

Flow of Thought in the Speeches of the Book of Job

Eliphaz	4:1-4	Job, in the past you helped others face hardships,
	4:5	but now, when you face adversity, you fall apart!
	4:6	As a pious man, you should expect a quick end to your ordeal.
	4:7	After all, who ever heard of the innocent being brought to an end?
	4:8-11	Rather, it is the wicked who receive God's anger and judgment.
	4:12-16	I personally have had a vision which made it clear that
	4:17-21	absolute righteousness before God is impossible for mortal man in his fragility.
	5:1-7	However, while judgment certainly falls on the foolish,
	5:8-18	I urge you to recognize that God corrects and delivers the pious.
	5:19-27	He will restore you to comfort and prosperity, once you have learned the lesson.
Job	6:1-3	My suffering is greater than can be imagined.
	6:4	God has pierced me and placed Himself against me.
	6:5-7	Nothing in life appeals to me.
	6:8-9	I just wish I could die!
	6:10-13	I have no comfort, no strength, no hope, no help.
	6:14-21	You, who should be kind to me, have been deceitful like dried-up streams.
	6:22-27	You have tried to make an empty case against me, your friend!
	6:28-30	But, if you were fair, you would recognize that my righteousness remains.
	7:1-2	Life brings hardship for every man.
	7:3-6	But my hardship is unbearably miserable.
	7:7-10	I won't ever see good again before I die, for life is so short.
	7:11	So I must complain about my situation now or never!
	7:12-19	God, how long will you let my misery go on?
	7:20	Why is this happening? What have I done to deserve this?
7:21	Why don't You forgive whatever I've done and let life go on?	
Bildad	8:1-2	How can you talk like that?
	8:3	Is God unfair?
	8:4	Your sons were judged for their sin.
	8:5-7	However, if you call on God as an upright man, He would restore your wellbeing.
	8:8-10	After all, learn from history.
	8:11-13	Like papyrus withers without a marsh, so the godless hypocrites perish.
	8:14-18	No matter what he trusts in, it will not save him.
	8:19	This is what makes God's way so wonderful,
	8:20	for He deals justly with the blameless and the wicked.
8:21-22	You will be restored to God's favor.	

Job	9:1-2	Yes, I know God is just, but how can a mortal be right with Him?
	9:3	If someone took Him on in court, he would be unable to answer any of His questions.
	9:4-10	He is too wise and mighty.
	9:11-13	He does not answer to us, nor does He withdraw His anger.
	9:14-16	How can I argue with Him? He wouldn't listen to me.
	9:17-18	Look at how mercilessly He is treating me!
	9:19-21	Even though I am righteous, I would be condemned before Him.
	9:22-24	He is hostile to all His creation.
	9:25-26	My life flies by.
	9:27-29	If I drop my charge of injustice, He will treat me as guilty.
	9:30-31	If I repent, it will not save me from destruction.
	9:32-33	After all, I can't drag God to court, nor do I have a mediator to force Him to answer for His actions.
	9:34-35	If He would let up on me, I would be able to have a little hope.
	10:1	I hate my life, so I will say what I feel.
	10:2	God, why are You against me?
	10:3	How can You treat Your creation like the wicked want You to do?
	10:4-7	Are You a man, that you look for something in me to pick on even though I am not wicked and I am indefensible against You?
	10:8-17	You seem to have created me just so You can find something wrong with me!
	10:18-19	Would that I had never been born!
10:20-22	Let me alone, so I can live out my life in some comfort before I die.	
Zophar	11:1-3	Your many empty words demand a rebuke!
	11:4	You maintain your purity,
	11:5-6	but God, if He spoke, would prove you a greater sinner than your judgment shows!
	11:7-12	What do you know of God's ways?
	11:13-19	If you would repent, your misery would be over.
11:20	However, the wicked can only expect doom.	
Job	12:1-2	Of course, you are the only wise men!
	12:3	However, you have nothing over me in knowing these matters.
	12:4-6	The fact is that injustice can be viewed in all of life.
	12:7-8	Nature itself will teach you that much.
	12:9-10	Furthermore, everyone knows that this is by God's doing.
	12:11-13	Wisdom does not reside with elders, but rather with God.
	12:14-25	So does power and strength, by which He does whatever He wants to whomever He wants.
	13:1-2	I know this by experience, so I am not less wise or knowledgeable than you.
13:3	I am trying to deal with God about this injustice,	

13:4-5 but you worthless liars should shut up—then you would be wise!
13:6-11 Do you really think that you can defend God with deceit and lies?
13:12-13 Your talk is worthless, so shut up and let me speak and take
whatever comes.
13:14 Why am I willing to risk my life to contend with God?
13:15-16 Because I am sure of vindication, even if He kills me in the
process!
13:17-19 I am prepared to present my case, so I call God to court.
13:20-22 I only ask that You not terrorize me and that we have true two-way
dialogue.
13:23 So, tell me now the charges against me, God.
13:24-27 Why are You treating me like an enemy?
13:28—14:2 Human life in general is a miserable and short existence, ending in
death.
14:3-5 So why take it out on me personally?
14:6-22 Let me alone and let me die.

