

# ELUCIDATING ELIHU:

## 1. Elihu was the **latest** human speaker

Job 32:4 Now Elihu had waited till Job had spoken, because they were elder than he.

Job 32:5 When Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, then his wrath was kindled.

He wasn't the last. He was the latest of the humans responding to Job. Many other humans have shared their opinion since his time!

It seems like Elihu had listened to them.

## 2. Elihu was the **youngest** of the human speakers.

Job 32:4 Now Elihu had waited till Job had spoken, because they were **elder than he**.

Job 32:6 And Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said, **I am young, and ye are very old**; Wherefore I was afraid, and durst not shew you mine opinion. Job 32:7 I said, **Days should speak, And multitude of years should teach wisdom**.

Job 32:8 **But there is a spirit in man: And the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.**

Job 32:9 Great men are **not** always wise: Neither do the aged understand judgment. Job 32:10 Therefore I said, **Hearken to me; I also will shew mine opinion**. Job 32:11 Behold, I waited for your words; I gave ear to your reasons, Whilst ye searched out what to say. Job 32:12 Yea, I attended unto you, And, behold, there was none of you that convinced Job, Or that answered his words:

Job 32:15 They were amazed, they answered no more: They left off speaking. Job 32:16 When I had waited, (for they spake not, But stood still, and answered no more;) Job 32:17 I said, I will answer also my part, I also will shew mine opinion.

Job 32:18 For I am full of matter, The spirit within me constraineth me.

Job 32:19 Behold, my belly is as wine which hath no vent; It is ready to burst like new bottles.

## 3. Elihu was the **fullest / proudest** of the human speakers!

Job 32:8 **But there is a spirit in man: And the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.**

Job 32:17 I said, I will answer also my part, I also will shew mine opinion.

Job 32:18 **For I am full of matter, The spirit within me constraineth me.**

Job 32:19 Behold, my belly is as wine which hath no vent; It is ready to burst like new bottles.

Job 32:20 I will speak, that I may be refreshed: I will open my lips and answer.

Job 33:3 My words shall be of the uprightness of my heart: And my lips shall utter knowledge clearly. Job 33:4 The Spirit of God hath made me. And the breath of the Almighty hath given me life. Job 36:2 Suffer me a little, and I will shew thee **That I have yet to speak on God's behalf**. Job 36:3 I will fetch my knowledge from afar, And will ascribe righteousness to my Maker. Job 36:4 For truly my words shall not be false: **He that is perfect in knowledge is with thee**.

He is full of wind among lots of wind and windy guys!!! 8:2; 15:2; 16:1-3; 20:1-3

He constantly demands that Job hear him! 32:10; 33:1,31,33; 34:2,10,16,34

## 4. Elihu was the **longest** of the human speakers!

Job 32-37

One would think that he would make some obvious points...clear, definite!  
But what are they?

## 5. Elihu was the **angriest** of the human speakers!

Job 32:1 So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes.

Job 32:2 Then was kindled **the wrath of Elihu** the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the kindred of Ram: against Job was **his wrath** kindled, because he justified himself rather than God. Job 32:3 Also against his three friends was **his wrath kindled**, because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job. Job 32:4 Now Elihu had waited till Job had spoken, because they were elder than he. Job 32:5 When Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, then **his wrath** was kindled.

## Anger is always a difficult subject:

- God is / can be angry
- Jesus manifests a righteous anger

**Mark 3:5** And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

**Revelation 6:16** And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from **the wrath of the Lamb: Revelation 6:17** For **the great day of his wrath** is come; and who shall be able to stand?

