

JOB

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Job chapter 35 as we continue our study through the Word of God. Last time we saw a young man by the name of Elihu and he begins to let Job have it just as Job's three friends did. Now Elihu has heard all these words of these men and all the words of Job and now he has something to say. In fact, he says, **"I also will answer my part, I too will declare my opinion. For I am full of words; The spirit within me compels me. Indeed my belly is like wine that has no vent; It is ready to burst like new wineskins."** Job 32:17-19.

In other words, Elihu is saying that if he doesn't speak he is going to explode. I think he was exaggerating but he was making a point that he had enough of what he has heard because what he has heard so far was meaningless, it didn't address the issue and thus, he would let them know what is going on.

When you are young many times you feel that you know more and then when you get older you realize that you really didn't. And so from Job chapter 32 through Job chapter 37 Elihu is speaking and Job and Job's friends, as well as all the other people standing around are listening. With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Job chapter 35, starting in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

JOB 35**VERSES 1-3**

1. Now keep in mind that Elihu had just attacked Job and accused him of adding **“rebellion to his sin.”** He accused Job of not listening to or ignoring the wise counsel of his friends, **“he claps his hands among us.”** And chapter 34 concluded with Elihu accusing Job that his words against God were wrong, that he **“multiplies his words against God.”**

And now here in chapter 35 Elihu continues to attack Job. Elihu felt that since Job was claiming that he was innocent that would mean God was guilty. And if you continue down that path, with that kind of logic, in the end it would make Job more righteous than God. That is not only wrong but that is not how Job felt.

Keep in mind that Job was speaking out of frustration and some of the things he said they just jumped on and held him accountable, while the other things he said that were true, they ignored. That is the point that Smick made, “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.” And Elihu is not done even though his words are just like the words of Job’s friends; they were nothing more than a lot of hot air!

VERSES 4-8

1. Now talk about pride, arrogance in this young man's life. He thought of himself vastly different than Job's three friends; Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar, but he wasn't. His arguments were essentially the same as these men and yet he was boasting about how he could correct all of them with the words he was saying. Pride is a terrible thing and many a people have been brought down because they saw themselves better than they should have! We are nothing apart from God, we can do nothing that He will accept apart from Him and thus, all glory and honor goes to Him, the One who has enabled us to do these things!

2. Now let's look at this statement that Elihu made. He basically is saying that it doesn't matter what we do, good or evil because it does not affect God one bit. Now on the surface that may seem right, but let's think about this. If God is not affected by what we do then He is an impersonal God, He doesn't care. Think of your spouse, don't you want them to care what you do? Absolutely you do and by your actions your spouse is affected, be it good or bad. So too is our Lord.

What nailed our Lord to the cross? It was our sin! So God is affected by our actions. The Bible speaks of God being grieved by what we do, so He is affected by our actions. The Bible tells us that our sin gives the enemies of God an opportunity to mock God! Make no mistake about it, God is God but please don't miss how much God loves us and how close God comes in contact with man. In fact, God became flesh, crawled into our skin you might say, to redeem us from our sin!

Morgan wrote, “The whole of Biblical revelation, centered and consummated in Christ, shows that human sin inflicts wounds upon God, and causes sorrow to the Holy One: and that man, living in righteousness, does give glory to God, and causes joy to His heart.” May we not lose sight of that!

And if you really think about it, Elihu’s words have caught him in a trap. You see, if God is so far beyond us, if He is unaffected by what we do or doesn’t care, then what is the use in doing good, in repenting, in walking with Him? But our God is not far off; He is with us through Jesus! I think Morgan puts it into perspective for us as he wrote, “According to the terms and requirements of Infinite Righteousness God is independent of man, according to the nature of His heart of love, which these men did not perfectly understand, He cannot be independent.”

3. Let me make one more point here. It is the other point in regards to this. When things are going bad, when things happen that we don’t like, what do we do many times. We get angry at God; we tell God that we are not going to read the Bible. We tell God that we are not going to Church. We tell God we are not going to live as He desires. Now who are we hurting? Are we hurting God by our actions? No, we are hurting ourselves and many times we hurt those around us because of the things we do and say when we are in rebellion against God and trying to get back at God. You need to repent and get right with God because your actions won’t change who God is but it will change who you are!

