

Elihu the Son of Barachel

A Pattern for Young Men



Overview of the Book of Job

- 1-2 ... Introduction to Job and his dire situation.
- 3-31 ... Exchanges between Job and his three critical friends.
- 32-37 ... Elihu rebukes all four men and explains the situation.
- 38-41 ... God exalts Himself and rebukes Job for insolence.
- 42 ... Conclusion of the trial with Job restored and doubled.



Characters of the Book of Job

- JOB was a righteous and perfect man until this extreme trial.
- SATAN tried to overthrow Job's faith like he does most men.
- MRS. JOB, like Mrs. Lot and Michal, did not have real religion.
- ELIPHAZ, BILDAD, and ZOPHAR were three old, wise friends.
- ELIHU wrote the book of JOB and only he understood the trial.
- GOD JEHOVAH glorifies Himself in this book and corrects Job.



What about Elihu?

- It is important you clearly distinguish the five main characters.
- Elihu was a relative of Abraham by Buz of Nahor (Gen 22:21).
- Elihu wrote the book of Job, as Job 32:15-16 proves in the KJV.
- Therefore, Elihu introduced Job's three friends (Job 2:11-13).
- He illustrates great character traits young men should desire.
- He alone kept the truth and stood by it against four old sages!

Why the Study?

- For a great young man recorded in detail by God for you!
- Every young man should be taught about Elihu (and old also).
- Job chapter 32 should especially be prized by young men.
- Elihu was very zealous for God's glory and to defend the truth.
- We will exalt any trait indicated and/or confirmed elsewhere.
- These are some of the best Bible chapters for glorifying God.

He Got Angry (32:1-3)

- His passionate spirit had to defend the truth of God and saints.
- His wrath is mentioned four times in four verses (32:2,3,5).
- Anger to defend God and truth is good (Ex 32:19-20; Nu 25:6-15).
- Anger for any other cause is usually sin and wasted passion.
- If you love God, you should be upset if He or truth are attacked.
- Are you angry for God and against the world? You should be!

He Justified God (32:2)

- Elihu got angry at Job first for defending himself and not God.
- He loved God's glory and would not let even Job question it.
- He will give a simple, profound 5-word full explanation (33:12).
- Do you give God the benefit of any doubt and reject all else?
- Are you so committed to God's glory you are fearless of men?
- A great man will delight in God's glory and defend it. Do you?

He Defended Job (32:3)

- Elihu loved the real saints of God and would not allow attacks.
- He got angry at Job's three friends for unjustly accusing him.
- The three friends accused Job of hypocrisy without any proof.
- You better be very careful before you harshly accuse others.
- Defending yourself or your family is not considered here at all.
- Great men protect the noble sons of God (Pr 25:23). Do you?

He Was Humble (32:4)

- Elihu knew older men should have opportunity to speak first.
- He knew that age was to be honored (Lev 19:32; Is 3:5; I Tim 5:1).
- He had waited 29 chapters while the four debated each other!
- He did not refer to himself at the beginning or end (2:11-13).
- He knew to hold back speech until appropriate and proper.
- Great men wait until it is right to speak (Pr 15:23; 25:11). Do you?

He Was Wise (32:5)

- Elihu was able to listen to four wise men and perceive error.
- Have you acquired the knowledge to detect error (Pr 14:15)?
- He hated every false argument (Ps 119:113,128; Pr 22:17-21).
- Have you exercised your senses to distinguish (Heb 5:12-14)?
- A man with wisdom cannot stand the vain thoughts of men.
- Great men read, listen, meditate, pray, and grow. Do you?

He Was Modest (32:6-7)

- Elihu knew his age and place much like Solomon (1 Kgs 3:7).
- He admitted his respectful fear and reservation at talking.
- He knew the rules of etiquette, and he carefully obeyed them.
- Old men are honored ... to a point (Lev 19:32; Pr 16:31; 1 Tim 5:1).
- Boldness, confidence, and fighting for God are true humility!
- Great men are humble and modest even if fighting. Are you?

