

Lesson 9
Elihu's Speech
Part 1

JOB 32:1 Then these three men ceased answering [debating] Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes.

1. Job had silenced his 3 friends.
2. They concluded it was useless to argue with the self-righteous Job because he could not be convinced that he was a great sinner.

Elihu Speaks
32:2-37:24
He Enters The Picture With Inflamed Anger
32:2, 3, 5

JOB 32:2 But the anger of Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram burned; against Job his anger burned, because he justified himself before God.

1. He is one of Job's friends and is described as "the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram" (Job 32:2).
2. This is usually understood to imply that he was descended from Buz, the son of Abraham's brother Nahor. See Gen. 22:20,21

GEN 22:21 Now it came about after these things, that it was told Abraham, saying, "Behold, Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor:

GEN 22:22 Uz his firstborn and Buz his brother and Kemuel the father of Aram

3. Job had been so anxious to exonerate himself from being viewed as wicked that he went so far as to accuse God of injustice.

JOB 32:3 And his [Elihu's] anger burned against his [Job's] three friends because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job.

1. He is angry at Job's three friends because they were too dumb to defeat Job.
2. They had not made his sin clear enough for Job to admit it and confess it.

Elihu Younger Than Job's Three Friends, 4-7
He was present for the debates

JOB 32:4 Now Elihu had waited to speak to Job because they were years older than he.

JOB 32:5 And when Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouth of the three men his anger burned.

Elihu Explains Why Friends Permitted To Speak First Without Interruption

JOB 32:6 So Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite spoke out and said, "I am young in years and you are old; Therefore I was shy and afraid to tell you what I think. See Job 32:2

JOB 32:7 "I thought age should speak, And increased years should teach wisdom.

Elihu Expresses Opinion, 8-10

JOB 32:8 "But it is a spirit in man, And the breath [word, knowledge] of the Almighty gives them understanding. See Prov. 9:10

"But the spirit of God himself is in man and the breathe of the Almighty gives him understanding." NEB

Those Advanced In Years Not Always Wise, 9-10

JOB 32:9 "The abundant in years may not be wise, Nor may elders understand justice.

JOB 32:10 "So I say, 'Listen to me, I too will tell what I think.'

1. We should get wiser with age, but sadly this is not always true.
2. We need to especially grow in spiritual wisdom. (Prov.9:10; Psa. 111:10).

PROV. 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

PSA. 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do *His commandments*; His praise endures forever.

3. Here are some things that hinder wisdom in both old and young.

Jumping to conclusions without learning all the facts	Not recognizing true wisdom is based on "fear of the Lord."	Failure to know and be guided by God's word
Thinking one knows all the answers	Judging things by feelings and emotions rather than facts.	Not consulting with other wise people
Failing to pray for wisdom	Listening to the wisdom of the world.	Not learning what the Bible teaches about God and His attributes.

He Notes Job Had Been Unconvinced By Friends Speeches, 11-12

JOB 32:11 "Behold, I waited for your words, I listened to your reasonings, While you pondered [searched out] what to say.

JOB 32:12 "I even paid close attention to you, Indeed, there was no one who refuted Job, Not one of you who answered his words.

Friends Had Not Defeated Job - Only God Could Vanquish Him, 13

JOB 32:13 "Do not say, 'We have found wisdom; God will rout [expose] him, not man.'

Elihu Will Not Defeat Job With The Trite Arguments The Friends Had Used, 14

JOB 32:14 "For he [Job] has not arranged his words against me; Nor will I reply to him with your [weak] arguments.

Job's Opponents Have Been Muted, 15

JOB 32:15 "They [Job's three friends] are dismayed, they answer no more; Words have failed them.

This Does Not Mean He Will Be Silent, 16

JOB 32:16 "And shall I wait, because they do not speak [have nothing more to say], Because they stop and answer no more?

Elihu Will Have His Say, 17

JOB 32:17 "I too will answer my share, I also will tell my opinion [what I strongly believe].

He Is Full Of Words About To Burst Forth With Arguments, 18, 19

JOB 32:18 "For I am full of words; The spirit within me [my inner man] constrains me [to speak].

JOB 32:19 "Behold, my belly is like unvented [bottled-up] wine, Like new wineskins it is about to burst.