VERSES 9-12

1. Many cry out for help during difficult times, but they look for their help in all the wrong places. They look to drugs, alcohol, therapists, relationships, and-so-on, that only bring more difficulty in their lives. They don't look to God who will put a song in their heart, God who will give them hope and joy again. You see, during those difficult times, in the blackness of soul, God can put a song in our heart and give us peace through the storm. Many of the great hymns were born out of these difficult times and many of the Psalms were also written from this vantage point. God gives us songs of hope, songs of joy; He does not give us the blues, but takes the blues away!

And Elihu is right, many times man seeks God in times of need, the problem is that they are not sincere. They want God to deliver them from this trouble, but they don't want to know Him as their Maker. They don't want to know Him as the one who gives us a song in the night, which tells me even in difficult times and especially during those times, that is when God gives us those songs! They don't want the wisdom of God they just want to be free from this trouble and then they will just move on. You see, Elihu is explaining why God did not answer the prayers of the afflicted and it is because they are either not seeking Him or they are seeking Him but are not sincere in their actions.

Spurgeon puts it like this and listen carefully because he is speaking to us. He wrote, "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?'"

2. Now in verse 11 where it tells us that God “**teaches us more than the beasts of the earth**” what does he mean? Think about what God has given to us, the gifts, the abilities to reason, to know God, to be comforted by God, to speak to God and yet, the beasts do not have this ability! And what does man do with this ability? He denies the One who has given it to him, God! Then they wonder why God does not hear their cry, why He doesn’t take notice of them!

And if you doubt that point, then verse 12 truly clears it up for us. Elihu said, “**There they cry out, but He does not answer, Because of the pride of evil men.**” You see, God does not respond to insincerity and that is what Elihu is saying here and he is right. And don’t miss his point; he is saying that Job fits in with these people who are not sincere with God. And that is why God is not answering Job. In his mind Job was a proud and evil man! “Hang in there Job, God will speak in just a few chapters!”

VERSES 13-16

1. These attacks by Elihu just continue on and he is saying that God did not hear Job because he was not sincere, he was a false seeker, he was an empty seeker. If Job was truly seeking after God all this would not be happening and God would speak to Job. That is what Elihu believed.

2. In verse 15 Elihu is telling Job that God is longsuffering, that Job, in a sense, should be toasted on both sides! Anderson puts it like this for us, “Since verse 15 is quite obscure, we are left to guess that it means that Elihu is accusing Job of completely misunderstanding God’s unresponsiveness as heedlessness, whereas in fact God is holding His anger in. Job is guilty of despising God’s longsuffering.” But again, that is not what Job was doing.

3. As this chapter closes, and keep in mind he is not done yet, Elihu blasts Job for opening his mouth and speaking empty words, that there was no knowledge in what he had to say. In other words, “Job, if you were truly a godly man, then God would have answered you already. But since He has not answered you, then you must not be a godly man. And since God is not answering, since God is not speaking you had to give your two cents worth and it is not even worth that!”

4. Make no mistake about it; there are many people today who speak so boldly about things they don’t know, things they in fact know nothing about. To me, the worst is religious leaders who speak with such zeal, but without knowledge. In the June 16th issue of Time magazine from several years ago there was a story regarding Pope John Paul II who was reportedly thinking of exercising “his power of infallibility to declare Mary Co-Redemptrix of humanity and ‘Mediatrix’ of all graces. That would make her a participant of salvation - along with her son Jesus Christ.”

Now many will be angry by what I have to say here, I don't think any of you, but there are many out there who will be because of what I am going to say regarding Mary. You see, Mary is not God, she is not Co-Redemptrix of humanity, she does not mediate out the grace of God, she does not save anyone. I know, some will say, "But Jesus will listen to His mother so just go to her!" Why not go to the one who can truly save, Jesus. In fact, in Luke 1:46-47 we are told, "**And Mary said: 'My soul magnifies the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.'**" Who is Jesus to her? He is her Savior! Why would she need a Savior? Because like you and me, she was a sinner and her sins had separated her from God. Don't get mad at me, Mary said that she was a sinner and needed a Savior.

