

Youth Answers Age

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I. Introduction. Text: Job 32-33.

II. Elihu.

- A. Elihu is not rebuked unlike the other friends.
- B. He is given a prominent part in this drama.
- C. He always speaks with courtesy to Job despite his strong feelings.
- D. He claims to speak from revelation and not from his own experience.
- E. Elihu comes into the book as an unexpected answer to Job's cry for an explanation.

III. Elihu's address.

- A. His words are sincere and humble unlike Job's friends.
- B. He claims that Job saw God as capricious, but God is greater than man is.
 - 1. God always acts in love.
 - 2. When we do not think so, we are deceived. (Romans 9)
- C. God is not silent.
 - 1. God speaks in dreams.
 - 2. God speaks through pain.
- D. We are born again through the mediator who provides a ransom.
 - 1. This is a fore-view of the gospel.
 - 2. We rejoice in our sufferings because we are taught by God that He is working out things we do not yet understand.
 - 3. Suffering interpreted through the mediator is a blessing. Without the mediator, suffering produces bitterness.

IV. Job's silence indicates that he is ready to listen.

Application questions:

1. How does Elihu model the proper response of a friend to one who is suffering?

2. In what way do Elihu's concerns foreshadow Christ?

3. Who has been a model counselor for you when you have suffered? What sets this person apart?
