

The Unfaithful Counsel of Eliphaz

Job 4-7

The Counsel of Eliphaz

The Curse of Inaccurate Counsel

Does God ever punish the Innocent?

Job 4:1-11

- From the point of view of the Old Covenant era there does seem to be some truth to the idea that the good guys get good stuff from God while the bad guys get bad stuff.

Deuteronomy 28

- The historical account of Job takes place during the Patriarchal period, which is before the Old Covenant era. Even during this period of time it does generally seem that the theme of the Old Covenant era operates in much the same way.
- The killing of Abel by Cain is surely the killing of an innocent person. *Genesis 4*
- Every negative thing that a believer experiences has a positive purpose in the plan of God.

Romans 8:28

God is holy and Job is not

Job 4:12-21

- God is indeed holy, but this does not mean that we can place the blame for negative experiences always on the individual believer. *John 9:1-3*
- God is holy but he does not charge his angels with error. Inaccuracy undermines the words of our counsel.

The Sum of the matter is that Job is Guilty

Job 5

If only Job would confess his sin then all would be well. This counsel is false since Job's sin was not the cause of his difficulties.

The Response of Job

It is all a matter of Perspective

God is Against Me

Job 6:1-13

Job sees himself as having no chance of making his case with God. God is so overwhelming that even though Job is innocent it makes no difference.

His Friends are no Help

Job 6:14-30

- We give our friends the benefit of doubt until proven otherwise. Eliphaz did not do his homework and therefore was not a faithful friend to Job.
- Not only does Eliphaz incorrectly guess as to the cause of his difficulties he also then builds on his guess and makes Job out to be something that he is not.

Self-Pity Prevails

Job 7:1-10

- We get a glimpse into the length of Job's suffering when he states that it has been going for months.
- Self-pity is self-centeredness. We are only looking at our situation from the point of view of our comfort.

God is Tormenting Him

Job 7:11-21

Job as deteriorated in his sin so that now he is not just innocent but God is aggressively tormenting him.