Eliphaz	15:1-2	A man of wisdom would not talk like you are foolishly doing.
	15:3-5	Your sin is leading you to speak so.
	15:6	Thus, you are condemning yourself with your own mouth!
	15:7-8	Do you alone have the wisdom of age or of divine revelation?
	15:9-10	We have the wisdom of age, some of us being older than your father!
	15:11	How can you reject what God is trying to tell you?
	15:12-16	How can you, a mere man, think you are righteous enough to argue with God?
	15:17-19	I'll tell you what wisdom dictates:
	15:20-24	It is the wicked who suffers,
	15:25-35	and he suffers because he is wicked.
Job	16:1-2	Some comforters you are!
	16:3-4	If I were where you are, I could talk like you
	16:5	or I could provide real comfort.
	16:6	But look at where I am! I can do nothing to alleviate my suffering.
	16:7-16	God has totally devastated me,
	16:17	and He did so without my deserving it at all!
	16:18	Earth, don't let this injustice be covered up!
	16:19-20	I have a heavenly witness of my case against God.
	16:21	Would that I could take my case up with Him,
	16:22—17:2	for I won't be here much longer.
	17:3-5	God, who will help me? These friends are no help.
	17:6-7	I am despised and diminished—unjustly.
	17:8-10	You guys don't know what you're saying.
	17:11-12	My life has fallen apart, but they pretend I have hope.
17:13-16	My destiny is death, and what hope does that bring?	
Bildad	18:1-2	Come on, Job. Stop talking so stupidly.
	18:3	Why do you think we're the stupid ones?
	18:4	Do you think the earth revolves around you?
	18:5-21	It is the wicked who experiences calamities (like yours).
Job	19:1-3	How can you treat me like this?
	19:4-6	Even if I had sinned, I don't deserve what God has done to me.
	19:7-12	I protest the injustice, but He won't let me be heard.
	19:13-19	He has isolated me from everyone I hold dear,
	19:20	and I am barely alive.
	19:21-22	Can't you have some compassion rather than attacking me?
	19:23-24	I wish my case was forever written down for everyone to read.
	19:25	I know I have a living advocate who will stand for me in the end.
	19:26-27	I will die, but I will see God—and that thought overwhelms me.
	19:28-29	As for you friends, that's when you will know what it's like to be judged because of sin.

Zophar	20:1-2	I am so troubled I must speak up.
	20:3	Job, I will answer your insults with insight.
	20:4-19	Though it seems that the wicked prospers, that is short-lived.
	20:20-29	God makes sure that the wicked is judged for his sin.
Job	21:1-3	Listen to me! Hear what I say before you attack me.
	21:4-6	Look at what God has done to me (a righteous person)!
	21:7-16	Then look at how the wicked who oppose God are living well.
	21:17-18	How often do we really see God judging them?
	21:19	Sure, his sins may fall on his children.
	21:20	I say, let him be judged for his own iniquity!
	21:21	What does a dead man care about what happens to his children?
	21:22-26	Some live easy, some hard; but all die.
	21:27-28	You say, "The wicked do not prosper,"
	21:29-33	but they do prosper now, even if they will face final calamity.
21:34	So how do you think your nonsense comforts me now?	

Eliphaz	22:1-4	You aren't suffering because of your righteousness.
	22:5-11	You are suffering because of your sins—sins of omission and commission.
	22:12-14	How can you argue with God, who is so transcendent?
	22:15-20	Do you really want to continue in the wickedness which He judges?
	22:21-30	Repent, Job, and all will be well with you again.
Job	23:1-2	I can't even complain without being considered rebellious!
	23:3-7	But if I could just present my case to God, He would hear and deliver me.
	23:8-9	The trouble is, God won't let me come before Him.
	23:10-12	God knows I am innocent of evildoing.
	23:13-16	Yet look what He has done to me.
	23:17	I will not be silent about this injustice.
	24:1-12	Why doesn't God judge now those who are truly wicked?
	24:13-17	They sin willfully.
	24:18-20	Only death seems to bring judgment on the wicked.
	24:21-24	But then, the innocent and needy die too!
24:25	Prove me wrong—if you can!	
Bildad	25:1-3	God is great.
	25:4-6	How can any man be righteous in His eyes?
Job	26:1-2	Big help you are!
	26:3-4	What have all your words accomplished?
	26:5-14	Yes, God has complete control of the universe.
	27:1-6	No way will I lie by saying I am not righteous.
	27:7	May it be my enemy who is identified with the wicked, not me,
	27:8-10	for the godless have no access to Him.
	27:11-12	Let me tell you how God really deals with the wicked, although you should realize this already.
	27:13-18	The posterity of the wicked will be adversely affected by his godlessness,
	27:19-23	and the wicked himself will die filled with terror.
	28:1-11	Man has found ways to get to earth's most precious metals and stones,
	28:12	but where can he find wisdom?
	28:13-19	Wisdom is of far greater value than any jewel or metal,
	28:20-22	but where can it be found?
	28:23-24	God knows!
	28:25-27	He established wisdom and her supreme value,
28:28	and He told man what wisdom is: to fear Him and avoid evil.	
29:1-2	How I wish my life was like it used to be!	
29:3-5	Then I knew God was close to me.	
29:6	Then I was richly blessed	

29:7-11 and highly respected
29:12-17 because I helped the helpless.
29:18-20 Then I had every expectation of a long and satisfying life.
29:21-25 Then my importance in society was great.
30:1-8 But now the dregs of society mock me!
30:9-15 They despise me because God has afflicted me,
30:16 and I am devastated by what He has done.
30:16-19 Day and night I am in pain and affliction,
30:20-23 but You, God, ignore my pleas for help.
30:24-26 My willingness to help the afflicted has not been returned in kind.
30:27-31 I am totally ruined and devastated.
31:1-4 I have purposely lived purely, but God seems not to have noticed.
31:5-34 If I have sinned, may God treat me accordingly.
31:35-37 If only Shaddai would pay attention to me so I could present my
case to Him!
31:38-40 I haven't even exploited my land!