

Chapter 15

15:1-2

1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered for the second time **and said: 2 “Should a wise man answer with empty knowledge, And fill himself with the east wind?** This is an improvement. Zophar accused him of blowing hot air, now Eliphaz is accusing him of sucking hot air.

15:7-10

7 “Are you the first man who was born? Or were you made before the hills? Another reference to Creation. **8 Have you heard the counsel of God? Do you limit wisdom to yourself?** First approached in chapters 9-11. **9 What do you know that we do not know? What do you understand that is not in us?** “What sort of esoteric knowledge do you have, Job?” **10 Both the gray-haired and the aged are among us,** “We have a lot of people who agree with us and think with us.” Perhaps this is a proof-text to there being even more people there than the three we think. **Much older than your father.**

15:11

Are the consolations of God too small for you, “Do you think that God’s peace is a small thing?” **And the word spoken gently with you?** Great New Testament reference is found in the book of 2 Corinthians.¹ We ought to seek to be agents of comfort and that doesn’t always mean we should consistently talk or expect others to say the perfect thing. Maybe comfort is brought in the “quiet” or the inexperienced or the under-valued in our churches. We should really be careful not to super-qualify those God is going to console us through anybody. Will you and I let them speak into our lives?

15:15-16

15 If God puts no trust in His saints, or “Holy ones.” Job 4:18 shows us that Eliphaz had a thing for angelology. This could be a reference to Lucifer’s fall (Isaiah 14) or when the angels who fell in Genesis 6 did so. When you see that man is impure (verse 14) and filthy (verse 16), we see an upping of the ante with an indictment on the angels. Eliphaz says even the heavens are not clean enough for God so why would God want to hear from a filthy man? **And the heavens are not pure in His sight, 16 How much less man, who is abominable and filthy, Who drinks iniquity like water!**

¹More can be seen in this message: <http://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=729161732547> [accessed March 9, 2017].

Chapters 16-17

16:8

You have shriveled me up, “You’re giving me wrinkles.” And it is a witness against me; My leanness rises up against me And bears witness to my face. Oozing wounds, bad breath, falling hair, and now weight loss.

16:11-17

11 God has delivered me to the ungodly, And turned me over to the hands of the wicked. Job should have felt the peace of God from his friends. Maybe that’s the point of Eliphaz with 15:11. It is a good question for all of us out of 15:11...”do we think the peace of God is a small thing?” Do we value luxury and comfort above peace with our Creator?

13 His archers surround me. In 6:4, Job agrees with himself. 7:20, likewise, identifies God as a archer. In both cases, he answers Eliphaz. **He pierces my heart and does not pity; He pours out my gall** fluid from that pierced organ otherwise called a “kidney” instead of **heart** in other versions. **on the ground.** Psalm 69:19 tells us this is another potential reference to Jesus. **16 My face is ⁶flushed from weeping, And on my eyelids is the shadow of death;** dark circles under eyes; He has insomnia. **17 Although no violence is in my hands, And my prayer is pure.** More confidence that he is really just a victim of some God-wrought calamity.

16:18-20

18 “O earth, do not cover my blood, And let my cry have no resting place! A clear reference to the blood of Abel at the hands of his brother, Cain. Yet, another reference to Genesis (creation; the fallen ones; the flood.

19 Surely even now my witness is in heaven, And my evidence is on high. Another judicial reference (carrying on from chapter 9). **20 My friends scorn me;** Taken with Job 16:2, Psalm 69:19-21 gives further light that this is Jesus all over again. We can find “Calvary Crisis” in every chapter of Job, it seems.

My eyes pour out tears to God.

16:21-22

21 Oh, that one might plead for a man with God, As a man pleads for his neighbor! 22 For when a few years are finished, I shall go the way of no return. Perhaps he does not have a developed theology of the “afterlife.” Dark times could be the contributor. This is not a proof-text for soul-sleep. Samuel has been called from the dead (1 Samuel 28), and knew what had been transpiring. Luke 16 has folks who were alive after death—three of them. Then, of course, 2 Corinthians 5:7-8 and Philippians 1:22-23 give us the reality of the Christian. Job was uncertain. We are not.

⁶ Lit. *red*