

Job 36 Elihu Continues

- **Elihu:** Fresh out of Seminary?
 1. **Contradicts** Job/Friends
 2. **Proclaims** God's Justice
 3. **Condemns** Job's Self-Righteousness...

Job 35:16 You open your mouth in vain...you multiply words without knowledge.

Elihu is also gifted in multiplying words...

1 Elihu also proceeded and said: 2 "Bear with me a little, and I will show you That there are yet words to speak on God's behalf. 3 I will fetch my knowledge from afar; I will ascribe righteousness to my Maker. 4 For truly my words are not false; **One who is perfect in knowledge is with you.**

I will fetch knowledge from God and speak in His behalf
One who is perfect in knowledge is with you

5 "Behold, **God** is mighty, but **despises no one**; He is mighty in strength of understanding [heart]. 6 He does not preserve the life of the wicked, But gives justice to the oppressed.

God Despises No One?
Hate the sin/Love the sinner. Not in all cases...

Proverbs 6:16 These six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, 19 **A false witness** who speaks lies, **And one who sows discord** among brethren.

- God despises false teachers/those who cause division

7 [God] **does not withdraw His eyes from the righteous**; But they are on the throne with kings, For He has seated them forever, And they are exalted. 8 And if [the righteous] are bound in fetters, Held in the cords of affliction, 9 Then He **tells them** their work and their transgressions— That they have acted defiantly. 10 He also **opens their ear to instruction**, And commands that they **turn from iniquity**. 11 If they obey and serve Him, They shall spend their days in prosperity, And their years in pleasures. 12 But if they **do not obey**, They shall perish by the sword, And they shall die without knowledge.

God does not give up on the righteous? **True.**
When ensnared by sin He convicts them/teaches them/draws them back

Philippians 1:6 [We are] ...confident of this very thing, that **He who has begun a good work in you will complete** it until the day of Jesus Christ...

- **Born-Again:** Humbly accept God's conviction

1. **Desire** Righteousness
2. **Remain** Teachable
3. **Continue** to Grow

Teachability/Humility: Attributes of true believers
 Disobedience/Arrogance: Attributes of a make-believers

13 "But the **hypocrites in heart store up wrath**; They do not cry for help when He binds them. 14 They die in youth, And their life ends among the perverted persons.

Hypocrites Store up the Wrath of God for Later

Romans 2:5 ...in accordance with your hardness and your [unrepentant] heart you are **treasuring up for yourself wrath** in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God... [Dead in Hades continue to store wrath till WT]

Pretenders Confuse God's Patience for His Approval
 God's Spirit will not strive with person forever

15 [God] delivers the poor in their affliction, And opens their ears in oppression. 16 "Indeed **He would have brought you out of dire distress, Into a broad place** where there is no restraint; And what is set on your **table would be full of richness.**

He delivers the poor and oppressed
 He would have delivered you too Job... if you had just _____

- Problem? There is nothing Job can do until God tells Satan to stop the test
- Elihu torments Job with hope of a broad place of freedom if Job would just...

Psalms 18:19 [David] [God] brought me out into a **broad place**; He delivered me [from confinement] because He delighted in me.

Psalms 31:8b...You have set my feet in a **wide place.**

Psalms 118:5 I called on the Lord in distress. The Lord answered me/set me in a **broad place.**

Torments Job with hope of a table filled scrumptious delicacies...If Job would just...

Psalms 23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

- **Available** to believers in general
- **Unavailable** to Job during testing

17 But you are filled with the judgment due the wicked; Judgment and justice take hold of you. 18 Because there is wrath, beware lest He take you away with one blow; For a large ransom would not help you avoid it. 19 Will your

riches, Or all the mighty forces, Keep you from distress? 20 Do not desire the night, When people are cut off in their place. 21 Take heed, do not turn to iniquity, For **you have chosen this** rather than affliction.

Now God is teaching you a lesson
I.e. You chose this by not repenting of your sin

It was this kind of counsel that drove Job crazy, because it demanded that he forsake his integrity and make a show of repentance just to please his friends. [Guzik]

Not knowing the full picture and yet claiming to speak for God, Elihu crushes Job's spirit with what is in this case/at this time false hope. [NJC]

Elihu notices an approaching storm and changes his tone...

22 "Behold, God is **exalted by His power**; Who teaches like Him? 23 Who has assigned Him His way, Or who has said, 'You have done wrong'?

- **Who Teaches** like God
- **Who Instructs** God
- **Who Accuses** God of wrong

True: People sleep in *bad beds* because of *bad personal choices*

False: Bad choices are always why we suffer.

