

Eliphaz Speaks

Chapter Twenty-Two

- This is Eliphaz's last and final attempt to convince Job that there is something wrong within his life to warrant the affliction in which he is enduring.
- Throughout Job's dialogue with his friends Eliphaz, up to this point, has been the most kind of the three with his words but not so much in his third speech to Job.
- "He [Eliphaz] made three serious accusations against Job: **he is a sinner** (Job 22:1-11), **he is hiding his sins** (vv. 12-20), and **he must confess his sins and repent before God can help him** (vv. 21-30)."-Wiersbe, Warren

Job 22:1-3

“Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:
“Can a man be profitable to God? Surely he who is
wise is profitable to himself. Is it any pleasure to the
Almighty if you are in the right, or is it gain to him if
you make your ways blameless?”

God Lacks Nothing

- Eliphaz takes aim using the argument that God needs nothing and lacks nothing.
- Man has nothing to offer back to God because “**Surely he who is wise is profitable to himself.**”-(Vs.2)
- Eliphaz emphasizes the transcendence of God but forgets God’s concern and interaction with and for man.
- God is sovereign and only interacts with man to punish man for their sins is the viewpoint that Eliphaz seemed to be focused upon.

- God is a police officer focused on the bad actions of people.
- It is true that God does not need anything from man but Scripture is very clear that God also enjoys and delights in a relationship with man and His creation.
- “ Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ”-**Genesis 2:19**

- After the Fall of man it is God Who **“is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us...”**(Ephesians 2:4) initiates dialogue with a deep concern for man and his position before Him.
- **“Why, when I came, was there no man? Why, when I called, was there none to answer?”-Isaiah 50:2**
- God loves His creation and enjoys interaction with man in spite of our behavior good or bad.
- **“For one will scarcely die for a righteous person, though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”-Romans 5:7-8**

- “O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.”-**Psalm 139:1-6**
- “As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.”-**Psalm 103:13-14**

- Eliphaz paints an ugly portrait of God to a man who is enduring a deep trial and affliction.
- Eliphaz advocated and expressed to Job that God is an uncompassionate, an unloving, and an unmerciful Creator, Who is unconcerned about the affairs of man.
- “It is the now familiar unbalanced stress on divine transcendence: the concept that man is nothing in God’s eyes, even his virtue is useless. God does not need man; it is man who needs God. Since everything has its origin in God, man’s giving it back – even in service – does not enhance God in any way.”-Smick, Elmer
- “casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”-1 Peter 5:7

Attributes Of God

- “To have a correct understanding of the attributes it is necessary that we see them all as one. We think of them separately but they cannot be separated. ‘All attributes assigned to God cannot differ in reality, by reason of the perfect simplicity of God, although we divers ways use of God divers words,’ says Nicholas of Cusa. ‘Whence, although we attribute to God sight, hearing, taste, smell, touch, sense, reason and intellect, and so forth, according to the divers significations of each word, yet in him sight is not other than hearing, or tasting, or smelling, or touching, or feeling, or understanding. And so all theology is said to be established in a circle, because any one of his attributes is affirmed of another.’”-Tozer A.W.

Pride Must Be Job's Problem

- Eliphaz believed Job to be arrogant in requesting an answer from God or rather an accounting from God to the reasons that Job was in a crisis situation.
- Eliphaz asked Job does God find “**pleasure**” if your right before God? Or does God “**gain**” by Job being blameless in his ways?
- Although it is true that God doesn't need Job in the way that Job needed God but God does take pleasure working through the issues of our relationship with Him especially in times of suffering.

