

### Eliphaz Rebukes Job (1-6)

<sup>1</sup> Eliphaz makes three speeches to Job. This one and the ones in chapters 15 and 22. He claims to have knowledge based on a special revelation from God (vs 12-16) and his own personal experience (vs 8).

Eliphaz is the mildest of Job's accusers. He is called a "Temanite" which means he is from Teman. Teman was a district in the land of Edom.

<sup>7-11</sup> Eliphaz's logic is that since you are suffering you must have sinned, because all suffering is the result of sin. All of Job's friends labor under this false assumption. It was a common belief at the time and remains so even today among many people. Perhaps after a tragedy even you have said, "Why me. What have I done wrong." Perhaps the answer is "nothing." Sometimes bad things happen to good people.

<sup>12-15</sup> Eliphaz relates a vision he had which also teaches that bad things only happen to bad people. Eliphaz may have had the dream, but not all dream were from God.

<sup>1</sup> Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied: <sup>2</sup> "If someone ventures a word with you, will you be impatient? But who can keep from speaking? <sup>3</sup> Think how you have instructed many, how you have strengthened feeble hands. <sup>4</sup> Your words have supported those who stumbled; you have strengthened faltering knees. <sup>5</sup> But now trouble comes to you, and you are discouraged; it strikes you, and you are dismayed. <sup>6</sup> Should not your piety be your confidence and your blameless ways your hope?

### Only the Guilty are Punished (7-11)

<sup>7</sup> "Consider now: Who, being innocent, has ever perished? Where were the upright ever destroyed? <sup>8</sup> As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it. <sup>9</sup> At the breath of God they are destroyed; at the blast of his anger they perish. <sup>10</sup> The lions may roar and growl, yet the teeth of the great lions are broken. <sup>11</sup> The lion perishes for lack of prey, and the cubs of the lioness are scattered.

### Mankind is Impure (12-21)

<sup>12</sup> "A word was secretly brought to me, my ears caught a whisper of it. <sup>13</sup> Amid disquieting dreams in the night, when deep sleep falls on men, <sup>14</sup> fear and trembling seized me and made all my bones shake. <sup>15</sup> A spirit glided past my face, and the hair on my body stood on end. <sup>16</sup> It stopped, but I could not tell what it was. A form stood before my eyes, and I heard a hushed voice:

<sup>17</sup> 'Can a mortal be more righteous than God? Can a man be more pure than his Maker? <sup>18</sup> If God places no trust in his servants, if he charges his angels with error, <sup>19</sup> how much more those who live in houses of clay, whose foundations are in the dust, who are crushed more readily than a moth! <sup>20</sup> Between dawn and dusk they are broken to pieces; unnoticed, they perish forever. <sup>21</sup> Are not the cords of their tent pulled up, so that they die without wisdom?'