

## ***Job Chapter 35***

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- In the heavenly scene as the angels were presenting themselves before the throne of God, God said to Satan:

**Job 1:8** "... hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God and escheweth evil?"

- Satan replied, does Job fear you for nothing? It's only because you bless him and protect him that he honors you. Take his stuff away, smite him - and he'll curse you to your face.
- The enemy then proceeds to take all his stuff, to kill his family, to take his health, and finally to send "comforters" to engage him in a lengthy conversation.
- In all of this Job maintained his integrity, his faith. The dialogue between Job and his comforters has finally ended and a younger man, Elihu steps in to interject his opinions.
- He's said a couple of interesting things different than the rest, mainly that perhaps God isn't punishing Job, but that he's instructing Job in some way. Elihu has taken an arrogant tone, a prideful demeanor and this is where we pick it up.

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V: 1-3 I don't recall Job saying that his righteousness exceeded that of God. He did ask, wondering if it was doing any good to live a good life in light of his circumstances and suffering.

- Again Elihu appears to be putting words in Job's mouth, then rebuking him for saying it, building a fictitious argument then tearing it apart.
- As much as Job didn't say it, many of us have: "If I were God..." or "Why did God...?" In each of these instances we are inferring that our righteousness or wisdom is more than God's. Wrong approach.

V: 4-6 He's saying that the clouds are higher than we are, and that God is far above the clouds.

- "If we sin, are we really hurting God?" "Does our sin impact God?" He's implying that our sin has no effect on God and that it only hurts us.
- While nothing we do can change who God is, or take away from what He is - and certainly our sins do adversely effect us, culminating in death. We do grieve our creator when we sin, it is our sins that caused Jesus ultimately to suffer and die on the cross.

**Psalm 51:4** “Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.”

Paul exhorts us:

**Ephesians 4:30** “And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

- We are warned not to grieve the Spirit of God; that implies that we are able to do so, and as such we'd have to ask ourselves how we are able to do that? We grieve the Spirit of God through our disobedience to His Word, in sinning against Him.

Jesus lamented over Israel:

**Matthew 23:37** “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!”

- Jesus wept as He spoke prophetically of the destruction to come to Jerusalem because of their sin, our sin does impact God.
- Because God loves us so much, I believe that His real grief is that we do harm to ourselves through our sin.

V: 7-8 In a way Elihu is asking what can we give to God or how can we bless Him.

- There is some truth in this, kind of like trying to buy someone a gift that already has everything.

**Hebrews 7:7** “And without contradiction the less is blessed of the better.” God does the blessing!”

- There are however things that we can do to bless Him.

**Hebrews 13:15** “By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name.”

**Psalm 116:12-13** “<sup>12</sup>What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me? <sup>13</sup>I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.”

- What can we do to bless God, to please Him? We can love Him, praise Him, worship His holy name! We can receive the gift of salvation that He offers to us. We can simply come to Him on His terms, in brokenness and humility.

**Psalm 37:23** “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and He delighteth in his way.”

V: 9 Our actions whether good or bad do impact the people around us.

V: 10 Ours is the God of all comfort, and often times He gives us a song in the night, during those times when we are rejoicing in Him, also during those difficult times He gives us a song in the night to comfort us.

**Psalm 42:8** “Yet the Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night His song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.”

- Paul and Silas had been beaten for their testimony of Jesus, they were then placed in prison, in stocks:

**Acts 16:25** “And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.”

- Ours is the God of all comfort, He is the One who gives us a song in the night - “*But none saith...*” too few take advantage of the comfort that He gives, very few come to Him. Too many turn to alcohol, or psychology / worldly wisdom / or check out in some other way and not deal with the reality at their feet.

V: 11-14 God has made man higher than the beasts of the field and the birds of the sky.

- God doesn't hear the proud. Part of Job's complaint has been that God is not answering him, nor speaking to him and Elihu is saying that it's because of Job's pride and arrogance.

**Psalm 34:18** “The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.”

- Elihu asserts that “Job said that he will not see God” which Job didn't say, in fact he said the opposite.

**Job 19:25-26** “<sup>25</sup>For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: <sup>26</sup>And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: <sup>27</sup>Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.”

- A big part of what invalidates Elihu's conclusions is that he misquotes Job then draws conclusions based on that incorrect information.

V: 15-16 Because what Job said is not true God has visited him in His anger, but he hasn't experienced the full extent of God's anger. Job is wasting his time speaking without knowledge.

- I see just the opposite; Elihu is speaking foolishly about God. God is not angry at Job! God is not angry at us!
- Elihu is misrepresenting God, a mistake that Moses would later make and pay a dear price for it - but Moses was still loved of God and still went to Heaven.

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## ***Job Chapter 36***

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V: 1-4 Oh boy are you going to be impressed - I'm going to speak for God. (Careful!)

