

First Round of Speeches

CHARACTERS: Job, All, Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 3 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Job 3-13

JOB: May the day I was born perish, and the night when they said,

ALL: A boy is conceived.

JOB: Why was I not stillborn; why didn't I die as I came from the womb?

ALL: Why is light given to one burdened with grief, and life to those whose existence is bitter,

JOB: who wait for death, but it does not come,

ALL: and search for it more than for hidden treasure,

JOB: I sigh when food is put before me, and my groans pour out like water. For the thing I feared has overtaken me, and what I dreaded has happened to me. I cannot relax or be still; I have no rest, for trouble comes.

ELIPHAZ: Can a person be more righteous than God, or a man more pure than his Maker? If I were you, I would appeal to God and would present my case to Him.

ALL: He does great and unsearchable things, wonders without number.

ELIPHAZ: See how happy the man is God corrects; so do not reject the discipline of the Almighty.

ALL: For He crushes but also binds up; He strikes, but His hands also heal.

ELIPHAZ: He will rescue you from six calamities; no harm will touch you in seven.

JOB: If only my grief could be weighed and my devastation placed with it in the scales.

ALL: A despairing man should receive loyalty from his friends,

JOB: My flesh is clothed with maggots and encrusted with dirt. My skin forms scabs and then oozes. My days pass more swiftly than a weaver's shuttle;

ALL: they come to an end without hope.

JOB: Remember that my life is but a breath. Your eyes will look for me, but I will be gone.

ALL: As a cloud fades away and vanishes, so the one who goes down to Sheol will never rise again.

JOB: What is man, that You think so highly of him and pay so much attention to him?

ALL: You inspect him every morning, and put him to the test every moment.

JOB: Why not forgive my sin and pardon my transgression? For soon I will lie down in the grave.

BILDAD: Our days on earth are but a shadow. Does papyrus grow where there is no marsh? Do reeds flourish without water?

ALL: No.

BILDAD: While still uncut shoots, they would dry up quicker than any other plant. Such is the destiny of all who forget God;

ALL: the hope of the godless will perish. His source of confidence is fragile; what he trusts in is a spider's web.

BILDAD: He leans on his web, but it doesn't stand firm. He grabs it, but it does not hold up.

JOB: I know what you've said is true, but how can a person be justified before God?

ALL: God is wise and all-powerful. Who has opposed Him and come out unharmed?

JOB: God's hands shaped me and formed me. Will You now turn and destroy me? Please remember that You formed me like clay. Will You now return me to dust?

ALL: God gives life and faithful love, and his care has guarded my life.

ZOPHAR: Can you fathom the depths of God or discover the limits of the Almighty?

ALL: They are higher than the heavens—what can you do?

ZOPHAR: They are deeper than Sheol—what can you know?

ALL: Their measure is longer than the earth and wider than the sea.

ZOPHAR: If there is iniquity in your hand, remove it, and don't allow injustice to dwell in your tents—

ALL: You will be confident, because there is hope.

JOB: The life of every living thing is in God's hand, as well as the breath of all mankind.

ALL: Wisdom and strength belong to God; counsel and understanding are His.

JOB: True wisdom and power belong to Him.

ALL: He makes nations great, then destroys them; He enlarges nations, then leads them away.

JOB: I prefer to speak to the Almighty and argue my case before God.

ALL: Even if He kills me, I will hope in Him.

JOB: Man wears out like something rotten, like a moth-eaten garment.

ALL: Man born of woman is short of days and full of trouble.

JOB: He blossoms like a flower, then withers; he flees like a shadow and does not last.

ALL: Who can produce something pure from what is impure? (pause) No one!

JOB: There is hope for a tree: If it is cut down, it will sprout again, and its shoots will not die.

ALL: If its roots grow old in the ground and its stump starts to die in the soil, 9 the smell of water makes it thrive and produce twigs like a sapling.

JOB: But a man dies and fades away; he breathes his last—where is he?

ALL: As water disappears from the sea and a river becomes parched and dry,

JOB: so man lies down never to rise again.

ALL: When a man dies, will he come back to life?

JOB: If so, I would wait all the days of my struggle until my relief comes.

ALL: You would call, and I would answer You. You would long for the work of Your hands.

JOB: My rebellion would be sealed up in a bag, and You would cover over my iniquity.