

Lesson 10
Elihu's Speech
Part 2

Elihu Continues Response To Job's Errors

JOB 35:1 Then Elihu continued [to address Job] and said,

He Quotes Job's Former Words That There Is No Advantage In Serving God.

JOB 35:2 "Do you think this is according to justice? Do you say, 'My righteousness is more than God's'?"

1. It was wrong [sinful] to claim or infer to be more righteous than God.
2. It is sinful to misrepresent God.
3. It is sinful to change God's word.

JOB 35:3 "For you say, 'What advantage will it be to You? What profit shall I have, more than if I had sinned?'

"Yet you ask him, 'What profit is it for me' and What do I gain by not sinning?" NIV

1. Elihu refers back to Job's statement made in Job 34:9. "For he has said, 'It profits a man nothing When he is pleased with God.'
2. Job had quoted the wicked as saying this in Job 21:14,15.

¹⁴ "They say to God, 'Depart from us! We do not even desire the knowledge of Your ways.

¹⁵ "Who is the Almighty, that we should serve Him, And what would we gain if we entreat Him?"

3. All of this implied the Almighty is unjust.
4. Elihu addresses the value of godliness.
5. Job was wrong to suggest that the righteous man has no benefit for living righteously.

JOB 35:4 "I will answer you, And your [three] friends with you.

Elihu Argues That God Is Not Affected By Man's Conduct

5-8

JOB 35:5 "Look at the heavens and see; And behold the clouds-- they are higher than you.

JOB 35:6 "If you have sinned, what do you accomplish [achieve] against Him? And if your transgressions are many, what do you do to Him?"

1. One cannot touch the clouds; much less the heavenly bodies.
 - a. One traveling at the speed of light [186, 282 miles per second] in a 100 or even a 1000 years could barely enter the universe.
 - b. Our little galaxy is a mere 100,000 light years in diameter.
 - c. Some of the universe is multiplied millions of light years away and this is likely only a minute part of the universe.
2. One cannot reach God to harm Him. He is Almighty and far above man.
3. We cannot enrich or harm God by conduct.
4. We can make Him glad or sad because He cares. (1 Pet. 5:7; Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8).

JOB 35:7 "If you are righteous, what do you give to Him? Or what does He receive from your hand?"

JOB 35:8 "Your wickedness is for a man like yourself [a human], And your righteousness is for a son of man

[a fellow human].

1. Again he emphasized even a righteous man cannot add to the greatness of God.
2. He had indicated there was no advantage to godliness over evil.

Elihu Answers This Charge

9-16

JOB 35:9 "Because of the multitude of oppressions they cry out; They cry for help because of the arm of the mighty. Elihu says, due to oppressions, some cry to God for relief and are not heard. The “mighty” likely refers here to the rich and powerful. They oppress others to gain power and wealth.

JOB 35:10 "But no one says [thinks to say], 'Where is God my Maker, Who gives songs in the night

1. These are merely crying out of pain, and not for the purpose of glorifying the Master who can give "songs in the night."
2. This refers to suffering in times of hardship.
3. Paul and Silas had the right attitude. (Acts 16:25).

JOB 35:11 Who [God] teaches us more than the beasts of the earth, And makes us wiser than the birds of the heavens?'

1. He contends God has made us more intelligent than the lower creation.
2. In fact God has placed man over the lower creation. (Gen. 1:26-31). See Psalms 8.
3. Man has been endowed with a “soul” or “spirit.” (Matt. 10:28; Jas. 1:21; Eccles. 12:7; Acts 7:60).

The Truly Humble Spirit Will Not Merely Instinctively Cry Out Of Pain As Animals Do The Wise Will Be Wise As The Result Of The Experience

- When men out of their pride claim relief as a right they are not heard.

JOB 35:12 "There they [the evil] cry out, but He does not answer Because of the pride [arrogance] of evil men.

JOB 35:13 "Surely God will not listen to an empty cry [to falsehood], Nor will the Almighty regard it.

Mr Job

- Do you think that God will respond to you when you claim to be unable to find and see Him (Job 9:11; 23:8, 9; 33:10).
- Your cause is still before Him.
- Be patient and wait for His response.

JOB 35:14 "How much less when you say you do not behold Him, The case is before Him, and you must wait for Him!

