

# Job 34 - Elihu Reviews Job's Complaint; Elihu Issues A Verdict

## II. Dialogue (Job 3:1—42:6)

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

#### (C) Elihu's second speech (34:1-37)

(a) Elihu quotes Job as denying the connection between sin and suffering (34:1-9)

(b) Elihu's refutation of Job (34:10-37)

(i) God punishes evil because of his justice and sovereignty (34:10-15)

(ii) God impartially condemns the powerful wicked (34:16-20)

(iii) God's judgment upon the wicked emanates from his attributes of omniscience and omnipotence (34:21-30)

(iv) Elihu charges Job with sin (34:31-34)

(v) Elihu believes that his view is consistent with those of understanding (34:34-37)

## Job 34

### (C) Elihu's second speech (34:1-37)

(a) Elihu quotes Job as denying the connection between sin and suffering (34:1-9)

1 Then Elihu continued and said,

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1 Elihu continued speaking, and said:

1 Furthermore Elihu answered and said,

2 "Hear my words, you wise men, And listen to me, you who understand.

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

2 "Listen to what I have to say, you wise men! Pay attention to me, you educated people!

2 Hear my words, O ye wise men; and give ear unto me, ye that have knowledge.

3 "For the ear tests words As the palate tastes food.

3 "For the ear tests words As the palate tastes food.

3 Since the ear tests words like a palate tastes food,

3 For the ear trieth words, as the mouth tasteth meat.

4 "Let us choose for ourselves what is right; Let us understand among ourselves what is good.

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

4 let's choose what's right for us. Let's consider among ourselves what is good."

4 Let us choose to us judgment: let us know among ourselves what is good.

5 "For Job has said, 'I am righteous, But God has taken away my right;

5 "For Job has said, 'I am righteous, But God has taken away my right;

5 Now this is Job's claim: 'Even though I'm innocent, God has stopped treating me righteously.

5 For Job hath said, I am righteous: and God hath taken away my judgment.

6 Should I lie about my right? My wound is incurable, *though I am* without wrongdoing.'

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

6 Have I lied concerning the justice that I deserve? My wound is incurable, though transgression cannot be attributed to me.'

6 Should I lie against my right? my wound is incurable without transgression.

7 "What man is like Job, Who drinks up derision like water,

7 "What man is like Job, Who drinks up derision like water,

7 "What man is like Job, who drinks mockery like water,

7 What man is like Job, who drinketh up scorning like water?

8 Who goes in company with the workers of injustice, And walks with wicked people?

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

8 traffics in those who practice evil, and walks with wicked people?

8 Which goeth in company with the workers of iniquity, and walketh with wicked men.

9 "For he has said, 'It is of no use to a man When he becomes friends with God.'

9 "For he has said, 'It profits a man nothing When he is pleased with God.'

9 Because he says, 'There's no profit for a man to find joy with God.'"

9 For he hath said, It profiteth a man nothing that he should delight himself with God.

(b) Elihu's refutation of Job (34:10-37)

(i) God punishes evil because of his justice and sovereignty (34:10-15)

10 "Therefore, listen to me, you men of understanding. Far be it from God to do evil, And from the Almighty to do wrong.

10 "Therefore, listen to me, you men of understanding. Far be it from God to do wickedness, And from the Almighty to do wrong.

10 "Therefore you men of understanding, listen to me! Far be it for God to practice wickedness, or the Almighty to do what is wrong,

10 Therefore hearken unto me, ye men of understanding: far be it from God, that he should do wickedness; and from the Almighty, that he should commit iniquity.

11 "For He repays a person for his work, And lets *things* happen in correspondence to a man's behavior.

11 "For He pays a man according to his work, And makes him find it according to his way.

11 because he repays a person for his behavior; and according to a person's conduct, he lets it happen to him.

11 For the work of a man shall he render unto him, and cause every man to find according to his ways.

12 "God certainly will not act wickedly, And the Almighty will not pervert justice.

