

"Now Mine Eyes Seeth Thee"

Lesson 4

Eliphaz's First Speech & Job's Reply Job 4-7

Introduction

The "debate" between Job and his friends begins at **ch. 4** with Eliphaz being the first one to offer his view on Job's predicament. Eliphaz saw himself as knowledgeable due to his observations of life and because he received revelation through visions (**4:8, 12-21**). Eliphaz advises Job to receive these misfortunes as punishment from God because he obviously is guilty of some sin (**4:7-8**). He further tells Job to seek God in repentance to correct his plight (**5:8**)...he would be glad he did (**5:17-26**).

Job answers Eliphaz by admitting the rashness of his words (**6:3**), but offers as his excuse the burden of the calamities he has suffered (**6:4-7**). Job further reacts to Eliphaz (and possibly the others) by stating how these "friends" are not helping him (**6:14**). For the most part Job ignores Eliphaz, and continues his frustrating lamentations, even appearing to blame God for wrongfully afflicting him (**7:19-21**).

Eliphaz's First Speech (Job 4:1 - 5:27)

1. What does Eliphaz think of Job's former condition in life? (**4:1-4**) How does he credit Job? What does Eliphaz think Job needs to understand now? (**4:5-6**) How does Eliphaz argue? (**4:7-11**)
2. How does Eliphaz claim to know what he is talking about? (**4:8, 12-21**) How does he describe this vision? What was the basic message of Eliphaz's vision? (**4:17-21**)
3. What does Eliphaz encourage Job to do in **5:1**? What does Eliphaz imply and insinuate about Job in **5:2**?
4. What other observations does Eliphaz offer in **5:3-7**? What advice does Eliphaz give Job? (**5:8-16**)
5. In concluding his first speech, what does Eliphaz seek to teach Job about God's discipline and chastising of man? (**5:17-27**) *Thought questions*: how had Eliphaz failed to help Job? How would you summarize Eliphaz's understanding of God and sin from his first speech?

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Job's Reply To Eliphaz (6:1 - 7:21)

6. Reviewing Eliphaz's charge against Job in 5:2, how does Job begin his response in 6:1-2? What is Job's excuse for his "rash words"? (6:3-7)

7. To what does Job return in 6:8-13? Job still maintains his integrity with what words from 6:10? What does Job state he needs to keep enduring all his sufferings? (6:12-13)

8. What does Job have to say about his friends? (6:14-23) To what disappointment does he liken them? What final words does he have for them? (6:21-23)

9. What challenge does Job extend towards his friends? (6:24-26) How does Job show that he seeks honest answers from them while they treat him with contempt? (6:27-30)

10. How does Job continue to complain about life in general in 7:1-10? To what does he liken his condition? (7:2-3) What does he mention about the brevity of life? Does he feel he will not enjoy anymore of life's goodness?

11. What does all of his anguish lead Job to do? (7:11-21) Compare his anguish now to his attitude expressed in 1:20-22 and 2:10. Are you surprised? Was Satan right about Job?