

BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2024 – WEEK 4

### Job 42:7-9: A Divine Perspective on the Message of Job

*After the Lord had spoken these words to Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite:*

*“My anger burns against you and against your two friends,  
for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.*

– Job 42:7-9 ESV

- **The point of the story**
  - What would God have us learn?
    - How to suffer well?
    - What to avoid when counseling?
    - The reality of spiritual warfare?
    - The inevitability of tragedy?
  - The opinions of men
    - The book contains 34 chapters of speeches
      - They debate Job’s **guilt** or **innocence**
      - They argue **theology**
      - They cast **dispersions**
      - They make **accusation**

**Eliphaz** – 4 chapters

**Bildad** – 3 chapters

**Zophar** – 2 chapters

**Elihu** – 6 chapters

**Job** – 19 chapters



Pious-sounding,  
prideful pontification

- Eliphaz**     *“Will you be patient and let me say a word? For who could keep from speaking out?” – Job 4:2 NLT*
- Bildad**     *“How long will you go on like this? You sound like a blustering wind.” – Job 8:2 NLT*
- Zophar**     *“Shouldn’t someone answer this torrent of words? Is a person proved innocent just by a lot of talking? Should I remain silent while you babble on? When you mock God, shouldn’t someone make you ashamed?” – Job 11:2-3 NLT*
- Eliphaz**     *“A wise man wouldn’t answer with such empty talk! You are nothing but a windbag.” – Job 15:2 NLT*
- Bildad**     *“How long before you stop talking? Speak sense if you want us to answer!” – Job 18:2 NLT*
- Zophar**     *“I must reply because I am greatly disturbed. I’ve had to endure your insults, but now my spirit prompts me to reply.” – Job 20:2-3 NLT*
- Elihu**       *“...but you are talking nonsense, Job. You have spoken like a fool.” – Job 35:16 NLT*

- **When God speaks, it pays to listen**

*After the Lord had spoken these words to Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite: “My anger burns against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. <sup>8</sup> Now therefore take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves. And my servant Job shall pray for you, for I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly. For you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.” – Job 3:7-8 ESV*

- But it’s not what they expected to hear
- They have said a lot of things **about** God
- And a lot of things **on behalf of** God
- Now they hear **from** God
- And He’s not a happy camper

*“you have not spoken of me **what is right**” – vs 7*

*“...you have not spoken about me accurately.” – Berean Study Bible*

*“...you have not spoken the truth about me.” – Holman Christian Standard Bible*

“What a shock it must have been for Eliphaz and his two companions to hear this indictment from the Lord. Throughout their dialogues with Job, they were utterly convinced they were defending the righteousness and truth of God. They prided themselves on their zeal for the Lord and their denunciation of sin and wickedness. Now, to their startled amazement, they hear God Himself accusing them of defaming Him!”  
– Ray C. Stedman, *Let God Be God*

- What you **think about God** will determine what you **say about God**
  - **Faulty** concepts = **false** conclusions
  - **Incomplete** theology = **incorrect** assumptions
  - **Misconceptions** = **misrepresentation**
- **The worst outcomes of a bad theology**
  - Our good God gets a bad reputation
  - He becomes an adversary, not our advocate
  - We develop false expectations
  - We demand immediate gratification
  - We mistake this world for the one to come
  - So, this life ends up making no sense
- **Our every thought reflects on God**

*We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. – 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 NLT*

  - **Bad theology** is nothing less than **idolatry**
    - Wrong ideas about God are an affront to Him
    - Partial truths are a form of blasphemy
    - Getting God half right is fully wrong
    - Close enough is never good enough

“Among the sins to which the human heart is prone, hardly any other is more hateful to God than idolatry, for idolatry is at bottom a libel on his character. The idolatrous heart assumes that **God is other than He is** – in itself a monstrous sin – and substitutes for the true God one made after its own likeness...The essence of idolatry is the entertainment of **thoughts about God that are unworthy of him.**

“**Wrong ideas about God** are not only the fountain from which the polluted waters of idolatry flow; they are themselves idolatrous. The idolater simply imagines things about God and acts as if they were true.

