

Job 36:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Elihu also proceeded, and said,

Analysis

Elihu also proceeded, and said—The Hebrew verb וַיַּעֲשֶׂה (wayyosef, "proceeded") means to add or continue, indicating Elihu isn't finished despite his lengthy discourse in chapters 32-35. This repetition signals a fourth and final speech, where Elihu shifts from defending God's justice to revealing God's pedagogical purposes in suffering.

Elihu's persistence contrasts with Job's three friends who fell silent after Job's vigorous self-defense (chapter 31). The verb "proceeded" suggests forward momentum toward a climactic argument. Unlike Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar who focused on retributive justice (suffering as punishment), Elihu will present suffering as divine education—God uses affliction to prevent greater sin and refine character (verses 8-10). This anticipates the NT teaching that God disciplines those He loves (Hebrews 12:6-11).

Historical Context

Elihu appears suddenly in Job 32:2 without prior introduction, identified as "son of Barachel the Buzite, of the kindred of Ram." His speeches (chapters 32-37) serve as a theological bridge between the friends' failed arguments and God's direct revelation in the whirlwind (chapters 38-41). Young and passionate, Elihu waited respectfully for his elders to finish before speaking—a cultural norm in ancient Near Eastern wisdom discourse. His theology represents a more sophisticated understanding than the three friends, though still incomplete compared to God's ultimate answer.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Elihu's persistence in speaking truth challenge our tendency to stay silent when others need correction?
2. What does it mean to "proceed" in defending God's character when facing criticism or doubt?
3. How can we discern when to keep speaking truth versus when to wait for God's direct revelation?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר אֶלְيָהוּ וְאַתָּה
also proceeded Elihu and said
H3254 H453 H559

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