

THE BOOK OF JOB

Lesson 10 – Job 32-37

In these six chapters, a man younger than Job and his three friends, Elihu, was *aroused against Job*. He challenged Job with what Elihu perceived was self-righteousness and the three friends for their inability to have an answer for Job's distress. Like Job's friends, Elihu spoke many truths, but they were truths wrongly applied. He spoke of God's grace, His justice, and His greatness. Yet, he fell short in representing the heart and intentions of God towards Job.

Begin your study with prayer...

Memory Verse – This week's memory verse is:

"...stand still and consider the wondrous works of God." Job 37:14

Read Job 32.

1. From Job 32:1, why did Job's three friends stop speaking to Job?
2. This is the first time we have heard from Elihu, but he explains why he chose to speak now. From Job 32:1-5, answer the following questions.
 - a. Why had Elihu waited until now to speak? (verse 4)
 - b. Why was he angry with Job, an anger that compelled him to speak?
 - c. Why was he angry with Job's three friends?
3. Elihu's first words were in reference to his age and his right to speak. Summarize his reasoning from Job 32:6-10.
4. What more does Elihu have to say about why he will speak in Job 32:17-20?
 - a. From verse 21, in his words, what two things does he say he will he not do?
 - b. Define the words *partiality* and *flatter*.

Read Job 33.

1. Although Elihu claimed he would be responding to Job's words he makes statements that prove he did not correctly hear Job.

a. What did Elihu quote Job as saying in Job 33:9?

b. What did Job actually say in Job 9:2 that does not match what Elihu quoted him as saying?

2. In Job 33:14-18, Elihu points to the fact the God speaks to man. In verse 15 he gives the example of dreams and visions in the night. From verses 16-18, why does God speak to man?

3. Elihu continues by talking about another way that God speaks to man in Job 33:19-24. He says that God *chastens* man in verse 19.

a. From Job 33:19-22, what do you see that describes Job's situation?

b. What does this man need, from verse 23?

c. The final result is given in verse 24. What is that goal?

d. Although we know the suffering of Job is not this kind of chastening, how do you see the use of chastening applied in Deuteronomy 8:15-16?

4. We cannot leave this section without commenting on the truth in Elihu's words, the need for a messenger, a mediator. What do the following scriptures say about our Mediator?

a. 1 Timothy 2:5

b. Hebrews 9:15

5. How does the result given in Job 33:24 apply to us?

6. Read Job 33:26-28 and write what you see that describes a man's conversion in these verses.

Read Job 34.

In Job 34:1-9, Elihu again misquotes Job and misrepresents his position by quoting words out of context and using them to support Elihu's own argument.

1. As we read Job 33:10-15, we see the same philosophy spoken by the other friends: that if a man is blessed it is due to his good works and if a man suffers it is due to his wickedness. What truth do you find in Titus 3:4-7 that does not support Elihu's conclusion?

2. Aside from the error of Elihu's philosophy, he did speak truth about God in this chapter, speaking of God being *just*.

a. What truth does Elihu speak in Job 34:12?

b. What do the following scriptures say about this truth?

1. Deuteronomy 32:4

2. Psalm 9:7-8

3. Romans 9:14

3. In Job 34:16-20 Elihu proclaimed that God must be *just* because He shows no partiality. Elihu followed that reasoning with the fact that God is very aware of life on this earth.

a. What are some statements that Elihu made to support this in verses 21-30?

b. Although we cannot see God, God sees us. God sees all that has happened, is happening, and will happen in our lives. Does this give you peace or fear? Why? (*share a scripture if you can*)

4. Elihu speaks very strongly of Job at the end of this chapter, in Job 34:35-37. Summarize his description of the judgment Job deserved in these verses.

Read Job 35.

Chapter 35 begins with Elihu again putting words into Job's mouth, as in verse 2, with "*Do you say, my righteousness is more than God's?*"

As Elmer B. Smick wrote: "Elihu had missed Job's point, that he wanted to be vindicated because he did believe God was just. Of course Job, in his struggle to understand what God was doing, had sent out two signals, one of which Elihu, like the others, had not been able to hear."

1. In Job 35:4-8, Elihu asks Job about his thoughts on the effects of sin or righteousness on God, who is so much higher than you. We won't try to answer his question, which is being used in such a misplaced argument, but we can see what scripture says about the effects of our sin.

a. According to Isaiah 59:2, what is the effect of our *sin*?

b. What is our hope found in 2Corinthians 5:21?

2. In the midst of Elihu's accusations, we can find another truth about God. Job 35:10 declares that God *gives songs in the night*. In what ways have you experienced this?

"Elihu's reason is right in the majority of cases. The great cause of a Christian's distress, the reason of the depths of sorrow into which many believers are plunged, is simply this — that while they are looking about, on the right hand and on the left, to see how they may escape their troubles, they forget to look to the hills whence all real help cometh; they do not say, 'Where is God my Maker, who giveth songs in the night?'" (Spurgeon)

Read Job 36.

As Elihu declares the greatness of God in Chapter 36, he wants to be sure Job knows his words are true by declaring, in verse 4, “*For truly my words are not false; One who is perfect in knowledge is with you.*” Whether he refers to himself with incredible pride or refers to God, making himself out as speaking directly from God, Elihu again places himself above Job in knowledge and understanding.

1. How does Elihu present God’s justice for the righteous in Job 36:7?
2. What does he say the Lord will do, in Job 36:8-12, if they are “*bound in fetters held in the cords of affliction*”?
3. In Job 36:12-21, Elihu declares the judgment he thinks Job is due. Read these verses and summarize his view of Job below.
4. In the midst of Elihu’s arrogant declarations, he writes some beautiful descriptions of the majesty of God. Write out Job 36:24 below and take time to really consider verses 24-33.

Read Job 37.

As we look closer into Chapter 37, we will do as Elihu admonished Job to do in verse 14, “*...stand still and consider the wondrous works of God.*”

1. What does Elihu say about God’s *voice* in Job 37:1-6?
 - a. What more can you add about the power of God’s voice from Psalm 29:3-9?
 - b. What different kind of voice do you find in the following?
 1. 1 Kings 19:11-12?
 2. Isaiah 30:21

c. Why is it important for us to know the many voices of God?

2. In Job 37:6-13, Elihu continues to present the many things God does on the earth. From these verses, which one stands out to you and why?

3. Job has perhaps gone too far in his questioning of God, and next Job is challenged by Elihu to compare his knowledge and understanding with that of God with the questions “*Do you know...?*” Read Job 37:14-22 and consider Job’s attitude in the past chapters. What do you see in the following scriptures that would help Job, and help us, in the midst of a trial?

a. Job 37:14

b. Psalm 46:10

4. Elihu begins his conclusion with the statement, “*As for the Almighty, we cannot find Him.*” What do the following scriptures say about his?

a. Deuteronomy 4:29

b. Proverbs 8:17

In closing...

1. In his long discourse Elihu’s words were correct, but like Job’s three friends, his premise was not. Their efforts were much like applying good medicine before considering the wound. Read Psalm 19:7-11 and record the blessings of God’s word rightly applied.

Memory Verse

“...stand still and consider the wondrous works of God.” Job 37:14