

ANALYSIS OF Elihu's SPEECH (Chs. 34- 37)

	Preface/Chs.32-33		Chs. 34-35		Chs. 36-37	
(A) Authority of their Speech & Why he speaks	Elihu spoke out of (righteous) anger (James 1: 21 applies?) (1) Had waited for his turn (youngest); listen enough! (2) Wisdom comes from spirit within (32:8) (3) Impartial (Job didn't attack him)--no flattery! (4) Like new wineskin--about to burst (not a good sign?)	33: 4 From the Spirit of the Almighty (implied) 33:3 from an upright heart & sincerity			He claims he is speaking "in God's behalf" (36:1) (1) Acquires knowledge afar (2) One perfect in knowledge is with him (God?) (3) So words are not false!	
(B) Rebuke of Friends	(1) Failed to prove Job wrong (2) Lame excuse: "let God refute him"		Addressing friends as "wise men" (34:1-4) rather mockingly!	35:4 he also challenges friends to listen!		
(C) Challenge to Job	33:5 Challenge Job to answer him--no need to fear (I'm like you--taken from clay)	33:32 Challenge Job to answer or keep quiet and continue to listen!	Challenge Job's claim of innocence and God's arrows (34: 5-6) & the futility of pleasing God (34:9)	Now in ch.35 he again takes issue with Job's claim of futility of not sinning and insists of vindication! (vv.1-3)	36: 16-23--God is wooing you with afflictions--careful not to be lured by riches etc.--do not charge God with wrong!	37: 14-24--directly challenge Job to consider God's wonder-cloud, lightning, south wind's heat, skies--how dare you ask him to listen to you (v.20)--you want to be swallower up?
(D) Exhortation/Rebuke	(1) Claim of without sin (33:8) (2) God at fault--as enemy & fastens shackles (33: 9-10)	Job did not claim w/o sin (23:11-12; 27: 6; 16: 17--below) But Job did insist God did it!	Charged Job as scornful & associated with evil doers (by his claim above)	34: 34-37 wisemen will agree Job should be tested to the utmost as sins multiplied		
(E) Who/.How God is (No notion of friendship with God)	Job's complaint that God did not answer men is wrong (33: 14-35)--to one who sins (1) May speak in dreams & visions to turn us around (33: 15-18)	(2) Also via serious ill--yet if there is an angelic intercessor plus his own prayer & public repentance (vv. 19-28) God is God of 2nd chance (33: 29-20)	God can do no wrong (34: 10) v. 11 men get what deserved vv. 12-15: God the Maker not the other way around vv. 16-20: God rules in justice & dictate lives of kings	35: 5-8 sin or no sin, no impact on God, but affects men only! 35: 9-16 God not obliged to answer men's cry-though He gives wisdom and cares about men!	36: 24-33--remember t extol God's work--beyond understanding--cloud--rain-streams also thunder-lightning--His way to govern and provides!	37: 1-13--a vivid depiction of God's majesty and love thru' thunder, lightning plus snow & mighty downpour, ice & swirl wind to punish, to show love/provide-Men may know!
(F) Other Aspects	Friends gave up on Job 1. "Job was righteous in his own eyes" = self-righteous? 2. They failed to refute Job--both of his innocence & his charge that God did it 3. but they condemned Job		Conventional Wisdom vv. 21-28 God is all-knowing & All-seeing--He punishes the wicked and oppressors vv.29-30: what if God chooses to remain silent--but He will still intervenes with judgment	Implications: Since Job dares to challenge God to court--not a chance He would listen Job's = empty talks! (Elihu was wrong!)	Conventional Wisdom 36: 5-15--God is mighty yet exalts the righteous, but He afflicts men of arrogance for sake of repentance--listen & prosper or will perish (similar to Eliphaz's last speech)	Conventional Wisdom Almighty beyond our reach--inaccessible??? He is just, righteous, does not oppress Men's duty--to revere him God: no regard to the wise! (i.e. no match!)
Remarks: 1. "Elihu" means "My Go is He", kind of similar to the name "Elijah" which means "My God is Yahweh" 2. Since he was not a friends, and with a detailed description which suggested that he was likely a local resident 3. He, like the three friends, chose not to look at the plight of Job with empathy 4. No notion of spiritual warfare 5. Job did say he followed God's steps & ways without turning aside & did not depart from His commands (23:11-12); maintained his integrity & righteousness (27:6); and his hands free from violence & prayers pure (16:17)					Conclusion: Elihu's version of God's might & wonder same as friends'; his conventional wisdom similar to theirs & rebuke of friends' condemnation of Job is valid! He refrains from pinning specific sins on Job, but still implies afflictions as caused by sins, esp. that of his charge of God's wrong doing. He does not think God will answer God--no friendship notion!	