

Job

Elihu Speaks Wisdom



Why Listen To Elihu?

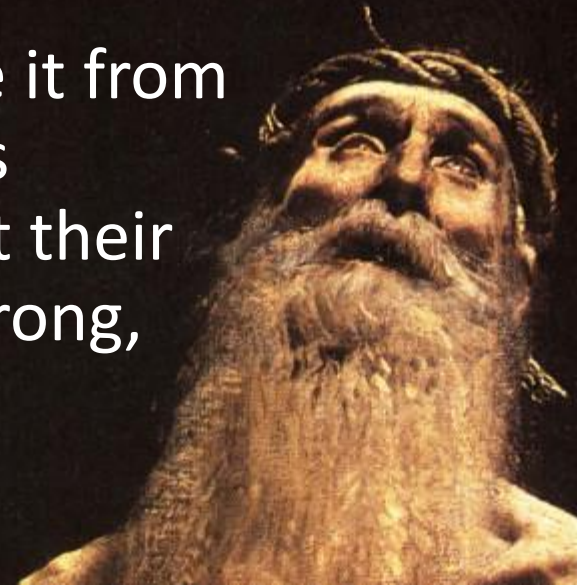
- Set apart from the other friends of Job
- Job doesn't try to argue with him
- God doesn't rebuke him (Job 42:7)
- He corrects the distorted theology of both the friends and Job
- He prepares the way for God to speak (Job 38-42)



Elihu's Wisdom – God is Just

Job: ⁴ Let us discern for ourselves what is right; let us learn together what is good. ⁵ “Job says, ‘I am innocent, but God denies me justice. ⁶ Although I am right, I am considered a liar; although I am guiltless, his arrow inflicts an incurable wound.’” (Job 34:4–6 (NIV))

Elihu: ¹⁰ “So listen to me, you men of understanding. Far be it from God to do evil, from the Almighty to do wrong. ¹¹ He repays everyone for what they have done; he brings on them what their conduct deserves. ¹² It is unthinkable that God would do wrong, that the Almighty would pervert justice. (Job 34:10–15 (NIV))

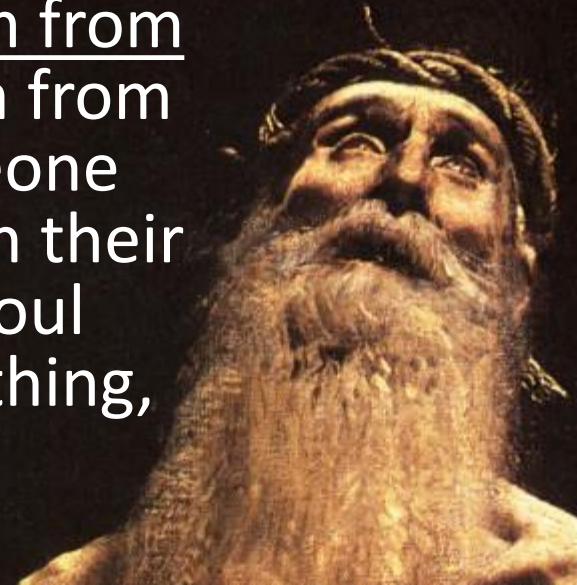


Elihu's Wisdom – God Is Not Silent

Job 33:13–28 (NIV)

¹³ Why do you complain to him that he responds to no one's words?

¹⁴ For God does speak—now one way, now another— though no one perceives it. ¹⁵ In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on people as they slumber in their beds, ¹⁶ he may speak in their ears and terrify them with warnings, ¹⁷ to turn them from wrongdoing and keep them from pride, ¹⁸ to preserve them from the pit, their lives from perishing by the sword. ¹⁹ “Or someone may be chastened on a bed of pain with constant distress in their bones, ²⁰ so that their body finds food repulsive and their soul loathes the choicest meal. ²¹ Their flesh wastes away to nothing, and their bones, once hidden, now stick out.



Elihu's Wisdom – God Is Not Silent

²² They draw near to the pit, and their life to the messengers of death. ²³ Yet if there is an angel at their side, a messenger, one out of a thousand, sent to tell them how to be upright, ²⁴ and he is gracious to that person and says to God, 'Spare them from going down to the pit; I have found a ransom for them— ²⁵ let their flesh be renewed like a child's; let them be restored as in the days of their youth' —



Elihu's Wisdom – God Is Not Silent

²⁶ then that person can pray to God and find favor with him, they will see God's face and shout for joy; he will restore them to full well-being. ²⁷ And they will go to others and say, 'I have sinned, I have perverted what is right, but I did not get what I deserved. ²⁸ God has delivered me from going down to the pit, and I shall live to enjoy the light of life.'

