

Job:

Is God Good?



JOB 34

- is God good? ¹

Elihu's 4 Speeches (chs. 32-37)

God & Job (chs. 38-42:6)

Job's Restoration (ch. 42:7-17)

The Accusation | God is unjust (34:2-9)

- Elihu's concern (vv. 2-4)

- Job's claims (vv. 5-9)

The Truth | God is perfectly just (34:10-37)

- God does not do wrong (vv. 10-12) ²

- God is God (vv. 13-17)

- God judges justly (vv. 18-30)

→ without favouritism (vv. 18-20)

→ without need for investigation (vv. 21-25)

→ for all to see (vv. 26-28)

→ even when He is quiet (vv. 29-30)

- Job is wrong (vv. 31-37)



THE EVIDENCE | God acts justly

- Present ³

- Future ⁴

- Past ⁵

¹ Job 32:2; 42:7

² Genesis 18:25; Psalm 33:5; 89:14; Romans 9:14

³ Romans 1:18-32; 13:4

⁴ Romans 2:5; Psalm 73

⁵ Romans 3:26

Job 34

(Elihu to the wise men) ¹

¹ Then Elihu said:

² "Hear my words, you wise men;
listen to me, you men of learning.

³ For the ear tests words
as the tongue tastes food.

⁴ Let us discern for ourselves what is right;
let us learn together what is good.

⁵ "Job says, 'I am innocent,
but God denies me justice.

⁶ Although I am right,
I am considered a liar;
although I am guiltless,
his arrow inflicts an incurable wound.'

⁷ Is there anyone like Job,
who drinks scorn like water?

⁸ He keeps company with evildoers;
he associates with the wicked.

⁹ For he says, 'There is no profit
in trying to please God.'

¹⁰ "So listen to me, you men of understanding.
Far be it from God to do evil,
from the Almighty to do wrong.

¹¹ He repays everyone for what they have done;
he brings on them what their conduct deserves.

¹² It is unthinkable that God would do wrong,
that the Almighty would pervert justice.

¹³ Who appointed him over the earth?
Who put him in charge of the whole world?

¹⁴ If it were his intention
and he withdrew his spirit and breath,

¹⁵ all humanity would perish together
and mankind would return to the dust.

(Elihu to Job)

¹⁶ "If you have understanding, hear this;
listen to what I say.

¹⁷ Can someone who hates justice govern?
Will you condemn the just and mighty One?

¹⁸ Is he not the One who says to kings, 'You
are worthless,' and to nobles, 'You are wicked,'

¹⁹ who shows no partiality to princes
and does not favor the rich over the poor,
for they are all the work of his hands?

²⁰ They die in an instant, in the middle of the night;
the people are shaken and they pass away;
the mighty are removed without human hand.

²¹ "His eyes are on the ways of mortals;
he sees their every step.

²² There is no deep shadow, no utter darkness,
where evildoers can hide.

²³ God has no need to examine people further,
that they should come before him for judgment.

²⁴ Without inquiry he shatters the mighty
and sets up others in their place.

²⁵ Because he takes note of their deeds,
he overthrows them in the night and they are
crushed.

²⁶ He punishes them for their wickedness
where everyone can see them,

²⁷ because they turned from following him
and had no regard for any of his ways.

²⁸ They caused the cry of the poor to come before
him, so that he heard the cry of the needy.

²⁹ But if he remains silent, who can condemn him?
If he hides his face, who can see him?

Yet he is over individual and nation alike,

³⁰ to keep the godless from ruling,
from laying snares for the people.

³¹ "Suppose someone says to God,
'I am guilty but will offend no more.

³² Teach me what I cannot see;
if I have done wrong, I will not do so again.'

³³ Should God then reward you on your terms,
when you refuse to repent?

You must decide, not I;
so tell me what you know.

³⁴ "Men of understanding declare,
wise men who hear me say to me,

³⁵ 'Job speaks without knowledge;
his words lack insight.'

³⁶ Oh, that Job might be tested to the utmost
for answering like a wicked man!

³⁷ To his sin he adds rebellion;
scornfully he claps his hands among us
and multiplies his words against God."

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¹ Because Elihu uses the plural "you" in 34:1-15 and then switches to the singular "you" in 34:16-37, we know that he shifts from addressing a group of "wise men" to addressing Job himself.