Q. Can the choices we make alleviate all suffering? **A.** No.

Q. Can all suffering be spiritually profitable? **A.** Yes.

God's chastening/discipline of His kids includes all suffering. Poor choices, other people, Satan, God Himself and all God allows. All suffering has the *potential to be spiritually beneficial if we choose to learn from it*. If not, we will be given more opportunities to learn the same lesson. [NJC]

II. Elihu God's Majesty

24 "Remember to **magnify His work**, Of which men have sung. 25 Everyone has seen it; Man looks on it from afar. 26 "Behold, God is great, and we do not know Him; **Nor can the number of His years be discovered.**

We do not know Him or His years
Elihu rushes in where angels fear to tread...Where did God come from?

Psalm 102: 27 ...You are the same, And Your years will have no end.

No beginning and No end
God has always been... and always will be. God is.

Hebrews 7:1 ...Melchizedek, **king of Salem**, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, 2 to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "**king of righteousness**," and then also **king of Salem**, meaning "king of peace," 3 without father, without mother, without genealogy, having

neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the **same yesterday, today, and forever.**

The Bible we have in our laps is complete for our instruction in everything we need for life and godliness but is *infinitely incomplete* with regard to all God is, all God has done and all God will do. [NJC]

27 For **[God] draws up drops of water,** Which distill as rain from the mist,
28 Which the clouds drop down And pour abundantly on man. 29 Indeed, can anyone understand the spreading of clouds, The thunder from His canopy?

Psalms 147:8 Who covers the heavens with clouds, Who prepares rain for the earth, Who makes grass to grow on the mountains.

Proverbs 3:20 By His knowledge the depths were broken up, And clouds drop down the dew.

Water Cycle in Seven Steps

1. **Evaporation:** Water from lakes, rivers, oceans absorbs heat energy from sun, turning it into water vapor
2. **Condensation:** Water vapor in the air turns back into liquid water
3. **Sublimation:** Frozen water [snow on mountains], turns directly to water vapor w/out first melting into a liquid
4. **Precipitation:** Water falls back to Earth in the form of rain, snow, or sleet
5. **Transpiration:** Water is released from plant leaves
6. **Runoff:** Precipitation flows over the Earth's surface into lakes, rivers, and streams.
7. **Infiltration:** Water from precipitation or other sources soaks into the ground and rock layers below.

Wisdom of Creation is a Witness to a Creator

Acts 14:17 [To the Greek heathens. **God...**] **did not leave Himself without witness,** in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, **filling our hearts with food and gladness.**

30 Look, He scatters His light upon it, And covers the depths of the sea. 31 For by these **He judges** the peoples; He **gives food** in abundance.

Efficiency of God: Using Water to Judge and to Bless

32 He covers His hands with lightning, And commands it to strike. 33 His thunder declares it, The **cattle also, concerning the rising storm.**

Cattle know when a storm is approaching...Do we?

Matthew 16:2 [Religious leaders demand a sign] [Jesus] answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red'; 3 and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but **you cannot discern the signs of the times.**

Time to be Thankful: God is Kind, Wise, Caring Creator/Provider

Psalm 104:14 He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, And vegetation for the service of man, That he may bring forth food from the earth, 15 And wine that makes glad the heart of man, Oil to make his face shine, And bread which strengthens man's heart.

1 Timothy 6:17b... [God] who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

Ecclesiastes 5:18 Here is what I have seen: It is good and fitting for one to **eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor** in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage.

Job 37 Elihu Coming Storm

1 "At this also my heart trembles, And leaps from its place. 2 Hear attentively the **thunder of His voice**, And the rumbling that comes from His mouth. 3 He sends it forth under the whole heaven, His lightning [lit. light] to the ends of the earth. 4 After it a voice roars; **He thunders with His majestic voice**, And He does not restrain them when His voice is heard. 5 God thunders marvelously with His voice; He does great things which we cannot comprehend.

God's Voice: Awesome as Thunder/Gentle as Snow
Roaring at times/Still small voice at other times

6 For **He** says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth'; Likewise to the gentle rain and the heavy rain of His strength. 7 He seals the hand of every man, That all men may know His work. 8 The beasts go into dens, And remain in their lairs. 9 From the chamber of the south comes the whirlwind, And cold from the scattering winds of the north. 10 By the breath of God ice is given, And the broad waters are frozen. 11 Also with moisture He saturates the thick clouds; He scatters His bright clouds [lit. His clouds of light]. 12 And they swirl about, being turned by His guidance, That they may do whatever He commands them On the face of the whole earth. 13 He causes it to come, Whether **for correction, Or for His land, Or for mercy.**

God's Creation Clearly Reveals God's Attributes

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because **what may be known** of God is manifest in them, for **God has shown** it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are **clearly seen**, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are **without excuse**, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful

God's Creation Clearly Reveals God's Attributes
God employs His Creation for His purpose...

