

ELIHU'S SECOND AND THIRD SPEECHES

Job 34-35 / January 8, 2021

FIRST SPEECH (Chapters 32-33)

1. **Elihu Argues Job Should Listen to Him** (32:6a)
2. **Elihu Misquotes Job out of Context: *Job is Without Sin*** (33:8-11)
3. **Elihu Appeals to God's Sovereignty that God Does Speak and is not Silent with Job** (33:12-23)
4. **Elihu Presents God's Mercy to Those (Job) Who Repent** (33:24-31)
5. **Elihu Insists He is Correct** (33:32-33)

SECOND SPEECH (Chapter 34)

Then Elihu answered and said: (34:1)

6. **Elihu Pleads to Others that Job Should Listen to Him** (34:2-4)

“Hear my words, you **wise men**, / and give ear to me, you who know;
for the ear tests words / as the palate tastes food.
Let us choose what is right; / let us know among ourselves what is good.

7. **Elihu Condemns Job by Misquoting Him for Being Sinless** (34:5-9)

For Job has said, ‘I am in the right, / and God has taken away my right;
in spite of my right I am counted a liar; / my wound is incurable, though I am without
transgression.’

What man is like Job, / who drinks up scoffing like water,
who travels in company with evildoers / and walks with wicked men?
For he has said, ‘It profits a man nothing / that he should take delight in God.’

8. **Elihu Defends God's Holiness and Justice (In Response to Job's argument that the wicked prosper and the innocent suffer)** (34:10-30)

“Therefore, hear me, you men of understanding: / far be it from God that he should do wickedness,
/ and from the Almighty that he should do wrong.

For according to the work of a man he will repay him, / and according to his ways he will make it
befall him.

Of a truth, God will not do wickedly, / and the Almighty will not pervert justice.

Who gave him charge over the earth, / and who laid on him the whole world?
If he should set his heart to it / and gather to himself his spirit and his breath,
all flesh would perish together, / and man would return to dust.

“If you have understanding, hear this; / listen to what I say.
Shall one who hates justice govern? / Will you condemn him who is righteous and mighty,
who says to a king, ‘Worthless one,’ / and to nobles, ‘Wicked man,’
who shows no partiality to princes, / nor regards the rich more than the poor, / for they are all the
work of his hands?

In a moment they die; / at midnight the people are shaken and pass away, / and the mighty are
taken away by no human hand.

“For his eyes are on the ways of a man, / and he sees all his steps.
There is no gloom or deep darkness / where evildoers may hide themselves.
For God has no need to consider a man further, / that he should go before God in judgment.
He shatters the mighty without investigation / and sets others in their place.
Thus, knowing their works, / he overturns them in the night, and they are crushed.
He strikes them for their wickedness / in a place for all to see,
because they turned aside from following him / and had no regard for any of his ways,
so that they caused the cry of the poor to come to him, / and he heard the cry of the afflicted—
When he is quiet, who can condemn? / When he hides his face, who can behold him, / whether it
be a nation or a man?—
that a godless man should not reign, / that he should not ensnare the people.

9. **Elihu Rebukes Job** (34:31-37)

“For has anyone said to God, / ‘I have borne punishment; I will not offend any more;
teach me what I do not see; / if I have done iniquity, I will do it no more’?
Will he then make repayment to suit you, / because you reject it?
For you must choose, and not I; / therefore declare what you know.
Men of understanding will say to me, / and the wise man who hears me will say:
‘Job speaks without knowledge; / his words are without insight.’
Would that Job were tried to the end, / because he answers like wicked men.
For he adds rebellion to his sin; / he claps his hands among us / and multiplies his words against
God.”

And Elihu answered and said: (35:1)

10. Elihu Questions Job: What is the Purpose to be Good if God Seems Not to Care? (35:2-3)

“Do you think this to be just? / Do you say, ‘It is my right before God,’
that you ask, ‘What advantage have I? / How am I better off than if I had sinned?’

11. Elihu Argues that God Does Not Care if Job is Righteous or Not (35:4-8)

I will answer you / and your friends with you.
Look at the heavens, and see; / and behold the clouds, which are higher than you.
If you have sinned, what do you accomplish against him? / And if your transgressions are multiplied,
what do you do to him?
If you are righteous, what do you give to him? / Or what does he receive from your hand?
Your wickedness concerns a man like yourself, / and your righteousness a son of man.

12. Elihu Argues, however, that God Seems Not to Care because People (Job) do not Care (35:9-16)

“Because of the multitude of oppressions people cry out; / they call for help because of the arm of
the mighty.
But none says, ‘Where is God my Maker, / who gives songs in the night,
who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth / and makes us wiser than the birds of the
heavens?’
There they cry out, but he does not answer, / because of the pride of evil men.
Surely God does not hear an empty cry, / nor does the Almighty regard it.
How much less when you say that you do not see him, / that the case is before him, and you are
waiting for him!
And now, because his anger does not punish, / and he does not take much note of transgression,
Job opens his mouth in empty talk; / he multiplies words without knowledge.”