JOB 35:15 "And now, because He has not visited in His anger, Nor has He acknowledged transgression well,

JOB 35:16 So Job opens his mouth emptily; He multiplies words without knowledge. " He charges Job was a windy man speaking nonsense and manifesting his ignorance.

Elihu Eloquently Exclaims The Greatness Of God

JOB 36:1 Then Elihu continued and said,

Asks For Indulgence As He Speaks On God's Behalf

JOB 36:2 "Wait for me a little [longer], and I will show you That there is yet more to be said in God's behalf. He boldly wants to speak for God.

Speaks On The Righteousness Of The Maker

JOB 36:3 "I will fetch my knowledge from afar, And I will ascribe righteousness to [God] my Maker.

Elihu Affirms His Words Are True And That He Is "Perfect In Knowledge"

JOB 36:4 "For truly my words are not false; One who is perfect in knowledge is with you.

1. "One" may refer to God. NASB
2. "One" is not capitalized in the original and must be interpreted from the context.
3. The word "one" might refer to the egotistical Elihu.
4. Many translators understand "one" to refer to Elihu himself who was rather cocky.
5. It seems he is claiming to have "perfect" knowledge.

Correct Observations About God

JOB 36:5 "Behold, God is mighty but does not despise any; He is mighty in strength of understanding.

1. God is mighty in mercy and in strength of understanding.
2. God wants all to be saved. (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9).

He Does Not Ignore The Wickedness Of The Wicked, Nor The Afflictions Of The Afflicted

JOB 36:6 "He does not keep the wicked alive, But gives justice to the afflicted.

1. He does not prolong the life of the wicked, that is, keep them alive.
2. Most often their wickedness leads to pre-mature death. See Eph. 6:1-3.

He Does Observe The Righteous And He Treats Them As Royalty

JOB 36:7 "He does not withdraw His eyes from the righteous; But with kings on the throne He has seated them forever, and they are exalted.

JOB 36:7 He does not take his eyes off the righteous; he enthrones them with kings and exalts them forever. NIV

- If, though, the righteous are subjected to circumstances of affliction, God can use these to teach them, and especially arrest pride. (Job 33:8, 9).

**JOB 36:8 "And if they are bound in fetters [of adversity and trouble], And are caught in the cords of affliction,
JOB 36:9 Then He declares to them their work And their transgressions, that they have magnified themselves.**

By Hardships God Can Get A Man's Attention And Bring Him Out Of Sin

JOB 36:10 "And He opens their ear to instruction, And commands that they return from evil.

**If A Man Is Wise Enough To Hearken To The Instruction Of Sorrow, He Can Profit Thereby And
And Enjoy Pleasure**

JOB 36:11 "If they hear and serve Him, They shall end their days in prosperity, And their years in pleasures.

He Can Foolishly Ignore The Value Of Affliction And Perish In His Ignorance

JOB 36:12 "But if they do not hear, they shall perish by the sword, And they shall die without knowledge.

**The Godless, Who Will Not Learn From Divine Discipline, Build Up Resentment And
Refuse To Turn To God**

JOB 36:13 "But the godless in heart lay up anger; They do not cry for help when He binds them.

1. The godless man becomes angry and hostile when disciplined.
2. The godly man becomes better when disciplined by God.
3. He knows God's discipline is motivated by love. See Heb. 12:5-11.

**They Die In Youth Like The Male Homosexuals
Ravaged By Venereal Disease - see Romans 1:27b**

JOB 36:14 "They die in youth, And their life perishes among the cult [of the male] prostitutes. They often die young because of their lives of dissipation and depravity.

The Righteous Learn From The Affliction And Are Delivered Thereby

JOB 36:15 "He delivers the afflicted in their affliction, And opens their ear in time of oppression.

**If Job Had Accepted His Hardship With A Proper Disposition, And Had Therefore Learned
The Lessons It Was Designed To Impart, He Would Soon Have Been Delivered And
Restored To Prosperity**

**JOB 36:16 "Then indeed, He enticed you from the mouth of distress, Instead of it, a broad place with no
constraint [full freedom]; And that which was set on your table was full of fatness [dainties].**

1. It should be kept in mind that Elihu is expressing his view.
2. Job had, however, lashed out at God, and had thus been visited with judgment suitable for the wicked.