How sad it is when people multiply words without knowledge, for they lead people down the same path of destruction that they are heading in. There is salvation in no one else or nothing else, it is only through Jesus. Again, the Bible tells us, in fact Peter tells us in Acts 4:11-12, "**This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**" Do you see that, no other name, not Mary, not Buddha, not Allah, not any other name than Jesus! Remember what Jesus said in John 14:6, "**... 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'**" There are no exceptions!

And so when someone wants to share something that is nothing more than words without knowledge, what should you do? All you need to do is say, "It is written" and share what the Scriptures have to say. If they don't like that, then that is their problem because God said it and they need to bring it up with Him!

JOB 36**VERSES 1-4**

1. As you read this you get the idea that as Elihu was speaking and speaking and speaking, his listeners were becoming a little uncomfortable in what he was saying, maybe bored with what he was saying because he was so long-winded. I like what Spurgeon had to say regarding the brevity of Elihu's words. He wrote, "I admire Elihu's attempt at brevity; I call it an attempt, for I am not quite sure that he succeeded, for he filled two chapters more. Yet he said, 'Suffer me a little'; and thereby promised to make his oration as short as he could. . . . Assuredly, short and pointed addresses are more likely to reach the heart than long and dreary sermons."

Now, because he has been so long winded he is begging for them to pay attention, to keep listening and then he throws in this thought, "I am speaking for God!" You see, Elihu is trying to authenticate his words by claiming he is receiving direct revelation from God and has obtained this perfect knowledge, so Job better listen as well as those who were standing around!

2. Now in regards to people speaking for God or hearing from God, many do what Elihu did. We see that even today as they say things like, “God told me to wear this” or whatever. I am uncomfortable with that and for the most part, I will just ignore it unless what they are saying contradicts the Word of God. Then I know for certain that God has not spoken to them because God does not contradict Himself, I don’t care who you are or what title you may have!

Others tag onto their words, “Thus says the Lord . . .” Again, be careful when people try to elevate themselves to that kind of position, especially if it is contrary to the Word of God. If God is speaking through you He will lift you up. Let me give you an example to show you what I mean. “Southern Baptist pastor Bill Ligon claims that God is directly responsible for this condition of ‘spiritual drunkenness.’ According to Ligon, God told him: ‘I have to get My people drunk in My Spirit because they have been drunk on the world. Their minds have been polluted, they feed their doubts - there is no confidence in Me and My power. I have to get them so drunk that I can change their thoughts and their attitudes.’”

So the only way that God can get our attention is to get us drunk in the Spirit so we stumble and fall! How wrong it is to claim this kind of garbage. That God is going to get us drunk as a skunk on the Holy Spirit. God says to be filled continually with the Holy Spirit, not to be drunk with the Holy Spirit and act like you are physically drunk for the world to see.

You see, that teaching goes against the Word of God and thus, it is not of God. In fact, that drunkenness is a judgment from God! Let me give you two examples to show you that this kind of spiritual drunkenness or being drunk in the Spirit is a judgment of God and not something we should seek after. In Isaiah 28:7-8 we are told, **“But they also have erred through wine, And through intoxicating drink are out of the way; The priest and the prophet have erred through intoxicating drink, They are swallowed up by wine, They are out of the way through intoxicating drink; They err in vision, they stumble in judgment. For all tables are full of vomit and filth; No place is clean.”**

And the one that truly nails it for me is found in Isaiah 29:9-10, **“Pause and wonder! Blind yourselves and be blind! They are drunk, but not with wine; They stagger, but not with intoxicating drink. For the Lord has poured out on you The spirit of deep sleep, And has closed your eyes, namely, the prophets; And He has covered your heads, namely, the seers.”**

And so, as people come to you and tell you that this is from God or God said this or that, always bring it into the light of God’s Word and if the light exposes it as being false, don’t take it in, don’t accept it!

