

# Job

## (6) Eliphaz's Corrupt Theology

Job 4:1-7

1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied:

2 "If someone ventures a word with you, will you be impatient? But who can keep from speaking?

3 Think how you have instructed many, how you have strengthened feeble hands.

4 Your words have supported those who stumbled; you have strengthened faltering knees.

5 But now trouble comes to you, and you are discouraged; it strikes you, and you are dismayed.

6 Should not your piety be your confidence and your blameless ways your hope?

7 "Consider now: Who, being innocent, has ever perished? NIV

### Eliphaz's first speech...4:1-5:27

How would you characterize Eliphaz's first words to Job? 4:1-4 Prov.10:21; Jude 16

**They are flattering. Your words have instructed/supported those who stumbled.**

But what is his immediate rebuke to Job? 4:5-6 Comment? Rom.12:14

**You can give it out but you can't take it! Those in great trial need encouragement, not-**

And now, the central issue. What is Eliphaz's theology? 4:7 see Is.53 (cross + resurrection)

**The innocent/upright are never destroyed or perish! (What about Jesus, Stephen, etc)**

And his point in 4:8-11? (note the 'I have observed...')

**The judgment of God may come slowly or violently, but it will come. You deserve this!**

So what is Eliphaz saying about God, i.e. 'that which is not right' (42:7)? see 40:1-9

**Bad things only/always happen to people with whom God is displeased (sin). I define God!**

What was the first argument Eliphaz used to support his theology? 4:8a; Prov.3:7, 21:2

**As I have observed... That is, this is true because I have seen it! What arrogance!!**

What was his second argument to support his theology? 4:12-21; Col.2:16-18

**He supposedly had a 'vision' in the night. Message? 4:17+? I speak for God!**

### Chapter 5:

Of what does Eliphaz accuse Job next? 5:1-7 (Note the crushing words to Job...)

**You must be a fool! Your children were crushed (by your sin). Trials don't just 'happen'!**

And what is his 'wise' counsel to Job? 5:8-17

**Confess your (as yet undisclosed) sins! Bargain with God! trials are the discipline of God**

And what does Eliphaz guarantee (by his theology) for this action by Job? 5:18-26

**God will restore and heal. You will prosper (like us!). Your children will prosper (not die)**

And then, what is his smug conclusion about this? 5:27 (note the 'we...')

**We have studied this (therefore it's true!). Hear our wisdom and apply it to yourself!!**

### Application:

What is at the heart of Eliphaz's corrupt theology? 6:21; Lu.18:9

**They believe they are blessed (and protected) because of their (own) righteousness.**

From this base, what do they *have to do* when facing Job's trial? 6:21; 40:2, 8

**They're scared by Job's trial. Violates their theology. So, question God and condemn Job.**

Where have we heard this corrupt theology (4:7, 5:8, 17, 18) before? 2:4-5

**This is Satan's theology, repackaged! Offer God what He wants and He'll bless you!**

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