JOB



WHERE WE ARE

- After Job concluded his final defense (chapters 29–31), Elihu entered the conversation.
- Elihu was younger than Job and his three friends and had remained silent out of respect for their age.
- He was frustrated with Job for defending his own righteousness and with the three friends for failing to answer him.
- Unlike the three friends, Elihu suggested that suffering isn't always punishment; God can also use it to instruct, correct, or redirect.
- However, Elihu's understanding of Job's circumstances was still incomplete.

GOD'S JUSTICE IS NOT UP FOR DEBATE



34:1-15

“Then Elihu said:
2 “Listen to me, you wise men.
Pay attention, you who have knowledge.
3 Job said, ‘The ear tests the words it hears
just as the mouth distinguishes between foods.’
4 So let us discern for ourselves what is right;
let us learn together what is good.
5 For Job also said, ‘I am innocent,
but God has taken away my rights.
6 I am innocent, but they call me a liar.
My suffering is incurable, though I have not sinned.’
7 “Tell me, has there ever been a man like Job,
with his thirst for irreverent talk?
8 He chooses evil people as companions.
He spends his time with wicked men.
9 He has even said, ‘Why waste time
trying to please God?’
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.
13 Did someone else put the world in his care?
Who set the whole world in place?
14 If God were to take back his spirit
and withdraw his breath,
15 all life would cease,
and humanity would turn again to dust.

GOD'S JUSTICE IS NOT UP FOR DEBATE

- Elihu defends God's justice but doesn't always represent Job's complaints fairly.

  - God is perfectly righteous and never acts unjustly

    - Knowing God's character doesn't mean we understand everything He's doing

WE CAN BE CERTAIN THAT GOD IS JUST WITHOUT CLAIMING TO UNDERSTAND EVERY SITUATION



GOD'S AUTHORITY IS GREATER THAN HUMAN AUTHORITY

34:16-30



“Now listen to me if you are wise.
Pay attention to what I say.
17 Could God govern if he hated justice?
Are you going to condemn the almighty judge?
18 For he says to kings, ‘You are wicked,’
and to nobles, ‘You are unjust.’
19 He doesn’t care how great a person may be,
and he pays no more attention to the rich than to the poor.
He made them all.
20 In a moment they die.
In the middle of the night they pass away;
the mighty are removed without human hand.
21 “For God watches how people live;
he sees everything they do.
22 No darkness is thick enough
to hide the wicked from his eyes.
23 We don’t set the time
when we will come before God in judgment.
24 He brings the mighty to ruin without asking anyone,
and he sets up others in their place.
25 He knows what they do,
and in the night he overturns and destroys them.
26 He strikes them down because they are wicked,
doing it openly for all to see.

27 For they turned away from following him.
They have no respect for any of his ways.
28 They cause the poor to cry out, catching God’s attention.
He hears the cries of the needy.
29 But if he chooses to remain quiet,
who can criticize him?
When he hides his face, no one can find him,
whether an individual or a nation.
30 He prevents the godless from ruling
so they cannot be a snare to the people.

GOD'S AUTHORITY IS GREATER THAN HUMAN AUTHORITY

- God's authority is not dependent upon human approval or position

  - God sees everything and shows no favoritism toward the powerful

    - God's justice is certain, even when His timing doesn't match our expectations

GOD SEES WHAT WE CANNOT AND REMAINS JUST EVEN WHEN JUSTICE SEEMS DELAYED



WHEN CORRECTION BECOMES CONDEMNATION



34:31-37

“Why don’t people say to God, ‘I have sinned,
but I will sin no more’?
32 Or ‘I don’t know what evil I have done—tell me.
If I have done wrong, I will stop at once’?
33 “Must God tailor his justice to your demands?
But you have rejected him!
The choice is yours, not mine.
Go ahead, share your wisdom with us.
34 After all, bright people will tell me,
and wise people will hear me say,
35 ‘Job speaks out of ignorance;
his words lack insight.’
36 Job, you deserve the maximum penalty
for the wicked way you have talked.
37 For you have added rebellion to your sin;
you show no respect,
and you speak many angry words against God.”

WHEN CORRECTION BECOMES CONDEMNATION

- Elihu encourages Job to examine himself but increasingly condemns his response

    - There is a difference between offering correction and assuming someone is guilty

- Truth should always be spoken with humility, patience, and compassion

OUR DESIRE TO BE RIGHT SHOULD NEVER OUTWEIGH OUR DESIRE TO HELP

DOES OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS BENEFIT GOD

35:1-8



Then Elihu said:
2 “Do you think it is right for you to claim,
‘I am righteous before God’?
3 For you also ask, ‘What’s in it for me?
What’s the use of living a righteous life?’
4 “I will answer you
and all your friends, too.
5 Look up into the sky,
and see the clouds high above you.
6 If you sin, how does that affect God?
Even if you sin again and again,
what effect will it have on him?
7 If you are good, is this some great gift to him?
What could you possibly give him?
8 No, your sins affect only people like yourself,
and your good deeds also affect only humans.

DOES OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS BENEFIT GOD

- God doesn’t depend upon human righteousness for his greatness

  - Although God doesn’t need our obedience, our choices still matter to him

    - Our righteousness and wickedness affect the people around us

OUR OBEDIENCE DOESN’T MAKE GOD GREATER, BUT IT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE ELSE’S LIFE



WHEN GOD SEEMS SILENT

35:9-16



““People cry out when they are oppressed.
They groan beneath the power of the mighty.
10 Yet they don’t ask, ‘Where is God my Creator,
the one who gives songs in the night?
11 Where is the one who makes us smarter than the animals
and wiser than the birds of the sky?’
12 And when they cry out, God does not answer
because of their pride.
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.[a]
15 You say he does not respond to sinners with anger
and is not greatly concerned about wickedness.[b]
16 But you are talking nonsense, Job.
You have spoken like a fool.”

WHEN GOD SEEMS SILENT



- Elihu warns against seeking God’s help without genuinely seeking God

- Unanswered prayers do not necessarily indicate pride or spiritual failure

- God’s silence doesn’t mean He is absent or unaware of our suffering

FAITH TRUSTS GOD’S PRESENCE EVEN WHEN WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND HIS SILENCE



THREE KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. **Know God's Character** – We can trust what Scripture reveals about God without understanding everything He does.

2. **Speak Truth With Compassion** – Being biblically correct doesn't excuse treating hurting people without grace

3. **Trust God in the Silence** – Unanswered questions and prayers don't mean God has abandoned us.

Bottom Line: We can trust what we know about God's character without pretending to understand everything about His ways.



THOUGHTS???

Have you ever experienced a season when God seemed silent? What helped you continue trusting Him even when you didn't receive the answers you wanted?