JOB 36:17 "But you were full of judgment on the wicked; Judgment and justice take hold of you. He fully deserved the judgment that befalls the wicked.

**The Patriarch Is Warned Not To Let His "Wrath" Blind Him To The Value Of Chastisement, Nor
To Allow His Great Ransom [the price he paid in suffering] To Turn Him Aside From Jehovah**

JOB 36:18 "Beware lest wrath entice you to scoffing; And do not let the greatness of the ransom turn you aside.

Elihu Cautions Job Against Thinking That His Outcry Or His Strength Can Deliver Him From His Troubles

**JOB 36:19 "Will your riches [Job] keep you from distress, Or all the forces of your strength?
He Should Stop Longing For Death**

JOB 36:20 "Do not long for the night, When people vanish in their place.

**The Patriarch Is Urged Not To Choose Iniquity [turning away from God] Over The
Lessons Of Affliction**

JOB 36:21 "Be careful, do not turn to evil; For you have preferred this to affliction.

**Elihu Turns To The Heart Of His Presentation
God Does "Doeth Loftily"**

JOB 36:22 "Behold, God is exalted in His power; Who is a teacher like Him?

Who Can Advise Him Or Charge Him With Injustice As Job Has Done?

JOB 36:23 "Who has appointed Him His way, And who has said, 'Thou hast done wrong'?"

Job Is Reminded He Should Exalt God Even As Others Have Done In Song

JOB 36:24 "Remember that you should exalt [magnify] His work, Of which men have sung.

1. It is vital that we exalt God for His work - past, present, future.
2. Praise songs should be sung even in troublesome times.
- 3 This manifests true godly character.

The Eternal God Is So Great That Men Are Compelled To Hold Him In Profound Awe From Afar
25, 26

JOB 36:25 "All men have seen it; Man beholds from afar.

Exalts The Eternal God

JOB 36:26 "Behold, God is exalted, and we do not know Him; The number of His years is unsearchable [past finding out].

- 1 . The young man's point here is quite valuable.
2. If men would spend more time reflecting upon the marvelous majesty of our great Creator, they would be considerably less preoccupied with wallowing in their own pity.
3. God is eternal and had no origin.
4. No one can understand eternity, that is, something that has always existed.
5. All must except that something has always existed.
6. It is far more reasonable to believe that Intelligence is eternal.

**By His Laws [evaporation] God Draws Up Moisture Which Distills [condenses] And
And Forms Rain For Man In Abundance**
27, 28

**JOB 36:27 "For He draws up the drops of water, They distill rain from the mist,
See Eccles. 12:7; Amos 9:66; Psa. 135:7; Jere. 10:13**

JOB 36:28 Which the clouds pour down, They drip upon man abundantly.

**Who Understands, He Asks, How God Diffuses The Clouds Or
How He Causes The Thunder?**

JOB 36:29 "Can anyone understand the spreading of the clouds, The thundering of His pavilion [tent]?"

The Lord Spreads His Lightning Illuminating Even The Ocean Floor

JOB 36:30 "Behold, He spreads His lightning about Him, And He covers the depths of the sea.

**The Elements Of Heaven Can Then Be Employed In The Lord's Providential Plans
To Bring Judgment Or To Make The Earth Fruitful**

JOB 36:31 "For by these He judges peoples; He gives food in abundance.

**God Is Poetically Represented As Being Able To Hurl Lightning Bolts
Against His Assailants**

JOB 36:32 "He covers His hands with the lightning, And commands it to strike the mark.

JOB 36:33 "Its noise declares His presence; The cattle also, concerning what is coming up.

1. The subsequent thunder crash tells of His wrath against the wicked.

2. Even the cattle are stirred at His power in storms.

**His Heart Pounds As He Listens To The Voice Of God In The
Thunder Of Raging Storm**

37:1, 2

JOB 37:1 "At this also my heart trembles, And leaps from its place.

JOB 37:2 "Listen closely to the thunder of His voice, And the rumbling that goes out from His mouth.

**Brilliant Bursts Of Lightning Illuminate His Majesty To The Very
"Ends Of The Earth"**

JOB 37:3 "Under the whole heaven He lets it loose, And His lightning to the ends of the earth.

Followed By The Thunder's Roar

JOB 37:4 "After it, a voice roars; He thunders with His majestic voice; And He does not restrain the lightnings when His voice is heard.