He Will Now Express His Convictions, 20

JOB 32:20 "Let me speak that I may get relief [from the misery of being silent]; Let me open my lips and answer.
"Nothing will bring relief but speech." Jerus

Elihu Vows Not To Speak With Partiality Or Flattery, 21

JOB 32:21 "Let me now be partial to no one; Nor flatter any man. "I shall not show partiality towards anyone" Jerus

1. Christians need to learn this lesson. We are not to be partial.
2. We are not to treat men differently because of: (1) Fame (2) Wealth (3) Position (4) Race (5) Education (6) Nationality, etc.
3. See James 2:1-13 - Some were being treated shamefully because they were poor.
4. This does not mean we are not to give honor to whom honor is due. (Rom. 13:7). This is not showing partiality.

He Has A Responsibility To God Who Holds Him Accountable, 22

JOB 32:22 "For I do not know how to flatter, Else my Maker would soon take me away.

Elihu Now Addresses Job, 1-2

JOB 33:1 "However now, Job, please hear my speech, And listen to all my words.

JOB 33:2 "Behold now, I open my mouth, My tongue in my mouth speaks.

Elihu Claims To Speak From Uprightness And Knowledge

3-4

JOB 33:3 "My words are from the uprightness of my heart; And my lips speak knowledge sincerely.

JOB 33:3 My words come from an upright heart; my lips sincerely speak what I know. NIV

"Mine utterances come straight from mine own heart." Rhm..

"And my lips speak honest truth." Jerus

JOB 33:4 "The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty [Omnipotent One] gives me life.

1. The word "Spirit" and "breath" are used interchangeably here.
2. He recognizes his divine origin. (Gen. 1:26,27; 2:1-18).
3. God is Creator. (Gen. 1:1-31).
4. The New Testament sets forth that God created "all things" through His Son. (Jn. 1:1-3; 1 Cor. 8:6; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 1:2).

Dares Job To Refute What He Is About To Affirm, 5

JOB 33:5 "Refute me if you can; Array yourselves before me, take your stand.

JOB 33:5 Answer me then, if you can; prepare yourself and confront me. NIV

Elihu Affirms Common Humanity With Job, 6

JOB 33:6 "Behold, I belong to God like you; I too have been formed out of the clay. He recognized God as his Creator. (Gen. 2:7; Isa. 45:9).

He Will Not Terrify Job Nor Unduly Pressure Him, 7

Job felt that God had terrified him. (Job 7:14; 9:34; 13:21; 23:15).

JOB 33:7 "Behold, no fear of me [a mere mortal] should terrify you, Nor should my pressure weigh heavily on you.

He Had Listened To Job's Speeches, 8

JOB 33:8 "Surely you have spoken in my hearing, And I have heard the sound of your words:

He Had Heard Job's Claims To Being Without Transgression, 9

JOB 33:9 'I am pure, without transgression; I am innocent and there is no guilt in me.

1. Elihu is being a bit unfair to Job.
2. Job had admitted sinfulness. (Job 7:21; 13:26).

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

JOB 13:26 "For You write bitter things against me And make me to inherit the iniquities of my youth.

3. He did not believe he deserved the punishment he was receiving.
4. God had only praise for Job, and was not punishing him because of sin.

Rehearses Job's Complaint That God Had Been Harassing Him, 10-11

JOB 33:10 'Behold, He invents pretexts against me; He counts me as His enemy.

JOB 33:10 Yet God has found fault with me; he considers me his enemy. NIV. See Job 7:17-20; 13:24-27; 19:11

JOB 33:11 'He puts my feet in the stocks; He watches all my paths.' "And watches every move I make" Tay

Job Is Wrong

His Charges Are Incompatible With The Moral Greatness Of God, 12

JOB 33:12 "Behold, let me[Elihu] tell you, you are not right in this, For God is greater than man.

1. This is an absolute truth.
2. Finite men cannot even hold a candle to God who is infinite in every way.

God Does Not Need To Give Account To Humanity, 13

JOB 33:13 "Why do you complain against Him, That He does not give an account of all His doings?"

1. God is Sovereign.
2. He is accountable to no one, and does not need to explain His actions.

God Has Spoken To Man In Various Ways, 14

JOB 33:14 "Indeed God speaks once, Or twice, yet no one notices it.

