

First Cycle Of Speeches - 4:1-14:22 **Three Friends Speak One At A Time And Job Responds To Each Of Them**

Eliphaz Speaks And Expresses His Opinions - 4:1-5:27

JOB 4:1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite [of Teman] answered, He and the other two friends had been silent 7 days. (2:13).
"Temanite" - Job 2:11; Jere. 49:7; Ezra. 25:3.

JOB 4:2 "If one ventures a word with you, will you become impatient [offended, grieved, angered]? But who can refrain from speaking? KJV. "be grieved" - offended.

Compliments

JOB 4:3 "Behold you have admonished [instructed] many [in distress, suffering, untaught], And you have strengthened [encouraged] weak hands.

JOB 4:4 "Your words have helped the tottering [stumbling] to stand, And you have strengthened feeble [weak] knees.

Job's Past Fear Of God Should Support His Hope For The Future If He Would Repent

JOB 4:5 "But now it [adversity, trouble, suffering] has come to you, and you are impatient [discouraged]; It touches you, and you are dismayed.

JOB 4:6 "Is not your fear [reverence] of God your confidence, And the integrity [uprightness] of your ways your hope?

1. Should not your piety be your confidence and your blameless ways your hope? NIV
2. Job probably believed and preached, "Repent and God will bless you."
3. His suffering strongly implied Job needed to repent.

Eliphaz Attacks Job

JOB 4:7 "Remember now, who ever perished being innocent? Or where were the upright destroyed?

1. He is affirming Job is a sinner.
2. There are many people like this today. They think they have the whole answer to suffering - suffering equals sin.
3. Good people often suffer. The reason may or may not be known.

JOB 4:8 "According to what I have seen, those who plow iniquity And those who sow trouble harvest [reap] it.

1. Job is reaping what he has sown according to Eliphaz.
2. Gal. 6:7, 8; Hos. 10:13 - Many reap what they have sown in this life.
3. One does not always reap what he has sown in this life, but he/she will in the next life.

JOB 4:9 "By the breath of God they [the wicked] perish, And by the blast of His anger they [the wicked] come to an end.

"Roaring Of The Lion"

JOB 4:10 "The roaring of the lion and the voice of the fierce lion, And the teeth of the young lions are broken.

JOB 4:10 The lions may roar and growl, yet the teeth of the great lions are broken. NIV

The wicked may be as strong as a healthy lion, but the breathe of God [the blast of His anger] can destroy them.

JOB 4:11 "The [old, crippled, strong] lion perishes for lack of prey, And the whelps [cubs] of the lioness are scattered.

Eliphaz's Frightening Vision - 4:12-21

- They [the visions] told him sinful men will perish.

- Dreams or visions should not be our guide.
- We cannot be sure his visions were of God.

JOB 4:12 "Now a word was brought to me stealthily [secretly], And my ear received [caught] a whisper of it.

JOB 4:13 "Amid disquieting thoughts from the visions of the night, When deep sleep falls on men,

JOB 4:14 Dread [fear, terror, horror] came upon me, and trembling, And made all my bones shake.

JOB 4:15 "Then a spirit [a form] passed by my face; The hair of my flesh bristled [stood] up.

JOB 4:15 A spirit glided past my face, and the hair on my body stood on end. NIV

1. Heb. "ruach" - breath, wind, spirit
2. What do the words "a spirit" mean? In the next verse he says "A form was before my eyes."

JOB 4:16 "It [the spirit] stood still, but I could not discern its appearance; A form was before my eyes; There was silence, then I heard a voice:

Synonymous Parallelism The Whispering Voice Asked Two Intriguing Questions?

JOB 4:17 'Can mankind be just before God? Can a man be pure before his Maker?

NKJV - Can a mortal be more righteous than God? Can a man be more pure than his Maker?

1. The query implies a denial of man's goodness.
2. The Bible does not teach men are born evil, but they become evil. (Psa. 14:2,3; Isa. 53:6).
3. All men have sinned. (Rom. 3:23), and need the blood of Christ. (Heb. 9:22).

JOB 4:18 'He [God] puts no trust even in His servants; And against His angels He charges error.

1. Even angels are not beyond reproach according to his thinking.
2. This may be an allusion to the initial angelic fall. (2 Pet. 2:6; Jude 6).

2 PE 2:6 and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly thereafter;

JUD 1:6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.

3. Humans much more, then, as frail mortals are liable to sin
4. Job is the target of the barb.
5. He is a wilful sinner and he is being punished.

