



Title: [The Dialogue *cont'd.*] Elihu's First Speech

Text: Job 32 & 33

Introduction:

1. Last week took time to learn a little bit about Elihu.
2. Today we shall listen to his first of four speeches.

I. Elihu Introduces Himself (32:6-22)

- A. His respect for the three friends (vv.6-10)
- B. His evaluation of the three friends (vv.11-14)
- C. His desire to speak (vv.15-22)

II. Elihu's First Response to Job (Ch. 33:1-33)

- A. He requested for Job to listen to him (vv.1-7)
- B. He rehearsed what he heard Job said (vv.8-13)
- C. He refutes Job with the fact that God does answer man (vv.14-18 – through dreams; through sickness and pain, vv.19-28). The problem is that man does not notice God.
- D. He reflects on how men do not pay attention to God (vv.14-30).
- E. Elihu is half right – sometimes suffering is preventative (to keep us from danger) instead of corrective. BUT he was wrong in that he attributed Job's suffering to sin (like the other three friends had done).

Conclusion:

1. Elihu is a good listener.
2. Elihu is passionate.
3. Elihu is ahead of the three friends (not attributing Job's suffering to secret/open sin) BUT he is saying that God allowed him to suffer to prevent him from falling into future sin. This is still short of the Divine record and reason and it does not answer Job's dilemma.
4. The best solution since no one has Divine reason is to trust in God.