

Elihu Finishes His
Speech
Chapter Thirty-Seven

Job 37:1-5

“At this also my heart trembles and leaps out of its place. Keep listening to the thunder of his voice and the rumbling that comes from his mouth. Under the whole heaven he lets it go, and his lightning to the corners of the earth. After it his voice roars; he thunders with his majestic voice, and he does not restrain the lightnings when his voice is heard. God thunders wondrously with his voice; he does great things that we cannot comprehend.”

- Elihu's word for Job set the stage for a deeper more full revelation of God Himself that follows in chapters 38—42.
- Elihu highlighted the more encouraging aspects of God's character but in perspective of His power and sovereign control.
- Elihu saw God more as a teacher whereas the other men spoke of Him as a judge.
- “You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.” -**James 5:11**
- The life and suffering of righteous Job teaches man that the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Elihu's Different Perspective

- Elihu proclaimed to Job a different perspective about suffering.
- Job was not suffering because of sin but because God wanted to teach Job through his trial.
- Job's suffering was to draw him closer to God not away from God like the unrighteous who blame God.
- Job's suffering was to teach him that true wisdom reveals God as sovereignly in control of all the affairs of life.
- Job's suffering was to teach mankind throughout time that God does reward the righteous but only on the basis of his love and grace.
- Job's suffering teaches believers today from continuing to accept a sinful premise for suffering but to trust the Lord Who is full of grace and mercy and Who is powerful enough to strengthen believers in the face of suffering.

- "Worshippers of the ancient Near Eastern gods, Satan, Job, and his three antagonists—all these believed that suffering originated from a 'tit for tat,' 'measure for measure,' compensation theology, which governs the correspondence between righteous behavior and prosperity, and sinful behavior and misery. However, Elihu showed that neither he nor God supported this theory. Under God's justice, suffering comes to people for several reasons, many of which are unrelated to compensation theology"—Waters, Larry J.

God's Voice Thundered

- Elihu proclaimed God had sovereign control over all things as reflected in His control of nature (36:26-33).
- Elihu continued along this thought pattern in chapter 37.
- In Chapter 37, verses 1-13 Elihu mentioned more examples of God's working in nature that **we cannot comprehend** (37:5).
- God is not an object to be discovered, nor does our discovery of Him depend on our intelligence.
- We cannot comprehend certain aspects of Who God is unless He initiates to reveal Himself.
- We should never diminish God to our level of intelligence thinking we know more than God Who declares the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done (Isaiah 46:10).

- Scientists calculate that a typical thunderstorm releases around 10,000,000 kilowatt-hours of energy – the equivalent of a 20-kiloton nuclear warhead. Storms are examples of the massive power of God.
- “On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled...” And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. ” - **Exodus 19:16;19**
- “Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine.” - **John 12:28-30**

- “The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful, the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.”-**Psalm 29:3-4**
- God speaks through the Bible. Scripture is the single most important resource for the voice of God.
- God inspired the words of Scripture (**2 Tim. 3:16**).
- God can also speak specifically to us through the Bible because the Word of God is living and active (**Heb. 4:12**).

Build Upon The Rock

- “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”-**Matthew 7:24-27**
- Jesus said when a person builds the foundation of his house upon the rock he is actually building upon the very word's of Christ Himself. Doing so does not keep the storms away but actually supports the person from being destroyed by them.

Job 37:6-13

“For to the snow he says, ‘Fall on the earth,’ likewise to the downpour, his mighty downpour. He seals up the hand of every man, that all men whom he made may know it. Then the beasts go into their lairs, and remain in their dens. From its chamber comes the whirlwind, and cold from the scattering winds. By the breath of God ice is given, and the broad waters are frozen fast. He loads the thick cloud with moisture; the clouds scatter his lightning. They turn around and around by his guidance, to accomplish all that he commands them on the face of the habitable world. Whether for correction or for his land or for love, he causes it to happen.”

God Is In Control

- Storms are a great metaphor for suffering and spiritual issues.
- Storms can create inconvenience, chaos, destruction and trouble and are seemingly random.
- According to Elihu, God speaks to the natural order of things and is in complete control of it.
- They [storms] turn around and around by his guidance, to accomplish all that he commands them on the face of the habitable world (vs.12)
- When God came to Job He spoke to Him in the midst of the storm.
- “Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said...”-
Job 38:1

Different Purposes

- We are told that God brings the storms for different purposes.
- Sometimes God's purpose is correction.
- Sometimes God's purpose is for the land.
- Sometimes God's purpose is out of His love.
- Elihu was conveying to Job that God had a purpose for the storms but more importantly God had a purpose for the storm that Job was facing in his own life.

