

MOUNT SINAI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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BIBLE STUDY

JOB

Bible Study Strategies: Prayer of Preparation

1. **Reading** the Scripture accurately
2. **Interpreting** the Scripture which is read
3. **Obeying** the Scripture as it is understood

Aims of Bible Study:

1. Increased Bible knowledge
2. Improvement as a student of the
Scripture
3. Spiritual growth as a believer in Christ

THE INTERVENTION OF ELIHU (Chaps. 32 – 37)

Elihu's Speech to Job's Three Friends (Chap. 32)

32:1-6 Here the conversation between Job and his three friends ceases. Normally, as we noted above, it would have been Zophar's turn to speak, but for some reason he chooses not to do so.

A young man named Elihu, the son of Barachel the Buzite, had been listening to the heated debate between Job and his three critics. Many Bible students see him as a picture of Christ, our Mediator. He seems the perfect bridge between Job's friends' analysis of his situation and the solution of Jehovah. In short, he is a middleman between men and God, a mediator to prepare for the Lord's coming scene.

Other commentators have less favorable views of him, viewing him as a conceited young upstart!

At any rate, Elihu (his name means *my God is He*) became incensed with Job for justifying himself rather than God. He was also angry with his three friends for failing to answer Job adequately. In the following verses, he summarizes twenty-nine chapters of discussions.

32:7-22 In deference to their age, he had kept quiet and paid close attention to their words, but now he can restrain himself no longer.

He says that great men (or men of many years, NKJV marg.) are not always wise, and that God can give insight to a younger man like himself. He blames Job's critics for not coming up with convincing arguments. Because of their failure, he is compelled from within to speak and he will do so without partiality or flattery.

Elihu's Speech to Job (Chap. 33)

33:1-7 Elihu, using the word "please," calls for Job's attention because he is going to speak words of sincerity and truth. Job had desired the opportunity to vindicate himself before God. Now Elihu, though a mortal formed out of clay like himself, is serving as Job's spokesman before God, and Job can make his defense, if he wishes, without fear of divine wrath.

33:8-18 Elihu rebukes Job for the way in which he had professed absolute innocence, and for blaming God for unjust treatment. God is greater than man, and does not have to give an accounting of His dealings with man. However, God does speak to people through dreams and nocturnal visions to warn against evil and pride and to save them from violent death.

33:19-30 The Lord also speaks through pain and serious illness, when even succulent food seems revolting. If a messenger or mediator explains God's way of uprightness (and if the sufferer responds in faith), God saves him from going down to the Pit on the basis of an acceptable ransom. Elihu does not explain what he means by a ransom, but we are justified in linking it with the One "who gave Himself a ransom for all" (1 Tim. 2:6). When a person responds to the Lord's voice, says Elihu, then he is restored to physical health and spiritual well-being. It is the one who confesses his sin who is redeemed from spiritual and/or physical death.

33:31-33 If Job wants to speak, he should do so. If not, he should continue to listen carefully, holding his peace while Elihu teaches him wisdom.