

Study Guide — Job 22: Eliphaz's Final Accusation & God's Unshakable Sovereignty

Main Idea:

Eliphaz's final speech shows how **faulty theology** leads to **faulty judgment**, and how only a right, Scripture-shaped view of God keeps us from misunderstanding suffering and misjudging others. Job remains steadfast not because of Job, but because **God preserves His people**.

1. CONTEXT

Before Job 22:

- God Himself has declared Job blameless (Job 1–2).
- Satan claims Job only worships because of blessings.
- Job's friends increasingly assume: *"Suffering = secret sin."*
- Eliphaz, once an encourager (Job 4), now levels severe accusations.

Job 22 is Eliphaz's final speech — and his harshest.

2. SERMON OUTLINE

I. Eliphaz Declares Job "the Chief of Sinners" (22:1–11)

Eliphaz begins with a **wrong doctrinal presupposition**:

God gains nothing from human obedience or disobedience.

From that starting point he concludes:

- Job must be guilty.
- Job's suffering is self-caused.
- Job committed cruelty, injustice, and oppression.

These accusations are **false** and spring from flawed theology.

A wrong starting point always produces a wrong conclusion.

II. Eliphaz Argues: “God Punishes Sinners” (22:12–20)

Eliphaz contrasts:

- **His view:** God sees everything from heaven.
- **What he claims Job believes:** God cannot see through darkness.

He misrepresents Job’s words.

He views God primarily as **judge**, not Redeemer.

Eliphaz rejoices in the downfall of the wicked — not in God’s faithfulness, but in others’ destruction.

III. Eliphaz Calls Job to “Repent and Be Blessed” (22:21–30)

His version of repentance sounds like:

- “Agree with God and things will improve.”
- “Remove sin and you’ll be restored.”
- “Return and prosperity will follow.”

This is **prosperity theology in seed form**:

Do the work → earn the blessing.

Some statements sound biblical, but Eliphaz is offering a god of his **own imagination**.

He is not calling Job to true, humble repentance — because Job is not being judged for sin.

God is displaying His power to keep His people steadfast.

3. KEY THEMES FOR STUDY

A. Faulty Doctrine Leads to Faulty Counsel

Eliphaz's wrong view of God produces:

- wrong view of suffering
- wrong conclusions about Job
- destructive counsel

B. Nothing Happens in a Vacuum

Your worldview is shaped by:

- upbringing
- influences
- assumptions
- media
- teaching
- friendships

Every input forms how you interpret God, suffering, and people.

C. Scripture Must Correct Our Assumptions

Romans 12:2 — *renew your mind*.

Any worldview unsubmitted to Scripture will mislead.

D. We Are Not the Holy Spirit

Eliphaz assumes the role of judge.

But:

- The Spirit convicts.
- The Word corrects.
- The Church walks alongside.

E. Job as a Type of Christ

Job:

- suffers unjustly

- is falsely accused
- remains faithful
- later intercedes for his accusers

Pointing forward to **Jesus**, the perfect Sufferer and Intercessor.

4. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation

1. What accusations does Eliphaz make in 22:6–9?
2. What does Eliphaz claim about God’s relationship to human actions?
3. How does Eliphaz describe the fate of the wicked?

Interpretation

4. How does Eliphaz’s flawed theology shape his conclusions?
5. Why does he misinterpret Job’s suffering?
6. What makes his call to repentance fundamentally off?

Application

7. What influences have shaped your own view of God?
8. How can you better submit those assumptions to Scripture?
9. Have you ever misjudged someone’s suffering like Eliphaz?
10. How can you offer more biblical, gentle counsel?

5. MEMORY VERSE

James 1:19–20

“Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”

6. PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for God to expose faulty assumptions about Him.
- Pray for humility in speech and counsel.
- Pray for discernment rooted in Scripture.
- Thank God for Christ's perfect intercession.
- Pray for unity and gentleness within the church body.

7. FOR FURTHER STUDY

- Job 4–5 (Eliphaz's earlier speech)
- Job 42 (Job intercedes for his friends)
- James 3 (the tongue and the poisoned well)
- Romans 12:1–2 (mind renewal)
- Hebrews 7:25 (Christ saves to the uttermost)