

Second Round of Speeches

CHARACTERS: Job, Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 8 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Job 15-21

ELIPHAZ What is man, that he should be pure, or one born of woman, that he should be righteous?

ALL: If God puts no trust in His holy ones and the heavens are not pure in His sight,

ELIPHAZ how much less one who is revolting and corrupt, who drinks injustice like water?

ALL: A wicked man writhes in pain all his days; only a few years are reserved for the ruthless.

ELIPHAZ He will dwell in ruined cities, in abandoned houses destined to become piles of rubble.

ALL: He will no longer be rich; his wealth will not endure. His possessions will not increase in the land.

ELIPHAZ He will not escape from the darkness; flames will wither his shoots, and by the breath of God's mouth, he will depart.

ALL: Let him not put trust in worthless things, being led astray, for what he gets in exchange will prove worthless.

ELIPHAZ He will be like a vine that drops its unripe grapes and like an olive tree that sheds its blossoms.

ALL: For the company of the godless will have no children, and fire will consume the tents of those who offer bribes.

ELIPHAZ They conceive trouble and give birth to evil; their womb prepares deception.

JOB: My face has grown red with weeping, and darkness covers my eyes,

ALL: Earth, do not cover my blood; may my cry for help find no resting place.

JOB: Even now my witness is in heaven, and my advocate is in the heights!

ALL: I wish that someone might arbitrate between a man and God just as a man pleads for his friend.

JOB: My days have slipped by; my plans have been ruined, even the things dear to my heart.

ALL: Where then is my hope? Who can see any hope for me?

BILDAD: The light of the wicked is extinguished; the flame of his fire does not glow.

ALL: His powerful stride is shortened, and his own schemes trip him up for his own feet lead him into a net, and he strays into its mesh.

B: A trap catches him by the heel; a noose seizes him.

ALL: A rope lies hidden for him on the ground, and a snare waits for him along the path.

B: Terrors frighten him on every side and harass him at every step.

ALL: His strength is depleted; disaster lies ready for him to stumble.

B: Parts of his skin are eaten away; death's firstborn consumes his limbs.

ALL: He is ripped from the security of his tent and marched away to the king of terrors.

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B: His roots below dry up, and his branches above wither away.

ALL: He is driven from light to darkness and chased from the inhabited world.

B: Indeed, such is the dwelling of the unjust man, and this is the place of the one who does not know God.

JOB: How long will you torment me and crush me with words?

ALL: My skin and my flesh cling to my bones;

JOB: I have escaped by the skin of my teeth.

ALL: Have mercy on me, my friends, have mercy,

JOB: But I know my living Redeemer, and He will stand on the dust at last.

ALL: Even after my skin has been destroyed, yet I will see God in my flesh.

JOB: I will see Him myself; my eyes will look at Him, and not as a stranger.

ZOPHAR: Though his arrogance reaches heaven, and his head touches the clouds, the wicked will vanish forever like his own dung.

ALL: He will suck the poison of cobras; a viper's fangs will kill him.

ZOPHAR: He must return the fruit of his labor without consuming it; he doesn't enjoy the profits from his trading.

ALL: For he oppressed and abandoned the poor; he seized a house he did not build.

ZOPHAR: Because his appetite is never satisfied, he does not let anything he desires escape.

ALL: Nothing is left for him to consume; therefore, his prosperity will not last.

ZOPHAR: At the height of his success distress will come to him; the full weight of misery will crush him.

ALL: The heavens will expose his iniquity, and the earth will rise up against him.

ZOPHAR: The possessions in his house will be removed, flowing away on the day of God's anger.

ALL: This is the wicked man's lot from God, the inheritance God ordained for him.

JOB: Can anyone teach God knowledge, since He judges the exalted ones?

ALL: One person dies in excellent health, completely secure and at ease.

JOB: His body is well fed, and his bones are full of marrow.

ALL: Yet another person dies with a bitter soul, having never tasted prosperity.

JOB: But they both lie in the dust, and worms cover them.