

## The Book of Job #6 - Job Chapter 4

Eliphaz is the first speaker – probably the oldest – Job 42:7

From Teman- People there known for wisdom – Jeremiah 49:7

Throughout the book there are some principles agreed on by all

- 1) All afflictions are the result of God's providence- 2:9 and 6:4
- 2) God is perfect in attributes and sovereign- 5:8, 9 with 9:4
- 3) This causes issues with man being just with God- 4:17 with 9:2
- 4) God deals severely, but rightly with the wicked – 5:13 with 27:13-15

### I. Let us Look at the Introduction to This Argument of Eliphaz

- A. Begins with apology – v.2 – (Asks permission but doesn't wait for it)
- B. Before reproving Job – he starts by complimenting him (Vs. 3, 4)
  1. Good practice - Paul does this (I Cor. 11:2) & Christ (Revelati 2:2-4)
- C. In doing this Eliphaz adds to the insight of Job's great character
  1. Gives us 4 things he did (Some think one thing broken out in detail)
- D. Must notice once more major disagreement between Job and friends
  1. Can you deduce man's spiritual condition by outward condition?
  2. Friends believe that godly person can have momentary setback
    - a. But Job's sufferings prove him to be either wicked or hypocrite
  3. Vrs 7 –11 Eliphaz asks why things have happened if Job innocent
  4. Job believes that it is possible for righteous to endure terrible things
    - a. Or wicked to be blessed - Job 9:22; Ecc. 9:2; Job 21:7–9, 23- 25

### II. Let's Look at Some Practical Things Concerning Arguments

- A. We have in these next 27 chapters a very long argument or debate
  1. At end of the debate both sides have same position they started with
  2. But something happens in chapter 38 – God intervenes
    - a. This worked for Paul as well – Galatians 1:23
- B. Must be very careful to clearly understand the terms that each uses
  1. See great example of this in statements of verse 7 (Perish, innocent)
    - a. Many ways of looking at all words- and lead to different answers
    - b. Seems to be saying Job couldn't be righteous,yet go through this
  2. This is contradicted by Job and scripture – Isaiah 57:1, Abel,
- C. Be careful of moral judgments we make about other person in debate
  1. V. 5 - Since Job didn't act as he instructed others, is he a hypocrite?
  2. Peter's denying Christ was wrong, but Jesus didn't call him hypocrite
    - a. Matthew 23:13 – 15 – He did use that term of Scribes/Pharisees
    - b. But there was time Peter acted very hypocritically – Gal. 2:11-14
  3. Even if we believe other has erred- we should follow. Gal. 6:1, 2
- D. Even person on wrong side of argument can make right statements
  1. Verse 8 compared with Gal. 6:7, 8; 2 Thessalonians 1:6

**Conclusion:** Statement of 4:17 translated a couple different ways:

- A. Can a man be more pure than his Maker? (KJV, ASV, NIV)
  1. Or can a man be pure before His maker? (NAS, ESV)
- B. Depending on translation we have two different answers
  1. If second one is correct we have the question of the ages
  2. Question reformation answered- Yes- the just can, by faith
- C. Through Christ we can be pure – Rom. 1:16, 17; 2 Cor. 5:17