

# Job 15:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Should he reason with unprofitable talk? or with speeches wherewith he can do no good?

## Analysis

---

**Should he reason with unprofitable talk? or with speeches wherewith he can do no good?**—Eliphaz's rhetorical questions attack Job's words as functionally worthless. The Hebrew *lo'-yiska* (לוֹא-יָסַךְ, 'unprofitable') and *lo' yo'il* (לוֹא-יָזַעַל, 'can do no good') emphasize pragmatic uselessness. This reveals Eliphaz's fundamental criterion: theology must be 'profitable' and practically useful.

The irony is devastating: Eliphaz condemns Job's speeches as pointless, yet the book's epilogue (42:7) declares that Job 'spoke what is right' while the friends spoke wrongly. What Eliphaz calls unprofitable—Job's honest wrestling with suffering—proves to be the only speech God honors. This reversal challenges our tendency to value tidy theological systems over honest faith struggles.

## Historical Context

---

Ancient Near Eastern wisdom literature prized practical utility. Wisdom was measured by results, not abstract truth—advice had to work. Eliphaz represents this tradition, unable to comprehend that Job's suffering defies pragmatic wisdom's explanatory power. The book of Job subverts this entirely.

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

---

1. When have you dismissed someone's honest doubts as 'unprofitable' because they threatened your theological framework?
2. How do you distinguish between genuinely destructive speech and necessary faith questioning?
3. Why might seemingly 'useless' wrestling with God be more valuable than efficient answers?

## Interlinear Text

---

Should he reason	talk	H3198	ל	א	בָּ	דָּבָר	הַזֶּה	חַ	לֹא	אַ	מֵלֵ	יְמִ	לֹא	
		H1697												H3808
			H3808											H5532

  

wherewith he can do no good		וְעַ	לֹ											
		H3276												H0

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)