JOB



WHERE WE ARE

- Job maintained his innocence throughout his suffering and longed for an answer from God.
- His three friends insisted that his suffering must be the result of hidden sin.
- In chapters 29–31, Job reflected on his former blessings and concluded his defense of his integrity.
- Elihu entered the conversation in chapter 32, frustrated with both Job and his friends.
- In chapters 32–35, Elihu argued that God may use suffering to instruct, correct, and redirect people.
- Although Elihu offers some important truths, he still doesn't fully understand Job's circumstances.

ELIHU DEFENDS GOD'S JUSTICE



36:1-21

“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.
5 “God is mighty, but he does not despise anyone!
He is mighty in both power and understanding.
6 He does not let the wicked live
but gives justice to the afflicted.
7 He never takes his eyes off the innocent,
but he sets them on thrones with kings
and exalts them forever.
8 If they are bound in chains
and caught up in a web of trouble,
9 he shows them the reason.
He shows them their sins of pride.
10 He gets their attention
and commands that they turn from evil.
“If they listen and obey God,
they will be blessed with prosperity throughout their lives.
All their years will be pleasant.

12 But if they refuse to listen to him,
they will cross over the river of death,
dying from lack of understanding.
13 For the godless are full of resentment.
Even when he punishes them,
they refuse to cry out to him for help.
14 They die when they are young,
after wasting their lives in immoral living.
15 But by means of their suffering, he
rescues those who suffer.
For he gets their attention through
adversity.
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.[a]
Don’t let yourself be bribed into sin.
19 Could all your wealth[b]
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.[c]
21 Be on guard! Turn back from evil,
for God sent this suffering
to keep you from a life of evil.

ELIHU DEFENDS GOD'S JUSTICE

- God's righteousness is certain, but our understanding of His purposes is limited

  - God can use suffering to teach and mature us, but suffering isn't always punishment for wrongdoing

    - We must be careful not to let our desire to explain someone's suffering overshadow our responsibility to show compassion

WE CAN TRUST GOD'S JUSTICE WITHOUT CLAIMING TO UNDERSTAND EVERY REASON BEHIND SOMEONE'S SUFFERING



GOD'S GREATNESS REVEALED IN CREATION

36:22-33



“Look, God is all-powerful.
Who is a teacher like him?
23 No one can tell him what to do,
or say to him, ‘You have done wrong.’
24 Instead, glorify his mighty works,
singing songs of praise.
25 Everyone has seen these things,
though only from a distance.
26 “Look, God is greater than we can understand.
His years cannot be counted.
27 He draws up the water vapor
and then distills it into rain.
28 The rain pours down from the clouds,
and everyone benefits.
29 Who can understand the spreading of the clouds
and the thunder that rolls forth from heaven?
30 See how he spreads the lightning around him
and how it lights up the depths of the sea.
31 By these mighty acts he nourishes[d] the people,
giving them food in abundance.
32 He fills his hands with lightning bolts
and hurls each at its target.
33 The thunder announces his presence;
the storm announces his indignant anger.

GOD'S GREATNESS REVEALED IN CREATION

- God's wisdom and authority extend far beyond human understanding

- The natural world reveals God's power, creativity, and provision

- Our inability to understand everything God does doesn't mean He has stopped working

GOD'S GREATNESS REMINDS US THAT HIS WISDOM IS NOT LIMITED BY OUR UNDERSTANDING



THE POWER OF GOD DISPLAYED IN THE STORM



37:1-13

“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.
6 “He directs the snow to fall on the earth
and tells the rain to pour down.
7 Then everyone stops working
so they can watch his power.
8 The wild animals take cover
and stay inside their dens.
9 The stormy wind comes from its chamber,
and the driving winds bring the cold.
10 God’s breath sends the ice,
freezing wide expanses of water.
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.

THE POWER OF GOD DISPLAYED IN THE STORM

- Thunder, lightning, wind, and rain remind us of the power and majesty of God

    - Even with our knowledge and technology, humanity can’t control every circumstance

    - Recognizing God’s sovereignty should lead us toward trust, humility, and compassion rather than speculation about suffering

FAITH ISN’T ABOUT CONTROLLING EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE; IT’S ABOUT TUSTING THE GOD WHO IS GREATER THAN THEM

BE STILL AND CONSIDER GOD'S WONDERS

37:14-24



“Pay attention to this, Job.
Stop and consider the wonderful miracles of God!
15 Do you know how God controls the storm
and causes the lightning to flash from his clouds?
16 Do you understand how he moves the clouds
with wonderful perfection and skill?
17 When you are sweltering in your clothes
and the south wind dies down and everything is still,
18 he makes the skies reflect the heat like a bronze mirror.
Can you do that?
19 “So teach the rest of us what to say to God.
We are too ignorant to make our own arguments.
20 Should God be notified that I want to speak?
Can people even speak when they are confused?[a]
21 We cannot look at the sun,
for it shines brightly in the sky
when the wind clears away the clouds.
22 So also, golden splendor comes from the mountain of God.[b]
He is clothed in dazzling splendor.
23 We cannot imagine the power of the Almighty;
but even though he is just and righteous,
he does not destroy us.
24 No wonder people everywhere fear him.
All who are wise show him reverence.

BE STILL AND CONSIDER GOD'S WONDERS

- Recognizing the limits of our understanding should lead us toward humility before God
    - Knowing truths about God is important, but personally knowing Him is even greater
        - Elihu's final words prepare us for the moment when God Himself finally speaks

SOMETIMES THE GREATEST STEP TOWARD WISDOM IS ACKNOWLEDGING HOW MUCH WE STILL HAVE TO LEARN ABOUT GOD



THREE KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. **God's justice is greater than our understanding** – We can trust His character without knowing every detail of His plans

2. **Creation reminds us of God's greatness** – His power and wisdom extend far beyond our ability to comprehend

3. **Faith doesn't require every answer** – We can continue trusting God even when our questions remain unanswered

Final Thought: We don't have to understand everything God is doing to trust the God who is doing it



THOUGHTS???

Elihu points to storms and other aspects of creation as reminders of God's greatness. Have you ever experienced something in nature that caused you to reflect upon God's power or your own limitations?

In chapter 38, God will finally speak to Job. After everything we've studied so far, what do you think Job most wants to hear from God? And how might what he needs to hear be different from what he wants to hear?

