

To Speak Well of GOD

"We have just enough religion to make us hate, but not enough to make us love one another." Jonathan Swift

3 Satan in the Wilderness

The Debate's Structure

Eliphaz (1) 4-5 Job 6-7	Bildad (1) 8 Job 9-10	Zophar (1) 11 Job 12-14
Eliphaz (2) 15 Job 16-17	Bildad (2) 18 Job 19	Zophar (2) 20 Job 21
Eliphaz (3) 22 Job 23-24	Bildad (3) 25 Job x 2 26-31	

The Doctrine of Retribution

“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” **Jn 9**

This supposition exists in all 7 of the friends' completed speeches - fails to understand the nature of God's justice

Eliphaz: 4:7
15:34; 22:9-10

Bildad:
8:4; 18:5

Zophar:
11:14-16; 20:14

Mistakes of Doctrine of Retribution:

- Affliction isn't necessarily God's punishment
- Retribution is true, but it is on God's Timescale (J-Day)

So why were they so convinced?

The Proximity of Moses' Prophecy

Deut 28

*"If you **fully obey**/**do not obey** the LORD your God and **carefully follow**/**do not carefully follow** all his commands I give you today, all these **blessings**/**curses** will come upon you and **accompany**/**overtake** you:*

- You will be **blessed**/**cursed** in the city and **blessed**/**cursed** in the country*
- The fruit of your womb will be **blessed**/**cursed**, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock-the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks*
- Your basket and your kneading trough will be **blessed**/**cursed***
- You will be **blessed**/**cursed** when you come in and **blessed**/**cursed** when you go out"*

Moses' Prophecy in the Book of Job

Deut 28

Job's life

In City & Country

Children
Flocks



Flocks destroyed (country) *1:13-17*
Children killed (city) *1:18-19*

Food

Wastes away to skin and bone *19:20*

Going Out &
Coming In

Cursed in market (going out)
Cursed at home (coming in) *19:13-19*

The 3 friends saw Deut 28 fulfilled before their eyes in Job!

What error did they make in interpretation?

- Moses' prophecy on the scale of a nation, not one man

Judges

Character of the Speeches

Eliphaz (1) 4-5 Job 6-7	Bildad (1) 8 Job 9-10	Zophar (1) 11 Job 12-14
Eliphaz (2) 15 Job 16-17	Bildad (2) 18 Job 19	Zophar (2) 20 Job 21
Eliphaz (3) 22 Job 23-24		

Character of the Speeches

Level 1

Observations

Eliphaz

4-5

Job

6-7

Bildad

8

Job

9-10

Level 2

Interpretations

Zophar

11

Job

12-14

Eliphaz

15

Job

16-17

Level 3

Condemnations

Bildad

18

Job

19

Zophar

20

Job

21

Eliphaz

22

Job

23-24

Level 1: Observations, Implications of Innocence

Eliphaz 1; Bildad 1

Eliphaz praises Job's good works,
assures Job of vindication 4:3-6

Bildad also speaks of Job's innocence 8:20-22

Job's Response: Humble, Despairing

Recognizes his own sin 7:21

Recognizes all men's sin 9:2

Pleads for God's recognition of
his blamelessness 10:7

Job's Conclusion: Humble, Faithful

"How can a mortal be righteous before God?" 9:2

Righteous Man vs Satan in the Wilderness

Level 1

Observations

Eliphaz

4-5

Job

6-7

Bildad

8

Job

9-10

Level 2

Interpretations

Zophar

11

Job

12-14

Eliphaz

15

Job

16-17

Bildad

18

Job

19

Zophar

20

Job

21

Eliphaz

22

Job

23-24

Level 2: Interpretations, Implications of Guilt

Zophar 1; Eliphaz 2

(Keyword in interpretative reasoning is “because”: 11:18; 15:25)

Zophar says Job’s disasters come because of his sins 11:14-18

Eliphaz does likewise 15:20-25

Job’s Response: Self-confident, Combative

Declares his own righteousness 12:4; 16:17 (c.f. 9:2!)

*“Now that I have prepared my case,
I know I will be vindicated.” 13:18*

Job’s Conclusion: Job wants to fight! *“Come on, all of you, try again! I will not find a wise man among you.” 17:10*

Righteous Man vs Satan in the Wilderness

Level 1

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4-5

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11

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Level 3

Condemnations

Bildad

18

Job

19

Zophar

20

Job

21

Eliphaz

22

Job

23-24

Level 3: Condemnations, Personal Indictments

Bildad 2; Zophar 2; Eliphaz 3

Bildad & Zophar hypothesize an evil man with all of Job's calamities 18; 20:26-29

Eliphaz condemns Job before God 22:5-11

Job's Responses: Self-Justifying: Subpoenas God!

