



Title: [The Dialogue *cont'd.*] Elihu's Fourth & Final Speech

Text: Job 36 & 37

Introduction:

1. The phrase "answered and said" (32:6; 34:1; 35:1; 36:1) separates his speeches – Thus we have Elihu's four speeches.
2. Elihu's fourth and final speech takes on a more general but theological reflection with an appeal to Job to repent.
3. Again, Elihu prepares Job, his friends, and the reader(s) for the LORD's dialogue.

I. Elihu's Preface (36:1-4)

- A. Elihu has more to say on God's behalf.
- B. He asks Job and his friends to listen on.
- C. He with a good heart (perfect) aims to reason with Job.

II. God's Conduct Towards Various People (36:5-15)

- A. Towards the wicked (vv.5-6)
- B. Towards the godly (vv.7-11)
- C. Towards the hypocrite (vv.12-14)
- D. Towards the poor (vv.15)

III. God's Mercy Hindered by Job's Offence (36:16-21)

- A. If Job would humble himself – God would deliver him.
- B. Elihu claims that Job is extenuating God's judgment on himself.
- C. Elihu warns Job to abandon his rebellion.

IV. God's Power & Providence Magnified (36:22-33)

- A. Elihu illustrates God's uncontrollable power.
- B. Elihu concludes with God's infinite and unsearchable wisdom and power.

V. God's Great Works in Nature (36:1-13)

- A. We submit to God's outward changes in climate and nature.
- B. We ought to submit to God's changing our condition.

VI. God's Wisdom is Unsearchable (37:14-18)

- A. Job's ignorance ought to inform him that he is inadequate to judge God's ways.
- B. God's wisdom cannot be fathomed as evident in nature.

VII. Man's Response is to Fear God (37:19-24) – We are ignorant and cannot speak to God, but we should fear Him who is no respecter of persons. God is sovereign and just.

Conclusion:

1. The three friends' perspective is that suffering can only occur because of sin. Job was in sin.
2. Elihu's thesis: suffering is for discipline and preventative rather than corrective. Job is now in sin.
3. A Biblical perspective: suffering is doxological – towards and for the glory of God.
4. Elihu serves as a bridge or gap between the dialogues of men and God.
5. Sufferings can reveal our true character, teach us something about God, and teach us something about faith.
6. Elihu is wrong to advise Job to not seek an audience with God.
7. Elihu is correct in advising Job to fear God. But Job already has done that and is still continuing in the fear of God (Job 1:1).
8. We must remember that no one other than God and Satan knew about the Heavenly conversation between God and Satan – therefore none of these men spoke with knowledge and understanding.