God is neither silent, nor unjust... but speaks to us in order to save us.



Elihu's Wisdom – Job Is Not Listening

Elihu's perception of why Job is suffering is Job's pride. (see 33:17; 35:12; 36:9)

Job 33:8–12a (NIV) ⁸ “But you have said in my hearing— I heard the very words— ⁹ ‘I am pure, I have done no wrong; I am clean and free from sin. ¹⁰ Yet God has found fault with me; he considers me his enemy. ¹¹ He fastens my feet in shackles; he keeps close watch on all my paths.’ ¹² “But I tell you, in this you are not right,”

Job is suffering, not because God wants to punish Job, but because God wants to save Job.



Elihu's Wisdom – God's Fire Is Refining

The fire of God's suffering is not meant to destroy the righteous but to refine the righteous.

The Apostle Paul:

“⁷ So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.” (2 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV))

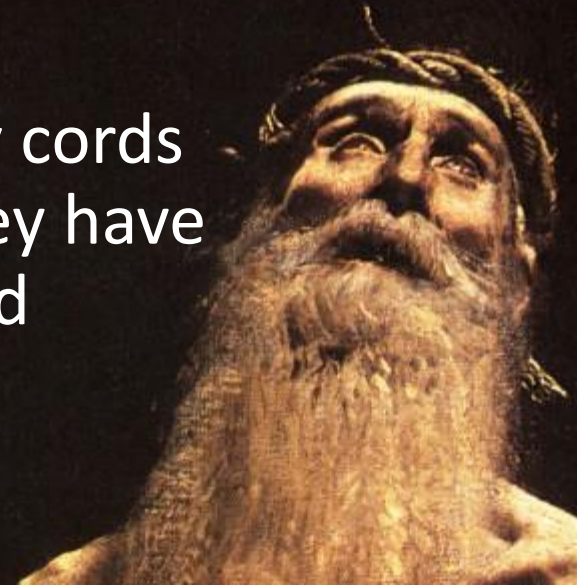


God's Fire Refines the Righteous

Job 36 (NIV)

⁵ “God is mighty, but despises no one; he is mighty, and firm in his purpose. ⁶ He does not keep the wicked alive but gives the afflicted their rights. ⁷ He does not take his eyes off the righteous; he enthrones them with kings and exalts them forever.

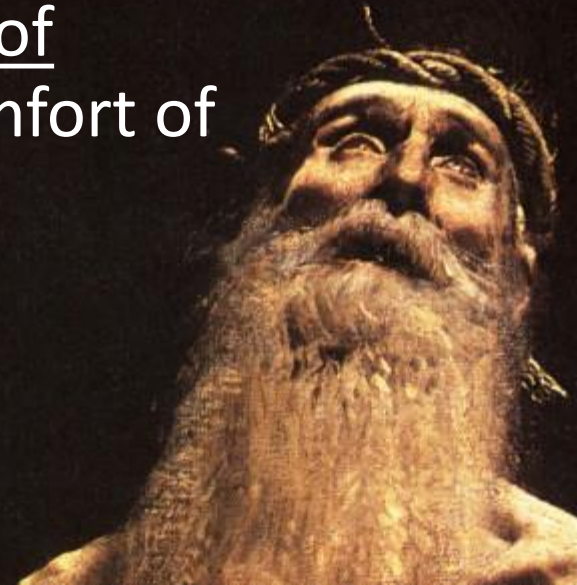
⁸ But if people (righteous) are bound in chains, held fast by cords of affliction, ⁹ he tells them what they have done— that they have sinned arrogantly. ¹⁰ He makes them listen to correction and commands them to repent of their evil.



God's Fire Refines the Righteous

¹³ "The godless in heart harbor resentment; even when he fetters them, they do not cry for help. ¹⁴ They die in their youth, among male prostitutes of the shrines. [in shame, utterly guilty].

¹⁵ But those who suffer he delivers in their suffering; he speaks to them in their affliction. ¹⁶ "He is wooing you from the jaws of distress to a spacious place free from restriction, to the comfort of your table laden with choice food.



Is This True (Of You?)

Is God really speaking?

Are you really listening?

Is your suffering refining you? Exposing your heart to God?

Is it drawing you into better understanding of God?



Questions?



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