Weak Mortality Of Man Is Vividly Described Synthetic Parallelism

JOB 4:19 'How much more those who dwell in houses of clay, Whose foundation is in the dust, Who are crushed before the moth! Second and succeeding lines add a progressive flow to develop the first. (4:19-21). NIV "crushed more readily than a moth."

JOB 4:20 'Between morning and evening they are broken in pieces; Unobserved, they perish forever.

JOB 4:21 'Is not their tent-cord plucked up within them? They die, yet without wisdom.'

JOB 4:21 Are not the cords of their tent pulled up, so that they die without wisdom?' NIV

His Vision, 12-21, Fitted Him For Exhortation He Thought 5:1-16

JOB 5:1 "Call now, is there anyone who will answer you? And to which of the holy ones [angels] will you turn? Eliphaz contends that there is no one who will defend Job - certainly not the finite angels [holy ones]. (4:18).

Job Described As "Foolish" And "Silly" [Simple]

JOB 5:2 "For vexation [wrath, resentment] slays the foolish man, And anger kills the simple.

JOB 5:3 "I have seen the foolish taking root [prospering], And I cursed his abode immediately.

JOB 5:4 "His sons are far from safety, They are even oppressed in the gate, Neither is there a deliverer.

1. Their children have no safe place.
2. They are oppressed before the judge at the gate.
3. There is no one to take up their cause.

JOB 5:5 "His harvest the hungry devour [consume], And take it to a place of thorns; And the schemer is eager for their wealth.

JOB 5:5 The hungry consume his harvest, taking it even from among thorns, and the thirsty pant after his wealth. NIV

JOB 5:6 "For affliction [grief, trouble] does not come from the dust [soil], Neither does trouble sprout from the ground,

JOB 5:7 For man is born for trouble, As sparks fly upward. As certain as sparks flying upward do men bring trouble and misery to themselves. See also Job 14:1

Urges Job To "Seek God"

JOB 5:8 "But as for me, I would seek [appeal to] God, And I would place my cause before God;

Job Will Reach Goals By Rehearsing The Great And Wonderful Works Of God

JOB 5:9 Who does great and unsearchable things, Wonders [marvelous things] without number.

JOB 5:10 "He gives rain on the earth, And sends water on the fields, See Matt. 5:43-45; Rom. 8:11; Matt. 5:4.

JOB 5:11 So that He sets on high those who are lowly, And those who mourn are lifted to safety. Prov. 16:18 Matt. 23:12; Matt. 5:4.

JOB 5:12 "He frustrates the plotting of the shrewd [cunning], So that their hands cannot attain success.

JOB 5:13 "He captures the [so-called] wise by their own shrewdness [craftiness] And the advice of the cunning is quickly thwarted. See 1 Cor. 1:18-25; 1 Cor. 3:19,20.

JOB 5:14 "By day they meet with [encounter] darkness, And grope at noon as in the night. The wicked walk in darkness.

JOB 5:15 "But He [God] saves from the sword of their mouth, And the poor from the hand of the mighty.

JOB 5:16 "So the helpless has hope, And unrighteousness must shut its mouth.

Urges Job Not To Despise God's Discipline

JOB 5:17 "Behold, how happy is the man whom God reproves [rebukes], So do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.

1. God disciplines those He loves. (Prov. 3:22; Heb. 12:5-11).
2. This does not mean every time we see suffering it is God's discipline.

JOB 5:18 "For He inflicts pain, and gives relief; He wounds, and His hands also heal.

God Will Abundantly Bless Job If He Will Repent

Six Troubles - Even In Seven

JOB 5:19 "From six troubles He will deliver you, Even in seven evil will not touch you.

JOB 5:20 "In famine He will redeem you from death, And in war from the power of the sword.

JOB 5:21 "You will be hidden [safe] from the scourge [lash] of the tongue, Neither will you be afraid of violence when it comes.

JOB 5:22 "You will laugh at violence and famine, Neither will you be afraid of wild beasts.

JOB 5:23 "For you will be in league with the stones of the field; And the beasts of the field will be at peace with you.

JOB 5:24 "And you will know that your tent is secure, For you will visit your abode and fear no loss.

JOB 5:25 "You will know also that your descendants will be many, And your offspring as the grass of the earth.

The Grave

JOB 5:26 "You will come to the grave in full vigor [at a full age], Like the stacking of grain in its season. NKJV has "As a sheaf of grain ripens in its season."

JOB 5:27 "Behold this, we have investigated it, thus it is [true]; Hear it, and know for yourself."

JOB 5:27 "We have examined this, and it is true. So hear it and apply it to yourself." NIV

Job's Reply To Eliphaz And Other Friends

JOB 6:1 Then Job answered,

JOB 6:2 "Oh that my vexation [grief, anguish, anger] were actually weighed, And laid in the balances together with my iniquity!

