



**INTRODUCTION (Job 31:40 - 32:6):** The dialog has ended. Job has silenced himself, convinced that he is absolutely innocent. His friends are silenced as they are convinced that Job has committed some terrible sin. God is silent, as He chooses in His infinite wisdom when the right time to speak will be.

Elihu is going to suggest that although Job isn't suffering because he of sin, he is sinning because of his suffering. Job had proclaimed his innocence to the point of pride (31:37).

## I. ELIHU EXPLAINS HIMSELF

### A. ELIHU EXPLAINS HIS HESITATION (JOB 32)

Elihu finds a principle that old age does not guarantee wisdom (32:8).

It is not age that gives insight; it is the spirit-controlled life of a man who takes head to the Word of God (32:10).

*"If church leadership is made up of old men, they will bind you up. If it is made up of young men, they will burn you up. If it is made up of both, they will build you up." – Jerry Vines*

**Principle:** If you are partial to a side before giving counsel, it's best that you don't give counsel (32:21-22).

### B. ELIHU EXPLAINS HIS INSPIRATION (JOB 33:1-7)

(33:4) He states that what he's about to say comes from inspiration of God (32:8).

(33:6) This statement tells us why God is about to use Elihu in the life of Job. Elihu is placing himself down on the level of Job: mere clay.

**Principle:** If you really want to help someone who's hurting, you have to come down to the level of their hurt.

## II. ELIHU EXAMINES JOB

Elihu is going to examine the position of Job as a compassionate critic.

*"It is much easier to be critical than to be correct." – Benjamin Disraeli*

*"Our critics are the unpaid guardians of our souls." - unknown*

**Principle:** When criticism comes, before you react in any way, ask yourself, "Is the criticism true?" If it is not true, forget about it. If it is true, then learn from it.

### A. HE EXAMINES JOB'S INNOCENCE (33:8-13)

Elihu has heard Job maintaining his innocence. In Job's attempt to defend his innocence, he casts doubt on God's character (33:8-11).

(33:12-13) Job had been defending his innocence so much; he began to declare complete innocence.

**Principle:** The danger of getting in the mode of defending yourself is that you can easily get to the point of pride.

(33:14) What Elihu is saying is that God may be speaking in ways Job doesn't expect God to speak. Job's problem was, although he desperately wanted to hear from God, he wanted to dictate to God what God would say. So, Elihu begins to name off the different ways God speaks to man.

1. God sometimes speaks through dreams (33:15-16)

*Hebrews 1:1-2, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;"*

2. God sometimes speaks through pain (33:19).

*"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts to us in our pain. Pain is God's megaphone to rouse a deaf world." – C. S. Lewis*

3. God sometimes sends a messenger (33:23-24).

**THE INCARNATION:** This messenger is one in a thousand (33:23).

*Song of Solomon 5:10, "My beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand."*

**THE SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONEMENT:** We find a ransom in this messenger (33:24).

### B. HE EXAMINES JOB'S ARROGANCE (JOB 34)

(34:7) Elihu is pointing out the one thing Job actually was guilty of. Job had poured himself into defending his innocence so much that he has become arrogant (34:35-37).

## III. ELIHU EXALTS THE LORD (JOB 36-37)

### A. HE EXALTS THE GOODNESS OF GOD (36:5-23)

### B. HE EXALTS THE GREATNESS OF GOD (36:24 – 37:13)

1. God's Greatness in the Autumn (36:27 - 37:5)
2. God's Greatness in the Winter (37:6-10)
3. God's Greatness in the Spring and Summer (37:11-13)

### C. HE EXALTS THE GLORY OF GOD (37:14-24)

(37:22-23) The Almighty is beyond our reach and exalted in power. What Elihu is saying to Job is, "Job, don't let the things you do not understand with your mind get in the way of the things you do understand with your heart."