

JOB



Nº. 10.



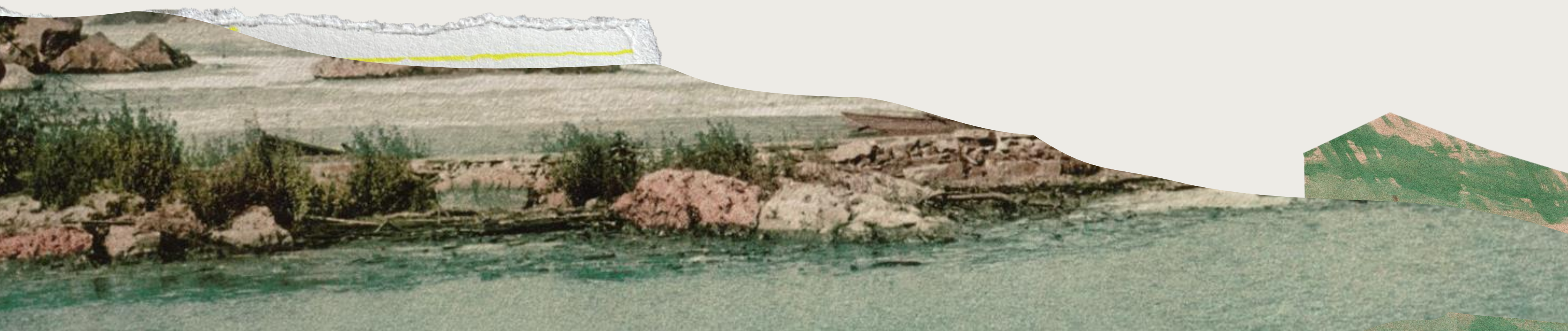
Wanneer hij zijne reis besluit,
Dan werpt de Zeeman 't anker uit

WHERE WE ARE

- God declared Job to be a righteous and blameless man.
- Satan challenged Job's motives, claiming he only served God because of God's blessings.
- Job lost his wealth, his servants, his children, and eventually his health.
- His three friends came to comfort him and sat silently beside him for seven days.
- Job finally broke the silence in chapter 3 by lamenting the day he was born.
- Eliphaz responded in chapters 4–5, suggesting that suffering usually comes because of sin.
- Job answered Eliphaz in chapters 6–7 by defending his integrity while honestly expressing the depth of his pain.
- Last time, Bildad spoke in chapters 8–10. He appealed to the wisdom of previous generations and argued that because God is just, Job's suffering must be the result of hidden sin. Job answered by agreeing that God is perfectly just, but he also wrestled with a question his friends never seemed to ask: How can a human being ever stand before a holy God? We saw Job long for someone who could stand between himself and God—a mediator—a longing that ultimately points us to Christ.

WHEN CERTAINTY SPEAKS TOO LOUDLY

Job 11-12



ZOPHAR'S VERDICT

11:1-6



“Then Zophar the Naamathite replied to Job:

2 “Shouldn’t someone answer this torrent of words?

Is a person proved innocent just by a lot of talking?

3 Should I remain silent while you babble on?

When you mock God, shouldn’t someone make you ashamed?

4 You claim, ‘My beliefs are pure,’

and ‘I am clean in the sight of God.’

5 If only God would speak;

if only he would tell you what he thinks!

6 If only he would tell you the secrets of wisdom,

for true wisdom is not a simple matter.

Listen! God is doubtless punishing you

far less than you deserve!”

