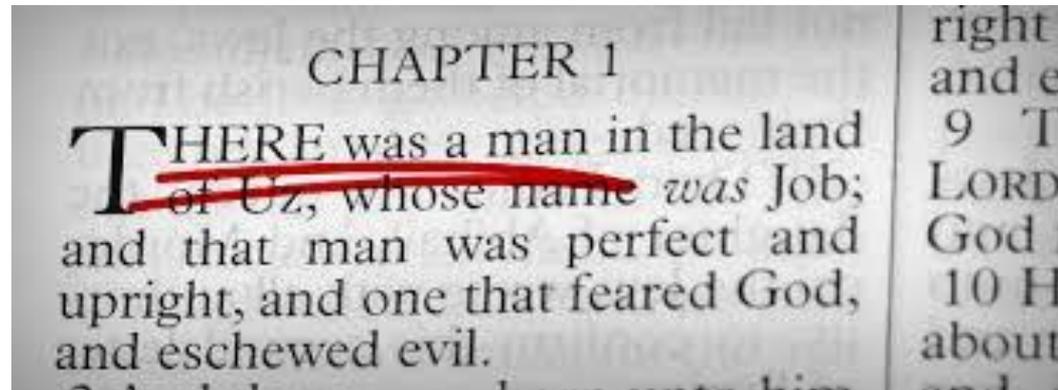


# Lesson 8



## Job 32-37

# Introduction of Elihu



Job 32:1-5

# Questions about Elihu's Speeches

- Does he show more wisdom than Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar?
- What is his principal charge against Job?
- Did he get everything perfectly right?

# Elihu's First Speech

- Being much younger than you, I was **timid** (ESV) about speaking up; I was afraid to tell you what I thought. I told myself the aged should speak and teach wisdom, but the breath of the Almighty gives wisdom. Older men are not always wise, nor do they always understand justice (32:6-9).

# Elihu's First Speech

- Listen to me and I'll tell you what I think. I listened carefully to all you said, but not one of you effectively answered his words. And don't say, "We have found wisdom, and God will refute Job." Job did not direct his words against me, so I will not use the same arguments you used (32:10-14).

# Elihu's First Speech

- They are dismayed, and therefore have nothing more to say. Should I wait, just because they don't speak? I am too full with words to stay quiet. My spirit compels me to speak; I'm like a wineskin about to burst. Let me speak so I can find relief. And in doing so, let me show neither partiality nor flattery (32:15-22).

# Elihu's First Speech

- Job, please hear all I say. I speak from an upright heart; **what my lips know they speak sincerely** (ESV). The Spirit of God made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life. Answer me if you can; arrange your words before me and take a stand. **I belong to God like you; I too have been formed out of the clay** (NAS). You have no reason, then, to be afraid of me (33:1-7).

# Elihu's First Speech

- Job, I've heard you say you are pure and innocent, that there is no iniquity in you, that God **invents pretexts** (NAS) against you, that He counts you as an enemy and does all this to afflict you. You are not right in this, for God is greater than man. Why do you contend with God—that He doesn't give an account of all He does? God does speak, but man doesn't always listen. Sometimes He speaks in dreams, to turn men from their evil deeds, or from pride, to save them from destruction (33:8-18).

# Elihu's First Speech

- God may also chasten a man with pain on his bed, pain so intense he desires nothing to eat, causing his flesh to waste away, and bringing him very near to death. Graciously, God may send this man a messenger, someone to show him what is right. If the messenger says, “Let him live; I have found a ransom for him”—his flesh will be restored. He can then pray to God and God will accept him (33:19-26).

# Elihu's First Speech

- He will **sing** (ASV, NASV, ESV) before others and say, “I have sinned and perverted what is right, but God redeemed me from death. My life can now see light.” God does these things time and again to bring man back from the pit, to enlighten him with the light of life. Job, I want you to be cleared, so if you can answer me, speak up. If not, listen to me and I will teach you more wisdom (33:27-33).

# Elihu's Second Speech

- Listen to me, wise men, you who have knowledge. Test my words—the way the mouth tastes food, and choose what is right. Job says, “I am righteous, but God takes away my right; He denies me justice. My wound is incurable, though I am without transgression.” Is there a man like Job, who drinks scorn (derision—NASV) like water? He puts himself among the wicked when he says, “It does not profit a man to delight in God” (34:1-9).

