

## Eliphaz's Advice to Job (Job 4-5)

### I. Eliphaz Doubts Job's Faithfulness (Job 4:1-19)

#### A. Eliphaz Cautiously Speaks to Job (4:1-2)

#### B. Eliphaz Accuses Job of False Piety (4:3-11)

1. Job doesn't follow his own counsel (4:3-5)
  - a. Job strengthened others in their trials (4:3-4)
  - b. Job has not strength in his own trials (4:5)
2. Job is trusting in his own goodness (4:6)
  - a. His fear of God
  - b. His own integrity
3. Suffering is God's Judgment (4:7-11)
  - a. Only the guilty suffer like this (4:7-8)
    - i. No innocent person is destroyed
    - ii. Those who sow evil also reap it
  - b. God brings suffering to the guilty (4:9)
  - c. God brings suffering on the strongest of people (4:10-11)

#### C. Eliphaz Counsels that Men are Not Righteous (4:12-21)

1. Eliphaz Receives a frightening thought (4:12-16)
  - a. Eliphaz believes he understands a truth (4:12-13)
    - i. This is true outside himself (it came to him – poetic)
  - b. Eliphaz is affected by this truth (4:14-16)
    - i. Dread came upon him
    - ii. His bones shook
    - iii. Hair of his flesh bristled up
  - c. Eliphaz is claiming to have received revelation
2. Mortal Man is not righteous before God (4:17-21)
  - a. Is any man righteous before God? (4:17)
    - i. Question expects negative answer
  - b. How can man be righteous if higher beings (angels) are not (4:18-19)
  - c. Men are frail and weak (4:19b-21)
    - i. Their foundation is the dust
    - ii. They perish quickly and easily

#### D. Eliphaz Concludes that Job Cannot Be Just Before God

### II. God Alone Brings the Sufferings of Judgment (5:1-7)

#### A. Eliphaz Says God is the Only Judge (5:1)

1. Who can judge between God and Man?
2. God is the only judge and there is none higher

#### B. Eliphaz Says God's Judgment Results in Suffering (5:2-7)

1. Judgment Afflicts the Foolish (5:2)
2. Judgment is Irrevocable (5:3-5)
  - a. Eliphaz claims to have seen this by Experience (5:3)
  - b. No one can remove the sufferings of judgment (5:4)
  - c. All his provisions are taken away in judgment (5:5)
3. Judgment Doesn't Come without a Cause (5:6-7)

- a. Evil doesn't just come from the dust
- b. Trouble doesn't just spring up from the ground
- c. Man is born to trouble (yet it is from himself that it comes)

### III. Eliphaz Counsels Job to Repent and Seek God (5:8-27)

#### A. Job is Counselling to Humbly Cry to God (5:8-16)

- 1. Make Your Case to God (5:8)
- 2. God Helps the Repentant and Afflicts the Proud (9-16)
  - a. God provides in miraculous ways (5:9-10)
  - b. God comforts the lowly (5:11)
  - c. God confounds the "wise" (5:12-14)
  - d. God protects the poor (5:15-16)

#### B. Job is Counseled not to Reject God's Discipline (5:17-26)

- 1. Job will be blessed to heed to God's chastisement (5:17)
- 2. Blessing Comes from Accepting Correction (5:18-26)
  - a. God Corrects But also comforts (5:18)
  - b. God Blesses those who accept correction (5:19-26)
    - i. "from six...even seven" – means completely
    - ii. protection from famine, war, gossip, destruction, beasts, thieves, early death

#### C. Job is Counseled to Heed Eliphaz's Warning (5:27)

- 1. Eliphaz claims to have investigated the matter
- 2. Eliphaz exhorts Job to apply this for his own good.