
Eliphaz's Third Speech – "Job, you just can't seem to get it through your head! God punishes the wicked, and blesses the righteous! Job, you are a wicked man. This is why you are suffering! Look at us – we are not suffering! Therefore admit your sin, return to the Lord, and the Lord will really bless you!"

(Chapter 22)

Job's Reply – "Oh, if I could only declare my cause to God, face to face! I have kept His commandments, yet He has willed this suffering for me. How is it, my three miserable comforters, that wicked men are permitted to live, if God destroys the wicked in this life?"

(Chapters 23, 24)

Bildad's Third Speech – "How can a man think himself to be righteous before God? Man is a sinful worm!"

(Chapter 25)

Job's Reply – "You are wrong. God is not punishing me because I am wicked, for I am righteous! Oh, that God's blessing were still upon me, instead of this evil! If I am not righteous, then let me be punished for my sins!"

(Chapters 26-31)

Elihu's Interruption and Speech

"Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, you have not answered the problem, and yet you have condemned Job. Job, you have justified yourself rather than God. Do you not realize that God often afflicts men to show them their sin and to bring them to repentance? Job, repent of your sin, and God will take away your affliction!"

(Chapters 32-37)

ACT III. THE PROBLEM SOLVED

The LORD's solution – "Job, answer me, who has created all things? And who providentially controls all things? Have you created them? And are they under your control?"

(Chapters 38-40:2)

Job's Reply – "Lord, I will not question any longer whether or not it is just for you to inflict suffering upon me."

(Chapter 40:3-5)

The LORD's solution (continued) – "Job, are you going to attempt to make me appear unjust, in order that you may appear just? Can you control all things by your power, as I do? When you can, then you can deliver yourself from your captivity in affliction. But until then, I am in control, and I must deliver you!"

(Chapters 40:6-41:34)

Job's Reply – "Lord, I know that you have all power, and that you are in control of all things. And now understanding this, I realize that my suffering is under your control. Lord, I repent of my foolish and sinful