- “...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”-**Philippians 2:12b-13**
- “Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”-**Hebrews 13:20-21**

- **Active living faith produces good works** that are a direct result of the new nature born into the believer through faith in Jesus and by cooperating with the Holy Spirit, Who works in and through the believer.
- We are told that “**good works are prepared beforehand by God**” for the believer to walk in through a living faith.
- The only works that God prepared for the believer to walk in are “good works” all other works are either **dead** or **wicked** and are forced as a result from the old nature not the Spirit of God.
- Dead works may appear to be good works and some people may even see and call them as good but God views them as dead because they did not come from a living faith in relationship with God.
- **Romans 14:25**, says “**whatever is not from faith is sin.**”

- Eliphaz was correct that God is transcendent but that was only a half-truth which is not truth at all and when a half-truth is applied to God Who is the foundation of all truth then Eliphaz was promoting a false teaching about God.
- Any teaching about God must have its foundation upon the whole context of the Bible's testimony about God and not a simple portion of it.
- Paul said to the Church in Ephesus: “for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.”-**Acts 20:27**
- Eliphaz, like many teachers and preachers today, did not present the “whole counsel” of God to Job.

Job 22:4-11

“Is it for your fear of him that he reproves you and enters into judgment with you? Is not your evil abundant? There is no end to your iniquities. For you have exacted pledges of your brothers for nothing and stripped the naked of their clothing. You have given no water to the weary to drink, and you have withheld bread from the hungry. The man with power possessed the land, and the favored man lived in it. You have sent widows away empty, and the arms of the fatherless were crushed. Therefore snares are all around you, and sudden terror overwhelms you, or darkness, so that you cannot see, and a flood of water covers you.”

Job's Sin Is Abundant

- Eliphaz believed God had entered into judgment against Job because Job was a man who continually did evil.
- Eliphaz then lists several sins that Job apparently committed which if true would not make Job a “**blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?**”(1:8) as God had testified about Job to Satan.
- Eliphaz wants to draw a picture to Job that because of the sins that Job had supposedly committed Job was the wicked man deserving of judgment from God in the here and now.

- The sins that Eliphaz attributes to Job are the sins in the Scripture that God despises:
 - Loaning to people and taking from them everything including their clothing.
 - Not feeding the hungry or giving water to the thirsty
 - Send widows away empty
 - Crushed the fatherless
- Job denies committing any of the sins that Eliphaz accuses him of in **Chapter 31:16-32.**

- "The lamentable fact is that the friends endorsed Satan's view of Job as a hypocrite. Thinking to defend God, they became Satan's advocates, insisting that he whom God designated as His servant belonged to the devil."-Kline, Meredith
- "He no longer believed that Job was basically a God-fearing man. Job's troubles were God's rebuke. That they were great testified to the extent of his sin. So Eliphaz felt free, perhaps obligated, to expound on the possible nature of those sins."-Smick, Elmer

Job 22:12-20

“Is not God high in the heavens? See the highest stars, how lofty they are! But you say, ‘What does God know? Can he judge through the deep darkness? Thick clouds veil him, so that he does not see, and he walks on the vault of heaven.’ Will you keep to the old way that wicked men have trod? They were snatched away before their time; their foundation was washed away. They said to God, ‘Depart from us,’ and ‘What can the Almighty do to us?’ Yet he filled their houses with good things but the counsel of the wicked is far from me. The righteous see it and are glad; the innocent one mocks at them, saying, ‘Surely our adversaries are cut off, and what they left the fire has consumed.’”

Eliphaz Attacks Job's Theology

- If a person has an incorrect foundation to their understanding of God that person will attempt to burden others with their false doctrine and that is exactly what Eliphaz was doing to Job.
- Eliphaz wants to teach Job the basics of theology.
- Eliphaz believed that Job was essentially incorrect in his understanding of God and was bound to correct him even if his theology was false.

- Today, the Bible refers to false teachers of theology as fierce wolves who draw away people from the truth of the Gospel by the twisted things they espouse.
- Paul said, “I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.” -Acts 20:29-30

- False teachers speak twisted things and contrary to the doctrine given to us in the Bible.
- “I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. ”-**Romans 16:17-18**
- "Presuming to read Job's secret thoughts, Eliphaz puts in Job's mouth blasphemies untrue to the sentiments he has actually expressed (vv. 12-14)."-Kline, Meredith

- Jude warned in his letter, “For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.”-**Jude 4**
- These people are especially dangerous because they creep in unnoticed.
- These men are ungodly since they deny the Lord’s work on the cross for man’s salvation thus perverting the grace of Lord Jesus Christ.