“Before the Christian church goes into eclipse anywhere, there must first be a corrupting of her simple basic theology. She simply gets a wrong answer to the question, ‘What is God like?’ and goes on from there....” – A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*

- What is God like?
  - How did Job and his friends answer that question?
    - It's not just how they **describe** God
    - It's the actions they **ascribe to God**

*“Stop and think! Do the innocent die? When have the upright been destroyed? My experience shows that those who plant trouble and cultivate evil will harvest the same. **A breath from God destroys them. They vanish in a blast of his anger.**” – Eliphaz – Job 4:7-9 NLT*

*“If **God does not trust his own angels** and has charged his messengers with foolishness, **how much less will he trust people made of clay!** They are made of dust, crushed as easily as a moth.” – Eliphaz – Job 4:18-19 NLT*

*“But consider the joy of those corrected by God! Do not despise the discipline of the Almighty **when you sin**. For though he wounds, he also bandages. He strikes, but his hands also heal.” – Eliphaz – Job 5:17-18 NLT*

*“Is it because you're so pious that **he accuses you and brings judgment against you? No, it's because of your wickedness!** There's no limit to your sins.” – Eliphaz – Job 22:4-5 NLT*

- Eliphaz had a man-sized view of God
  - His God was totally...comprehensible
    - explainable
    - predictable
    - and 2-dimensional

*“The trivialization of God plagues contemporary Christianity with demeaning thoughts of God that are...too **shallow**, too **superficial**, and too **simplistic**.” – Steven J. Lawson, *Made in Our Image**

*“**How can a mortal be innocent before God? Can anyone born of a woman be pure?** God is more glorious than the moon; he shines brighter than the stars. In comparison, people are maggots; we mortals are mere worms.” – Bildad – Job 25:4-6 NLT*

*“Listen! **God is doubtless punishing you far less than you deserve!**” – Zophar – Job 11:6 NLT*

*“Though the pride of the godless reaches to the heavens and their heads touch the clouds, **yet they will vanish forever, thrown away like their own dung.**” – Zophar – Job 20:6-7 NLT*

- It's not just what they say **about God**
- It's what they say **on His behalf**

- They claim to **speak for God**
- **Assertions** masquerading as **divine revelation**
  - ~ God had not sent them or spoken to them
  - ~ He had given them no message
  - ~ They were not His spokesmen
  - ~ Yet they spoke with **bold confidence**

*“There’s no limit to your sins!” – 22:5*

*“You must have refused water for the thirsty and food for the hungry.” – 22:7*

*“How can a mortal man be innocent before God?” – 25:4*

*“Get rid of your sins, and leave all iniquity behind you.” – 11:14*

*“God sent this suffering to keep you from a life of evil.” – 36:21*

- **Think before you speak**

- Wrong thoughts about God can be dangerous
- Speaking wrongly for God can be deadly

*Then the Lord said, “These prophets are telling lies in my name. **I did not send them or tell them to speak.** I did not give them any messages. They prophesy of visions and revelations they have never seen or heard. They speak foolishness made up in their own lying hearts.”*  
– Jeremiah 14:14 NLT

- Even Job knew his friends were wrong
  - Their assumptions didn’t add up
  - Their conclusions were flawed
  - Their arguments were inaccurate
  - Their wisdom was not from God

*Are you defending God with lies?*

*Do you make your dishonest arguments for his sake?*

*Will you slant your testimony in his favor?*

*Will you argue God’s case for him?*

***What will happen when he finds out what you are doing?***

*Can you fool him as easily as you fool people?*

*No, you will be in trouble with him*

*if you secretly slant your testimony in his favor.” – Job 13:7-10 NLT*

- **What will happen?**

*“Now therefore take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves. And my servant Job shall pray for you, for I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly. For you have not spoken of me what is right, as*

*my servant Job has. So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did what the Lord had told them, **and the Lord accepted Job's prayer.***"  
– Job 42:8-9 ESV

