

## Message #24

## Job 22:1-30

One of the more humorous things to listen to are the opinions of what we could call “armchair quarterbacks.” They will give their opinions about anything—sports, politics, medicine, hunting and automobiles. Usually people who want to give their opinions have never done it themselves. It is easy for us to criticize a baseball player who can’t hit when we have never stepped into a batter’s box and faced a pitcher who can throw a ball in the mid-90’s. It is so easy to give opinions when you don’t have to live it yourself. That is what Job’s friends were doing to Job.

Job was under tremendous pressure and suffering like no one has ever suffered and these three armchair quarterbacks were all chipping in their opinions about what and why these things were happening. None of them knew what they were talking about and ultimately God will hold everyone accountable.

This chapter begins round three. This is Eliphaz’s final speech to Job. After this, he will just kind of go away until God makes him make it right at the end of the book. Eliphaz will more or less drift into oblivion after this final outburst.

**WHEN SATAN IS USING THOSE CLOSE TO YOU TO TRY AND DESTROY YOU, THEY WILL PERSIST AND INTENSIFY IN THEIR OPINIONS OF YOU AND OPPOSITION AGAINST YOU; BUT THEY WILL EVENTUALLY DRIFT INTO OBLIVION AND BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE BY GOD FOR WHAT THEY DID AND SAID.**

People being used of Satan do not quietly or immediately go away, but eventually they will go away. God will make certain they do. They persist in their opinions and in their opposition even though they don’t know what they are talking about.

As we have said, it is a dangerous thing to shoot off one’s mouth against one who has been faithful to God and been greatly used by God, because God listens. It is a shame that Eliphaz didn’t think about that before he opens his mouth for the final time.

Now Eliphaz is not really a bad or evil man. He just got caught up in something he knew nothing about. His final outburst is his worst outburst and it is a vicious attack against Job. There are five final actions of Eliphaz:

**FINAL ACTION #1 – Eliphaz questions Job. 22:1-9**

Every one of the questions is designed to point the finger at Job and make an accusation against Job. He is actually mocking Job by these questions. There are four main accusations he makes against Job:

**Accusation #1** - A wise man like Job is no use to God or to himself. **22:2**

The word “vigorous” and “wise” are the same. In Hebrew, the participle “wise” is in the Hiphil stem. The meaning seems to be this—“Can a man who makes himself wise like you have, Job, be of any real use to God or to himself?” The assumed answer is “no!” Eliphaz is basically saying—Job, you aren’t of any use to anybody. Job was no use to God or himself. Job had made himself wise, but the wisdom of Job was self-invented and it was of no use to anybody. This is a way of saying Job, you are good for nothing.

**Accusation #2** - A man like Job is of no pleasure or profit to God. **22:3**

Eliphaz is basically saying to Job that he thinks a lot of himself and his righteousness, but it doesn’t mean a thing to God. Eliphaz is saying God does not need you. God does not need your righteousness. You are of no profit to Him, even though you think you are so righteous and complete.

Dr. J. Vernon McGee said that he has seen some people in the church who really did think they were so important to God, who really weren’t. He said he knew of people who thought they were making such a contribution to the work of God that God was fortunate to have them on His team. He said most of the time it was delusional. But in Job’s case it was not. He was a profitable servant and a very godly and useful man and Eliphaz is wrong.

**Accusation #3** - Job is being refused and judged because he really doesn’t reverence God.  
**22:4**

This is an outright lie! Job was a man who feared God by God’s own assessment (1:1, 8; 2:3). Eliphaz is saying that the reason God doesn’t lift His judgment is because Job doesn’t fear and reverence God. Nothing could be further from the truth, but that is how people being led of Satan operate—saying things that are far from being true; after all, Satan is the father of all lies.

**Accusation #4** - Job is a great sinner who has committed an endless number of sins. **22:5-9**

It is true we are all sinners, but Eliphaz is making this up in regard to what Job was presently experiencing. Not only does he accuse Job of being a great sinner, he starts making up sins Job never even committed; as Dr. Cox said, he tries to bring Job under conviction with “non-existent sins” (p. 301):

**(Invented Sin #1)** - Job had financially ruined his brothers. **22:6a**

**(Invented Sin #2)** - Job had taken things from men, including their clothing. **22:6b**

**(Invented Sin #3)** - Job refused to give the thirsty anything to drink. **22:7a**

**(Invented Sin #4)** - Job refused to give the hungry anything to eat. **22:7b-8**

**(Invented Sin #5)** - Job would not help widows. **22:9a**

**(Invented Sin #6)** - Job actually crushed orphans. **22:9b**

If you were one listening to Eliphaz, you would think this guy Job was a rotten man who was getting exactly what he deserved. **Problem is none of this is true!** Eliphaz is verbally assaulting Job and he is inventing lies. He is basically telling Job that he is the most wicked man on earth and this is why all of this is happening to him. He couldn't pinpoint anything, so he just starts making up things.

**Different commentators observed that not only did Eliphaz sin in what he said, but so did the people who listened to it and accepted it.** Eliphaz was the one spreading the false gossip, but there were people who were listening to it, talking about it and believing. The truth is it isn't Job who is guilty, they are!