- Grace apart from Jesus' work is not grace at all.
- The “good news” message is that salvation is by grace through believing in Jesus work **plus nothing**.
- “Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the **gospel of God**, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the **obedience of faith** for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ”-**Romans 1:1-5**

- According to Paul, **obedience is believing the gospel!**
- Many people confuse their salvation with discipleship.
- Our salvation is through faith but our discipleship means we are trying to **follow in the foot steps of Jesus**, Who died for our salvation and Who brought understanding of the Father.
- We will sin and fail in our discipleship but our salvation is guaranteed.
- Any idea that denies salvation by faith plus nothing is a lie designed to enslave and draw people away from the truth of the gospel message .

Disciples Love Their Neighbor

- How do I show Christ's love to my neighbor?
- The way that Jesus loves us is a reflection of how we are to love others.
- Jesus said, “Just as I have loved you, you should love one another”-John 13:34
- When we reflect on how God has loved us with all our flaws and weaknesses this is how we are to love our neighbor.
- Paul said, “...accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.”-Romans 15:7
- “Let love be without hypocrisy.”-Romans 12:9

- “The sad truth is that many genuine Christians live tormented, defeated lives, not because of the gospel, but because of the way their guilt has distorted the clarity of the gospel. When they read the Scripture they see only their sins and failures. Every sermon is an indictment...Salvation is not about performance. It never was, never will be and never can be. We can do nothing to put ourselves at the level of God, to make ourselves fit for his presence. We lack God’s perfect nature. We are like God, created to image him, but by definition we are less than God, and God knows it. That’s why his solution was Jesus, not you.-Heiser, Michael

- “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

- In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”-**Ephesians 1:3-14**
- Like Eliphaz, there are certain people today, whose mind is puffed up and they focus on things they don't understand, teaching ideas that are outside the confines of Biblical truth, denying the gospel of grace.
- In fact, they probably claimed to be more Biblical than anybody else as Eliphaz and his other two friends seemed to be doing with Job.

The Flood

- Eliphaz seems to be referencing the great Flood in verses 15-16.
- He asked Job, “**Will you keep to the old way that wicked men have trod? They were snatched away before their time; their foundation was washed away.**”
- “Who were cut down before their time, whose yesod [foundation] was overflowed with a flood” -Orthodox Jewish Bible
- Sarcastically, he asks Job if he plans to continue going in the wrong direction – along the path of the wicked. He says this same path that Job is now traveling led to the drowning of an entire generation in Noah’s day...a reference to the Flood.” - Lawson, Steven

Job 22:21-30

“ “Agree with God, and be at peace; thereby good will come to you. Receive instruction from his mouth, and lay up his words in your heart. If you return to the Almighty you will be built up; if you remove injustice far from your tents, if you lay gold in the dust, and gold of Ophir among the stones of the torrent-bed, then the Almighty will be your gold and your precious silver. For then you will delight yourself in the Almighty and lift up your face to God. You will make your prayer to him, and he will hear you, and you will pay your vows. You will decide on a matter, and it will be established for you, and light will shine on your ways. For when they are humbled you say, ‘It is because of pride’; but he saves the lowly. He delivers even the one who is not innocent, who will be delivered through the cleanness of your hands.”

Agree With God

- Eliphaz tells Job to repent of his sins. This would be great advice assuming that sin is Job's issue with God, but it is not.
- This appeal sounds almost tender. However, Eliphaz had been very condemning in what he had just accused Job of doing and thinking.
- We should not use this type of approach when appealing to the unsaved today because God does not require a person to change his behavior before He will accept a sinner.
- Also, God does not promise physical prosperity to those who repent.

- Eliphaz says in verse 30, **“He delivers even the one who is not innocent, who will be delivered through the cleanness of your hands.”**
- This is an interesting and prophetic statement by Eliphaz.
- Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar are the ones who are not innocent and they will be delivered by the forgiveness prayer of Job.
- “And my servant Job shall pray for you, for I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly. For you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.”-**Job 42:8**