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

12 Truly, God doesn't practice wickedness, and the Almighty doesn't pervert justice.

12 Yea, surely God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgment.

13 "Who gave Him authority over the earth? And who has placed the whole world *on Him*?

13 "Who gave Him authority over the earth? And who has laid *on Him* the whole world?

13 Who entrusted the earth to him? Who made him responsible for the entire inhabited world?

13 Who hath given him a charge over the earth? or who hath disposed the whole world?

14 "If He were to determine to do so, If He were to gather His spirit and His breath to Himself,

14 "If He should determine to do so, If He should gather to Himself His spirit and His breath,

14 If he were to decide to do so, that is, to take back to himself his spirit and breath of life,

14 If he set his heart upon man, if he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath;

15 Humanity would perish together, And mankind would return to dust.

15 All flesh would perish together, And man would return to dust.

15 every living thing would die all at once, and mankind would return to dust."

15 All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust.

(ii) God impartially condemns the powerful wicked (34:16-20)

16 "But if *you have* understanding, hear this; Listen to the sound of my words.

16 "But if *you have* understanding, hear this; Listen to the sound of my words.

16 If you have understanding, listen to this! Pay attention to what I have to say:

16 If now thou hast understanding, hear this: hearken to the voice of my words.

17 "Shall one who hates justice rule? And will you condemn the righteous mighty One,

17 "Shall one who hates justice rule? And will you condemn the righteous mighty One,

17 Can one who hates justice really govern? And if God is righteous and mighty, can you condemn him?

17 Shall even he that hateth right govern? and wilt thou condemn him that is most just?

18 Who says to a king, 'You worthless one,' To nobles, 'You wicked one';

18 Who says to a king, 'Worthless one,' To nobles, 'Wicked ones';

18 Can one say to a king, 'You're vile!' or to nobles, 'You're wicked!'?

18 Is it fit to say to a king, Thou art wicked? and to princes, Ye are ungodly?

19 Who shows no partiality to the prominent, Nor regards the rich as above the poor, Since they are all the work of His hands?

19 Who shows no partiality to princes Nor regards the rich above the poor, For they all are the work of His hands?

19 Who isn't partial to princes? Who doesn't give preference to the nobles over the poor? Nevertheless, all of them are his handiwork.

19 How much less to him that accepteth not the persons of princes, nor regardeth the rich more than the poor? for they all are the work of his hands.

20 "In a moment they die, and at midnight People are shaken and pass away, And the powerful are taken away without a hand.

20 "In a moment they die, and at midnight People are shaken and pass away, And the mighty are taken away without a hand.

20 "They die suddenly, in the middle of the night; people suffer seizures and pass away; even valiant men can be taken away— and not by human hands.

20 In a moment shall they die, and the people shall be troubled at midnight, and pass away: and the mighty shall be taken away without hand.

(iii) God's judgment upon the wicked emanates from his attributes of omniscience and omnipotence (34:21-30)

21 "For His eyes are upon the ways of a person, And He sees all his steps.

21 "For His eyes are upon the ways of a man, And He sees all his steps.

21 Yes, Job, his eyes constantly watch the behavior of human beings; he carefully observes their every step.

21 For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings.

22 "There is no darkness or deep shadow Where the workers of injustice can hide themselves.

22 "There is no darkness or deep shadow Where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.

22 There's no such thing as darkness to him— not even deep darkness—that can conceal those who practice evil.

22 There is no darkness, nor shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.

23 "For He does not *need to* consider a person further, That he should go before God in judgment.

23 "For He does not *need to* consider a man further, That he should go before God in judgment.

23 He won't examine mankind further, that they would go before God to judgment.

23 For he will not lay upon man more than right; that he should enter into judgment with God.

24 "He breaks in pieces the mighty without investigation, And sets others in their place.

24 "He breaks in pieces mighty men without inquiry, And sets others in their place.

24 He shatters valiant men without a need to investigate, and he raises others in their place.

24 He shall break in pieces mighty men without number, and set others in their stead.

25 "Therefore He knows their deeds, And He overthrows *them* in the night, And they are crushed.

25 "Therefore He knows their works, And He overthrows *them* in the night, And they are crushed.