- Most of the prophets of old simply stated "thus saith the Lord..." as opposed to a gigantic build up.
- His listeners must have been getting a little restless - "*suffer me a little...*" - you guys feeling it?

V: 5-10 Elihu describes God in positive terms then he pretty much reiterates the same position as Job's comforters; that he blesses the righteous and judges the wicked.

V: 7 True:

- **1 Peter 3:12** "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil."
- Nebuchadnezzar and Manasseh would be examples of these things, opening the ears to His instruction.

V: 11-12 There is a nuance here that we must understand:

- Yes, there is inherent blessing in being obedient to God: but not always, and not always in this life. We need to have a long view of things, and the motive for our obedience is all important.
- The same holds true for disobedience, there are always repercussions, but not necessarily immediately, and maybe not even in this life time - but God's Word is true:

**Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

- Our obedience can't simply be some form of religious compliance, it can't be out of some form of legalism, or an attempt to negotiate with God, or earn or curry favor with Him - the motive has to be love, we're obedient because we love Him!

**John 14:15** “If ye love Me, keep My commandments.”

**John 14:21** “He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me...”

- It may be the same action, but the motive makes all the difference.

V: 13-16 Hypocrites and wicked men heap up wrath upon themselves, they die in their youth among the unclean.

- <sup>15b</sup>He opens their ears in oppression: that's part of what he said earlier that the difficult things that come into our lives are instructional, we seem to listen more, or should seek to listen more in adversity.
- If you would get it right He would deliver you, he would bless you - a table full of fatness, blessing.

V: 17-21 But instead you are fulfilling the judgment of the wicked. Your money won't do you any good. God won't be swayed by your wealth, you can't buy your way out of judgment.

V: 20 “*Desire not the night...*” Job had wished that he'd never been born, he wished that he could just die, that he could escape his present suffering.

- Elihu is saying don't desire that, you will just be going to judgment, to hell.
- While this doesn't apply to Job, there are many people under a similar delusion today. They are suffering through various difficulties in this life, yearning for death thinking that there will be relief in going to “a better place.”
- The problem is that unless they have entered into a personal relationship with Jesus, unless they are born again of the Spirit they won't be going to a better place - their pain and suffering will only increase in ways they can't even imagine. Their only relief or consolation is found in an abiding relationship with Jesus.
- <sup>21</sup>Elihu is admonishing Job not to regard iniquity, not to choose the way of pain. He is like Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, he's assuming Job has done something amiss.

V: 22-26 Reiterating his basic premise that God is using these things to instruct Job, to keep him from experiencing the painful results of his actions if he continues in them.

- <sup>23</sup>Who can say to God that He's made a mistake, done it wrong?
- <sup>24</sup>We should be magnifying God and praising His holy name.
- God is great; our minds can't fathom from eternity past to eternity future, He is beyond our searching out - as such we certainly can't criticize Him.

V: 27-33 Could have been included in Chapter 37 as Elihu begins to describe the greatness of God through nature, weather, rain cycles, storms, and seasons which carry through most of chapter 37.

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## *Job Chapter 37*

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V: 1-6 Hear God's voice in nature as He communicates His wonders and His greatness.

**Romans 1:19-20** <sup>19</sup>Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. <sup>20</sup>For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

V: 7-13 God's power is manifest in nature and He uses the forces of nature as instruments of blessing, like rain on the crops; and as His instrument of correction as in with holding the rain or allowing the devastating storms that wreak havoc.

V: 14 I think that Job had already done exactly that, that was why he was worshipping God to begin with, why he had such a good relationship with God, and why he's maintained his integrity before God.

- Adversity will either draw us closer to God, or if we allow it, it will drive us from God. Too many people choose the latter and allow the adversities in life to cause them to be bitter against God and they draw back from Him - to their own hurt.

**Hebrews 10:38-39** <sup>38</sup>Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. <sup>39</sup>But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."

V: 15-20 6 challenging questions for Job that demonstrate the power and wisdom of God and the limitations and weakness of man.

V: 21-24 Elihu ends with giving God glory - a good end to a bad speech.

- With God is “terrible” / wonderful majesty!
- We cannot find out the Almighty! We can’t fully understand Him.
- It is impossible for finite man to fully understand our infinite God! He is beyond our capacity to fully know.

**Isaiah 55:8-9** “<sup>8</sup>For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. <sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

- This brings us to an expression of Worship, and of humility before Him.
- He is excellent in power and judgment!
- Men do / should fear Him!

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- Chapters 1 & 2 deal with Job’s problems, his calamity. Chapters 3-37 detail Job’s debates. Chapters 38-42, God speaks, dealing with Job’s deliverance.
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### **Gospel:**

**Prayer:** Lord we are nothing! We stand before you as nothing. We are in awe of your greatness and your power! We surrender ourselves to your perfect will....