

Devotional Questions – Job 32-34

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Devotional Questions – Job 32-34, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Job* pp 437-488 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 755, 758-762, 1862 for detailed comment.

1. Why was Elihu angry with Job (Job 32:1-2)?

The answer is in Job 32:1 **“So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes.”** See [www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ Job 1 – Summary Thoughts](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/Job%201%20-%20Summary%20Thoughts) and this extract.

In addition to revealing Job *the man*, see subtitles below, Job's sufferings depict:...

- The peril of trusting in self righteousness *not* God's; Job 27:6, 32:1, 35:2, 40:8, Romans 10:3.

The sombre reminder for today is as Paul expressed it. **“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified”** Galatians 2:16.

2. Why was Elihu angry with Job's other friends (Job 32:3)?

Elihu justifiably perceived them to be **“false accusers”** 2 Timothy 3:3, Titus 2:3. God's saints may be on the receiving end of false accusation as Paul was.

“And when he was come, the Jews which came down from Jerusalem stood round about, and laid many and grievous complaints against Paul, which they could not prove” Acts 25:7.

The Lord Jesus Christ encourages today's believer undergoing false accusation as Job did and as the Lord Himself did, Luke 23:2 with Matthew 5:17, Luke 20:24-25, John 6:15.

“Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake” Matthew 5:11.

3. Is it always wrong to be angry?

It is not, according to Paul. **“Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath”** Ephesians 4:26.

Anger, therefore, according to Biblical anger management, should be:

- *Expressed for the right reason* e.g. to succour faltering saints as Paul did. **“Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?”** 2 Corinthians 11:29
- *Restrained to forestall sin* unlike Moses, Numbers 20:7-13, Psalm 106:32-33 as James exhorts. **“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God”** James 1:19-20
- *Curtailed as soon as possible* e.g. to encourage erring saints now back on track and block the devil as Paul did **“For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you...For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you. Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices”** 2 Corinthians 2:4, 10-11 with 1 Corinthians 5.

Incitement to or intensification of anger resulting in sin is one of the devil's devices, 2 Corinthians 2:11. **“And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand. And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice”** 1 Samuel 18:10-11 and context.

4. *What lessons can we learn from Elihu's anger?*

See bullet points above and note again www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ *Job 1 – Summary Thoughts*. Elihu did not harbour prolonged ill-will against his future father-in-law.

“And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren. After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons’ sons, even four generations” Job 42:15-16.

5. *What other reasons are given for Elihu speaking?*

5.1. *Job 32:6-7*

Elihu had **“mine opinion”** that he now sought to express, Job 32:6, 17. Today’s believer should keep in mind Paul’s exhortation with respect to **“shewing...Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you”** Titus 2:7-8.

5.2. *Job 32:17-19*

Elihu could not contain himself any longer, Job 32:18, 19. Today’s believer should have that sense with respect to **“all the words of the LORD”** Exodus 4:28, 24:3, 4, Joshua 24:27, 1 Samuel 8:10, Jeremiah 36:4, 11, 43:1.

“Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay” Jeremiah 20:9.

5.3. *Job 33:6-7*

Elihu has taken upon himself the role of **“daysman”** Job 9:33 **“in God’s stead”** Job 33:6 whom Job had desired. Today’s believer also has the role of **“daysman”** in an ambassadorial sense and should exercise that role as a faithful steward, 1 Corinthians 4:2.

“Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God” 2 Corinthians 5:20.

Note how the NIVs, NKJV royally botch the cross references. Modern version editors typically do. They couldn’t draw a valid comparison between two peas in a pod.

See www.flickr.com/photos/plushoff/5371113650/groups/.



6. *With what statements of Job does Elihu take issue?*

6.1. *Job 33:9*

Job’s profession of personal innocence e.g. Job 16:16-17

6.2. *Job 33:10*

Job’s profession of God’s enmity e.g. Job 16:9

Job did not have Jeremiah’s prophecy to cling to. Today’s believer does.

“But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies” Lamentations 3:32.

7. *What are the special messengers that God may send (Job 33:14-16)?*

Job 33:14 states that **“For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not.”** Man to whom God spoke in **“the Old Testament”** 2 Corinthians 3:14 may therefore have needed up to *three* messengers as follows. Note that the first two men identified did *not*. The third man *did* need the third messenger.

Daniel’s **“vision of the night”** is for a different purpose than God’s chastisement of the sinner Job 33:16-19 but nevertheless it is so that **“...he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction”** Job 33:16.