- To Correct Man Natural Disasters
- To Nourish the Land Farmers/Food
- To Show His Mercy Bring rain in a drought

All Creation is in full submission to God...Except man

The implication was that unrepentant Job should submit to God the way His creation does.
[Guzik]

14 **"Listen to this, O Job;** Stand still and consider the wondrous works of God. 15 Do you know when God dispatches them, And causes the light of His cloud to shine? 16 Do you know how the clouds are balanced, Those wondrous works of Him who is perfect in knowledge? 17 Why are your garments hot, When He quiets the earth by the south wind? 18 With Him, have you spread out the skies, Strong as a cast metal mirror? 19 **"Teach us what we should say to Him,** For we can prepare nothing because of the darkness. 20 Should He be told that I wish to speak? If a man were to speak, surely he would be swallowed up. 21 Even now men **cannot look at the light when it is bright in the skies,** When the wind has passed and cleared them. 22 He comes from the north as golden splendor; With God is awesome majesty.

Listen to what I said Oh Job or...
Teach us what to say to such a great God

Romans 11:33 [God of Wisdom] Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! **How unsearchable** are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 34 "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or **who has become His counselor?"**

1 Timothy 6:16 [God of Light] ...who alone has immortality, dwelling in **unapproachable light,** whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

23 As for the Almighty, **we cannot find Him;** He is **excellent in power,** In judgment and abundant justice; He does not oppress. 24 Therefore **men fear Him; He shows no partiality** to any who are wise of heart."

We cannot find Him?
A storm has been looming/threatening. He is coming...

Job 38 God Questions Job

1 Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind...

Jesus wakes up from the back of the boat in the midst of a storm. **After...**

- **Council in Heaven:** Have you considered Job?
- **Satan's Accusation:** He only serves You because You bless him
- **Job's Loses:** Stuff/Servants/Kids/Health
- **Friends Fail/Elihu** waxes eloquent ...

...God now thunders from the storm

No explanation of suffering/Call for Job the best of men to repent before a Holy God

2 [God said] **"Who is this who darkens counsel** By words without knowledge? 3 Now prepare yourself [lit. gird your loins] like a man; **I will question you, and you shall answer Me.**

When a man acts like a man, God can speak to him, and he to God. **This is a declaration of dignity.** [Morgan]

Job had insisted that God bring answers to him. God turned the matter around and told Job that before He would answer questions for Job, Job had some questions to answer before God. The questions God had for Job were **simply unanswerable** and were meant to show Job that he really had **no place to demand answers from God.** [Guzik]

Audible Thundering Voice from the Storm
Gird Your Loins like a Man...Your Father is Home

There were plenty of elements that would make Job feel small before the greatness of God; yet it could not take away from the **massive comfort Job felt** in simply being once again **consciously in the presence of God.** [Guzik]

Q. Who is this that darkens My counsel? Job? Elihu? 3 Friends? **A.** Yes

4 **"Where were you** when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. 5 Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? 6 To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, 7 When the **morning stars sang together,** And all the **sons of God shouted for joy?**

This tells us that angelic beings **did in fact witness the creation of the earth;** and they rejoiced at the glory, power, and wisdom of God in the creation...Since God said that all the sons of God shouted for joy, we can take from this that **Lucifer fell from his exalted position as the anointed cherub...after God created the earth.** [Guzik]

Where were you when the angels rejoiced at My Creation?

8 **"Or who shut in the sea with doors,** When it burst forth and issued from the womb; 9 When I made the clouds its garment, And thick darkness its swaddling band; 10 When **I fixed My limit for it,** And set bars and doors; 11 When I said, **'This far you may come,** but no farther, And here your proud waves must stop!

Who makes the waves stop at the coast line?

Genesis 1:9 Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be **gathered together into one place,** and let the dry land appear"; and it was so.

Psalms 33:7 He **gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap;** He lays up the deep in storehouses.

Psalms 104:9 You have set a **boundary that they may not pass over,** That they may not return to cover the earth.

Proverbs 8:29 ...He **assigned to the sea its limit**, So that the waters would not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth...

Jeremiah 5:22 Do you not fear Me?' says the Lord. 'Will you not tremble at My presence, Who have placed the sand as the bound of the sea, By a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass beyond it? And though its waves toss to and fro, **Yet they cannot prevail**; Though they roar, yet **they cannot pass over it.**

God Rules Earth/Sea as Creator/Sustainer

Psalms 89:9 You rule the raging of the sea; When its waves rise, **You still them.**

12 "Have you **commanded the morning** since your days began, And caused the **dawn to know its place**, 13 That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, And the wicked be shaken out of it? 14 It takes on form like clay under a seal, And stands out like a garment. 15 From the wicked their light is withheld, And the upraised arm is broken.

Did you command the Sun to rise today?