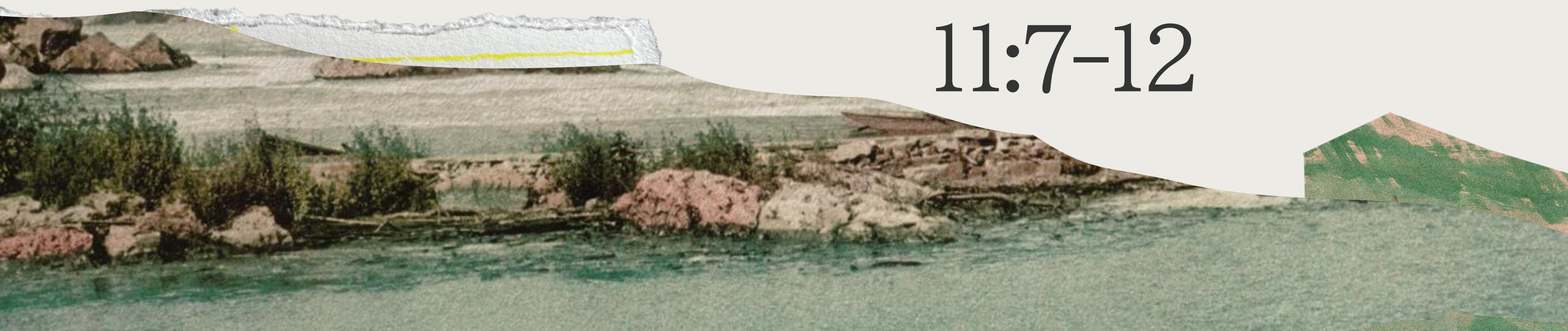
ZOPHAR'S VERDICT

- Zophar's responding to the version of Job he's created in his own mind
- Someone can defend God's truth while failing to reflect God's heart
- Before we explain someone's suffering, we should first be willing to understand it

SOMETIMES THE WISEEST RESPONSE ISN'T
AN EXPLANATION

THE GREATNESS OF GOD...AND ZOPHAR'S MISTAKE

11:7-12



“Can you solve the mysteries of God?

Can you discover everything about the Almighty?

8 Such knowledge is higher than the heavens—
and who are you?

It is deeper than the underworld[[a](#)]—
what do you know?

9 It is broader than the earth
and wider than the sea.

10 If God comes and puts a person in prison
or calls the court to order, who can stop him?

11 For he knows those who are false,
and he takes note of all their sins.

12 An empty-headed person won't become wise
any more than a wild donkey can bear a human child.”

THE GREATNESS OF GOD...AND ZOPHAR'S MISTAKE

- Zophar is correct about who God is...wrong

application

- Wisdom and humility belong together

-God never revealed why Job was suffering. The friends assume they know

SOMETIMES THE MOST FAITHFUL ANSWER WE CAN GIVE IS, "I DON'T KNOW."



“IF YOU WOULD
ONLY
REPENT...”

11:13-20



“If only you would prepare your heart

and lift up your hands to him in prayer!

14 Get rid of your sins,
and leave all iniquity behind you.

15 Then your face will brighten with innocence.

You will be strong and free of fear.

16 You will forget your misery;
it will be like water flowing away.

17 Your life will be brighter than the noonday.

Even darkness will be as bright as morning.

18 Having hope will give you courage.
You will be protected and will rest in safety.

19 You will lie down unafraid,
and many will look to you for help.

20 But the wicked will be blinded.
They will have no escape.
Their only hope is death.”

“IF YOU WOULD ONLY REPENT...”



- The problem isn't Zophar's view of repentance, it's that he's prescribing repentance for a sin Job hasn't committed

- One of the reasons God gave us the book of Job is to remind us that life isn't always explained through a formula

- Truths about God don't change when our circumstances do



YOU REALLY
THINK YOU'VE
GOT IT ALL
FIGURED
OUT?

12:1-6



“Then Job spoke again:

2 “You people really know everything, don’t you?

And when you die, wisdom will die with you!

3 Well, I know a few things myself—

and you’re no better than I am.

Who doesn’t know these things you’ve been saying?

4 Yet my friends laugh at me,

for I call on God and expect an answer.

I am a just and blameless man,

yet they laugh at me.

5 People who are at ease mock those in trouble.

They give a push to people who are stumbling.

6 But robbers are left in peace,

and those who provoke God live in safety—

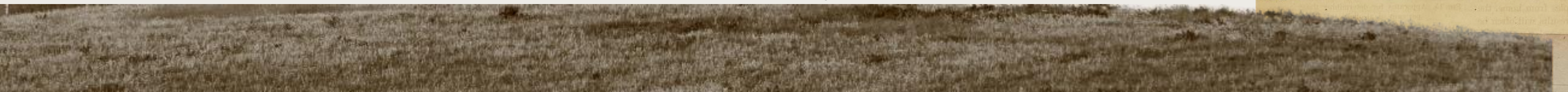
though God keeps them in his power.”

YOU REALLY THINK YOU'VE GOT IT ALL FIGURED OUT?



- Job is exposing the attitude behind his friends' speeches
- Wisdom is learning to apply truths about God faithfully, humbly, and compassionately.
- Even in the middle of all his confusion, Job still remembers his relationship with God.

SOMETIMES OUR PRESENCE COMMUNICATES
GOD'S LOVE MORE POWERFULLY THAN OUR
EXPLANATIONS EVER COULD.



