

Job 36 - Elihu Concludes His Arguments

II. Dialogue (Job 3:1–42:6)

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

(E) Elihu's fourth speech (36:1–37:24)

- (a) Elihu claims to be a conduit of divine knowledge (36:1-4)
- (b) God afflicts the wicked while granting justice to the afflicted (36:5-15)
- (c) Elihu explains that divine judgment can be avoided through righteous living (36:16-23)
- (d) God should be respected because of His dealings in nature (Job 36:24–37:13)

Job 36

(E) Elihu's fourth speech (36:1–37:24)

(a) Elihu claims to be a conduit of divine knowledge (36:1-4)

1 Then Elihu continued and said,

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1 Elihu responded again and said:

1 Elihu also proceeded, and said,

2 "Wait for me a little, and I will show you That there is still more to be said on God's behalf.

2 "Wait for me a little, and I will show you That there is yet more to be said in God's behalf.

2 "Be patient with me a moment longer, and I'll show you that there's more to say on God's behalf.

2 Suffer me a little, and I will shew thee that I have yet to speak on God's behalf.

3 "I will bring my knowledge from afar, And ascribe righteousness to my Maker.

3 "I will fetch my knowledge from afar, And I will ascribe righteousness to my Maker.

3 I'll take what I know to its logical conclusion and ascribe righteousness to my Creator,

3 I will fetch my knowledge from afar, and will ascribe righteousness to my Maker.

4 "For truly my words are not false; One who is perfect in knowledge is with you.

4 "For truly my words are not false; One who is perfect in knowledge is with you.

4 because what I have to say isn't deceptive, and the one who has perfect knowledge is with you."

4 For truly my words shall not be false: he that is perfect in knowledge is with thee.

(b) God afflicts the wicked while granting justice to the afflicted (36:5-15)

5 "Behold, God is mighty but does not reject *anyone*; *He is* mighty in strength of understanding.

5 "Behold, God is mighty but does not despise *any*; *He is* mighty in strength of understanding.

5 "Indeed God is mighty and he doesn't show disrespect; he is mighty and strong of heart.

5 Behold, God is mighty, and despiseth not any: he is mighty in strength and wisdom.

6 "He does not keep the wicked alive, But gives justice to the afflicted.

6 "He does not keep the wicked alive, But gives justice to the afflicted.

6 He doesn't let the wicked live; he grants justice to the afflicted.

6 He preserveth not the life of the wicked: but giveth right to the poor.

7 "He does not withdraw His eyes from the righteous, But with kings on the throne He has seated them forever, and they are exalted.

7 "He does not withdraw His eyes from the righteous; But with kings on the throne He has seated them forever, and they are exalted.

7 He won't stop looking at righteous people; he seats them on thrones with kings forever, and they are exalted.

7 He withdraweth not his eyes from the righteous: but with kings are they on the throne; yea, he doth establish them for ever, and they are exalted.

8 "And if they are bound in shackles, And are caught in the snares of misery,

8 "And if they are bound in fetters, And are caught in the cords of affliction,

8 "If they're bound in chains, caught in ropes of affliction,

8 And if they be bound in fetters, and be holden in cords of affliction;

9 Then He declares to them their work And their wrongdoings, that they have been arrogant.

9 Then He declares to them their work And their transgressions, that they have magnified themselves.

9 he'll reveal their actions to them, when their transgressions have become excessive.

9 Then he sheweth them their work, and their transgressions that they have exceeded.

10 "He opens their ears to instruction, And commands that they return from injustice.

10 "He opens their ear to instruction, And commands that they return from evil.

- 10 He opens their ears and instructs them, commanding them to repent from evil.
10 He openeth also their ear to discipline, and commandeth that they return from iniquity.
- 11 "If they listen and serve *Him*, They will end their days in prosperity, And their years in happiness.
11 "If they hear and serve *Him*, They will end their days in prosperity And their years in pleasures.
11 If they listen and serve him, they'll finish their lives in prosperity and their years will be pleasant.
11 If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures.
- 12 "But if they do not listen, they will perish by the sword, And die without knowledge.
12 "But if they do not hear, they shall perish by the sword And they will die without knowledge.
12 "But if they won't listen, they'll perish by the sword and die in their ignorance.
12 But if they obey not, they shall perish by the sword, and they shall die without knowledge.
- 13 "But the godless in heart nurture anger; They do not call for help when He binds them.
13 "But the godless in heart lay up anger; They do not cry for help when He binds them.
13 The godless at heart cherish anger; they won't cry out for help when God afflicts them.
13 But the hypocrites in heart heap up wrath: they cry not when he bindeth them.
- 14 "They die in youth, And their life *perishes* among the cult prostitutes.
14 "They die in youth, And their life *perishes* among the cult prostitutes.
14 They die in their youth; and their life will end among temple prostitutes.
14 They die in youth, and their life is among the unclean.
- 15 "He rescues the afflicted in their misery, And opens their ears in *time of oppression*.
15 "He delivers the afflicted in their affliction, And opens their ear in *time of oppression*.
15 He'll deliver the afflicted through their afflictions and open their ears when they are oppressed."
15 He delivereth the poor in his affliction, and openeth their ears in oppression.

(c) Elihu explains that divine judgment can be avoided through righteous living
(36:16-23)

16 "Then indeed, He induced you away from the mouth of distress, *And instead of it, a broad place with no constraint; And your table was full of rich food.*

16 "Then indeed, He enticed you from the mouth of distress, *Instead of it, a broad place with no constraint; And that which was set on your table was full of fatness.*

16 "Indeed, he drew you away from the brink of distress to a spacious place without constraints, filling your festive table with bountiful food.