It Is All Beyond Man's Comprehension

JOB 37:5 "God thunders with His voice wondrously, Doing great things which we cannot comprehend.

God Sends Snow And Rain To Earth

JOB 37:6 "For to the snow He says, 'Fall on the earth,' And to the downpour and the rain, 'Be strong.'

**Causes A Cessation Of Work In The Fields
That Human Attention Might Be Directed To The Creator**

JOB 37:7 "He seals [limits] the hand [power] of every man, That all men may know [recognize] His work.

Animals Forced Into Their Dens By The Weather

JOB 37:8 "Then the beast goes into its lair, And remains in its den.

Out Of God's Chamber Comes Freezing Winds

JOB 37:9 "Out of the south comes the storm, And out of the north the cold.

By His Breath Ice Is Formed So That The Waters Become Solid

JOB 37:10 "From the breath of God ice is made, And the expanse of the waters is frozen.

**The Lord Loads The Clouds With Moisture, And The Clouds And Lightning
Move About At His Bidding**

JOB 37:11 "Also with moisture He loads the thick cloud; He disperses the cloud of His lightning.

JOB 37:12 "And it changes direction, turning around by His guidance, That it may do whatever He commands it On the face of the inhabited earth.

**Nature May Be Used To Correct Wayward Man Or To Bless
The Earth Out Of His Lovingkindness**

JOB 37:13 "Whether for correction, or for His world, Or for lovingkindness, He causes it to happen.

Good Advice For Job And Us

JOB 37:14 "Listen to this, O Job, Stand and consider [ponder on] the wonders of God.

JOB 37:15 "Do you know how God establishes [the clouds] them, And makes the lightning of His cloud to shine [flash]?"

JOB 37:15 Do you know how God controls the clouds and makes his lightning flash? NIV

Wonders Of One Perfect In Knowledge

JOB 37:16 "Do you know about the layers of the thick clouds, The wonders of one perfect in knowledge,

Could He Explain How The Southern Winds Heated Up His Clothes

JOB 37:17 You whose garments are hot, When the land is still because of the south wind?

JOB 37:18 "Can you, with Him, spread out the skies, Strong as a molten [bronze] mirror?"

Elihu Spurs Job A Little

JOB 37:19 "Teach us [Job]what we shall say to Him; We cannot arrange our case because of darkness.

1. [If you arose wise] teach us what we should say to God.
2. We cannot possibly instruct Him.

JOB 37:20 "Shall it be told Him that I would speak? Or should a man say that he would be swallowed up?"

**Just As Men Cannot Look Directly Upon The Light [sun] In A Bright Sky
Cleared Of Clouds By The Wind**

JOB 37:21 "And now men do not see the light which is bright in the skies; But the wind has passed and cleared them.

JOB 37:22 "Out of the north comes golden splendor; Around God is awesome majesty.

1. So men cannot look upon the dazzling countenance of Jehovah.
2. Yet this is precisely what Job had wanted to do. (Job 9:32-35; 13:18-22; 22:3-7).
3. The Lord's majesty is more brilliant than the "golden splendor" of the north [likely the sun cleared of clouds by the northern wind]

Jehovah Is Simply Beyond Our Power To Fathom

JOB 37:23 "The Almighty-- we cannot find [understand] Him; He is exalted in power; And He will not do violence to justice and abundant righteousness.

ROM 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

1TI 6:16 who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

1. He is exalted in power.
2. Elihu wants him to know that his affliction did not come from the Creator's injustice

JOB 37:24 "Therefore men fear [reverence] Him; He does not regard any who are wise of heart."

Comments

1. Elihu has not been totally correct in his approach to Job's problem.
2. He came much closer to the truth than Job's three friends did.
3. It is interesting that Job did not respond to Elihu, as he had to the others.
4. It would appear that Elihu has caught the attention of Job and perhaps caused him to at least question why he was suffering and his harsh comments about God.
5. The angry young man's descriptives of God's presence in raging elements of nature paves the way for Jehovah's response to Job "out of the whirlwind. (Job 38:11).
6. It paves the way of the Lord's continued emphasis on His majesty as evidenced in creation.
7. It is interesting that the Lord has no rebuke for Elihu as with the others.
8. This does not mean that Elihu was right about everything, but he did uphold God's justice and character.

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