

In this chapter Eliphaz concludes his first speech to Job. There is a bit of arrogance in his words as he claims to know the answer to Job's trouble. It is understandable since this was the belief about pain and suffering of his day. The question of pain and suffering is still hotly debated today.

¹
The "holy ones" are certainly angels. Job is being told that not even the angels can save him.

²⁻⁶
The thought in these words is that everyone faces trouble. Certainly this is true and if Eliphaz had ended with this he would have been right, but his application is his failure. He concludes that trouble comes only as the result of sin. This is false.

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Anytime someone starts with "if it were" me. Then you can be sure you are about to hear arrogance. One cannot know what one would do until one is in those circumstances.

⁹⁻¹⁶
The meaning of these verses is that God can do anything and can protect anyone.

¹⁹
Job list 7 things God can protect us from. He might as well have mentioned 1,000 things, because God can deliver us from anything.

²⁷
Here is Eliphaz's pride – "We know this is true because we have checked it out."

Suffering is Universal (1-7)

¹"Call if you will, but who will answer you? To which of the holy ones will you turn?

² Resentment kills a fool, and envy slays the simple. ³ I myself have seen a fool taking root, but suddenly his house was cursed. ⁴ His children are far from safety, crushed in court without a defender. ⁵ The hungry consume his harvest, taking it even from among thorns, and the thirsty pant after his wealth.

⁶ For hardship does not spring from the soil, nor does trouble sprout from the ground. ⁷ Yet man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward.

Trust God for Help (8-16)

⁸ "But if it were I, I would appeal to God; I would lay my cause before him.

⁹ He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted. ¹⁰ He bestows rain on the earth; he sends water upon the countryside. ¹¹ The lowly he sets on high, and those who mourn are lifted to safety. ¹² He thwarts the plans of the crafty, so that their hands achieve no success. ¹³ He catches the wise in their craftiness, and the schemes of the wily are swept away. ¹⁴ Darkness comes upon them in the daytime; at noon they grope as in the night. ¹⁵ He saves the needy from the sword in their mouth; he saves them from the clutches of the powerful.

¹⁶ So the poor have hope, and injustice shuts its mouth.

God's Punishment is Corrective (17-19)

¹⁷ "Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. ¹⁸ For he wounds, but he also binds up; he injures, but his hands also heal.

Seven Things God Rescues From (19-27)

¹⁹ From six calamities he will rescue you; in seven no harm will befall you.

²⁰ In famine he will ransom you from death, and in battle from the stroke of the sword.

²¹ You will be protected from the lash of the tongue, and need not fear when destruction comes.

²² You will laugh at destruction and famine, and need not fear the beasts of the earth. ²³ For you will have a covenant with the stones of the field, and the wild animals will be at peace with you.

²⁴ You will know that your tent is secure; you will take stock of your property and find nothing missing. ²⁵ You will know that your children will be many, and your descendants like the grass of the earth. ²⁶ You will come to the grave in full vigor, like sheaves gathered in season.

²⁷ "We have examined this, and it is true. So hear it and apply it to yourself."