

THE BOOK OF JOB

Ch 29-37 The Fourth Friend



Job 29

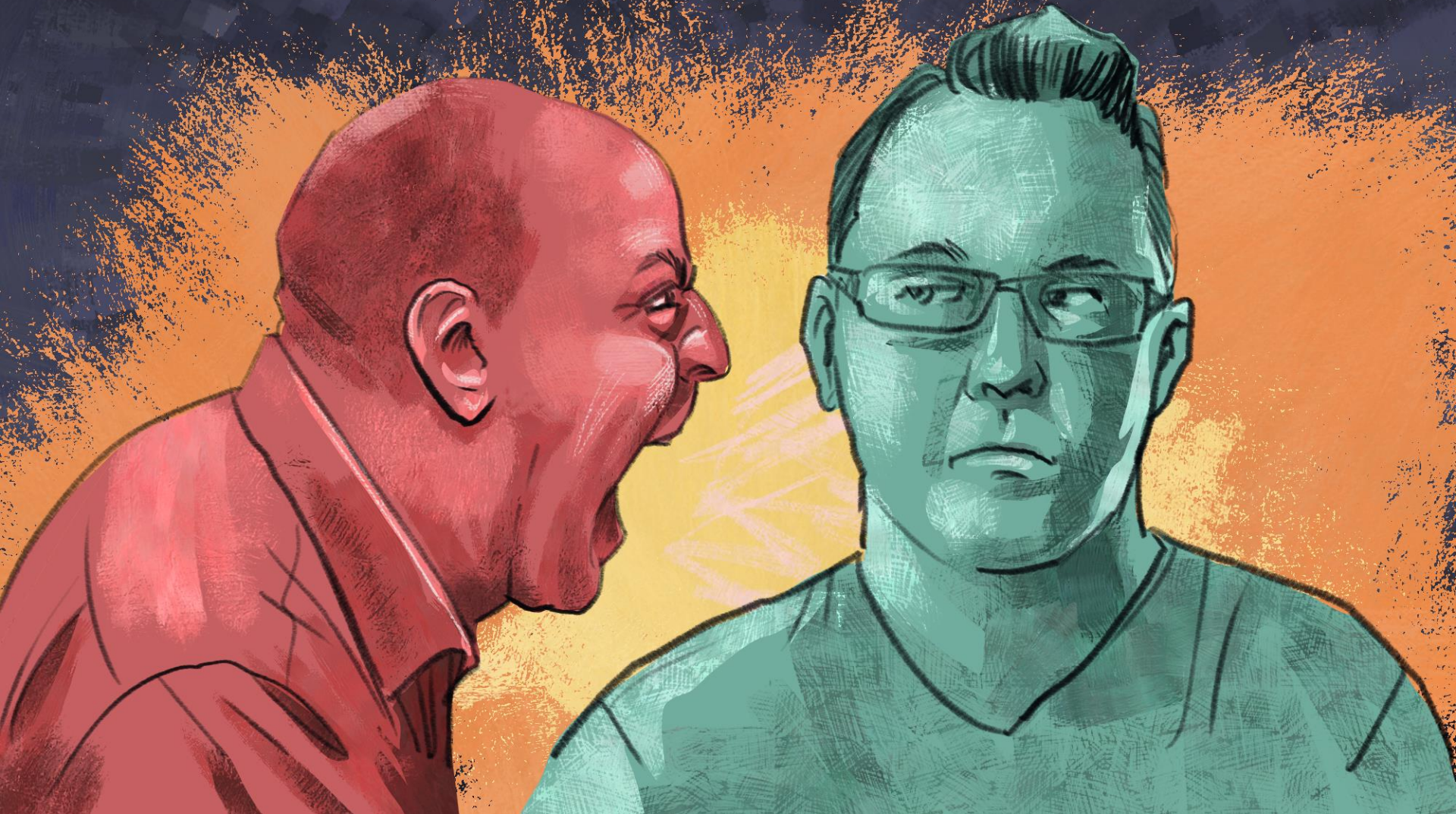
¹ Job's three friends refused to reply further to him because he kept insisting on his innocence. ² Then Elihu son of Barakel the Buzite, of the clan of Ram, became angry. He was angry because Job refused to admit that he had sinned and that God was right in punishing him. ³ He was also angry with Job's three friends, for they made God appear to be wrong by their inability to answer Job's arguments. ⁴ Elihu had waited for the others to speak to Job because they were older than he.

