

Third Round of Speeches

CHARACTERS: Job, Eliphaz, Bildad

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 6 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Job 22-31

ELIPHAZ: Isn't God as high as the heavens?

ALL: Come to terms with God and be at peace; in this way good will come to you.

ELIPHAZ: Receive instruction from His mouth, and place His sayings in your heart.

ALL: If you return to the Almighty, you will be renewed.

ELIPHAZ: If you banish injustice from your tent and consign your gold to the dust,

ALL: the Almighty will be your gold and your finest silver.

ELIPHAZ: Then you will delight in the Almighty and lift up your face to God.

ALL: You will pray to Him, and He will hear you,

JOB: If only I knew how to find Him, so that I could go to His throne, I would plead my case before Him.

ALL: If I go east, He is not there, and if I go west, I cannot perceive Him.

JOB: When He is at work to the north, I cannot see Him;

ALL: when He turns south, I cannot find Him.

JOB: Yet He knows the way I have taken; when He has tested me, I will emerge as pure gold.

ALL: My feet have followed in His tracks;

JOB: I have kept to His way and not turned aside.

ALL: I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my daily food.

JOB: As dry ground and heat snatch away the melted snow, so Sheol steals those who have sinned.

ALL: The womb forgets them; worms feed on them; they are remembered no more.

JOB: So injustice is broken like a tree.

ALL: They prey on the childless woman who is unable to conceive, and do not deal kindly with the widow.

JOB: Yet God drags away the mighty by His power; when He rises up, they have no assurance of life.

ALL: They are exalted for a moment, then they are gone;

JOB: they are brought low and shrivel up like everything else.

ALL: They wither like heads of grain.

BILDAD: Dominion and dread belong to the One who establishes harmony in the heavens.

ALL: Can His troops be numbered? Does His light not shine on everyone?

BILDAD: How can a person be justified before God? How can one born of woman be pure?

ALL: If even the moon does not shine and the stars are not pure in His sight,

BILDAD: how much less man, who is a maggot, and the son of man, who is a worm!

JOB: God stretches the northern skies over empty space;

ALL: He hangs the earth on nothing.

JOB: He wraps up the waters in His clouds, yet the clouds do not burst beneath their weight.

ALL: He obscures the view of His throne, spreading His cloud over it.

JOB: He laid out the horizon on the surface of the waters at the boundary between light and darkness.

ALL: The pillars that hold up the sky tremble, astounded at His rebuke.

JOB: By His power, He stirred the sea; by His breath, the heavens gained their beauty;

ALL: These are but the fringes of His ways; how faint is the word we hear of Him!

JOB: Who can understand His mighty thunder?

ALL: I will teach you about God's power. I will not conceal what the Almighty has planned.

JOB: This is a wicked man's lot from God, the inheritance the ruthless receive from the Almighty.

ALL: Even if his children increase, they are destined for the sword;

JOB: his descendants will never have enough food.

ALL: Those who survive him will be buried by the plague, yet their widows will not weep for them.

JOB: Though he piles up silver like dust and heaps up a wardrobe like clay—

ALL: he may heap it up, but the righteous will wear it, and the innocent will divide up his silver.

JOB: The house he built is like a moth's cocoon or a booth set up by a watchman.

ALL: He lies down wealthy, but will do so no more;

JOB: when he opens his eyes, it is gone.

ALL: Terrors overtake him like a flood; a storm wind sweeps him away at night.

JOB: Where can wisdom be found, and where is understanding located?

ALL: No man can know its value, since it cannot be found in the land of the living.

JOB: The ocean depths say, "It's not in me," while the sea declares, "I don't have it."

ALL: Gold cannot be exchanged for it, and silver cannot be weighed out for its price.

JOB: Gold and glass do not compare with it, and articles of fine gold cannot be exchanged for it.

ALL: Coral and quartz are not worth mentioning. The price of wisdom is beyond pearls.

JOB: But God understands the way to wisdom, and He knows its location.

ALL: For He looks to the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens.

JOB: God said to mankind, The fear of the Lord is this: wisdom.

ALL: And to turn from evil is understanding.

JOB: If only I could be as in months gone by, in the days when God watched over me,

ALL: when His lamp shone above my head, and I walked through darkness by His light!

JOB: I would be as I was in the days of my youth when God's friendship rested on my tent, when the Almighty was still with me.

ALL: God has loosened my bowstring and oppressed me,

JOB: Now my life is poured out before my eyes, and days of suffering have seized me.

ALL: Night pierces my bones, but my gnawing pains never rest.

JOB: I have become like dust and ashes.

ALL: When I hoped for good, evil came; when I looked for light, darkness came.

JOB: If I have dismissed the case of my male or female servants when they made a complaint against me, what could I do when God stands up to judge?

ALL: How should I answer Him when He calls me to account?

JOB: Did not the One who made me in the womb also make them? Did not the same God form us both in the womb?

ALL: Because of His majesty, I could not do these things.

JOB: If I placed my confidence in gold or called fine gold my trust,

ALL: if I have rejoiced because my wealth is great or because my own hand has acquired so much,

JOB: this would also be a crime deserving punishment, for I would have denied God above.