God Speaks Through Dreams, 15,16

JOB 33:15 "In a dream, a vision of the night, When sound sleep falls on men, While they slumber in their beds,

1. God no longer speaks to man through dreams, visions, etc. See Heb. 1:1.

HEB 1:1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

2. God speaks to us through His Son. (Matt. 17:5; 28:18; Heb. 1:2).
3. The apostles were guided into "all truth." (Jn. 14:26; 16:13).
4. We are to follow God's inspired word. (2 Tim. 3:16,17; 2 Pet. 1:20,21).

JOB 33:16 Then He opens the ears of men, And seals their instruction, "...terrify them with warnings."

Purpose Of Instruction Is To Protect Man From The Destruction That Results From Sin, 17,18

JOB 33:17 That He may turn man aside from his conduct [evil-doing], And keep man from pride;

JOB 33:18 He keeps back his soul from the pit [of destruction], And his life from passing over into Sheol.

God Speaks Through Chastisement, 19

JOB 33:19 "Man is also chastened with pain on his bed, And with unceasing complaint in his bones;

**Elihu Describes Job's Condition
Lost Of Appetite And Weight, 20-21**

JOB 33:20 So that his life loathes bread, And his soul favorite food.

JOB 33:21 "His flesh wastes away from sight, And his bones which were not seen stick out.

Drawing Near To Death, 22

JOB 33:22 "Then his soul [life] draws near to the pit, And his life to those who bring death.

God Could Use One Of His Angels To Interpret Providential Workings, 23

JOB 33:23 "If there is an angel [messenger] as mediator for him, One out of a thousand, To remind a man what is right for him,

Thereby Delivering Him From Death, 24

JOB 33:24 Then let him be gracious to him, and say, ' Deliver him from going down to the pit, I have found a ransom';

If One Heeds Revelation There Would Be A Restoration Of Health, 25

JOB 33:25 Let his flesh become fresher than in youth, Let him return to the days of his youthful vigor;

Fellowship With God Brings All The Attendant Joys, 26

JOB 33:26 Then he will pray to God, and He will accept him, That he may see His face with joy, And He may restore His righteousness to man.

Restored Sinner Will Be Thankful, And Acknowledge His Wrong And Praise God For Deliverance, 27,28

JOB 33:27 "He will sing to men and say, 'I have sinned and perverted what is right, And it is not proper for me.

JOB 33:28 'He has redeemed my soul from going to the pit, And my life shall see the light.'

Why Does God Do All These Things

Save Man From Death And Provide Him With The Enlightened Life, 29, 30

Elihu made this observation.

JOB 33:29 "Behold, God does all these oftentimes with men,

JOB 33:30 To bring back his soul from the pit, That he may be enlightened with the light of life.

1. Job's three friends contended that suffering was a punishment for sins.
2. Elihu argues that suffering may be disciplinary, and so served to prevent sin and to save man.

**The Young Man Urges Job To Listen For He Wants To See The Patriarch Cleared
He Has Wisdom To Impart, 31-33**

I have more to say

JOB 33:31 "Pay attention, O Job, listen to me; Keep silent [hold peace] and let me speak.

JOB 33:32 "Then if you have anything to say, answer me; Speak, for I desire to justify you.

"Speak out, for I would gladly recognize your innocence." Jerus

JOB 33:33 "If not, listen to me; Keep silent, and I [Elihu] will teach you wisdom."

"Listen to me in silence while I unfold the truth" Knox

Elihu Speaks To Job's Friends

1-4

JOB 34:1 Then Elihu continued and said,

JOB 34:2 "Hear my words, you wise men, And listen to me, you who know.

JOB 34:3 "For the ear tests words, As the palate tastes [test, discerns] food.

JOB 34:4 "Let us choose for ourselves what is right; Let us know among ourselves what is good.

Elihu Rehearses Job's Words, 5,6

JOB 34:5 "For Job has said, 'I am righteous [innocent], But God has taken away my right;

JOB 34:6 Should I lie concerning my right? My wound is incurable, though I am without transgression.'

Job Scorns God Like Drinking Up Water, 7-8

JOB 34:7 "What man is like Job, Who drinks up derision [blasphemy] like water,

Accuses Job Of Being A Friend Of Workers Of Iniquity

JOB 34:8 Who goes in company with the workers of iniquity, And walks with wicked men?

Horrible For Job To Claim There Is No Profit In Serving God, 9

JOB 34:9 "For he [Job] has said, 'It profits a man nothing When he is pleased with God.'