⁵ But when he saw that they had no further reply, he spoke out angrily. ⁶ Elihu son of Barakel the Buzite said, “I am young and you are old, so I held back from telling you what I think. ⁷ I thought, ‘Those who are older should speak, for wisdom comes with age.’ ⁸ But there is a spirit within people, the breath of the Almighty within them, that makes them intelligent. ⁹ Sometimes the elders are not wise. Sometimes the aged do not understand justice.

10 So listen to me, and let me tell you what I think.
11 “I have waited all this time, listening very carefully to your arguments, listening to you grope for words. **12** I have listened, but not one of you has refuted Job or answered his arguments. **13** And don’t tell me, ‘He is too wise for us. Only God can convince him.’ **14** If Job had been arguing with me, I would not answer with your kind of logic! **15** You sit there baffled, with nothing more to say. **16** Should I continue to wait, now that you are silent? Must I also remain silent?

17 No, I will say my piece. I will speak my mind. 18 For I am full of pent-up words, and the spirit within me urges me on. 19 I am like a cask of wine without a vent, like a new wineskin ready to burst! 20 I must speak to find relief, so let me give my answers. 21 I won't play favorites or try to flatter anyone. 22 For if I tried flattery, my Creator would soon destroy me.

**DO I FEEL COMPELLED TO DEFEND GOD FROM
PEOPLE'S FLAWED EVALUATIONS OF HIM?**



Job 33

...⁸ “You have spoken in my hearing, and I have heard your very words. ⁹ You said, ‘I am pure; I am without sin; I am innocent; I have no guilt. ¹⁰ God is picking a quarrel with me, and he considers me his enemy. ¹¹ He puts my feet in the stocks and watches my every move.’

12 “But you are wrong, and I will show you why. For God is greater than any human being. 13 So why are you bringing a charge against him? Why say he does not respond to people’s complaints? 14 For God speaks again and again, though people do not recognize it.

Job 34

... ¹⁰ “Listen to me, you who have understanding. Everyone knows that God doesn’t sin! The Almighty can do no wrong. ¹¹ He repays people according to their deeds. He treats people as they deserve. ¹² Truly, God will not do wrong. The Almighty will not twist justice.

¹⁰ “Listen to me, you who have understanding. Everyone knows that God doesn’t sin! The Almighty can do no wrong. ¹¹ He repays people according to their deeds. He treats people as they deserve. ¹² Truly, God will not do wrong. The Almighty will not twist justice.

Job 35

...¹³ But it is wrong to say God doesn't listen, to say the Almighty isn't concerned. ¹⁴ You say you can't see him, but he will bring justice if you will only wait. ¹⁵ You say he does not respond to sinners with anger and is not greatly concerned about wickedness. ¹⁶ But you are talking nonsense, Job. You have spoken like a fool.”

Job 36

¹ Elihu continued speaking: ² “Let me go on, and I will show you the truth. For I have not finished defending God! ³ I will present profound arguments for the righteousness of my Creator. ⁴ I am telling you nothing but the truth, for I am a man of great knowledge.

16 “God is leading you away from danger, Job, to a place free from distress. He is setting your table with the best food. 17 But you are obsessed with whether the godless will be judged. Don’t worry, judgment and justice will be upheld. 18 But watch out, or you may be seduced by wealth. Don’t let yourself be bribed into sin. 19 Could all your wealth or all your mighty efforts keep you from distress? 20 Do not long for the cover of night, for that is when people will be destroyed. 21 Be on guard! Turn back from evil, for God sent this suffering to keep you from a life of evil.