Job 37:14-18

“Hear this, O Job; stop and consider the wondrous works of God. Do you know how God lays his command upon them and causes the lightning of his cloud to shine? Do you know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him who is perfect in knowledge, you whose garments are hot when the earth is still because of the south wind? Can you, like him, spread out the skies, hard as a cast metal mirror?”

Stop And Consider

- Elihu asked Job to **stop** and **consider** the wonderful works of God in creation.
- Elihu wanted Job to consider the greatness of God and how little Job knew about the inner workings of creation.
- Elihu asked Job, **do you know** how God causes lightning in the clouds, or how God balances the clouds.
- If Job didn't know the workings of God in nature which can be clearly seen, then how could he possibly know the deeper mysteries of God's nature which are unseen.
- "Instead of dictating to God Job should learn a lesson about the mystery of suffering from His wondrous acts in nature."- Constable, Thomas

Job 37:19-24

“Teach us what we shall say to him; we cannot draw up our case because of darkness. Shall it be told him that I would speak? Did a man ever wish that he would be swallowed up?

And now no one looks on the light when it is bright in the skies, when the wind has passed and cleared them. Out of the north comes golden splendor; God is clothed with awesome majesty. The Almighty—we cannot find him; he is great in power; justice and abundant righteousness he will not violate. Therefore men fear him; he does not regard any who are wise in their own conceit.”

Brightness Of God

- Elihu implored Job to **teach us** what we should say to God but it is impossible for us to make a case because of the **darkness**.
- The idea of “darkness” carries the idea of obscurity. Man is ignorant because of his inability to fully comprehend the workings of God.
- “For now [in this present world] we see in a mirror dimly, but then [the world to come] face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.”-**1 Corinthians 13:12**
- 1 John 3:2, tells us the one day **we shall see Him as He is**.

- Elihu said that no one looks at the sun in all its glory when the storm has passed likewise no one gives the glory due God Who brings the storm to pass by the wind.
- “The meaning is that man by nature is utterly ignorant. He knows nothing of God in heaven above. All is darkness there to him. Yet God is there in all His wondrous glory. And just as when a storm has dispersed all the dark clouds and cleared the air, so, when God reveals Himself, His light and truth are seen.”-Bullinger, E.W.
- “I saw every work of God, and that a man is unable to comprehend the work that is done under the sun. Despite his efforts to search it out, he cannot find its meaning; even if the wise man claims to know, he is unable to comprehend.”-

Ecclesiastes 8:17

How Big Is Our God

- The God that Elihu described to Job is an Almighty God, clothed in awesome majesty, great in power, just, and righteous.
- “No unbelief made him [Abraham] waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.”-**Romans 4:20-21**

- Abraham believed God in the face of discouraging circumstances. Mainly that he and Sarah were advanced in years.
- Abraham was giving glory to God by believing that God is faithful to His promise and that what God had promised, He was also able to perform.
- Abraham did not waver in this belief but grew stronger in faith as time passed.
- When there is no contest, it is true, no one, as I have said, denies that God can do all things; but as soon as anything comes in the way to impede the course of God's promise, we cast down God's power from its eminence." –Calvin, John

- The focus of Abraham's world was not upon the circumstances he was facing but he was totally focused upon **God Who was able to do what He had promised.**
- Abraham's faith grew stronger in faith as he was giving glory to God.
- God's glory encompasses the greatness, beauty, and perfection of all that he is and seeing His hand in creation with all its complexities exposes His power and design.
- When we give glory to the God Who created and sustains everything He strengthens us with His strength.

- If we shrink God then we will become weakened and begin to look for insufficient gods to fill the void.
- The God we think about will define how we live.
- “No one is ever really at ease in facing what we call ‘life’ and ‘death’ without a religious faith. The trouble with many people today is that they have not found a God big enough for modern needs.” – Phillips, J.B.

- The insufficient God that we choose is our own self interest god. A god who is concerned with what I want not what He wants.
- We need a God that is big enough that in spite of appearances and circumstances we can trust in Him to do what He has promised.
- “People treat God’s sovereignty as a controversy, but in Scripture it is a matter of worship.”-J.I. Packer
- “But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, “Great is the LORD!” As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God!”-**Psalms 40:16-17**

- “In the story of Job, too, the Lord has apparently been sound asleep until now, peacefully curled up in the stern of the boat while Job has been struggling all alone with the wind and the waves... in the case of Job He let the storm rage for 37 chapters, until finally He calmed not the storm itself, but Job’s heart.”-Mason, Mike
- In the next five chapters the great God of creation confronts Job and this encounter changes Job.