Job claims God has wronged him 19:5-6

Job condemns 3 friends for scheming to wrong him 19:28-29; 21:27-34

Job's Conclusion: Proud self-justification

"As surely as God lives, who has denied me justice... I will not deny my integrity. I will maintain my righteousness and never let go of it; my conscience will not reproach me as long as I live." 27:2-6

The Effect on Job

Level 1

Observations

Job: Humble & Despairing

Eliphaz

4-5

Job

6-7

Bildad

8

Job

9-10

Level 2

Interpretations

Job: Combative

Zophar

11

Job

12-14

Eliphaz

15

Job

16-17

Level 3

Condemnations

Job: Proud &
Self-justified

Bildad

18

Job

19

Zophar

20

Job

21

Eliphaz

22

Job

23-24

The Satan versus The Righteous Man in the Wilderness

Satan Wins



The Subpoena

Job subpoenas God to speak...

“I sign now my defense-let the Almighty answer me; let my accuser put his indictment in writing” 31:35

...because he has fallen victim to the Satan, pride



“Surely I would wear [God’s indictment] on my shoulder, I would put it on like a crown... like a prince I would approach him.” 31:36-37

God now will not answer – it would support the untruth that the Creator is answerable to His Creation

Someone else is urgently needed...



Enter Elihu: Who is Elihu?

Majority view: A bad man, pompous,
just like the three friends

Two Immediate Issues

He sat in respectful silence for
weeks while his elders spoke

*“I am young in years, and you are old; that is why I
was fearful, not daring to tell you what I know.” 32:6*

If he’s just like the three friends, why is he angry with them?

*He was also angry with the three friends,
because they had found no way to refute
Job, and yet had condemned him. 32:3*

Elihu is a good man The Herald of God

The are 10 major characteristics in
which Elihu is opposite to the 3 friends:

Elihu: Opposite of the Friends

1 Elihu calls for God to be praised

*“God is exalted in his power.
Who is a teacher like him?...
Remember to extol his work,
which people have praised in song.”*

36:22,24

**...but the three friends never once
call for God to be praised**



Elihu: Opposite of the Friends

2 Elihu ascribes wisdom to God

*“I get my knowledge from afar;
I will ascribe justice to my Maker.”*

36:3

...but the three friends only ascribe
wisdom to themselves

*“The gray-haired and the aged are
on our side,
men even older than your father.”*

15:10



Elihu: Opposite of the Friends

3 Elihu desires that Job should be found innocent

*“Pay attention, Job, and listen to me;
be silent, and I will speak.
If you have anything to say, answer me;
speak up, for I want to vindicate you.”*

33:31-32

...but the three friends have already pronounced him guilty

*“Is not your wickedness great?
Are not your sins endless?*

*...If you remove wickedness far from your tent...
Surely then you will find delight in the Almighty.”*

22:5,23,26



Elihu: Opposite of the Friends

**4 Elihu is angry
because Job has not justified God**

***“But you have said in my hearing...
‘I am pure, I have done no wrong;
I am clean and free from sin.
Yet God has found fault with me;
he considers me his enemy...’
But I tell you, in this you are not right,
for God is greater than any mortal.”***

