

Chapter 15 Eliphaz accuses Job of Folly

1. 2nd round of duels of desert discourses friends still say that the suffering always stems from sin.
 - a. They are more vicious
 - b. No call to repent more hostile
2. Eliphaz' s 2nd speech
 - a. V 15:1-3: Upset with Job's irreverent talk and assumed wisdom
 - i. Accuses Job of empty motions like hot east wind. Job's word blew hard were useless
 - ii. Job returns this in verse 16:3 when he calls Eliphaz' s spiels windy
 - b. V15:4-6 According to Eliphaz, Job hindered the cause of reverence before God: words stemmed from sin within.
 - i. Job's present attempt at self-defense was sufficient cause for God's prosecuting him "Your own mouth condemns you" goes back to Job's on words "condemns him" v 9:20 and 10:2
 - c. V15:7-10 Eliphaz now becomes Job's prosecutor not comforter
 - i. Lambasted Job for claiming to be wisest person alive
 1. But Job had claimed only his knowledge equal not greater
 2. Eliphaz lashed out that Job know nothing they did not know
 - a. They were older and therefore wiser
 - b. To contest their theology was to show disrespect for elderly
 - d. V15:11-13 Eliphaz thought Job should be content since God was consoling him through Eliphaz
 - i. Said Job became irrational venting his rage against God Eliphaz felt he was comforting Job for God.
 - ii. Job's attitude could not go unpunished
 - e. V 15:14-16 No mortal man born of woman can be pure or righteous before God
 - i. How could Job claim innocence since Angels and Heavens are not pure

- ii. Surely Job is vile and corrupt since he guzzles sin like water
- iii. Repeat of Eliphaz earlier 4:17

3. Reminder of Fate of Wicked

- a. V 15:17-20 to his own observations Eliphaz added authority of ancients
 - i. Sages of old; from times before land had become infested with alien thoughts (Job corrupted by this?)
 - ii. Writhe about in agony
- b. V 15:21-26 Eliphaz enumerated 17 terrible troubles that befall a sinner
 - i. Friend turned enemy hoped to force Job to repent
 - 1. Terrifying sounds v1:14-19
 - 2. Marauders attack him v1:15,17,12:6
 - 3. Darkness haunts him(darkness of death)
 - 4. Marked for sword(destined to be a victim of violence)
 - 5. Without food and desperate; wanders aimlessly; trying to escape attackers
 - 6. Distress and anguish hound him like a king ready to attack
 - a. Job had said God overpowers man but Eliphaz pointed out that a person own anguish not God destroys him
 - ii. Why such misfortunes
 - 1. Sinner is defiant (shake fist at God) and arrogant against God attacking God head on
- c. V 15:27-35 1st six calamities befalling wicked are followed by explanation of reasons for such punishment now Eliphaz reverses order
 - i. Self-indulgence (a fattened face and bugling midline) was the reason a chubby person represented self-absorbed luxury and spiritual insensitivity
 - ii. Eliphaz continued with list
 - 1. Wealthy wicked will come to ruin, forced to live in ghost towns, abandoned houses and crumbling residences

2. Transgressor will lose his wealth
 3. Darkness overtakes
 4. Fire will blight his crops
 5. Will vanish being blown away by hot anger of "Gods" breath
 6. Wicked person who trusts in worthless possessions will gain nothing
 7. Though gaining nothing materially rebel will be paid (deserved punishment)
 8. Like a vine without grapes / dying olive tree a reprobate dies prematurely
 9. Godless will not have children according to Eliphaz
 10. An unjust person who accepts bribes will have his tents burned
 11. Using figure of conception and childbirth Eliphaz said that wicked people are characterized by trouble.
- d. By affirming this all comes to people in this life; Eliphaz did not have all the facts
- e. His attempt to jolt Job failed.