- **“In a dream...of the night”** Job 33:15. **“But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, Behold, thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man’s wife”** Genesis 20:3. Genesis 20:3 is the first association of the words **“God”** and **“dream”** in one verse.
- **“in a vision of the night”** Job 33:15. **“I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him”** Daniel 7:13. See also Acts 16:9, 18:9 where Paul receives a request for ministerial help and God’s exhortation to witness each in the form of **“a vision of the night”** Job 33:15. These particular visions were distinct from dreams.
- **“with pain upon his bed”** Job 33:19. **“There is no soundness in my flesh because of thine anger; neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin...I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin”** Job 33:3, 18 and context.

Today’s believer should keep in mind the Lord’s promise through Isaiah. It applies now as then.

“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon” Isaiah 55:7.

8. *What two messages do they bring?*

8.1. *Job 33:17*

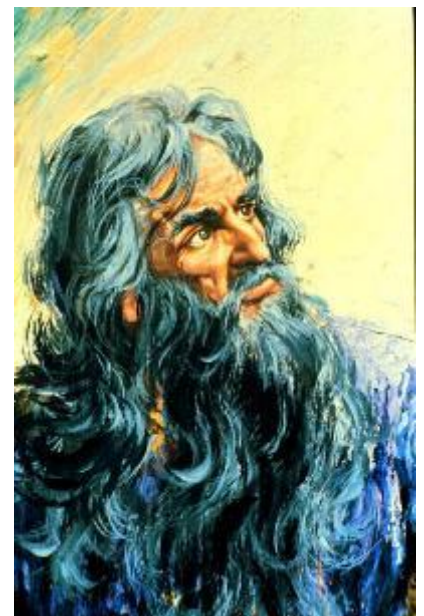
That man may be frustrated and humbled before God.

Nebuchadnezzar is an example. See Daniel 4:4-18 where God spoke to Nebuchadnezzar in a dream, Daniel 4:19-27 where Daniel interpreted the dream, Daniel 4:28-37 where Nebuchadnezzar lived the dream, as the saying goes and humbled himself before God as today’s believer should. See:

www.temkit.com/08-Bible-Prophecy/Knowing-Prophecy/MadKing2.htm.

“And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation...Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase” Daniel 4:34, 37.

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time” 1 Peter 5:6.



8.2. Job 33:18

That man may see deliverance now as a reprieve from damnation later

Balaam is an example. **“Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face. And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? behold, I went out to withstand thee, because thy way is perverse before me: And the ass saw me, and turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive”** Numbers 22:31-33. Unlike Nebuchadnezzar, Balaam did *not* get right with God and is a grim reminder of Genesis 6:3 **“And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man...”** Jude’s warning is clear for all like Balaam whom Stephen denounced **“Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye”** Acts 7:51 applicable to any unsaved person today.

“Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core” Jude 11.

9. What is the point that Elihu is trying to make?

Elihu’s point appears to be what Jeremiah would declare centuries later, little comfort for Job then, great comfort for today’ believers now.

“It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness” Lamentations 3:22-23.

10. What two statements of Job does Elihu respond to next?

10.1. Job 34:5-8

Job’s profession of self-righteousness **“For Job hath said, I am righteous: and God hath taken away my judgment”** Job 34:5. See *Question 1* and Job 27:6 **“My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live.”** Paul’s testimony is the mindset for today’s believer.

“Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith” Philippians 3:8-9.

10.2. Job 34:9

Job's denial of God's discrimination between "**the righteous and the wicked**" Ecclesiastes 3:17, Ezekiel 21:3, 4, Malachi 3:18 "**For he hath said, It profiteth a man nothing that he should delight himself with God**" Job 34:9. "**This is one thing, therefore I said it, He destroyeth the perfect and the wicked**" Job 9:22. God does discriminate between those groups, however, even if not immediately, Ezekiel 21:3, 4. Today's believer now, though not Job then, has that assurance, prophetically and practically with Philippians 3:8-9.

"Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish" Psalm 1:5-6.

11. What is Elihu's response (Job 34:16-30)?

- "**wilt thou condemn him that is most just?**" Job 34:17 with Job 34:18 and Job 40:8
- "**For his eyes are upon the ways of man**" Job 34:21 with Job 34:19, 20
- "**For he will not lay upon man more than right**" Job 34:23 with Job 34:22, 24-28
- "**When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble?**" Job 34:29 with Job 34:30.

Elihu is saying what David would say centuries later. Those words could not give Job comfort directly then but they can do so for today's believer now, again with Philippians 3:8-9.

"The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works. The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them. The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy" Psalm 145:17-20. Thus and so it will be at the Second Advent. Jihadists beware.

"Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power" 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9.

12. Of what sin does Elihu charge Job (Job 34:37)?

Elihu accuses Job of rebellion against God, which was not true but see again *Question 1, Job 1 – Summary Thoughts*. Elihu is in anguish over Jemima. Yet God can deliver even the rebellious.

"Such as sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron; Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the most High: Therefore he brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and there was none to help. Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses. He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder. Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" Psalm 107:10-15.