VERSES 5-12

1. Again, the words of Elihu are no different than what Job's three friends were saying. If you do good then you are blessed and if you don't do good then God will judge you and your life will be a mess. In other words, "Job you need to repent so that you will not perish without knowledge." So what is new that we need to listen to what Elihu had to say? There is nothing, it is the same stuff just spun a little differently!

2. Also, we must remember that God is not a respecter of persons. He loves all of us and died for everyone. Remember what Jesus said in John 3:16, "**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**"

Now here is the problem. What people love to focus on is the love of God and it is tremendous, make no mistake about it. I am not putting it down! But you can't just dissect the attributes of God or place one attribute above another. They all flow from Him. You see, the Bible tells us that God is holy and righteous. Now you may be wondering, "So what. That is not a big deal!" Yes it is. Because God is holy and righteous He must deal with unrighteousness. He can't ignore our sin or just put it aside. There is a penalty that is due and it must be paid in full. It is our sin that has separated us from God. If He did ignore it He would not be righteous, He would not be just!

Now People don't want to hear that today. They want His love but they don't want his holiness or righteousness or His judgment. But you can't separate them. Look at all His attributes and understand that they cannot be separated. We see that God is faithful, He is good, He is just, He is merciful, He is gracious, He is love, He is holy, that is our God!

Now if you could dissect God's attributes, and you can't, but if you could there is one that probably describes Him the best. To clearly see this, we must go to those who spend night and day with God, the Seraphim, and hear their cry. They do not say, "Love, love, love" do they? No, they say, "**. . . 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!'**" Isaiah 6:3. (Also see Revelation 4:6).

You see, it is because God is holy that He cannot look upon us with favor in our own righteousness, which is like filthy rags. So if you reject Jesus, you reject God's love for you, then you will be judged for your sins. It is up to you!

3. I love what Elihu says in verse 7 and what a comfort that is to me. To know that God's eyes are continually upon us and He is going to complete in us the work that He began in us because He loves us and wants what is best for us. Now if you are not walking with Him, that is not what you want, you do not want Him watching you! But, as Psalm 34:15 says, "**The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry.**" You can't escape His watch over you and you really don't want to!

4. Now in verses 8-9 we see Elihu speak of those who exalt themselves. King Nebuchadnezzar was a man who allowed pride to get in his way of his relationship with God. And God warned him through Daniel, but he refused to listen, and God caused him to act like an animal for a time, until he looked up and repented of his sin. Then God restored him and his kingdom. God has a way of dealing with us to draw us back to Him. Tragically many refuses to repent and they remain dead in their trespasses and sins!

5. It is interesting to me that in our country we have more Bible translations, more commentaries, more radio teachers that teach from the Bible, more books about the Bible, more conferences and yet, people are still dying today, spiritually speaking. Why is that? Because of the famine that has spread across this land.

Let me show you what I mean. In Amos 8:11 we see this judgment from God as we are told, **“Behold, the days are coming, ‘says the Lord GOD, ‘That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the LORD.’”** When that takes place, the Lord then says, **“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. . .”** Hosea 4:6.

The Lord is saying to Amos that He spoke through His Word and through the prophets, but the people refused to listen. Thus, God was silent, no new revelations were given. From the close of the book of Malachi until we come to the New Testament, some 400 years, God was silent! There was a famine in the land, a famine of hearing from God, and now the people couldn't find it, they couldn't hear it, no matter where they were running to.

Apply that to our country today. As you do you will see that it seems that Amos or really the Lord is speaking to us. What do I mean by that? I mean that people are not interested in what the Lord has said, what the Word of God says. Instead they go to channelers, psychic hot-lines, tarot cards, psycho-babblers, the voice of man instead of the Words of God. Even in the church many are not satisfied with the Word of God, it is not enough, so they go after new revelations from God, even if they contradict what the Word of God has said, and they rejoice over these things. They add to the Word of God or take away from the Word of God because they don't like what it says.

