

Elihu Continues His
Speech
Chapter Thirty-Four

Job 34:1-9

“Then Elihu answered and said: “Hear my words, you wise men, and give ear to me, you who know; for the ear tests words as the palate tastes food.

Let us choose what is right; let us know among ourselves what is good. For Job has said, ‘I am in the right, and God has taken away my right; in spite of my right I am counted a liar;

my wound is incurable, though I am without transgression.’ What man is like Job, who drinks up scoffing like water, who travels in company with evildoers and walks with wicked men? For he has said, ‘It profits a man nothing that he should take delight in God.’”

Elihu Confronts Job

- Elihu continues his long speech in Chapter 34, by confronting Job's claim of God being unjust and what he sees as Job's rebellion against divine justice.
- **For Job has said, 'I am in the right, and God has taken away my right.'**
- "The argument in both movements is the same: God, as the supreme governor of the universe, cannot do wrong by failing to requite [equal out] good and bad behavior appropriately, whereas Job, who is claiming that God has treated him unjustly, is doing wrong by implying that God has perverted justice."-Clines, David

- Elihu said that Job claimed his **wound is incurable**, though he was **without transgression**.
- As we have seen throughout the Book of Job, Job did claim to be severely **wounded** by his trial and at times probably felt to him to be **incurable**.
- Job never said that he was **without transgression** Job only claimed that there was not any specific sin that he did to deserve God's punishment.

What Job Was Like

- Elihu paints a pretty bleak picture of Job from his view point.
- Elihu asked: **What man is like Job**, then he described Job as a person:
 - **who drinks up scoffing like water**
 - **who travels in company with evildoers** and
 - **who walks with wicked men**
- Elihu believed Job to be guilty of sin which God would eventually judge with divine justice.
- It doesn't matter what Elihu thought of Job. God had already proclaimed Job to be upright and blameless.

- Elihu also claimed that Job said that, **It profits a man nothing that he should take delight in God.**
- As far as we know, Job never uttered these words in fact Job stated that the ungodly will not take **delight in the Lord (27:10).**
- What Elihu is concerned with in his speech is a true understanding of the nature of God and that God is good and just in His dealings with all men.

- The injustice of God was one of the things that caused Job so much frustration.
- Job felt God had dealt with him unjustly and demanded from God a meeting in court where God could tell Job what he did wrong to deserve his trial.
- Job did have his day in court before God when God showed up to confront and restore Job.

Job 34:10-15

“Therefore, hear me, you men of understanding: far be it from God that he should do wickedness, and from the Almighty that he should do wrong. For according to the work of a man he will repay him, and according to his ways he will make it befall him. Of truth, God will not do wickedly, and the Almighty will not pervert justice. Who gave him charge over the earth, and who laid on him the whole world? If he should set his heart to it and gather to himself his spirit and his breath, all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust.”

God Is Not Bias

- Elihu presented arguments that God is without bias and judges fairly in the affairs of man.
- **If God is unjust then He is not God.** far be it from God that he should do wickedness, and from the Almighty that he should do wrong...Of truth, God will not do wickedly, and the Almighty will not pervert justice.
- Moses stated of God: “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.”-**Deuteronomy 32:4**

- If God is God then He is perfect and if He is perfect He cannot do wrong.
- “An unjust God would be as unthinkable as a square circle or a round triangle.”-Wiersbe, Warren
- Elihu emphasized the sovereignty of God and although what appears on the surface to be injustice from God is in fact God working out His sovereign plan.
- If God is perfect and cannot do wrong then in His working out of His sovereign plan in our lives He may use suffering and trials to perfect His purpose in man.
- “I know, O LORD, that your rules are righteous, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.”-**Psalms 119:75**

- If suffering and affliction perfect God's purpose and plan in our life then we, can now somewhat understand, the many statements of joy in the face of trials written in the Scriptures.
- "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."-**James 1:2-3**
- "rejoice in our sufferings"-**Romans 5:3**
- "In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials"-**1 Peter 1:6**

Job 34:16-20

“If you have understanding, hear this; listen to what I say. Shall one who hates justice govern? Will you condemn him who is righteous and mighty, who says to a king, ‘Worthless one,’ and to nobles, ‘Wicked man,’ who shows no partiality to princes, nor regards the rich more than the poor, for they are all the work of his hands? In a moment they die; at midnight the people are shaken and pass away, and the mighty are taken away by no human hand.”