25 Thus he acknowledges their behavior, and overcomes them; when night time comes, they are crushed.

25 Therefore he knoweth their works, and he overturneth them in the night, so that they are destroyed.

26 "He strikes them like the wicked In a public place,

26 "He strikes them like the wicked In a public place,

26 "He strikes the wicked among them in a place where they can be seen

26 He striketh them as wicked men in the open sight of others;

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

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

27 because they've abandoned their pursuit of him and had no respect for any of his ways.

27 Because they turned back from him, and would not consider any of his ways:

28 So that they caused the cry of the poor to come to Him, And that He would hear the cry of the afflicted—

28 So that they caused the cry of the poor to come to Him, And that He might hear the cry of the afflicted—

28 As a result, the cries of the poor have reached him and he has heard the cry of the afflicted.

28 So that they cause the cry of the poor to come unto him, and he heareth the cry of the afflicted.

29 When He keeps quiet, who can condemn? And when He hides His face, who then can look at Him, That is, regarding both nation and a person?—

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?—

29 "If he remains silent, who will condemn him? If he conceals his face, who can see him? He watches over both nation and individual alike,

29 When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble? and when he hideth his face, who then can behold him? whether it be done against a nation, or against a man only:

30 "So that godless people would not rule, Nor be snares for the people.

30 So that godless men would not rule Nor be snares of the people.

30 to keep the godless man from reigning or laying a snare for the people."

30 That the hypocrite reign not, lest the people be ensnared.

(iv) Elihu charges Job with sin (34:31-34)

**31** "For has anyone said to God, 'I have endured *punishment*; I will not offend *anymore*;

31 "For has anyone said to God, 'I have borne *chastisement*; I will not offend *anymore*;  
31 "Has anyone ever really told God, 'I've endured, and I won't act corruptly anymore.  
31 Surely it is meet to be said unto God, I have borne chastisement, I will not offend any more:

32 Teach me what I do not see; If I have done wrong, I will not do it again'?  
32 Teach me what I do not see; If I have done iniquity, I will not do it again'?  
32 What I don't see, instruct me! If I've done anything evil, I won't repeat it!'  
32 That which I see not teach thou me: if I have done iniquity, I will do no more.

33 "Shall *God* repay on your terms, because you have rejected *His*? For you must choose, and not I; Therefore declare what you know.

33 "Shall He recompense on your terms, because you have rejected *it*? For you must choose, and not I; Therefore declare what you know.

33 "Should you not be paid back, since you have rejected him? You do the choosing! I won't! Tell us what you know!

33 Should it be according to thy mind? he will recompense it, whether thou refuse, or whether thou choose; and not I: therefore speak what thou knowest.

(v) Elihu believes that his view is consistent with those of understanding  
(34:34-37)

34 "Men of understanding will say to me, And a wise man who hears me,  
34 "Men of understanding will say to me, And a wise man who hears me,  
34 "Men of understanding, speak to me! Are any of you men wise? Then listen to me!  
34 Let men of understanding tell me, and let a wise man hearken unto me.

35 'Job speaks without knowledge, And his words are without wisdom.  
35 'Job speaks without knowledge, And his words are without wisdom.  
35 Job has been speaking from his own ignorance, and what he has to say lacks insight!  
35 Job hath spoken without knowledge, and his words were without wisdom.

36 'Oh that Job were tested to the limit, Because he answers like sinners.  
36 'Job ought to be tried to the limit, Because he answers like wicked men.  
36 Oh, how Job needs to be given a full court trial, as a rebuke to those who practice evil,  
36 My desire is that Job may be tried unto the end because of his answers for wicked men.

37 'For he adds rebellion to his sin; He claps his hands among us, And multiplies his words against God.'"

37 'For he adds rebellion to his sin; He claps his hands among us, And multiplies his words against God.'"

37 because he has been adding rebellion to his sin; he claps his hands among us, and keeps on ranting against God."

37 For he addeth rebellion unto his sin, he clappeth his hands among us, and multiplieth his words against God.