Be careful, that is how cults are started, going outside of the Word of God, new revelations from God, or so they say. And you can see that with the Mormons and the Jehovah Witnesses, as well as other cults. And thus, as the people, as the nation rejects God and His Word, we are destroyed for lack of knowledge. We think we know better and we will quickly find out that we don't! We are truly living in the days of another famine, but thank God for churches that are faithfully teaching and believing the Word of God!

VERSES 13-15

1. Notice what Elihu was saying here. He is thinking and saying that Job is a hypocrite because he continues to deny his guilt, his sin. And because of that Job was placing himself under greater wrath from God. Again, not true for Job, as I have said. And he links Job with the “**perverted persons**” or the prostitutes, the harlots, the sodomites!

VERSES 16-21

1. Elihu is pleading with Job to confess his sin and get right with God, for he is treading on very dangerous ground, trying to fight with God. And listen to what God would do if only Job repented, if he only got right with God:

- God would have brought Job out of his **“dire distress.”**
- God would have brought Job into a **“broad place where there is no restraint.”**
- God would have brought Job to a **“table [that would be] full of richness.”**

You see, Elihu wants Job to wake-up and get right with God. To allow God’s chastisement to correct his error but if he refuses to do so, he will continue to be afflicted. And really think about what he is saying to Job. “Job, this has all come upon you, all this agony, all this suffering, it is your choice to receive it. If you would only repent and get right with God, as soon as you do, everything would be back to normal for you!” Sounds just like Job’s friends and they were also wrong in what they were saying to Job!

VERSES 22-25

1. Now why does Elihu keep exalting the Lord before Job? I believe that he wants Job to have a correct perspective of God. He thought Job’s view of God was too low and that his view of himself was too high. Again, this was not the case.

2. Now here is a wonderful statement by Elihu, that there is no one who teaches like God and how true that is! It is as Psalm 32:8-9 says, **“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you.”**

God wants to direct our lives as we are focused upon Him. That means as we listen to Him speak to us through His Word, He will direct our paths. But if we refuse to be guided in that manner, He will do it with a bit and a bridle. That means He will direct us like a wild animal who is guided to move through pain, and He will do the same to us. Not because He is mad at us, but because He loves us and wants what is best for our lives.

3. Now in verse 23 Elihu makes the statement regarding God and those who say, like Job, **“... ‘You have done wrong.’”** First of all God is not wrong and He will never be wrong. He is God. That is a foolish charge against God for Paul said in Romans 9:14, **“What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not!”** Never forget that, God is *NEVER* wrong!

4. Many feel that starting in this section and onward there is a change in Elihu. Many feel that there is this approaching storm that is coming upon them and as he is speaking he has one eye on the sky. And from this Elihu speaks words that are inspired by God and we will see that as we move on. In regards to this Mason wrote, "The change that comes over Elihu at this point, and that continues and builds in power to the end of his discourse, is so dramatic that the reader should be bowled over by it. For here something strange and wonderful begins to happen to this young man: he opens his mouth and speaks by the unction of the Holy Spirit!" So let's read what God has for us through Elihu.

VERSES 26-33

1. Now here's the thing. Can we know God? Yes and no. What I mean by that is we can't know God completely because He is an all-knowing God and yet, what God wants us to know He does reveal that to us. How can we know Him? We can know God through His Word, the Bible. Remember what Peter said in II Peter 3:18, "**but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.**" If people want to know more about God they need to be in His Word and ask the Holy Spirit to show them and He will!

2. Also keep in mind that God's days can't be numbered, why? Because God is eternal and thus, you can't number His days. He has always existed. John 1:1 says of Jesus, "**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**" In the Greek there is no definite article. Thus, it should be read, "**In beginnings . . .**" You see, there was no beginning, Jesus always existed no matter how far back you go in time. He is eternal just as the Father and the Holy Spirit are eternal. And as difficult as that may be to comprehend with our finite minds, it is the truth, God is eternal!

