

Elihu

Job 32 – 37

by Don Falkos

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Elihu was a young man who had been listening to the conversation between Job and his three friends. So far, he had remained silent out of respect for his elders. But now he was angry because Job refused to admit that he had sinned and that God was right in punishing him.

Elihu said, "Job, I have heard you claim to be sinless and free from guilt. You say, 'God thinks of me as an enemy.' But you are wrong. God is disciplining you now in order to save you from even worse in the future. God may yet be gracious and restore you to well-being. But you must be willing to admit you have sinned.

"You say you are innocent. But God repays a man for what he's done, giving him exactly what he deserves. That is justice.

"You should confess your guilt and promise God you won't do it again. Instead, you insult your friends who are trying to help you and you rebel against God's discipline.

"Hard times and trouble are God's way of getting our attention. Those who turn from evil, God blesses with a long and prosperous life. Those who continue in their evil ways are rewarded with a swift and violent death.

"God is higher above you than you can possibly imagine. Do you understand how lightning flashes from the clouds? Do you understand how the clouds are hung in an empty sky? Do you dare to stare into the sun on a cloudless day? And yet, the glory of God is brighter by far. If you are wise, you will humble yourself before the Almighty."