The

BIG QUESTION

in Suffering

THE BOOK OF JOB

Reading the Dialogue (Job 4–27)

Round 1

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Eliphaz speaks (4–5). Job responds (6–7).
Bildad speaks (8). Job responds (9–10).
Zophar speaks (11). Job responds (12–14).
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Quick Breather: Should we study the friends' bad advice?

Consider 4 truths from Eliphaz (Job 5:8-11):

- 1. Job 5:9 God's ways are unsearchable.
- 2. Job 5:10 God's gift of rain is amazing.
- 3. Job 5:11 God lifts up the lowly.
- 4. Job 5:8 You should seek God.

Reading the Dialogue (Job 4–27)

Round 1

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Eliphaz speaks (4–5). Job responds (6–7). Bildad speaks (8). Job responds (9–10). Zophar speaks (11). Job responds (12–14).
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Round 2

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Eliphaz speaks (15). Job responds (16–17). Bildad speaks (18). Job responds (19). Zophar speaks (20). Job responds (21).
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Round 3

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Eliphaz speaks (22). Job responds (23–24).
Bildad speaks (25). Job responds (26).
Zophar gives up, and Job still pleads innocent (27).
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The main point of the dialogues in Job 4–27:

Your trials aren't necessarily caused by your sin.

Conclusion: How Job's friends could have comforted him:

- 1. They should've admitted to Job their limitations.
- 2. They should've approached Job to learn rather than to instruct.