In regards to God the Father, He too is eternal. In Psalm 90:2 we are told, "**Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.**" In the Hebrew it speaks of God being in existence, "From the vanishing point to the vanishing point." A difficult concept to understand, and yet God is saying that as far back as you go, He has existed. On the other side, as far forwards you go, He exists. He is eternal; He is not in the time/space domain, for God is spirit. And to be in the time/space domain, you must have a physical property.

In Psalm 93:2 we are told, "**Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting.**" Again, the thought here is that as far back in time you go, God existed, He has no beginning and no end. In other words, He is eternal!

One more Psalm and that is Psalm 102, where we are told, **“But You, O Lord, shall endure forever, And the remembrance of Your name to all generations. . . . I said, ‘O my God, Do not take me away in the midst of my days; Your years are throughout all generations. Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will have no end.”** Psalm 102:12, 24-27.

What about the God the Holy Spirit, is He eternal? Yes He is! In Hebrews 9:14 we are told, **“how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”**

Notice that Paul speaks of the **“eternal Spirit”** and I think that is pretty clear! We are not eternal folk’s. We were born, we had a time when our life began, but the Holy Spirit has no beginning and no ending, which is an attribute of God! In other words, there was never a time that the Holy Spirit was not, He has always been and will always be, He is eternal! So we have seen that God the Father is eternal, God the Son is eternal and God the Holy Spirit is eternal! It is just an attribute of God!

3. In verse 27 onward Elihu speaks of how rain forms, something they really did not know and yet he nails it because the Holy Spirit was speaking through him here. Listen to what Henry M. Morris wrote regarding this. We are told, “The ‘hydrologic cycle’ describes the cooperation of atmosphere and hydrosphere in maintaining a fresh supply of water for daily needs of all forms of life. . . . Water is converted by solar energy into the vapor state. Since water vapor is lighter than air, the winds can first elevate, then transport the water from the oceans to the lands where it is needed. There, under the right conditions, the vapor can condense around dust particles, salt particles, or other nuclei of condensation. When this happens, clouds are formed. Water vapor is invisible, whereas clouds are aggregations of liquid water droplets.”

4. Now as I said earlier, I think that as Elihu is speaking there is this huge storm with lightening and thunder and rain that is moving quickly towards them. And as he sees this and as Elihu is trying to make his point, he begins to draw illustrations on the power of God, the awesomeness of God. Let’s read on and see what Elihu has to say as he finishes up his speech against Job.

JOB 37**VERSES 1-5**

1. As Elihu sees and hears this storm that is fast approaching he begins to describe it and apply its power to God. That when God speaks He thunders across the earth and who can truly fully understand an all-knowing God? We can't and yet what He has revealed to us is all we need to live by! The only problem with this advice to Job is that Job understood this; it is not what he needed to hear at this time.

VERSES 6-13

1. Notice the point that Elihu is making here regarding God. He is showing us that God is deeply involved with all aspects of His creation, even the hibernation of animals. He did not just create life and then kick back to watch what would happen next - that is the deist view, which many of our Founding Fathers had as a belief, but it is not Scriptural, it is wrong!

Remember in Matthew 10:30 Jesus said, “**But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.**” Now I know for some of you it is a lot easier for God to count them than it is for others, but think of it this way. Each time any of us go to comb our hair, God has to recalculate that number. If He knows us that intimately that tells me that He is deeply involved with every aspect of our life!

2. Now what is the point of all of this? Why was Elihu using the weather as an illustration of God's power before Job? Because he wanted Job to submit to God and confess his sin just as all creation does before God, they submit to Him!

3. Okay, but what does this mean to me, it is all about me right? Well, God's Word is about us and what we need to do and I think Mason nails it when he wrote, "To Elihu the weather in all its glory is the glory of God, and God stops people from their work so they can see it. . . . Is not the whole book of *Job* about men who have been stopped from their work? It is about an enormous work stoppage, an enormous inconvenience that has fallen out of the sky and forced five busy people to drop everything they were doing and to turn for a while to a more important task." So next time you are interrupted, take a look around you and see what God is trying to show you!

