

## Handout for Job Lesson 5

### Chapter 5

Thus far, Eliphaz has offered his thesis (DR principle) and asserted that no one can be right before God, and offered two proofs (one from the history of his own observations and the second from a supernatural vision). Now he intends to put pressure on Job to capitulate to his (Eliphaz's) understanding of how Job's situation came about.

Job 5:1–7

**Verse 1:** Eliphaz states Job has no help in the heavenly court. He is mocking the very idea that there would be anyone in heaven to vindicate him.

**Q:** Is this statement ironic? Why?

**Verse 2:** This is a proverb that means “you get what you deserve”. This is basically a restatement of the DR principle.

**Q:** What outrageous claim is Eliphaz making in verse 3?

**Verse 4:** Here he indicates there is no deliverer for the foolish man.

**Q:** Is Eliphaz right or wrong about this? 1 Tim. 1:13

**Q:** Verses 6-7 imply a very important principle about the nature of man. What is it?

In these first 7 verses of Chapter 5, Eliphaz has played the “bad cop” in his effort to persuade Job to repent. Now he turns and plays the “good cop” hand in Job 5:8–16.

**Verse 8:** Here again, Eliphaz demonstrates his own pride in that he draws a contrast between what Job is doing and what he, Eliphaz, would do in the same situation. The second half of this verse has strong courtroom overtones; this pictures a supplicant coming before a judge to present his case.

**Q:** Is this verse ironic? Why?

**Verse 9:** - Irony- Eliphaz is at the same time saying that God does “unsearchable things” and yet his whole message to Job is that he, Eliphaz, knows exactly what God is doing in afflicting Job; it is punishment for sin.

**Verse 10:** -Affirmation of God’s “common grace”- Matt. 5:45

**Verses 11-16:** -Affirmation of the DR principle, but compare this to Ecclesiastes 4:1. The world is simply not as simple as Eliphaz envisioned it; God is more complicated in His ways than Eliphaz thinks.

**Verse 13:** -Quoted by Paul in 1 Cor. 3:19. That Paul quotes this phrase from Eliphaz is proof that Eliphaz is in one sense right, yet Eliphaz falls into this very trap himself; he is elevating his own human wisdom as absolute even though he does not know what he is talking about as applied to Job’s case.

Job 5:17–27 -Beautiful and correct analysis of the mercy of God. Heb. 12:5-11

**Verse 21:**

**Q:** Is this ironic? Why? Romans 8:28, James 5:11

**Verse 27:** A supreme claim of human wisdom, but Eliphaz did not answer Job’s questions! Job’s questions were 1) what is the purpose of his trial and 2) is God good and beneficent toward men? Eliphaz was an astute historian; however, history is not adequate for explaining the ways of God to man. You need more than history, you need special revelation.