33:8-12

**...but the three friends are angry
with Job because Job hasn't justified
*them***



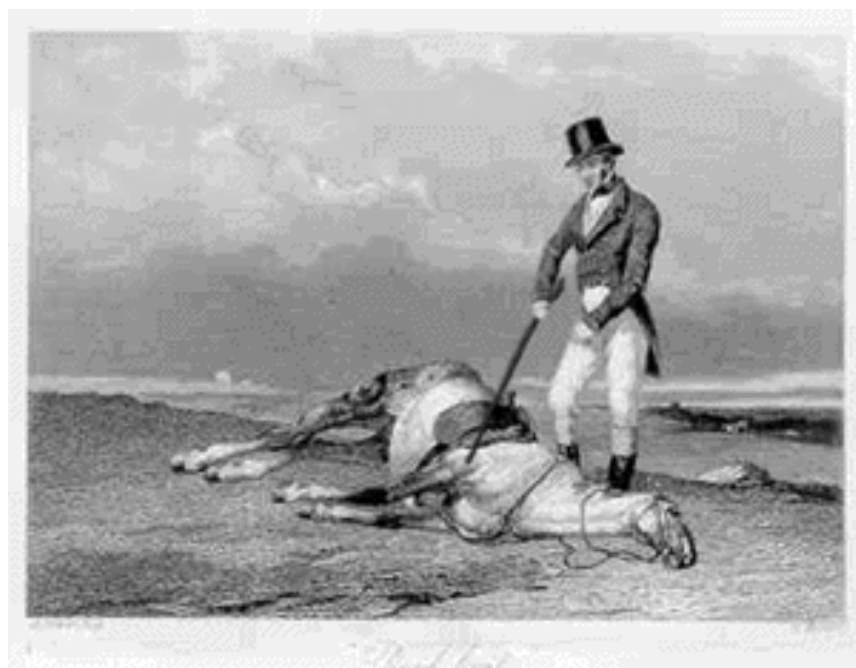
Elihu: Opposite of the Friends

5 Elihu is not rebuked by God

...but the three friends are; sternly

“I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has.” 42:7





Elihu's Role: My Messenger Before Me

“See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come” **Mal 3:1**



Elihu prepare Jobs to hear the Word of God:

- By clearing the subpoena, justifying God, and thus allowing Job to hear God's speeches
- By persuading Job of the danger of The Satan: Pride

Elihu is a type of John the Baptist

Straightening the Way

Job's error: God does not answer

"I cry out to you, O God, but you do not answer." **30:20**

Elihu's straightening:
God **does** listen and respond



"Why do you complain to him that he answers none of man's words? For God does speak-now one way, now another- though man may not perceive it."

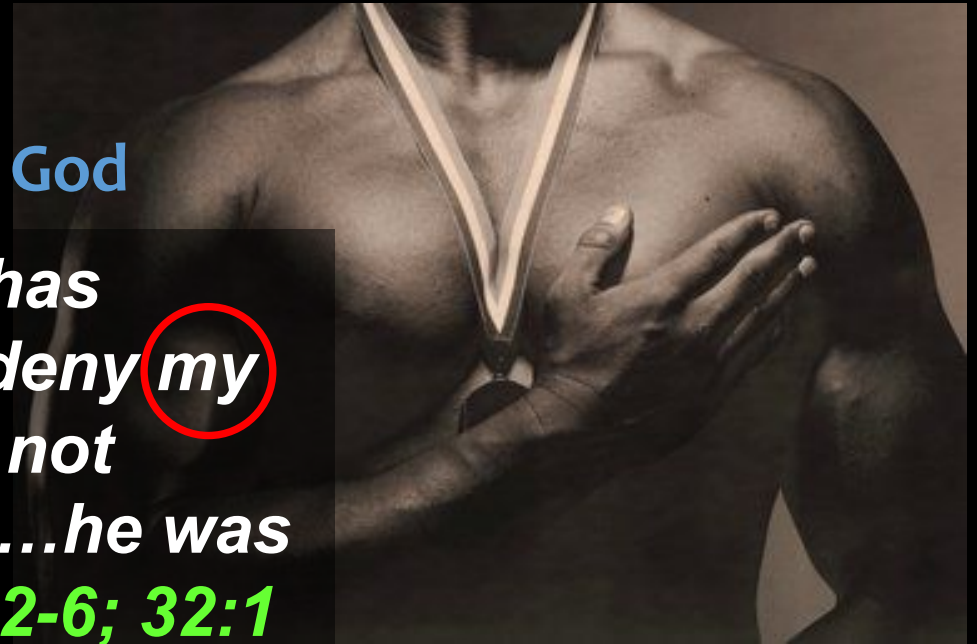
33:13-14



Straightening the Way

Job's error: Job is justified before God

"As surely as God lives, who has denied me justice... I will not deny my integrity... my conscience will not reproach me as long as I live"...he was righteous in his own eyes **27:2-6; 32:1**



Elihu's straightening:
God is justified before *Job*

Elihu... became very angry with Job for justifying himself rather than God. **32:2**

"It is unthinkable that God would do wrong, that the Almighty would pervert justice." **34:12**

John the Baptist

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah...

Mt 3:2-3

From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” Mt 4:17

John, the Herald, correctly anticipates some of the actual Words of God that follow

“And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father’ ” Mt 3:9



Elihu's Introduction

“Listen to this, Job; stop and consider God’s wonders. Do you know how God controls the clouds and makes his lightning flash? ... can you join him in spreading out the skies, hard as a mirror of cast bronze?” 37:14-18

GOD's Revelation

“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand... Can you raise your voice to the clouds and cover yourself with a flood of water? Do you send the lightning bolts on their way?” 38:4,34-35

Elihu, the Herald, correctly anticipates some of the actual Words of God that follow