**FINAL ACTION #2** – Eliphaz gives his analysis to Job. **22:10-11**

Eliphaz says this—“Because you are this great sinner, Job, God has ensnared you with these terrible things and you cannot even see it because you are drowning in His judgment.” It is possible that Eliphaz is referring to the judgment of the flood, which was a terrible judgment against those who were evil.

According to Eliphaz, Job was so wicked that he could not even see the justice in the punishment of God against his wickedness.

Some have seen these Eliphaz types. These types say things like “We are praying you will repent.” When you respond by asking “repent of what?” they'll say things like well you just can't see it yet. When you respond by asking “see what?” they can't give you answers because there isn't anything. So they will often make things up. They are making the stuff up because they are being led by Satan like Eliphaz.

**FINAL ACTION #3** – Eliphaz attacks Job's theology. **22:12-18**

**Now Eliphaz starts making up things about God that he says Job believes, which Job has never believed or said.** Now notice how he begins this—with his high and holy perspective of God (**22:12**). J. Oswald Chambers said Pharisees often don't touch reality. This all sounds so pious, so real, so true, but look at this:

**(Theological Claim #1)** - Eliphaz claims Job verbally attacked God's knowledge. **22:13**

Eliphaz claims Job said God doesn't know what is going on. What Job is doing is like a thick darkness that is beyond God's ability to know and judge.

**(Theological Claim #2)** - Eliphaz claims Job verbally attacked God's omnipresence. **22:14**

Eliphaz claims God cannot see what is happening. He is high up in heaven and He cannot see.

**(Theological Claim #3)** - Eliphaz claims Job is on a wicked path of dismissing God from his life. **22:15-18**

God has done good things for Job even though he is wicked and even though he doesn't want God anywhere around him. Job is just walking down the ancient path of the wicked who could care less about God and don't realize God is the one who has done good things for them.

This is all a lie. Job never said or did any of these things!

Many years ago in another ministry a family left our church and went into another church and accused me of teaching that works save. Now I have been preaching and teaching for about 30 years and I have never, ever taught that. These people just invented this about my theology and started telling people this and the tragedy is people believed them. We just completed a study on the heresy of Lordship salvation and one of the things that John MacArthur accused Dr. Chafer of was teaching a life of antinomianism. I was taught by John Miles who was taught by Lewis Sperry Chafer. I have personally been through Chafer's Systematic Theology at least 10 times and have read his theological articles in Bib Sac. He has never taught that. Yet Eliphaz MacArthur accuses him and one day, he will apologize to Dr. Chafer.

That is what Eliphaz was doing to Job. He was making stuff up. Job didn't believe these things nor did he teach these things.

**FINAL ACTION #4** – Eliphaz acts like one of the righteous. **22:19-20**

Eliphaz says—"We who are righteous understand what is happening. We are glad and we rejoice when we see these evil people cut off and their abundance destroyed."

In other words, "Job, we have the inside track of what is going on here—you are being judged and you are about to be cut off because you are an adversary of God and of us."

Think of this—Job is the most righteous man on this earth and he is being accused of being an adversary of God who is being consumed by the fiery judgment of God.

**FINAL ACTION #5** – Eliphaz appeals to Job to repent. **22:21-30**

This is absolutely unbelievable. Eliphaz has invented Job's sin then demands he repent of sin Job hasn't even committed. One writer said that Eliphaz reminds him of a diligent soul-winner who doesn't know who he is talking to or what he is talking about.

Actually, many Eliphaz types stand in pulpits every week challenging people to get right with God who are already right with God. There are five main repentant challenges Eliphaz gives to Job:

**(Challenge #1)** - Eliphaz challenges Job to yield to God now so he can have peace and good in life. **22:21**

**(Challenge #2)** - Eliphaz challenges Job to receive instruction from him as God's spokesman. **22:22**

**(Challenge #3)** - Eliphaz challenges Job to return to God so he can be restored. **22:23a**

**(Challenge #4)** - Eliphaz challenges Job to remove sin from his life. **22:23b**

**(Challenge #5)** - Eliphaz challenges Job to give up his remaining wealth. **22:24**

If Job would do these things, look to the blessings Eliphaz promises, which are true if one is wicked and one does repent (**22:25-30**):

**Blessing #1** - Job will have the wealth of God. **22:25**

**Blessing #2** - Job will have great delight in God. **22:26**

**Blessing #3** - Job will have prayers answered. **22:27a**

**Blessing #4** - Job will have sacrifices accepted. **22:27b**

**Blessing #5** - Job will move God and God will shine His light of blessings on you. **22:28**

**Blessing #6** - Job will have power and confidence to speak to God. **22:29**

**Blessing #7** - Job will be completely delivered. **22:30**

Suppose Job would have listened to this kook. Suppose Job would have given him all his money and said you are right, I repent. Truth is it wouldn't have changed a thing, because Job was not in this trouble because of his sin; he was in this trouble because of an attack of Satan, because he was so righteous.