

Eliphaz Gen 36 was it same person of the book of job or was another person tell me more

Shalom! What a fascinating question - this is one of those intriguing points where different parts of Torah intersect, and the sages have much to say about it.

Are They the Same Person?

The short answer is: According to most rabbinic traditions, **no** - they are two different people with the same name. But the connection between them is rich with meaning.

Let me explain:

. **Eliphaz son of Esau** (Genesis 36:4, 12) was the firstborn of Esau and his wife Adah. He was the father of Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, Kenaz - and through his concubine Timna, the father of Amalek. He lived centuries before the time of Job.

- Eliphaz the Temanite (Job 2:11) was one of Job's three friends who came to comfort him in his suffering. He is described as a wise man from Teman - a region in Edom, which was the land of Esau's descendants.

While they are not the same individual, the name and connection to Edom/Teman are not coincidental.

The Significance of the Name and Connection

The sages teach that naming Eliphaz the Temanite after Eliphaz son of Esau was **intentional**, as it links the wisdom of Edom to its ancestral roots:

1. Edom as a Source of Worldly Wisdom

The Torah and Prophets often mention Edom (and specifically Teman) as a place of great **wisdom**. [Jeremiah 49:7](#) says, "Concerning Edom... O Teman, your wisdom perishes with

you." The sages explain that while **Edom did not follow the path of Torah**, they developed deep understanding in areas like philosophy, medicine, and governance. Eliphaz the Temanite represents this tradition - he comes to Job with profound insights about suffering, even if his understanding is ultimately incomplete.

2. The Tension Between Worldly Wisdom and Torah Wisdom

Eliphaz son of Esau chose the path of worldly power and material wealth over the spiritual inheritance of his grandfather Isaac.

Eliphaz the Temanite, while wise, struggles to understand Job's suffering because he views it through the lens of "the wicked are punished, the righteous are rewarded" - a view that Torah affirms in general, but that does not account for the full complexity of divine justice. This reflects the tension between the wisdom of the nations

and Torah wisdom - both have value, but only Torah provides the complete picture of God's ways.

3. The Legacy of Esau's Line

While Eliphaz son of Esau was the father of Amalek (the embodiment of hostility), **he was also the ancestor of people like Eliphaz the Temanite** (who sought to comfort and understand). This teaches us that even within one lineage, there are multiple paths - some leading to destruction, some to wisdom and compassion.

What We Learn from Both Eliphazes

- **From Eliphaz son of Esau:** Our choices shape not only our own lives but the lives of generations to come. Even those born into great families (he was Isaac's grandson!) can choose paths that lead away from spiritual truth.

- **From Eliphaz the Temanite:** Wisdom without Torah is incomplete. He genuinely wanted to help Job, and his words contain much truth - but he could not grasp that sometimes the righteous suffer not because of their own sins, but for reasons beyond human understanding.

The sages also note that Eliphaz the Temanite ultimately repented for his harsh judgment of Job (Job 42:7-9), showing that even those who are wise can grow and learn - a reminder that no one has all the answers.

A Final Thought

The fact that these two important figures share the same name is a reminder that names carry meaning and connect us to our heritage. It also teaches us that we should not judge people by their ancestry or the mistakes of those who came before them - each person has the power to shape their own legacy.