

Wednesday October 15th
Man's Last Gasp - Job 32-37

Opening

What's the worst storm you've ever experienced? Hurricane? Tornado? What was it like?

Digging Deeper

Message Review: In chapters 32-37 we hear from a young man named Elihu, who is all too ready to lecture Job and his friends about the ways of God. In the end, Elihu misunderstands Job's complaint and condemns him for being arrogant, but he also speaks powerfully about the nature and work of God. In chapter 37 Elihu talks about how God directs the chaos and power of storms to accomplish his purposes. This is both poetic and prophetic, as we see many examples in scripture of God working through storms to direct His people. **READ** Job 27:5-13

1. Verse 5 describes God's voice like thunder—something we cannot comprehend—but verse 6 says God is directing the location of the rain and the snow. Why is this an appropriate picture of “the storms of life” like Job is experiencing?
2. Verses 7 and 8 describe the effects of a bad storm—it causes both man and beast to stop what they're doing. Men can't work. Animals seek shelter. What reason does verse 7 give for this? How does this play out in a person's life during difficult times?
3. In verse 12 Elihu speaks of “clouds that swirl about.” It's a picture of the chaos of a storm, with winds that can whip around in different directions. But these winds are “turned by His guidance.” Have you ever experienced something chaotic and difficult but then seen God's purpose worked out through it? Why might God choose to work through chaos instead of peace?
4. Verse 13 suggests at least two things God does in our lives through storms. The NIV translates it this way: *He brings the clouds to punish people, or to water his earth and show his love.* Jonah is the perfect example of a time when God uses a storm to bring correction. What other storms can you think of in scripture and how did God use them?

Application

Based on this passage, what are some things Christians can be confident of when we face the storms of life?

Prayer

1. What is something from this passage that we can pray for?
2. Pray for personal needs.