"Did he say it was useless for a man to try to please God?" Jerus

"For he says, "A man gains nothing by being on terms with God" AAT

1. It is very profitable to please God.

2. God does not demand perfection.

Unthinkable The Almighty Could Do Wrong, 10

JOB 34:10 "Therefore, listen to me, you men of understanding. Far be it from God to do wickedness,

And from the Almighty to do wrong. Elihu was right. (Hab. 1:13; Psa. 92:15).

HAB 1:13 Thine eyes are too pure to approve evil, And Thou canst not look on wickedness with favor. Why dost Thou look with favor On those who deal treacherously? Why art Thou silent when the wicked swallow up Those more righteous than they?

PSA 92:15 To declare that the Lord is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

God Will Judge Men According To Their Works, 11

JOB 34:11 "For He pays a man according to his work, And makes him find it according to his way. Eccles. 12:13,14

God Will Not Judge Wickedly, 12

JOB 34:12 "Surely, God will not act wickedly, And the Almighty will not pervert justice.

God Could Suspend Life And All Men Would Perish, 13-16

**JOB 34:13 "Who gave Him authority over the earth? And who has laid on Him the whole world?
JOB 34:14 "If He should determine to do so, If He should gather to Himself His spirit and His breath,
JOB 34:15 All flesh would perish together, And man would return to dust.
JOB 34:16 "But if you have understanding, hear this; Listen to the sound of my words.**

Elihu's Question, 17

**JOB 34:17 "Shall one who hates justice rule? And will you condemn a righteous mighty [Almighty] One [judge],
"Could God govern if he hated justice." Tay
"And wilt thou condemn Him Who is eminently just?" Sprl**

God Shows No Favoritism, 18-20

**JOB 34:18 Who says to a king,' Worthless one,' To nobles,' Wicked ones'; Acts 10:34,35
JOB 34:19 Who shows no partiality to princes, Nor regards the rich above the poor, For they all are the work of His hands?
JOB 34:20 "In a moment they die, and at midnight People are shaken and pass away, And the mighty are taken away
without a hand.**

None Can Hide From God, 21, 22

**JOB 34:21 "For His eyes are upon the ways of a man, And He sees all his steps. Prov. 15:3; Heb. 4:13
JOB 34:22 "There is no darkness or deep shadow Where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.**

There Is No Need Of An Investigation In Order For God To Properly Judge Humanity, 23, 24

**JOB 34:23 "For He does not need to consider a man further, That he should go before God in judgment.
JOB 34:24 "He breaks in pieces mighty men without inquiry, And sets others in their place.**

God Is Omniscient And Renders Judgment According To Deeds, 25, 26

**JOB 34:25 "Therefore He knows their works, And He overthrows them in the night, And they are crushed.
JOB 34:26 "He strikes them like the wicked In a public place,**

Judge Those Who Have Turned Aside, 27

JOB 34:27 Because they turned aside from following Him, And had no regard for any of His ways;

Judge Those Who Have Oppressed The Poor, 28

JOB 34:28 So that they caused the cry of the poor to come to Him, And that He might hear the cry of the afflicted--

God Does As He Pleases And No One Has The Right To Condemn Him, 29

**JOB 34:29 When He keeps quiet, who then can condemn? And when He hides His face, who then can behold Him, That is,
in regard to both nation and man?**

God Operates For The Ultimate Good Of Man, 30

JOB 34:30 So that godless men should not rule, Nor be snares of the people.

Elihu Focuses On Job's Case, 31-33

**JOB 34:31 "For has anyone said to God, 'I have borne chastisement; I will not offend [do wrong] anymore;
JOB 34:32 Teach Thou me what I do not see; If I have done iniquity, I will do it no more'?
JOB 34:33 "Shall He recompense on your terms, because you have rejected it? For you must choose, and not I; Therefore
declare what you know.**

Job By Disagreeing With Him Has Reasoned As A Wicked Man, 34,35

JOB 34:34 "Men of understanding will say to me, And a wise man who hears me,

JOB 34:35 'Job speaks without knowledge, And his words are without wisdom.

Job Has Been Rebellious And Multiplied His Words Against God, 36, 37

JOB 34:36 'Job ought to be tried [tested] to the limit, Because he answers like wicked men.

JOB 34:37 'For he adds rebellion to his sin; He claps his hands [in defiance and mockery of God] among us, And [Job] multiplies his words against God.' "

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