

God's Sovereignty Spiritual Warfare



In life, we formulate truth of God through
human intellect and reason.

This is a prideful exercise of foolishness.

Job did not have the Word of God but he had
faith in God.

Job followed the Lord in the way he was
shown, by faith.

Job had experienced God's grace but had never had his faith tried/refined.

You cannot truly know someone until your faith in one another has been tested.

Suffering/Trials purify and strengthen our faith
in God.

Job 34:1 Then Elihu said:

²“Listen to me, you wise men.

Pay attention, you who have knowledge.

³Job said, ‘The ear tests the words it hears just as the mouth distinguishes between foods.’

⁴So let us discern for ourselves what is right; let us learn together what is good.

⁵For Job also said, ‘I am innocent, but God has taken away my rights.

⁶I am innocent, but they call me a liar. My suffering is incurable, though I have not sinned.’

⁷“Tell me, has there ever been a man like Job,
with his thirst for irreverent talk?

⁸He chooses evil people as companions.
He spends his time with wicked men.

⁹He has even said, ‘Why waste time
trying to please God?’

¹⁰ Listen to me, you who have understanding.

Everyone knows that God doesn't sin!

The Almighty can do no wrong.

¹¹ He repays people according to their deeds.

He treats people as they deserve.

¹² Truly, God will not do wrong.

The Almighty will not twist justice.

¹³ Did someone else put the world in his care?

Who set the whole world in place?

¹⁴ If God were to take back his spirit

and withdraw his breath,

¹⁵ all life would cease,

and humanity would turn again to dust.

¹⁶ Now listen to me if you are wise.

Pay attention to what I say.

¹⁷ Could God govern if he hated justice?

Are you going to condemn the almighty judge?

¹⁸ For he says to kings, 'You are wicked,' and to nobles, 'You are unjust.'

¹⁹ He doesn't care how great a person may be, and he pays no more attention to the rich than to the poor. He made them all. ²⁰ In a moment they die.

In the middle of the night they pass away; the mighty are removed without human hand.

²¹“For God watches how people live;
he sees everything they do.

²²No darkness is thick enough
to hide the wicked from his eyes.

²³We don't set the time
when we will come before God in judgment. ²⁴He
brings the mighty to ruin without asking anyone,
and he sets up others in their place.

²⁵He knows what they do,
and in the night he overturns and destroys them.

²⁶He strikes them down because they are wicked,

doing it openly for all to see.

²⁷For they turned away from following him. They have no respect for any of his ways. ²⁸They cause the poor to cry out, catching God's attention.

He hears the cries of the needy.

²⁹But if he chooses to remain quiet,
who can criticize him?

When he hides his face, no one can find him,
whether an individual or a nation.

³⁰He prevents the godless from ruling
so they cannot be a snare to the people.

³¹“Why don’t people say to God, ‘I have sinned,
but I will sin no more’?

³²Or ‘I don’t know what evil I have done—tell me.
If I have done wrong, I will stop at once’?

³³ Must God tailor his justice to your demands?

But you have rejected him!

The choice is yours, not mine.

Go ahead, share your wisdom with us.

³⁴ After all, bright people will tell me,
and wise people will hear me say,

³⁵ Job speaks out of ignorance;
his words lack insight.'

³⁶ Job, you deserve the maximum penalty
for the wicked way you have talked.

³⁷ For you have added rebellion to your sin; you
show no respect,
and you speak many angry words against God."

^{35:1}Then Elihu said:

²“Do you think it is right for you to claim,
‘I am righteous before God’?

³For you also ask, ‘What’s in it for me?
What’s the use of living a righteous life?’

It is a waste of time trying to please God.

What is in it for me?

You reveal which sin you don't like and I won't
do it.

We want to negotiate reconciliation as equals rather than acknowledge the truth concerning our sin and His Holiness.

Calling out to Him in humility and simply do the things He has asked and let Him provide what is right.

35:4 "I will answer you
and all your friends, too.

⁵Look up into the sky,
and see the clouds high above you.
⁶If you sin, how does that affect God?

Elihu continues to make his case against Job's friends and Job's argument that is leading to an attitude of self-righteousness.

While Elihu is speaking he sees a thunderstorm approaching.

36:14 They die when they are young,
after wasting their lives in immoral living.¹⁵ But by
means of their suffering, he rescues
those who suffer. For he gets their attention
through adversity.

^{36:22} Look, God is all-powerful.

Who is a teacher like him?

²³ No one can tell him what to do,
or say to him, 'You have done wrong.'

²⁴ Instead, glorify his mighty works,
singing songs of praise.

²⁵ Everyone has seen these things,
though only from a distance.

²⁶ Look, God is greater than we can understand.

His years cannot be counted.

²⁷ He draws up the water vapor
and then distills it into rain.

²⁸ The rain pours down from the clouds,
and everyone benefits.

²⁹Who can understand the spreading of the clouds
and the thunder that rolls forth from heaven?

³⁰See how he spreads the lightning around him
and how it lights up the depths of the sea.

³¹By these mighty acts he nourishes the people,
giving them food in abundance.

³²He fills his hands with lightning bolts
and hurls each at its target.

³³The thunder announces his presence;
the storm announces his indignant anger.

37:1 “My heart pounds as I think of this.

It trembles within me.

²Listen carefully to the thunder of God’s voice as it rolls from his mouth.

³It rolls across the heavens, and his lightning flashes in every direction. ⁴Then comes the roaring of the thunder—the tremendous voice of his majesty. He does not restrain it when he speaks. ⁵God’s voice is glorious in the thunder. We can’t even imagine the greatness of his power.

⁶He directs the snow to fall on the earth
and tells the rain to pour down.

⁷Then everyone stops working
so they can watch his power.

⁸The wild animals take cover
and stay inside their dens.

⁹The stormy wind comes from its chamber,
and the driving winds bring the cold.

¹⁰God's breath sends the ice,
freezing wide expanses of water.

¹¹He loads the clouds with moisture,
and they flash with his lightning.

¹²The clouds churn about at his direction.
They do whatever he commands throughout the
earth.

¹³He makes these things happen either to punish
people or to show his unfailing love.

¹⁴ Pay attention to this, Job.

Stop and consider the wonderful miracles of God!

¹⁵ Do you know how God controls the storm and causes the lightning to flash from his clouds?

¹⁶ Do you understand how he moves the clouds with wonderful perfection and skill?

¹⁷When you are sweltering in your clothes and the south wind dies down and everything is still, ¹⁸he makes the skies reflect the heat like a bronze mirror. Can you do that?

¹⁹ So teach the rest of us what to say to God. We are too ignorant to make our own arguments.

²⁰ Should God be notified that I want to speak?
Can people even speak when they are confused?

²¹We cannot look at the sun,
for it shines brightly in the sky
when the wind clears away the clouds.

²²So also, golden splendor comes from the
mountain of God.

He is clothed in dazzling splendor.

²³We cannot imagine the power of the Almighty;
but even though he is just and righteous, he does
not destroy us.

²⁴No wonder people everywhere fear him. All who
are wise show him reverence.”

The problem Elihu has is the more he speaks
the more arrogant he becomes as if he knows
God more than anyone else.

Elihu has some understanding of the greatness of God but has no understanding of what is happening with Job.

We have to be careful not to speak for the Lord but only to speak from the Word of the Lord.

38 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: 2 “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

3 Dress for action like a man;
I will question you, and you make it known to me.

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