16 Even so would he have removed thee out of the strait into a broad place, where there is no straitness; and that which should be set on thy table should be full of fatness.

17 "But you were full of judgment on the wicked; Judgment and justice take hold of you.

17 "But you were full of judgment on the wicked; Judgment and justice take hold of you.

17 But now you are occupied with the case of the wicked; but justice and judgment will be served.

17 But thou hast fulfilled the judgment of the wicked: judgment and justice take hold on thee.

18 "Beware that wrath does not entice you to mockery; And do not let the greatness of the ransom turn you aside.

18 "Beware that wrath does not entice you to scoffing; And do not let the greatness of the ransom turn you aside.

18 So that no one entices you with riches, don't let a large ransom turn you astray.

18 Because there is wrath, beware lest he take thee away with his stroke: then a great ransom cannot deliver thee.

19 "Will your cry for help keep you from distress, Or all the exertions of *your strength?*

19 "Will your riches keep you from distress, Or all the forces of *your strength?*

19 "Will your wealth sustain you when you're in distress, despite your most powerful efforts?

19 Will he esteem thy riches? no, not gold, nor all the forces of strength.

20 "Do not long for the night, When people vanish in their places.

20 "Do not long for the night, When people vanish in their place.

20 Don't long for night, when people vanish in their place.

20 Desire not the night, when people are cut off in their place.

21 "Be careful, do not turn to evil, For you preferred this to misery.

21 "Be careful, do not turn to evil, For you have preferred this to affliction.

21 Be careful! Don't turn to evil, because of this you will be tried by more than affliction.

- 21 Take heed, regard not iniquity: for this hast thou chosen rather than affliction.
- 22 "Behold, God is exalted in His power; Who is a teacher like Him?
- 22 "Behold, God is exalted in His power; Who is a teacher like Him?
- 22 "Indeed, God is exalted in his power. Who is like him as a teacher?
- 22 Behold, God exalteth by his power: who teacheth like him?
- 23 "Who has appointed Him His way, And who has said, 'You have done wrong'?
- 23 "Who has appointed Him His way, And who has said, 'You have done wrong'?
- 23 Who ordained his path for him, and who has asked him, 'You are wrong, aren't you?'
- 23 Who hath enjoined him his way? or who can say, Thou hast wrought iniquity?
- (d) God should be respected because of His dealings in nature (Job 36:24—37:13)
- 24** "Remember that you are to exalt His work, Of which people have sung.
- 24** "Remember that you should exalt His work, Of which men have sung.
- 24 Remember to magnify his awesome activities, about which mortal man has sung.
- 24 Remember that thou magnify his work, which men behold.
- 25 "All people have seen it; Mankind looks at it from afar.
- 25 "All men have seen it; Man beholds from afar.
- 25 All of mankind sees him; human beings observe him from afar off."
- 25 Every man may see it; man may behold it afar off.
- 26 "Behold, God is exalted, and we do not know *Him*; The number of His years is unsearchable.
- 26 "Behold, God is exalted, and we do not know *Him*; The number of His years is unsearchable.
- 26 "God is truly awesome, beyond what we know; the number of his years is unknowable.
- 26 Behold, God is great, and we know him not, neither can the number of his years be searched out.
- 27 "For He draws up the drops of water; They distill rain from its celestial stream,
- 27 "For He draws up the drops of water, They distill rain from the mist,
- 27 He draws up drops of water, distilling it to rain and mist.
- 27 For he maketh small the drops of water: they pour down rain according to the vapour thereof:
- 28 Which clouds pour down; They drip upon mankind abundantly.

- 28 Which the clouds pour down, They drip upon man abundantly.
28 When the clouds pour down; they drop their rain on all of humanity.
28 Which the clouds do drop and distil upon man abundantly.
- 29 "Can anyone understand the spreading of the clouds, The thundering of His pavilion?
29 "Can anyone understand the spreading of the clouds, The thundering of His pavilion?
29 "Furthermore, can anyone understand cloud patterns, or the thundering in his pavilion?
29 Also can any understand the spreadings of the clouds, or the noise of his tabernacle?
- 30 "Behold, He spreads His lightning about Him, And He covers the depths of the sea.
30 "Behold, He spreads His lightning about Him, And He covers the depths of the sea.
30 He scatters his lightning above it, and covers the bottom of the sea.
30 Behold, he spreadeth his light upon it, and covereth the bottom [roots] of the sea.
- 31 "For by them He judges peoples; He gives food in abundance.
31 "For by these He judges peoples; He gives food in abundance.
31 He uses them to judge some people and give food to many.
31 For by them judgeth he the people; he giveth meat in abundance.
- 32 "He covers *His* hands with the lightning, And commands it to strike the target.
32 "He covers *His* hands with the lightning, And commands it to strike the mark.
32 His hands are covered with lightning that he commands to strike his designated target.
32 With clouds he covereth the light; and commandeth it not to shine by the cloud that cometh betwixt.
- 33 "Its thundering voice declares His presence; The livestock also, concerning what is coming up.
33 "Its noise declares His presence; The cattle also, concerning what is coming up.
33 His thunder declares his presence; and tells the animals what is coming."
33 The noise thereof sheweth concerning it, the cattle also concerning the vapour.