

Elihu: Implores Job to Listen to His Counsel

Job 32-33

Group ¹	C	V	Description
Elihu in Anger Rebukes Job	32	1-5	Jobs friends could not speak to him any longer because of his attitude Elihu had delayed in speaking out of respect of his age, but could restrain himself no longer as the others haven't found an answer for Job
		6-10	Elihu has held his words out of respect for the other men's age
		11-14	The arguments of the others didn't answer Job's words
		15-22	Elihu could no longer keep silent waiting for Job to be answered
Elihu Claims to Speak for God	33	1-7	Elihu asks Job to listen to his words as well and don't let them weigh too heavily as he too belongs to God
		8-12	Elihu tells Job his assertions are accurate
		13-18	Elihu asserts that God does reveal His actions in subtle ways and He keeps their souls from harm
		19-22	Man suffers anguish and refuses to eat
		23-28	Elihu calls for a mediator to speak and God to restore men's lives
		29-33	Elihu asks Job to listen to him and he will seek to justify him

Reflections

Sometimes being the youngest in a group will result in not being heard or listened to, or at least it seems that way. I think that is what Elihu is trying to get across to Job in this section of the book. Paul gave some advice to his young pastor protege, Timothy, about this very subject.

1 Timothy 4:12 NASB Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but *rather* in speech, conduct, love, faith *and* purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

We see in chapter 32 that Elihu waited and listened as his elders shared their thoughts with Job and to Job's responses as well, until they all seemed to be out of words. Then he felt compelled to speak.

A couple of verses that stand out in these chapters are the following.

On the Source of Wisdom

Job 32:8 NASB "But it is a spirit in man, And the breath of the Almighty gives them understanding."

On God's ability to save the penitent

Job 33:29-30 NASB "Behold, God does all these oftentimes with men, **30** To bring back his soul from the pit, That he may be enlightened with the light of life."

Where we look for wisdom is important, as the writer of Proverbs reminds us.

Proverbs 1:7 NASB The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

People look for wisdom in many places, but the best place to start to ask God for wisdom and to study

¹ (NASB) "Group" column from the headings in the NASB text.

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His word—His plan for living in His creation.

Key Words: Old Testament, Wisdom, Job, Elihu, Youthfulness, Restoration



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Bibliography

(NASB) *New American Standard Bible*. La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995. Print.