- God heard Job and answered Job's prayer

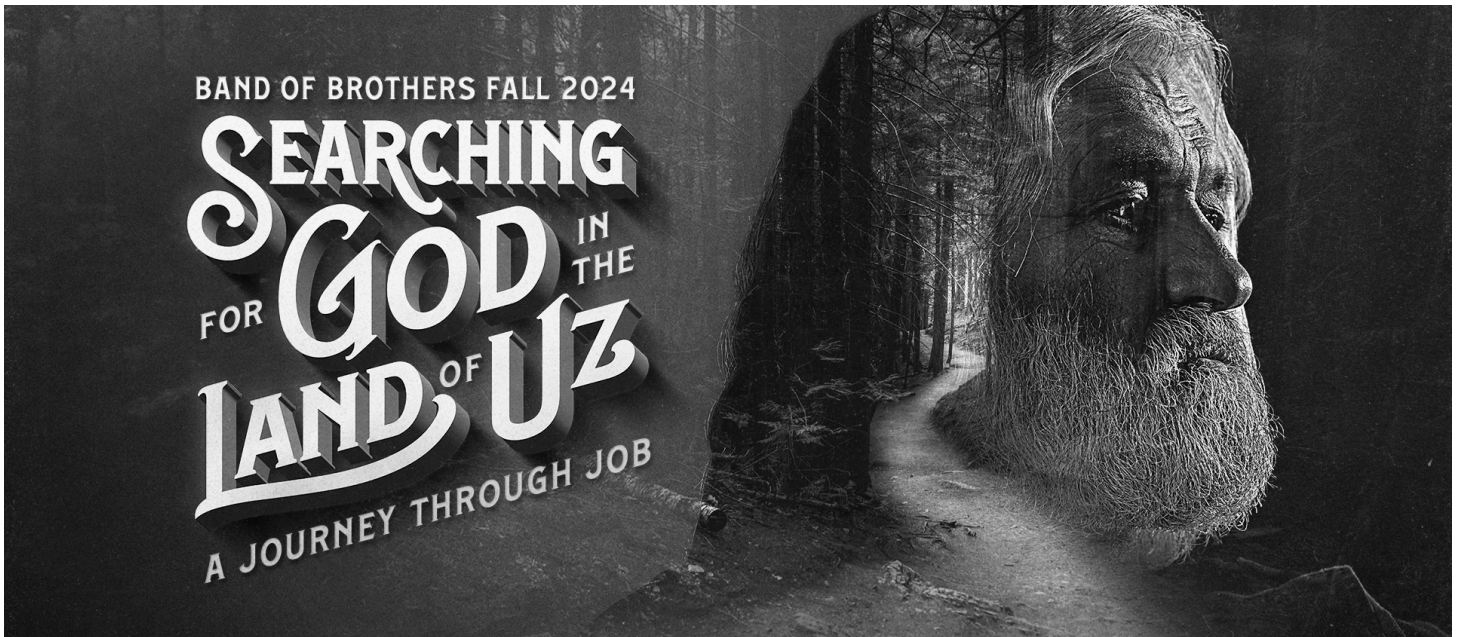
*Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. –*  
James 5:16 NLT

- **Discussion questions**

According to Tozer, our wrong ideas about God are **the worst form of idolatry**. Why?

Why do we need to be careful when it comes to **what we say about God** and **how we speak on His behalf**?

Job's friends didn't have God's Word, but we do. What difference should that make **for us**?



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FALL SERIES 2024 – WEEK 5 HOMEWORK

### WEEK 5 – Job 4-5, 15, 22: Eliphaz the Eloquent

The friends of Job spend 14 chapters posturing and pontificating about their explanations for his suffering. In each case, they say a lot of right-sounding things that God condemns as being wrong. They meant well, but their over-confident opinions about God and his suffering servant were not only hurtful to Job but damaging to God’s reputation. Over the next weeks, we will attempt to investigate each man’s rhetoric and determine how their view of God missed the mark.

- Read Job 4-5, 15, 22. There is a lot more reading for this week so give yourself plenty of time. This time look for statements that Eliphaz that demonstrate his faulty or incomplete understanding of how God works. Simply write down the Scripture reference and a brief note as to why he is wrong.
- Now read pages 31-36, 101-108. 149-154 of Ken’s Devotional™ on Job. Again, this is a lot of reading, so don’t try and do it in one sitting.
- How would you describe the tone Eliphaz uses in addressing Job in chapter 4? Is he encouraging, condescending, prideful, cocky, or sensitive?

What do you think Eliphaz's assumption about Job is in verses 7-9 of chapter 4?

Based on what we've learned so far about Job, why is Eliphaz wrong?

Look closely at Job 4:12-16. What is Eliphaz claiming to have experienced?

Based on verses 17-21, what did he learn from what he saw?

- If you had to write a short summary for what Eliphaz is saying in chapter 5, what would it be?

Why would Job find Eliphaz's statements in verses 17-26 helpful or encouraging?

- In chapter 15, Eliphaz accuses Job of having no fear of God. Why is he wrong?

In verses 7-16, Eliphaz seems to accuse Job of pride and arrogance. In what ways does Eliphaz display those same qualities by what he says?

Glance at verses 17-35. How does Eliphaz accuse Job of wickedness?

- In chapter 22, verses 2-3, how does Eliphaz's statements display a wrong view of God?

Look closely at verses 5-11. What specific sins does he accuse Job of committing?

According to verses 21-30, what does Eliphaz say Job needs to do to get back in right standing with God?

Why is his advice wrong and potentially harmful?