

# Job 33 - Elihu Begins His Discourse

## II. Dialogue (Job 3:1–42:6)

### (5) Elihu's four speeches (Job 32:1–37:24)

#### (B) Elihu's first speech (33:1-33)

- (a) Elihu invites Job's listening and attempted refutation (33:1-7)
- (b) Elihu criticizes Job's self justification and misunderstanding of God's character (33:8-12)
- (c) Refutation of Job's argument that God does not speak (33:13-22)
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  - (ii) God speaks through suffering to chasten man (33:19-22)
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- (e) God protects and instructs (33:29-30)
- (f) Therefore Job should listen to Elihu (33:31-33)

## Job 33

### (B) Elihu's first speech (33:1-33)

- (a) Elihu invites Job's listening and attempted refutation (33:1-7)

1 "However, please hear my speech, Job, And listen to all my words.

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

1 "Now please listen to what I have to say, Job. Listen to every word!

1 Wherefore, Job, I pray thee, hear my speeches, and hearken to all my words.

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

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

2 Look! I've begun to speak, and I'm fashioning my words.

2 Behold, now I have opened my mouth, my tongue hath spoken in my mouth.

3 "My words are *from* the integrity of my heart, And my lips speak knowledge sincerely.

3 "My words are *from* the uprightness of my heart, And my lips speak knowledge sincerely.

3 I speak from the innocence of my heart; and my lips will utter what I sincerely know.

3 My words shall be of the uprightness of my heart: and my lips shall utter knowledge clearly.

4 "The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

4 "The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.  
4 "The spirit of God fashioned me; and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.  
4 The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.

5 "Refute me if you can; Line up against me, take your stand.  
5 "Refute me if you can; Array yourselves before me, take your stand.  
5 Answer me, if you can! Present your case! Take your stand in my presence!  
5 If thou canst answer me, set thy words in order before me, stand up.

6 "Behold, I belong to God, like you; I too have been formed out of the clay.  
6 "Behold, I belong to God like you; I too have been formed out of the clay.  
6 Look! As far as God is concerned, I'm just like you are— I, too, have been pinched off from a piece of clay.  
6 Behold, I am according to thy wish in God's stead: I also am formed out of the clay.

7 "Behold, no fear of me should terrify you, Nor should my pressure weigh heavily on you.  
7 "Behold, no fear of me should terrify you, Nor should my pressure weigh heavily on you.  
7 Don't be afraid of me; I'll go easy on you."  
7 Behold, my terror shall not make thee afraid, neither shall my hand be heavy upon thee.

(b) Elihu criticizes Job's self justification and misunderstanding of God's character (33:8-12)

8 "You have in fact spoken while I listened, And I heard the sound of *your* words:  
8 "Surely you have spoken in my hearing, And I have heard the sound of *your* words:  
8 "You spoke clearly so I could hear; I've heard what you've said:  
8 Surely thou hast spoken in mine hearing, and I have heard the voice of thy words, saying,

9 'I am pure, without wrongdoing; I am innocent and there is no guilt in me.  
9 'I am pure, without transgression; I am innocent and there is no guilt in me.  
9 'I'm pure. I'm without sin; I'm innocent. I'm harboring no iniquity inside of me.  
9 I am clean without transgression, I am innocent; neither is there iniquity in me.

10 'Behold, He invents criticisms against me; He counts me as His enemy.  
10 'Behold, He invents pretexts against me; He counts me as His enemy.  
10 Nevertheless, God has found a pretext to attack me; he considers me his enemy.  
10 Behold, he findeth occasions against me, he counteth me for his enemy,

11 'He puts my feet in the stocks; He watches all my paths.'

11 'He puts my feet in the stocks; He watches all my paths.'

11 He has bound my feet in shackles, and keeps watching everything I do.'"

11 He putteth my feet in the stocks, he marketh all my paths.

12 "Behold, let me respond to you, you are not right in this, For God is greater than mankind.

12 "Behold, let me tell you, you are not right in this, For God is greater than man.

12 "You aren't right about this; My response is that God is greater than human beings.

12 Behold, in this thou art not just: I will answer thee, that God is greater than man.

(c) Refutation of Job's argument that God does not speak (33:13-22)

(i) God speaks through dreams regarding long life and humility (33:13-18)

13 "Why do you complain to Him That He does not give an account of all His doings?

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

13 Why are you arguing with him? He doesn't have to give explanations for what he does to you!

13 Why dost thou strive against him? for he giveth not account of any of his matters.

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

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

14 "God speaks time and time again— but nobody notices—

14 For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not.

15 "In a dream, a vision of the night, When deep sleep falls on people, While they slumber in their beds,

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

15 in a dream or night vision, when a deep sleep falls on mankind while they sleep on their beds.

