

Elihu: Fourth Speech

Job 36-37 / January 15, 2021

FOURTH SPEECH (Chapters 36-37)

And Elihu continued, and said: (36:1)

13. Elihu Continues to Declare His Credentials (36:2-4)

“Bear with me a little, and I will show you, / for I have yet something to say on God's behalf.
I will get my knowledge from afar / and ascribe righteousness to my Maker.
For truly my words are not false; / one who is perfect in knowledge is with you.

14. Elihu Affirms God Punishes the Wicked and Blesses the Righteous (36:5-14)

“Behold, God is mighty, and does not despise any; / he is mighty in strength of understanding.

He does not keep the wicked alive, / but gives the afflicted their right.

He does not withdraw his eyes from the righteous, / but with kings on the throne / he sets them
forever, and they are exalted.

And if they are bound in chains / and caught in the cords of affliction,
then he declares to them their work / and their transgressions, that they are behaving arrogantly.
He opens their ears to instruction / and commands that they return from iniquity.

If they listen and serve him, / they complete their days in prosperity, / and their years in pleasantness.
But if they do not listen, they perish by the sword / and die without knowledge.

“The godless in heart cherish anger; / they do not cry for help when he binds them.

They die in youth, / and their life ends among the cult prostitutes.

15. Elihu Disagrees with Job that the Wicked Prosper and that Job's Suffering is Unjust (36:15-21)

He delivers the afflicted by their affliction / and opens their ear by adversity.

He also allured you out of distress / into a broad place where there was no cramping, / and what was
set on your table was full of fatness.

“But you are full of the judgment on the wicked; / judgment and justice seize you.

Beware lest wrath entice you into scoffing, / and let not the greatness of the ransom turn you aside.

Will your cry for help avail to keep you from distress, / or all the force of your strength?
Do not long for the night, / when peoples vanish in their place.
Take care; do not turn to iniquity, / for this you have chosen rather than affliction.

16. Elihu Declares God's Power Not His Justice (36:22-26)

Behold, God is exalted in his power; / who is a teacher like him?
Who has prescribed for him his way, / or who can say, 'You have done wrong'?
"Remember to extol his work, / of which men have sung.
All mankind has looked on it; / man beholds it from afar.
Behold, God is great, and we know him not; / the number of his years is unsearchable.

17. Elihu Declares God's Greatness in Creation (36:27-33; 37:1-13)

For he draws up the drops of water; / they distill his mist in rain,
which the skies pour down / and drop on mankind abundantly.
Can anyone understand the spreading of the clouds, / the thunderings of his pavilion?
Behold, he scatters his lightning about him / and covers the roots of the sea.
For by these he judges peoples; / he gives food in abundance.
He covers his hands with the lightning / and commands it to strike the mark.
Its crashing declares his presence; / the cattle also declare that he rises.
"At this also my heart trembles / and leaps out of its place.
Keep listening to the thunder of his voice / and the rumbling that comes from his mouth.
Under the whole heaven he lets it go, / and his lightning to the corners of the earth.
After it his voice roars; / he thunders with his majestic voice, / and he does not restrain the
lightnings when his voice is heard.
God thunders wondrously with his voice; / he does great things that we cannot comprehend.
For to the snow he says, 'Fall on the earth,' / likewise to the downpour, his mighty downpour.
He seals up the hand of every man, / that all men whom he made may know it.
Then the beasts go into their lairs, / and remain in their dens.
From its chamber comes the whirlwind, / and cold from the scattering winds.
By the breath of God ice is given, / and the broad waters are frozen fast.
He loads the thick cloud with moisture; / the clouds scatter his lightning.
They turn around and around by his guidance, / to accomplish all that he commands them / on the
face of the habitable world.
Whether for correction or for his land / or for love, he causes it to happen.

18. Elihu Rebukes Job for Wanting to Be Vindicated by God for His Suffering (37:14-20)

“Hear this, O Job; / stop and consider the wondrous works of God.

Do you know how God lays his command upon them / and causes the lightning of his cloud to shine?

Do you know the balancings of the clouds, / the wondrous works of him who is perfect in knowledge,

you whose garments are hot / when the earth is still because of the south wind?

Can you, like him, spread out the skies, / hard as a cast metal mirror?

Teach us what we shall say to him; / we cannot draw up our case because of darkness.

Shall it be told him that I would speak? / Did a man ever wish that he would be swallowed up?

19. Elihu Calls Job to See God as Almighty and Morally Perfect (37:21-24)

“And now no one looks on the light / when it is bright in the skies, / when the wind has passed and cleared them.

Out of the north comes golden splendor; / God is clothed with awesome majesty.

The Almighty—we cannot find him; / he is great in power; / justice and abundant righteousness he will not violate.

Therefore men fear him; / he does not regard any who are wise in their own conceit.”

Conclusion to Job and the Four Friends and Introduction to God (38:1-3)

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:

“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

Dress for action like a man;

I will question you, and you make it known to me.

Review of Elihu's Four Speeches

1ST SPEECH

1. Why Should Job Listen to Elihu? (32:6a)
 - 1) God Gives Wisdom Even to the Young (32:6b-10)
 - 2) Job's Friends Were Unable to Change Job's Position (32:11-16)
 - 3) Elihu is Objective and Nonbiased (32:17-22)
 - 4) Elihu has Upright and Sincere Motives (33:1-3)
 - 5) Elihu Identifies with Job as God's Creation (33:4-7)
2. Elihu Misquotes Job out of Context (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 Who Repent (33:24-31)
5. Elihu Insists He is Correct (33:32-33)

2ND SPEECH

6. Elihu Pleads to Others that Job Should Listen to Him (34:2-4)
7. Elihu Condemns Job by Misquoting Him for Being Sinless (34:5-9)
8. Elihu Defends God's Holiness and Justice (34:10-30)
9. Elihu Rebukes Job (34:31-37)

3RD SPEECH

10. Elihu Questions Job: What is the Purpose to be Good if God Seems Not to Care? (35:2-3)
11. Elihu Argues that God Does Not Care if Job is Righteous or Not (35:4-8)
12. Elihu Argues, however, that God Seems Not to Care because People (Job) do not Care (35:9-16)

4TH SPEECH

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