JOB 6:3 "For then it would be heavier than the sand of the seas, Therefore my words have been rash. Even a shovel of sand is heavy. His burden is immense. His heavy vexations have led to rashness of speech.

JOB 6:4 "For the arrows of the Almighty are within me; Their poison my spirit drinks; The terrors of God are arrayed against me.

JOB 6:4 The arrows of the Almighty are in me, my spirit drinks in their poison; God's terrors are marshaled against me. NIV

JOB 6:5 "Does the wild donkey bray over his grass [that is when it has grass], Or does the ox low over [bellow over] his fodder [food]?

JOB 6:6 "Can something tasteless be eaten without salt, Or is there any taste in the white of an egg?

JOB 6:7 "My soul refuses to touch them; They are like loathsome food to me. Food is loathsome to him.

Job Wants To Die - Job 6:8-9

JOB 6:8 "Oh that my request might come to pass, And that God would grant my longing!

JOB 6:9 "Would that God were willing to crush me; That He would loose His hand and cut me off [do away with me]!

"I Have Not Denied The Words Of The Holy One."

JOB 6:10 "But it is still my consolation, And I rejoice in unsparing pain, That I have not denied the words of the Holy One.

1. He still believes in the absolute sinlessness of God. See Jas. 1:13; Isa. 6:3.
2. He believes the promises and threats of God.

Job Wonders How Much Longer He Can Bear To Be Patient

- Job is near the end of his rope. His pain and despair are too much.
- He has no hope of recovering from his miserable condition.

JOB 6:11 "What is my strength, that I should wait? And what is my end, that I should endure? He is questioning the value of his life that is doomed to certain death.

JOB 6:12 "Is my strength the strength of stones, Or is my flesh [body] bronze?

JOB 6:13 "Is it that my help is not within me, And that deliverance [recovery, human aid] is driven from me?

Job Reproves Friends

JOB 6:14 "For the despairing man there should be kindness from his friend; Lest he forsake the fear of the Almighty.

1. They should have pity for those in pain.
2. Lack of kindness might cause him to lose faith in the Almighty.

3. It might cause him to be uttering discouraged.
4. The Bible speaks of the value friends. (Prov. 18:24).
5. What could the friends have done differently? No criticism, encouragement, re-examine their fallacious theology.

JOB 6:15 "My brothers [friends] have acted deceitfully like a wadi [winter brooks], Like the torrents [violent streams] of wadis which vanish, They dry up when most needed.

JOB 6:16 Which are turbid [swollen] because of ice, And into which the snow melts.

JOB 6:17 "When they become waterless [dried up], they are silent, When it is hot, they vanish from their place.

JOB 6:18 "The paths of their course wind along, They go up into nothing and perish.

JOB 6:19 "The caravans of Tema looked, The travelers of Sheba hoped for them.

1. "Tema" was the 9th son of Ishmael. (Gen. 25:16; 1 Chron. 1:30).
2. From whom came the tribe called after him. (Job 6:19; Jere. 25:23).

JOB 6:20 "They were disappointed for they had trusted, They came there and were confounded.

JOB 6:21 "Indeed, you have now become such, You see a terror and are afraid.

JOB 6:22 "Have I said, 'Give me something,' Or, 'Offer a bribe for me from your wealth,' Job points out that he had asked for no financial assistance from them.

JOB 6:23 Or,' Deliver me from the hand of the adversary,' Or,' Redeem me from the hand of the tyrants'? Surely you can have some spiritual and emotional aid for me.

Job Denies Wrong Doing Challenges His Friends To Point Out The Sin or Sins For Which He Is Being Punished

- Job used the plural "your" and "you" in Job 6:24-30.
- Job is really speaking to all the friends.

JOB 6:24 "Teach me, and I will be silent [hold my peace]; And show me how I have erred.

1. Eliphaz has only assumed Job was a sinner. He has no proof - only the assumption that one suffering is a sinner.
2. Job challenged his friends to show where he had erred.

JOB 6:25 "How painful are honest [truthful] words! But what does your argument prove?

JOB 6:26 "Do you [my friends] intend to reprove my words, When the words of one in despair belong to the wind?

His Friends Are Heartless And He Begged Them To Change Their Opinion Of Him

JOB 6:27 "You would even cast lots for the orphans, And barter over [bargain away] your friend.

1. They are like those who sell the orphaned children of a debtor.
2. They would sell a friend.

Job Insists He Is Not Lying

JOB 6:28 "And now please look at me, And see if I lie to your face.