He Was Spiritual (32:8)

- Elihu passed over the age factor to consider his own spirit.
- Forget the human spirit, as some say, for most men are idiots.
- A man's spirit trumps age, and most men lose spirit in old age.
- God's gracious gifts and man's faithfulness make differences.
- Man's spirit is exalted by regeneration, instruction, obedience.
- Every man has a spirit, but Elihu's was born again and trained.

He Was Spiritual (32:8)

- But the greatest spiritual advantage is the Holy Spirit Himself.
- God inspires prophets directly and others by word and Spirit.
- Do you grasp the Spirit's importance (I Cor 2:9-16; Eph 1:17-19)?
- Do you know that any sin grieves the Holy Spirit, hurting you?
- Do you crave the word of God to feed you indirect inspiration?
- Great men beg for the Holy Spirit (II Kgs 2:9; Luke 11:13). Do you?

He Was Bold (32:9-17)

- Elihu could recognize that he had truth the four men did not.
- Though older and more famous than him, Elihu did not care.
- He stated a rule (32:9) young men should learn (Ps 119:98-100).
- With God's word, there is no need to fear or worship any man.
- Reading commentaries or hearing preachers must use the rule.
- Great men are confident in the truth against anyone. Are you?

He Was Bold (32:9-17)

- He was confident enough to tell them they did not have a clue.
- Job had silenced the three sages; Elihu would teach him truth.
- The next two verses are the writer's observation (32:15-16).
- Modern translations often put those verses in quotation marks!
- While learning boldness over men, God gave you a little jewel!
- Great men are not moved by intellect or education. Are you?

He Was Passionate (32:18-20)

- Elihu, like Phinehas or David or others, was zealous for God.
- He had a spirit that was stirred up to defend God and truth.
- He was about ready to explode with the right answers inside.
- Paul felt similarly when he saw Athens' idolatry (Acts 17:16-17).
- Is there not a cause? The things of God and truth deserve zeal!
- Great men are passionate for God, truth, kingdom. Are you?

He Feared God (32:21-22)

- Elihu, though respectful, disregarded their great reputations.
- Young men, with God's truth, should not fear lofty persons.
- Young men, with God's truth, should disregard men's titles.
- He had learned a holy rule – no flattering titles (Matt 23:5-12).
- Do not fear Dr. So-and-So! Ignore puffed up titles and degrees!
- Great men fear God more than man, even high men. Do you?

He Helped Job (33:1-3)

- Elihu began gently to help Job understand and to admonish him.
- He ignored the three miserable comforters to go after Job.
- He declared his integrity and that he was God's word to Job.
- He identified exactly what Job had said that deserved rebuke.
- Young men should learn to admonish, exhort, and warn men.
- Great men are trees of life to others by words (Pr 11:30). Are you?

He Justified God (33:12)

- Elihu explained Job's terrible situation with five great words!
- Remember these words for life: **God is greater than man!**
- God can do whatever He chooses to anyone at anytime.
- You can never say, "I do not deserve this." You deserve worse!
- In every situation of life, no matter what, give God the glory!
- Great men always exalt God over everything else. Do you?

He Loved Truth (33:31-33)

- Elihu focused on the truth and would not allow wiggle room.
- He told Job that he ought to carefully hear his explanation.
- He told Job not to consider responding without good cause.
- He told Job unless he could refute the truth to be silent.
- He stated his motive to Job and exalted the wisdom of truth.
- Great men love truth and present it to help others. Do you?

He Required Unity (34:1-4)

- Elihu addressed all four men to come together around truth.
- He respectfully acknowledged their wisdom and knowledge.
- But he brought them back to what he had said and would say.
- He told them to think about what he would say and prove truth.
- He declared the five of them should hold to good judgment.
- Great men love unity but always and only in truth. Do you?

