

“Now Mine Eyes Seeth Thee”

Lesson 7

Eliphaz’s Second Speech & Job’s Reply Job 15-17

Introduction

Having completed the first round of speeches, Job’s “friends” have made no progress. Convinced as they were of Job’s guiltiness, they were unable to persuade him to agree that he was deserving of this punishment from God. Job would not agree with them, and staunchly held to his innocence.

In Eliphaz’s second speech (**ch. 15**), he appears to be more harsh and severe with Job than the first time he spoke. Apparently, he did not appreciate Job’s denial of their collective wisdom, and he really wants to make his case. In response (**chs. 16-17**), Job rejects these counselors, even labeling them “miserable comforters” (**16:2**). It seems that Job’s faith takes the form of a roller coaster. Although he repeats his view that God’s treatment of him is unfair (**16:6-17**), his faith soars again in that he has not totally abandoned God. He is sure that in the end, God is his witness, and will vindicate him (**16:19**). His reply concludes with another despairing outlook on the remainder of his life (**17:6-16**).

Eliphaz’s Second Speech (Job 15:1-35)

1. How does Eliphaz begin his second speech? (**15:1-3**) What part of Job’s reply from **12:3** & **13:2** does he appear to be answering? (**15:4-6**) How does Eliphaz portray Job’s guiltiness? (**15:6**)
2. How would you describe Eliphaz’s words in **15:7-8**? Why do you think he spoke thus to Job? To what does Eliphaz refer in order to ridicule Job? (**15:9-11**)
3. What theme do you see Eliphaz stressing in **15:12-16**? To emphasize Job’s inferiority, to whom does Eliphaz compare him? (**15:15-16**) How does Eliphaz describe Job in **15:16**?
4. In agreeing with Bildad’s first speech (**8:8-10**), what is the basis for Eliphaz’s argument in **15:17-19**? What are Eliphaz’s conclusions in **15:20-24**? What is the reason for the wicked man’s sufferings? (**15:25-30**) How does Eliphaz describe the end of the wicked man? (**15:31-35**)

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Job's Reply To Eliphaz (Job 16:1 - 17:16)

5. How does Job begin his reply to Eliphaz in **16:1-3**? What does Job contend he would do if the situation were reversed? (**16:4-5**; cp. **4:4**) How would you describe Job's feelings at this point?

6. To what theme does Job return in **16:6-17**? Notice some of Job's words, and comment on what you think he means by them (*quotations are taken from New American Standard*):

 “My adversary...” (**16:9**) _____

 “God hands me over...” (**16:11**) _____

 “Without mercy...” (**16:13**) _____

7. How does Job describe his reaction to all that has happened to him? (**16:15-17**) How does he repeat his innocence? How does he stress that he does not deserve such treatment? (**16:17**)

8. What do you see Job saying in **16:18-22**? What is the point of his cry to the earth in **16:18**? (cp. **Gen. 4:10**; **Lev. 17:13**; **Num. 35:33**) What bright spot in Job's faith do we see in **16:19**?

9. Of what is Job certain? (**17:1**) How does he view his “friends”? (**17:2,5**) What is his request to God regarding his situation and the charges of his “friends”? (**17:3**)

10. According to Job, what has God done to these “friends” and of what was he confident about their position? (**17:4**)

11. To what gloomy theme does Job return in **17:6-16**? What do you think he means by “byword”? (**17:6**) How will the upright react to Job's plight? (**17:8**) How will it affect them? (**17:9**) What does Job see as his immediate future? (**17:11-16**)