- Anger can be used for good & obviously for bad

<u>Ephesians 4:26-27</u>	
Be ye angry (Ὀργίζεσθε)	It can be used
and sin <u>not</u> (καὶ μὴ ἀμαρτάνετε)	It must <u>not</u> be abused
let <u>not</u> the sun go down upon your wrath (ὁ ἥλιος μὴ ἐπιδύετω ἐπὶ τῷ παροργισμῷ ὑμῶν)	It must <u>not</u> be reused
<u>Neither</u> give place to the devil (μηδὲ δίδοτε τόπον τῷ διαβόλῳ)	It also must <u>not</u> be misused

## Normally, anger is understood as a force for evil / a potential source of evil

**James 1:19** Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: **James 1:20** For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

**Proverbs 10:12** Hatred stirreth up strifes: But love covereth all sins.

**Proverbs 12:16** A fool's wrath is **presently** known: But a prudent man covereth shame.

**Proverbs 14:17** He that is soon angry dealeth **foolishly**: And a man of wicked devices is hated.

**Proverbs 14:29** He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: But he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.

**Proverbs 19:11** The discretion of a man **deferreth** his anger; And it is his glory to pass over a transgression.

**Proverbs 22:24** Make **no** friendship with an angry man; And with a furious man thou shalt **not** go: **Proverbs 22:25** **Lest** thou learn his ways, **And** get a snare to thy soul.

**Proverbs 29:22** An angry man **stirreth** up strife, And a furious man **aboundeth** in transgression.

## 6. Elihu is the **densest** of the human speakers!

Densest = clueless, oblivious

Elihu, it seems, was present during the dialogues

- It seems that Elihu was listening

**Job 32:4** Now Elihu had **waited till** Job had spoken, because they were elder than he.

**Job 32:5** **When** Elihu **saw** that there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, **then** his wrath was kindled.

**Job 32:11** Behold, I **waited** for your words; I gave **ear** to your reasons, Whilst ye searched out what to say.

**Job 32:12** Yea, I **attended** unto you, And, behold, there was none of you that convinced Job, Or that answered his words:

**Job 32:16** When I had **waited**, (for they spake not, But stood still, and answered no more;)

**Job 33:8** Surely thou hast spoken **in mine hearing**, And I have **heard** the voice of thy words, saying,

### ➤ **Elihu certainly “quotes” Job repeatedly!**

**Quotes, summarizes, & analyzes Job’s words...**

**Job 33:8** Surely thou hast spoken **in mine hearing**, And I have **heard** the voice of thy words, **saying**,

**Job 33:9** I am clean without transgression, I am innocent; neither is there iniquity in me.

**Job 33:10** Behold, he findeth occasions against me, He counteth me for his enemy, **Job 33:11** He putteth my feet in the stocks, He marketh all my paths. **Job 33:12** Behold, in this thou art not just: I will answer thee, That God is greater than man.

**Job 34:5** For **Job hath said**, I am righteous: And God hath taken away my judgment. **Job 34:6** Should I lie against my right? My wound is incurable without transgression. **Job 34:7** What man is like Job, Who drinketh up scorning like water? **Job 34:8** Which goeth in company with the workers of iniquity, And walketh with wicked men. **Job 34:9** For he hath said, It profiteth a man nothing That he should delight himself with God.

**Job 35:1** Elihu spake moreover, and said, **Job 35:2** Thinkest thou this to be right, **That thou saidst**, My righteousness is more than God’s? **Job 35:3** For thou saidst, What advantage will it be unto thee? And, What profit shall I have, if I be cleansed from my sin?

### ➤ **Elihu repeatedly misses Job’s point, fails to understand Job, and never gives Job the benefit of the doubt**

**Job 35:2** Thinkest thou this to be right, **That thou saidst**, My righteousness is more than God’s? **Job 35:3** For thou saidst, What advantage will it be unto thee? And, What profit shall I have, if I be cleansed from my sin?

### ➤ **Strangely, Job never says what Elihu says he says!!!**

**Job 9:17** For he breaketh me with a tempest, And multiplieth my wounds without cause.

**Job 10:7** **Thou knowest** that I am not wicked; And there is none that can deliver out of thine hand.

**Job 16:17** **Not** for any injustice in mine hands: Also my prayer is pure.

**Job 1:1** THERE was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

**Job 1:8** And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

**Job 1:22** In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

**Job 2:3** And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

**Job 2:10** But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

**Job 21:14** Therefore **they** say unto God, Depart from us; For **we** desire not the knowledge of thy ways. **Job 21:15** What is the Almighty, that **we** should serve him? And what profit should **we** have, if **we** pray unto him?

