

Study Questions

Riding Out the Storms of Life, Study 4

Elihu - A Youthful Perspective on Suffering

Job 32-37

1. This study examines the extended portion of Job spoken by Elihu, a fourth friend. Why does he call attention to his own youthfulness?
2. Think about some of the differences between Elihu's four-part speech and those of the other three friends?
3. Elihu seems to be an entirely new section of the book. What strikes you as the core message of his six-chapter speech?
4. What are some of the similarities between Elihu's speech to Job and those of the three friends?
5. If you're a Christian, how do you view the troubles that come into your life?
6. How do the views of the three friends compare to people's beliefs about being accepted or blessed by God today?
7. Which does it seem to you - that Elihu is simply continuing in the misguided rantings of Job's friends, or that he is bringing something new to the debate? Why?
8. Try to put the three friends' arguments into one sentence.
9. Now summarize Job's responses into one sentence.
10. If our sufferings are not retribution for sins, what purpose do they serve? Why would God either cause or allow them in our lives?
11. Can you find several New Testament statements that reinforce Elihu's message to Job? (Hint: look in 2 Corinthians, James, and 2 Peter)