**IS SUFFERING SOMETHING GOD PUTS IN MY
LIFE TO MOLD MY CHARACTER?**

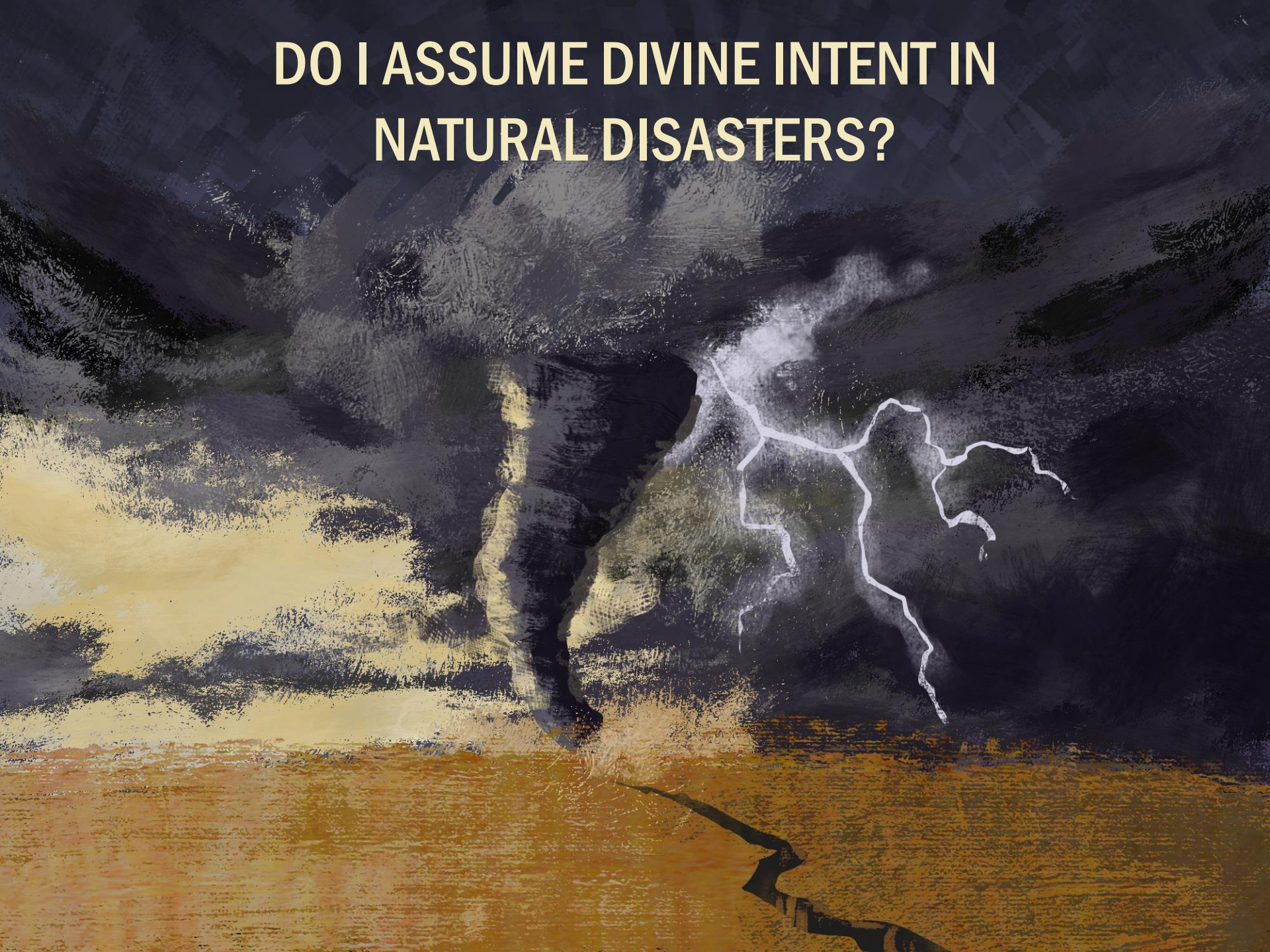


Job 37

¹ “My heart pounds as I think of this. It trembles within me. ² Listen carefully to the thunder of God’s voice as it rolls from his mouth. ³ It rolls across the heavens, and his lightning flashes in every direction. ⁴ Then comes the roaring of the thunder—the tremendous voice of his majesty. He does not restrain it when he speaks. ⁵ God’s voice is glorious in the thunder. We can’t even imagine the greatness of his power.

...¹¹ He loads the clouds with moisture, and they flash with his lightning. ¹² The clouds churn about at his direction. They do whatever he commands throughout the earth. ¹³ He makes these things happen either to punish people or to show his unfailing love. ¹⁴ “Pay attention to this, Job. Stop and consider the wonderful miracles of God!

DO I ASSUME DIVINE INTENT IN NATURAL DISASTERS?



THE BOOK OF
JOB

