Both the gray-haired and the aged are among us,
older than your father.*

11 *Are the comforts of God too small for you,
or the word that deals gently with you?*

12 *Why does your heart carry you away,
and why do your eyes flash,*

13 *that you turn your spirit against God
and bring such words out of your mouth? ESV*



ELIPHAZ THE TEMANITE

Job 15:1-13 Eliphaz Fires Back

*²⁰ The wicked man writhes in pain all his days,
through all the years that are laid up for the ruthless.*

*²¹ Dreadful sounds are in his ears;
in prosperity the destroyer will come upon him.*

*²⁵ Because he has stretched out his hand against God
and defies the Almighty ESV*



ELIPHAZ THE TEMANITE



A right relationship w/ God doesn't shield us from human suffering



God did not create us merely to enjoy his benefits & blessings



***God did not create us merely to enjoy his benefits & blessings
Far more – God created us to live in intimate relationship with Him***



The Book of Job asks of us - really demands of us – to move beyond the simplistic human view of retribution



When God allows us to suffer – it is to deepen our intimacy with Him