VERSES 14-18

1. May we not forget that God is in control and He brings things into our life for a purpose! Things do not just happen for any reason at all or because of some bad luck or good luck. In fact there is no such thing as bad luck or good luck, only God and His sovereign plan for our life.

Let me give you this example. Maybe some 20 years ago or so, before we moved to Wisconsin, we were on vacation and we had our silver mini-van with us. Now we like to go exploring and Julie found a short cut for us to take; only she didn't tell me we needed a four-wheel truck to get through. As I was driving the dirt road had so many huge holes that I thought I was on the Illinois Toll Road! Not only was the dirt road filled with holes, but it was also filled with water and before long I buried our van to the floorboards!

We were miles from civilization with no way out. The only thing we could do is pray which should have been the first thing we did! Now I didn't tell you this important point, there were not only bear footprints on the side of the road where we were stranded, but also bear droppings and I didn't check to see if they were fresh, I was just hoping this bear didn't like Italian food! After a short period of time, the Lord gave to us an idea and we lifted the wheels up with the jack and put wood into the whole filled with water and mud and we got out of the short cut that only added hours to our trip!

Now before we packed everything up I told my son to pick up the jack and put it back in the van and we all got back in and drove back to our cabin. When we arrived and started to clean all the mud that had accumulated on us and the van, I went looking for the jack and it was not there. I asked my son where he put it and it was, guess where? It was back at the site where I buried our van.

So Julie and I headed back and I didn't go as far in this time. I told Julie to remain in the car and if she saw a bear to let me know. I don't know what I would do but probably play dead. Hey, get real, I would be dead. But we did get the jack without any bear sightings, only the footprints and what they left behind, and everything returned to normal, as normal as a family vacation can get.

What was God doing through all of this? I don't know exactly, but I trust He has His plan and purpose but the thing I do remember is that our children saw the power of prayer that day!

I think Poole sums it up very well for us as he wrote, "If there be so much matter of wonder and adoration in the most obvious and sensible works of God, how wonderful must his deep and secret counsels and judgments be! And therefore it would better become thee humbly to admire, and quietly to submit to them, than to murmur or quarrel with them."

VERSES 19-24

1. Just as we find it difficult, almost impossible to stare at the sun with our naked eyes, so too is it impossible to stand in the brightness of a holy and righteous God in our own righteousness that is like filthy rags. The sun can not compare with the glory of God and yet many feel that they can approach God in their own goodness, and they are wrong!
2. Now what is interesting to me is that Elihu is speaking of not being able to find God and yet he has spent 5 chapters speaking for God! That is pretty good!

3. Now as Elihu finishes his words, and this storm, this whirlwind is approaching, God is getting ready to speak. For some 36 chapters Job and his friends have spoken - but now it is time for God to speak. For 36 chapters man has attempted to understand the how's and why's of God with his finite mind - and he has come far short of understanding these things. And it is possible that many if not all the men, including Job's friends, all fled for cover and now only Job is there in the midst of this storm, he had nowhere to go and it is here that God was going to speak to him, out of this storm!

Yes they did have some truths mingled within all their words, but there was a lot of false information that was also given by them, information that came from their own heart and not from God. But now God will speak in truth for four chapters and not really speak regarding the how's and why's. In fact He doesn't answer Job's questions but turns it around and asks Job a series of questions. So then what is the answer to those questions? Simply speaking, God gave *HIMSELF* as the answer! If we truly believe that, then we won't need to know the how's or why's, but we can rest in Him and His great love for us. So next time we will see what the Lord has to say as God is going to speak out of the whirlwind!

Let me close with these words from Clarke, "The rushing mighty wind, for which the description of the thunder and lightning had prepared poor, confounded, astonished Job, proclaims the presence of Yahweh: and out of this whirlwind God answers for and proclaims himself! Reader, canst thou not conceive something of what these men felt? Art thou not astonished, perplexed, confounded, in reading over these descriptions of the thunder of God's power? Prepare, then, to hear the voice of God himself out of this whirlwind."