Justice On Earth

- Elihu continued his second argument for God's justice: **if God is unjust then there would not be justice in governments upon earth.**
- God puts in place **kings, nobles, princes, and the rich for they are all the work of his hands.**
- All human government is the **work of his hands** established by God for man to govern justly in the affairs of man to man interaction.
- “The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.”-Proverbs 21:1

- “You shall appoint judges and officers in all your towns that the LORD your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment. You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous. Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land that the LORD your God is giving you.”-**Deuteronomy 16:18-20**

- “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God...”-Romans 13:1-4a

- “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings” -Daniel 2:20-21
- Most of the world starts from the foundation that God plays no part in the movement of history. In fact most are driven to diminish or eliminate God’s role in history.
- This is in direct conflict with a Biblical worldview that begins with God who is involved in all of history not just religious history but all of secular and sacred movements in time. Nothing in this world is outside of God’s sovereignty for it is **all the work of his hands**.

Job 34:21-30

“For his eyes are on the ways of a man, and he sees all his steps. There is no gloom or deep darkness where evildoers may hide themselves. For God has no need to consider a man further, that he should go before God in judgment. He shatters the mighty without investigation and sets others in their place. Thus, knowing their works, He overturns them in the night, and they are crushed. He strikes them for their wickedness in a place for all to see, because they turned aside from following him and had no regard for any of his ways, so that they caused the cry of the poor to come to him, and he heard the cry of the afflicted. When he is quiet, who can condemn? When he hides his face, who can behold him, whether it be a nation or a man? that a godless man should not reign, that he should not ensnare the people.”

God's Eyes Are Upon Man

- Elihu pressed on with his third argument for God's justice: **if God is just then He must not be seeing what's going on in the world.**
- In defense for God's justice in this world, Elihu pointed out that God's **eyes are on the ways of a man, and he sees all his steps.**
- God **knowing their works** executes judgment upon **their wickedness because they turned aside from following him and had no regard for any of his ways.**
- "For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD, and he ponders all his paths."-**Proverbs 5:21**

- God sees, hears, and knows everything that happens in His creation. Nothing is or can be hidden from him. God is not deaf or blind, he cannot be bribed, cannot be manipulated, and cannot be fooled.
- God knows everything about us: Our sins, our flaws, our weaknesses and yet He demonstrated His love for us by going to the Cross and dying for us.
- It is only after we have fully grasp and understand this truth will we be able to rest in peace or be able to stand still and allow God to have His way in the affairs of our life and that of the world.

- “Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?...My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand.”-
Psalm 139:7,15-18a
- “He is not alarmed at the fact that God knows all about him; on the contrary, he is comforted, and even feels himself to be enriched, as with a casket of precious jewels. That God should think upon him is the believer’s treasure and pleasure.”-
Spurgeon, Charles

- Thoughts such as are natural to the Creator, the Preserver, the Redeemer, the Father, the Friend, are evermore flowing from the heart of the Lord. Thoughts of our pardon, renewal, upholding, supplying, educating, perfecting, and a thousand more kinds perpetually well up in the mind of the Most High.”-Spurgeon, Charles
- **God has no need to consider a man further** said Elihu to Job because **He Knows Everything** already.

Job 34:31-37

“For has anyone said to God, ‘I have borne punishment; I will not offend any more; teach me what I do not see; if I have done iniquity, I will do it no more’? Will he then make repayment to suit you, because you reject it? For you must choose, and not I; therefore declare what you know. Men of understanding will say to me, and the wise man who hears me will say: ‘Job speaks without knowledge; his words are without insight.’ Would that Job were tried to the end, because he answers like wicked men. For he adds rebellion to his sin; he claps his hands among us and multiplies his words against God.”

Job Must Choose

- Although God reigns sovereign over the affairs of nations and individuals He is not responsible for their sins. God has given Man freedom to choose and make decisions for or against Him.
- Elihu tells Job **you must choose**.
- “**Let us choose what is right; let us know among ourselves what is good.**”-Job 34:4
- The choice that Job was to make was to except God on His terms and conditions or continue with his **rebellion to his sin** and thus **reject** God.

- “And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.” And the people did not answer him a word.”-**1 Kings 18:21**
- The people of Israel seemed to be unwilling to choose. They were paralyzed by the choice before them and wanted to keep their options open just in case God didn’t work out.
- This was how Elihu ended his speech by giving Job the choice. Job must choose to follow God or to reject God there is no other option. Job cannot remain on the fence.