**What can we learn from Elihu?**

**Seek first to understand**

**And then to be understood**

**Most people aren’t listening to understand but to reply**

**He heard every word but didn’t understand anything**

**Proverbs 18:2** A fool hath **no delight** in understanding, **But** that his heart may discover itself.

**Proverbs 15:14** The heart of him that hath understanding **seeketh** knowledge: But the mouth of fools **feedeth** on foolishness.

**Proverbs 17:16** Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool To get wisdom, seeing he hath no heart to it?

**Proverbs 12:15** The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: But he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

**Proverbs 14:16** A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: But the fool rageth, and is confident.

## 7. Elihu was the **simplest** and the “**echoingest**” of the human speakers!

**Job 32:14** Now he hath not directed his words against me: **Neither will I answer him with your speeches.** **Job 32:15** They were amazed, they answered no more: They left off speaking. **Job 32:16** When I had waited, (for they spake not, But stood still, and answered no more;) **Job 32:17** I said, I will answer also **my** part, I also will shew **mine** opinion. **Job 32:18** For I am full of matter, The spirit within me constraineth me. **Job 32:19** Behold, my belly is as wine which hath no vent; It is ready to burst like new bottles. **Job 32:20** I will speak, that I may be refreshed: I will open my lips and answer.

**Elihu:**

I've listened!

I've heard!

I'm not going to say the same things as you have said!

And he then says **exactly** the same things they said!

**Job is suffering**

**Suffering is caused by sin**

**Repentance is the solution!**

**Job 33:25** His flesh shall be fresher than a child's: He shall **return** to the days of his youth:

**Job 33:26** He shall **pray** unto God, **and** he will be favourable unto him: **And** he shall see his face with joy: **For he will render unto man his righteousness.** **Job 33:27** He looketh upon men, **and if any say**, I have sinned, and perverted that which was right, And it profited me not; **Job 33:28** **He will deliver** his soul from going into the pit, **And** his life shall see the light. **Job 33:29** Lo, all these things worketh God Oftentimes with man, **Job 33:30** To bring back his soul from the pit, To be enlightened with the light of the living.

**Job 34:1** Furthermore Elihu answered and said,

**Job 34:5** For Job hath said, I am righteous: And God hath taken away my judgment. **Job 34:7** What man is like Job, Who drinketh up scorning like water? **Job 34:8** Which goeth in company with the workers of iniquity, And walketh with wicked men. **Job 34:9** For he hath said, It profiteth a man nothing That he should delight himself with God.

**Job 34:10** **Therefore** hearken unto me, ye men of understanding: **Far be it from God, that** he should do wickedness; **And from the Almighty, that** he should commit iniquity.

**Job 34:11** For the work of a man **shall he render unto him**, And cause every man to find **according to his ways.** **Job 34:12** Yea, surely God will not do wickedly, Neither will the Almighty pervert judgment.

**Job 34:35** Job hath spoken without knowledge, And his words were without wisdom. **Job 34:36** My desire is that Job may be tried unto the end Because of his answers for wicked men. **Job 34:37** **For he addeth rebellion unto his sin**, He clappeth his hands among us, And multiplieth his words against God.

**Job 36:11** **If** they obey and serve him, They shall spend their days in prosperity, And their years in pleasures. **Job 36:12** **But if they obey not**, They shall perish by the sword, And they shall die without knowledge. **Job 36:13** But the hypocrites in heart heap up wrath: They cry not when he bindeth them. **Job 36:14** They die in youth, And their life is among the unclean. **Job 36:15** He delivereth the poor in his affliction, And openeth their ears in oppression. **Job 36:16** Even so would he have removed thee out of the strait Into a broad place, where there is no straitness; And that which should be set on thy table should be full of fatness.

**Job 36:21** Take heed, regard not iniquity: For this hast thou chosen rather than affliction.