15 In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed;

16 Then He opens the ears of people, And horrifies them with warnings,

16 Then He opens the ears of men, And seals their instruction,

16 That's when he opens the ear of mankind, authenticating his messages to them,

16 Then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction,

17 So that He may turn a person away *from bad* conduct, And keep a man from pride;

17 That He may turn man aside *from his* conduct, And keep man from pride;  
17 turning a person from his actions, keeping him from pride,  
17 That he may withdraw man from his purpose, and hide pride from man.

18 He keeps his soul back from the pit,? And his life from perishing by the spear.  
18 He keeps back his soul from the pit, And his life from passing over into Sheol.  
18 sparing his soul from the Pit and his life from violent death.  
18 He keepeth back his soul from the pit, and his life from perishing by the sword.

(ii) God speaks through suffering to chasten man (33:19-22)

19 "A person is also rebuked by pain in his bed, And with constant complaint in his bones,  
19 "Man is also chastened with pain on his bed, And with unceasing complaint in his  
bones;  
19 "He is being reproved by painful bed rest, with continual aching in his bones.  
19 He is chastened also with pain upon his bed, and the multitude of his bones with strong  
pain:

20 So that his life loathes bread, And his soul, food that he should crave.  
20 So that his life loathes bread, And his soul favorite food.  
20 He cannot stand his food, and he has no desire for appetizing food.  
20 So that his life abhorreth bread, and his soul dainty meat.  
  
21 "His flesh wastes away from sight, And his bones, *which* were not seen, stick out.  
21 "His flesh wastes away from sight, And his bones which were not seen stick out.  
21 His flesh wastes away; his bones, which once couldn't be seen, are visible.  
21 His flesh is consumed away, that it cannot be seen; and his bones that were not seen  
stick out.  
  
22 "Then his soul comes near to the pit, And his life to those who bring death.  
22 "Then his soul draws near to the pit, And his life to those who bring death.  
22 His soul is getting close to the Pit; his life is approaching its executioner."  
22 Yea, his soul draweth near unto the grave, and his life to the destroyers.

(d) God protects men through a mediating angel giving him further incentive  
to live holy (33:23-28)

23 "If there is an interceding angel for him, One out of a thousand, To remind a person of  
what is right for him,

23 "If there is an angel as mediator for him, One out of a thousand, To remind a man what is right for him,

23 "If there's a messenger appointed to mediate for Job —one out of a thousand— to represent the man's integrity on his behalf,

23 If there be a messenger with him, an interpreter, one among a thousand, to shew unto man his uprightness:

24 And he is gracious to him, and says, 'Free him from going down to the pit, I have found a ransom';

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

24 to show favor to him and to plead, 'Deliver him from having to go down to the Pit— I know where his ransom is!'

24 Then he is gracious unto him, and saith, Deliver him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom.

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

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

25 Let his flesh be rejuvenated as he was in his youth! Let him recover the strength of his youth.

25 His flesh shall be fresher than a child's: he shall return to the days of his youth:

26 *Then he will pray to God, and He will accept him, So that he may see His face with joy, And He will restore His righteousness to that person.*

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.

26 Let him pray to God and he will accept him; he will appear before him with joyful shouts!"

26 He shall pray unto God, and he will be favourable unto him: and he shall see his face with joy: for he will render unto man his righteousness.

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

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

27 "He'll sing to mankind with these words: 'I've sinned. I have twisted what is right. Yet he has not repaid me like I deserve.

27 He looketh upon men, and if any say, I have sinned, and perverted that which was right, and it profited me not;

28 'He has redeemed my soul from going to the pit, And my life will see the light.'

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

28 He has redeemed my soul from going down to the Pit; my life will see the light.'

28 He will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light.

(e) God protects and instructs (33:29-30)

29 "Behold, God does all these *things* for a man two or three times,

29 "Behold, God does all these oftentimes with men,

29 Indeed God does all these things again and again with a person

29 Lo, all these things worketh God oftentimes with man,

30 To bring back his soul from the pit, So that he may be enlightened with the light of life.

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

30 to bring back his soul from the Pit; to light him with the light of life."

30 To bring back his soul from the pit, to be enlightened with the light of the living.

(f) Therefore Job should listen to Elihu (33:31-33)

31 "Pay attention, Job, listen to me; Keep silent, and let me speak.

31 "Pay attention, O Job, listen to me; Keep silent, and let me speak.

31 "Job, pay attention! Listen to me! Be silent and let me speak.

31 Mark well, O Job, hearken unto me: hold thy peace, and I will speak.

32 "Then if you have anything to say, answer me; Speak, for I would take pleasure in justifying you.

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

32 If you have anything to say, answer me; speak up, because I'd be happy to vindicate you.

32 If thou hast any thing to say, answer me: speak, for I desire to justify thee.

33 "If not, listen to me; Keep silent, and I will teach you wisdom."

33 "If not, listen to me; Keep silent, and I will teach you wisdom."

33 But if you have nothing to say, then at least listen to me! Be quiet and learn some wisdom from me."

33 If not, hearken unto me: hold thy peace, and I shall teach thee wisdom.