Chapter 16 & 17 Job Reproaches his pitiless Friends

1. V 16:1-5 Jobs Disgust
 - a. What disappointing comforters friends were
 - i. Told Job nothing new
 - ii. Compounded; rather than easing
 - iii. Babbled with long winded speeches and arguments Job was suppressed came back at him again
 - iv. If they could trade places Job could fire verbal bullets at them but instead he would give encouragement and comfort as he had done in past console not condemn
2. V 16:6-8 Began to bemoan his treatment at hands of God
 - a. His pain was stayed if was quiet or not

- b. God had left him in hands of evil and wicked men
 - c. Job accused God of shattering him grabbing him by neck and shaking him
 - d. Like an archer using him for target practice
 - e. Job was once again wrong in blaming God for his problems
3. V16:15-17 Because of God's attack Job wore sack cloth as a symbol of grief
- a. Thrust brow in dust like a defeated animal
 - b. Tears made face red; his anguish put shadows under his eyelids
 - c. Yet Job was free of violence
 - i. Praying was from pure motives not selfish ones
 - ii. Ordeal was unexplainable
4. V 16:18-17:5 Job's Desires
- a. 18-21 pleaded with earth not to cover his blood
 - i. His justice vindicated
 - ii. Cry for justice not be buried
 - iii. Turning from earth to heaven he was confident that he had an advocate one that was an intercessor
 - 1. Hoped would plead his case before God
 - 2. Since no mediator could rise above both God and Man, Job wanted a spokesman for a heavenly defense attorney, who could speak on Go's Gods level; Job companions had not spoken on his behalf and he needed someone that would.
 - b. V 16:22-17:2 Job thought life was ending, death was final, are needed intercessor right away
 - i. He was depressed; all he could see with rear filled eyes were his friends (mockers with their hostility)
 - c. V 17:3-5 though God is against him only God could provide a pledge for him in court; bond given as a guarantee
 - i. Put a security is literally to strike hands a practice by which agreement ratified.

- ii. This arrangement with God necessary due to his cohorts mindless of Job's innocence
 - iii. Such faithlessness friendship meant that instead of a reward judgement might come on their children in form of blindness
- 5. Job's Dilemma V 17:6-16
 - a. V 6-9 Job's wish for court spokesman was followed by another expression of hope and then a note of pathos
 - i. People sneered at him and spat at him on his face
 - ii. So intense was grief that his eyesight was dimmed and he was emaciated
 - iii. Anyone upright and innocent would be appalled by outlandish treatment of Job
 - 1. Job would hold and grow in his convictions certain of his righteous before God
 - b. V10-16 Sarcastically again challenged friends to find problems
 - i. Knew that they could not partly because they were not wise
 - ii. His life was fading and his plan and desires not fulfilled even though friends held out hope of restoration by repenting
 - iii. Job thought only hope was grave with darkness and corruption of worm
 - iv. As Job had said before 3 times no hope of recovery

Chapter 18 Bildad's 2nd Speech

Repeated many themes that his senior had spoken

- 1. Denunciation of Job V 18:1-4
 - a. Indignant at Job's words Bildad berated him
 - i. Bildad wondered when Job would stop talking
 - ii. Bildad said Job was not sensible
 - 1. Job had said stupid animals had more smarts than advisors Bildad resented this

2. Job had said that God tore at him in his anger but Bildad said Job was tearing himself by his anger
 3. Job could not expect God to alter reality for him
2. His description of the fate of the wicked V 18:5-21
 - a. V5-12 Bildad thinking of Job gave ruthless account of misfortunes that come on wicked
 - i. Lamp burning in his house and symbolizing life and prosperity goes out plunging him into darkness and confusion
 - ii. Weakened physically defeated by boomeranging schemes
 - iii. Dangers await to ensnare
 - iv. Here Bildad uses 6 Hebrew words for traps, more synonyms for these objects than in any other Old Testament Passage
 - v. Whatever Job would do would ensnare him
 - vi. Job would then be terrified whenever he turned
 - b. V 18:13-21 Bildad's reference to sinners skin being eaten away alludes to Job's skin
 - i. Diseases are death's firstborn children
 - ii. Meant worst of these diseases
 - iii. Torn from his tent
 - iv. Houses of wicked are burned and security is gone
 - v. Nobody remembers a wicked person with no descendants to carry on his name terrible fate in Middle East
 - c. Job had said that upright people appalled at his condition Bildad said people everywhere appalled not by grief of wicked but by their condition
3. Bildad says that an evil man will get what is coming to him
 - a. Amazingly Bildad implied Job did not know God
 - b. Since Job refused to repent how could he be righteous