He Named Names (34:5-9)

- Elihu did not mince words when error had to be confronted.
- He identified Job as talking like a scorner and wicked men.
- This was no foolish name-calling, for he specified Job's words.
- He carefully quoted the error and then blasted it as evil scorn.
- This is not politically correct or how effeminate Christians act.
- Great men will identify sins and sinners by name. Will you?

He Honored God (34:31-32)

- Elihu explained in detail how to submit to God's affliction.
- He honored God by saying that His chastening was proper.
- Men should honor God and humbly submit to His afflictions.
- Only respond rightly to chastening (Pr 3:11-12; Ps 119:67,71,75).
- The first response to adversity should be humble submission.
- Great men respond to afflictions by honoring God. Do you?

He Exalted God (36:1-6)

- Elihu continued his speech by declaring God's righteousness.
- He asked for more time, for he wanted to defend God more.
- He said he was perfect in knowledge, by God's inspiration.
- He spoke on God's behalf to defend God's perfect integrity.
- God is always right, without any hint of any error. Defend it!
- Great men are faithful and ready to exalt God. Are you?

He Gave Hope (36:16)

- Elihu knew Job wanted out of his trial and explained how.
- There is always a basic equation: *humbly do right for mercy.*
- Confessing your sins and turning to God always works (36:11).
- God would have kept these basic rules and made Job prosper.
- Job justified himself rather than God, so the trial continued.
- Great men, even when rebuking, are full of hope. Are you?

He Warned (36:17-18)

- Elihu knew God's longsuffering and patience were not forever.
- Job's words, like wicked men (34:5-9), would bring judgment.
- Though starting with hope for prosperity, he warned of wrath.
- Job's self-righteousness was in danger of badly offending God.
- If Job did not get things right soon, God would take his life.
- Great men know to warn of God's eventual wrath. Do you?

He Observed (36:22 – 37:24)

- Elihu saw in creation reflections of God's perfect attributes.
- The power you sometimes see, hear, or feel should cause fear.
- He was able to take God's works in nature and teach lessons.
- He humbled Job to nothing by contrasting God's great power.
- He introduced God's speech (Chap 38-41), for God inspired him!
- Great men can always see God's attributes anywhere. Do you?

What Was Elihu's Character?

He got angry (32:1-3)	He exhorted (33:1-3)
He justified God (32:2)	He justified God (33:12)
He defended Job (32:3)	He loved truth (33:31-33)
He was humble (32:4)	He demanded unity (34:1-4)
He was wise (32:5)	He named names (34:5-9)
He was modest (32:6-7)	He honored God (34:31-32)
He was spiritual (32:8)	He exalted God (36:1-4)
He was bold (32:9-17)	He gave hope (36:16)
He was passionate (32:18-20)	He warned (36:17-18)
He feared God (32:21-22)	He observed (36:22-37:24)



How Can You Be Like Elihu?

- You must be on the same page with God by walking with Him.
- You must pray for and exalt the Holy Spirit in your inner life.
- You must love God's word and learn it as much as possible.
- You must associate with wise men to also be wise (Pr 13:20).
- You must have a passion and zeal for God, truth, and saints.
- You must learn the character of Elihu taught also in Proverbs.

One Verse To Be Like Elihu

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

I Peter 3:15

For Further Study

Elihu the son of Barachel (Word format) ... www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/elihu.pdf

Character Traits of Great Men ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/practical/c-character-traits/sermon.php>

Character of Joseph ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/character-of-joseph.pdf>

Character of Bible Youth ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/bible-youth-illustrated-character.pdf>

Proverb 14:35 Commentary ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/14_35.php

Traits of Great Men ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/traits-of-great-men.pdf>

A Mighty Man's Life ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/a-mighty-man.pdf>

Intro to Proverbs Commentaries ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/proverbs-intro.php>

Managing Your Life ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/managing-your-life.pdf>

Christ-Like Men ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/christ-like-men.pdf>

Relationships – Chart ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/relationships-chart.pdf>

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