# Elihu's Second Speech

- Listen to me, men of understanding. Far be it from God to do anything wrong, to pervert justice in any way. He pays a man according to His work. Who gave Him authority over the earth? Who laid on Him the whole world? If He wanted to, He could gather to Himself His spirit and His breath, and man would return to dust—all flesh would perish together (34:10-15).

# Elihu's Second Speech

- If you have understanding, listen to this. Should one who hates justice govern? Will you condemn **the righteous mighty One** (NAS)? Is He not the One who says to kings, “You are worthless,” and to princes, “You are wicked.” He shows no partiality to rich or poor, they are all the work of His hands. In a moment, they all die, some in the middle of the night (34:16-20).

# Elihu's Second Speech

- His eyes are on man; He sees every step. Darkness cannot hide the wicked. There's no need for man to present his case before God, because He already knows everything he does. With no questions asked, He breaks the mighty in pieces and sets others in their place. He strikes the wicked publicly, because they turned away from Him. If He brings peace, who can condemn Him, and if He hides His face, who can see Him—whether against a nation or man alone? He does these things to keep the godless from reigning (34:21-30).

# Elihu's Second Speech

- Suppose one says to God, “I have borne chastening; I will offend no more; teach me what I do not see, and if I've done iniquity, I won't do it again?” Should God reward you on your terms? That you must answer, not I. Wise men who listen to me say that Job speaks without knowledge and wisdom. Oh, that Job were put to trial, because He answers like a wicked man. He adds rebellion to his sin; He claps His hands among us; He multiplies His words against God (34:31-37).

# Elihu's Third Speech

- Do you think this is just? Do you say, “My righteousness is more than God’s?” For you say, “What profit do I get from serving Him, more than if I had sinned?” I will answer you. Look up in the sky and behold how much higher the clouds are than you. If you sin, in what way do you harm God? If you are righteous, what blessing do you give Him? Your wickedness affects a man like you, and your sin only the sons of men (35:1-8).

# Elihu's Third Speech

- Folks cry out when oppressed, when they need help; but no one asks, “Where is God my Maker, who gives songs in the night, who gives us more wisdom than animals and birds?” Surely God will not listen to empty talk. You say you don't see Him, but your case is before Him, and you must wait for Him. Job opens his mouth in vain; he multiplies words without knowledge (35:8-16).

# Elihu's Fourth Speech

- Bear with me, I've got more to say on God's behalf. My words are not false, for they come from One who is perfect in knowledge. Look, God is mighty, but despises no one. He does not keep the wicked alive, but He gives justice to the oppressed, and exalts the righteous. For those held by cords of affliction, God tells them wherein they have erred. If they listen, they will end their days in prosperity; if they don't, they will perish by the sword (36:1-12).

# Elihu's Fourth Speech

- But the godless remain angry, because when He binds them, they don't cry for help. They die in their youth. God delivers the afflicted—if they listen to Him. God is calling you back to Him, to a broad place where you can receive great blessings. But, you are filled with the judgment due the wicked. Don't be enticed to scoffing; don't let some great ransom turn you from God. Will riches keep you from distress? Don't turn to iniquity, because it seems you have preferred this to affliction (36:13-21).

# Elihu's Fourth Speech

- God is exalted by His power. Who is a teacher like Him? Who has appointed Him His way, and who has the right to say, “You have done wrong”? Exalt His work, of which men have sung, because they’ve all seen it. God is great, and we can’t fully comprehend Him. Can anyone understand how the clouds spread, or how He thunders from His pavilion? He spreads lightning around Him and covers the depth of the sea. He judges people, and gives food in abundance. He covers His hands with lightning and tells it to strike its mark (36:22-33).

# Elihu's Fourth Speech

- My heart trembles at all this. Listen intently to the thunder of His voice, a voice which can be heard under the whole heaven and to the ends of the earth—through both His thunder and lightning. He does great things we can't comprehend. He says to the snow, "Fall on the earth," and to the rain, "Be strong." He stops man from work, just so they can know His work. Beasts go into their dens. God makes ice with his breath, the clouds do whatever He commands them. Whether for correction or mercy, He causes it to happen (37:1-13).

# Elihu's Fourth Speech

- Listen to this, Job; stand still and meditate on the wondrous works of God. Do you know how God does these things? Could you, with Him, spread out the skies? Teach us what we should say to Him, for we're in darkness. Should I tell Him I want to speak, and risk being swallowed up? Man can't even look at the bright sun, so how can we look at God? God comes from the north in golden splendor; around him is awesome majesty. We cannot find Him, because He is exalted in power. He does not act unjustly, therefore men fear Him; He shows no partiality to those wise of heart (37:14-24).