JOB 6:29 "Desist now, let there be no injustice; Even desist, my righteousness is yet in it. He begged them to change their minds and not have an evil opinion of him.

JOB 6:30 "Is there injustice on my tongue? Cannot my palate discern calamities [what is destructive]?"

Job Reflects Upon And Addresses The Miseries Of Life

- Chapter filled with many of Job's questions to which the book of Job does not give the answer.
- It is possible for a man of God to be filled with questions to which there are no easy answers or no answers at all.

- God expects us to be faithful even if we do not have the answer as to why everything happens.

Job Resumes His Complaint Toward God And Describes His Life As Hard And Painful

JOB 7:1 "Is not man forced to labor on earth, And are not his days like the days of a hired man? Gen. 3:17; 2 Thess. 3:10

GEN 3:17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.

2TH 3:10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone will not work, neither let him eat.

JOB 7:2 "As a slave who pants for the shade, And as a hired man who eagerly waits [looks] for his wages,

Job Had Months Of Misery Characterized By Wearisome Nights

JOB 7:3 So am I allotted months of vanity [trouble, suffering], And nights of trouble are appointed me.

JOB 7:4 "When I lie down I say, 'When shall I arise?' But the night continues, And I am continually tossing until dawn.

Job's Flesh Infested With Wombs

JOB 7:5 "My flesh is clothed [caked] with worms and a crust [clods] of dirt; My skin hardens and runs.

Reflects Upon The Brevity Of Life And Finality Of Death

JOB 7:6 "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, And come to an end without hope.

1. He believed he would die and had no hope of recovery.
2. His life has been swift until now, but now he was dying a slow death.

Job Totally Discouraged

JOB 7:7 "Remember that my life is but breath [a puff], My eye will not again see good. He was wrong about seeing good again. See Job 42.

JOB 7:8 "The eye of him who sees me will behold me no more; Thine eyes will be on me, but I will not be.

Job Made False Statement

JOB 7:9 "When a cloud vanishes, it is gone, So he who goes down to Sheol [the grave] does not come up.

1. The grave is not the end.
2. The resurrection is coming for all. (Dan. 12:2; Jn. 5:28, 29; 11:25; Acts 24:15; 1 Cor. 15:22,23).

JOB 7:10 "He will not return again to his house, Nor will his place know him anymore.

Job Speaking To God And Man And Utters A Bitter Tirade Against God

JOB 7:11 "Therefore, I will not restrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit, I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.

JOB 7:12 "Am I the sea, or the sea monster, That Thou dost set a guard over me?"

God Pursues Him Even In His Dreams

JOB 7:13 "If I say, 'My bed will comfort me, My couch will ease my complaint,'

JOB 7:14 Then Thou dost frighten me with dreams And terrify me by visions;

Job Prefers Death Over Life

JOB 7:15 So that my soul would choose suffocation, Death rather than my pains.

1. It is not always wrong to prefer death.
2. Many who prefer death are highly discouraged. Many bad situations get better.

JOB 7:16 "I waste away; I will not live forever. Leave me alone, for my days are but a breath [very short]. He wanted God to leave him alone. He loathes his life and wants it to end.

Job's Questions

JOB 7:17 "What is man that Thou dost magnify him, And that Thou art concerned about him,

1. David used similar language optimistically. (Psa. 8:4, 5).
2. Job appears to use the words negatively.

JOB 7:18 That Thou dost examine[visit] him every morning, And try him every moment?

JOB 7:19 "Wilt Thou never turn Thy gaze away from me, Nor let me alone until I swallow my spittle?"

1. Job asked what there is about man that makes God "hound" him so.
2. He claimed God will not turn away from him long enough for him to swallow his spittle.

What Did I Do?

JOB 7:20 "Have I sinned? What have I done to Thee, O watcher of men? Why hast Thou set me as Thy target, So that I am a burden to myself?" He accused God of treating him like a target. See Job 6:24.

JOB 6:24 "Teach me, and I will be silent; And show me how I have erred.

JOB 7:21 "Why then dost Thou not pardon my transgression And take away my iniquity? For now I will lie down in the dust; And Thou wilt seek me, but I will not be."

1. I'll soon be gone and you will not have me to kick around anymore.
2. Job did not seem to realize accountability to God never ends even in death.
3. He spoke rashly in a very disrespectful and sinful way. (Job 6:3, 26; 42:3).

JOB 6:3 "For then it would be heavier than the sand of the seas, Therefore my words have been **rash**.

JOB 6:26 "Do you intend to reprove my words, When the words of one in despair belong to the wind?"

JOB 42:3 "Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?" "Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know."

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