ASK THE ANIMALS

12:7-12



“Just ask the animals, and they will teach you.

Ask the birds of the sky, and they will tell you.

8 Speak to the earth, and it will instruct you.

Let the fish in the sea speak to you.

9 For they all know

that my disaster[[b](#)] has come from the hand of the Lord.

10 For the life of every living thing is in his hand,
and the breath of every human being.

11 The ear tests the words it hears
just as the mouth distinguishes between foods.

12 Wisdom belongs to the aged,
and understanding to the old.”

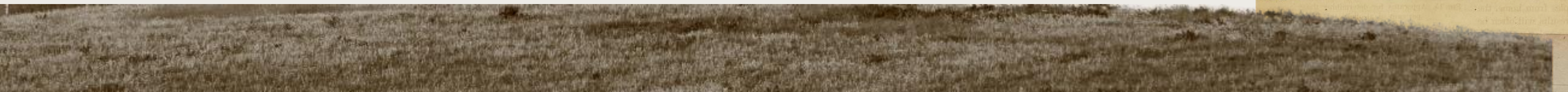
JUST ASK THE ANIMALS

- Creation itself bears witness to the greatness of God (David, Paul, Jesus)

- The disagreement is about what God's sovereignty means in Job's particular situation.

- God's sovereignty is bigger than the friends' formula

WE CAN TRUST GOD WITH THE PARTS OF OUR LIVES WE DON'T YET UNDERSTAND



GOD'S
SOVEREIGNTY IS
BIGGER THAN
OUR
EXPLANATIONS



12:13-25

“But true wisdom and power are found in God;
counsel and understanding are his.

14 What he destroys cannot be rebuilt.

When he puts someone in prison, there is no
escape.

15 If he holds back the rain, the earth becomes a
desert.

If he releases the waters, they flood the earth.

16 Yes, strength and wisdom are his;
deceivers and deceived are both in his power.

17 He leads counselors away, stripped of good
judgment;

wise judges become fools.

18 He removes the royal robe of kings.

They are led away with ropes around their
waist.

19 He leads priests away, stripped of status;

he overthrows those with long years in power.

20 He silences the trusted adviser
and removes the insight of the elders.

21 He pours disgrace upon princes
and disarms the strong.

22 “He uncovers mysteries hidden in darkness;
he brings light to the deepest gloom.

23 He builds up nations, and he destroys them.
He expands nations, and he abandons them.

24 He strips kings of understanding
and leaves them wandering in a pathless
wasteland.

25 They grope in the darkness without a light.
He makes them stagger like drunkards.”

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY IS BIGGER THAN OUR EXPLANATIONS

- God doesn't merely possess wisdom, He's the source of wisdom. He doesn't simply give strength, He possesses all strength
 - God is not manageable
 - God rules over everyone
- Job's understanding of God keeps getting bigger

WHEN LIFE FALLS APART, DO I ONLY TRUST GOD IF I CAN
EXPLAIN WHAT HE'S DOING...OR DO I TRUST HIM
BECAUSE I KNOW WHO HE IS?



BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER



From Zophar:

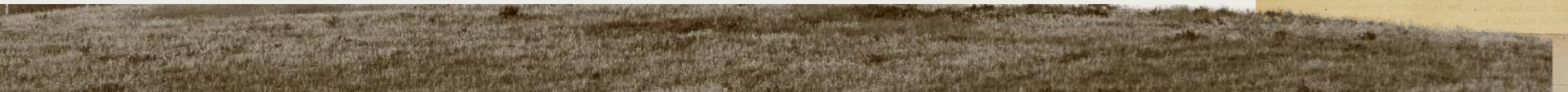
It's possible to say true things about God while drawing false conclusions about people.

From Job:

Genuine faith isn't afraid to challenge shallow theology.

From God:

God's silence should not be mistaken for His absence



DISCUSSION & REFLECTION



1. Zophar said many true things about God, yet he reached the wrong conclusion about Job. What does that teach us about applying biblical truth to someone else's life?
2. In chapter 12, Job expands his understanding of God's sovereignty. How is Job's view of God different from the worldview of his three friends?
3. Why do you think it's so difficult for us to admit, "I don't know," when someone asks why suffering happens?
4. Job trusted God's character even when he couldn't understand God's purposes. How can that truth strengthen our faith during seasons of uncertainty?
5. As you reflect on tonight's study, what challenged or encouraged you the most, and why?