Psalms 74:16 The day is Yours, the night also is Yours; You have prepared the light and the sun.

16 "Have you entered the **springs of the sea**? Or have you walked in search of the depths? 17 Have the **gates of death** been revealed to you? Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death? 18 Have you comprehended the breadth **of the earth**? Tell Me, if you know all this. 19 "Where is the way to the **dwelling of light**? And darkness, where is its place, 20 That you may take it to its territory, That you may know the paths to its home? 21 Do you know it, **because you were born then**, Or because the number of your days is great?

Where is the Way to the Dwelling of Light?

IOWs Where does Light come from? What is Light? Is it Particles or Waves? **Yes**

Now that the dual nature of light as "both a particle and a wave" has been proved, its essential theory was further advanced from electromagnetics into quantum mechanics. Einstein believed light is a particle [photon] and the flow of photons is a wave.

Were you here at the beginning? Good question for scientists today

22 "Have you entered the **treasury of snow**, Or have you seen the **treasury of hail**, 23 Which I have reserved for the time of trouble, For the day of battle and war? 24 By **what way is light diffused**, Or the east wind scattered over the earth?

God confirms Elihu's claim: God uses Creation for His purpose... [37:13]
E.g. God's Reserve of Snow/**Hail** for the Day of Battle?

- **Egypt** Days of Moses
- **Amorites** Days of Joshua
- **Russians** Days coming soon
- **Worldwide** Days of Tribulation...

Hail: Associated with Judgment/Blasphemy...

Revelation 16:21 And **great hail from heaven fell upon men**, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. **Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail**, since that plague was exceedingly great.

- What way is light diffused? Not too hot/Too cold for life

25 "Who has divided a channel for the overflowing water, Or a path for the thunderbolt, 26 To cause it to rain on a land where there is no one, A wilderness in which there is no man; 27 To satisfy the desolate waste, And cause to spring forth the growth of tender grass? 28 **Has the rain a father?** Or who has begotten the drops of dew? 29 From whose womb comes the ice? And the frost of heaven, **who gives it birth?** 30 The waters harden like stone, And the surface of the deep is frozen.

God the Initiator and Sustainer of the only green Planet

Psalm 107:35 He turns a wilderness into pools of water, And dry land into watersprings.

Psalm 147:8 God...] Who covers the heavens with clouds, Who prepares rain for the earth, Who makes grass to grow on the mountains.

Only our God...The Only Living God

Jeremiah 14:22 Are there any among the idols of the nations that **can cause rain?** Or can the **heavens give showers?** Are You not He, O Lord our God? Therefore we will wait for You, **Since You have made all these.**

31 "**Can you bind the cluster** of the Pleiades, Or loose the belt of Orion? 32 Can you bring out Mazzaroth in its season? Or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs? 33 Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you set their dominion over the earth?

Can you catch the stars or set them free in the sky

- **Mazzaroth:** Mapping of the planets/stars
- **Constellations:** Groups of stars. Pleiades/Orion/Great Bear

Can you whip out a quick Constellation Job?

With these high and almost outrageous examples pointing out what Job *did not know*, we should remember that God's purpose here was not to humiliate Job. Instead, God seems almost playful here in making the point that God is omniscient [all-knowing] and man is not. [Guzik]

God likens the permanence of His heavenly bodies

To the permanence of His people Israel

Jeremiah 31:35 Thus says the Lord, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The **ordinances of the moon and the stars** for a light by night, Who **disturbs the sea**, And its waves roar [The Lord of hosts is His name]: 36 **"If those ordinances** depart From before Me, says the Lord, Then the seed of Israel shall also cease From being a nation before Me forever."

34 **"Can you lift up your voice to the clouds**, That an abundance of water may cover you? 35 **Can you send out lightnings**, that they may go, And say to you, 'Here we are!'

Can you command creation Job?
Can you fully comprehend the slightest aspects of My design?

- **Even if you could...**

36 **Who has put wisdom in the mind?** Or **who has given understanding** to the heart?

IOWs Even if you have any wisdom/understanding...Who gave it to you?

37 Who can **number the clouds** by wisdom? Or who can pour out the bottles of heaven, 38 When the dust hardens in clumps, And the clods cling together? 39 **"Can you hunt the prey for the lion**, Or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, 40 When they crouch in their dens, Or lurk in their lairs to lie in wait? 41 **Who provides food for the raven**, When its young ones cry to God, And wander about for lack of food?

How is every living creature from least to greatest provided for?

Psalms 104:21 The young lions roar after their prey, And **seek their food from God**.

Psalms 147:9 He **gives to the beast its food**, And to the young ravens that cry.

God considers us His most valuable creation...

Luke 12:22 Therefore...**do not worry about your life**, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. 23 Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and **God feeds them**. Of how much more value are you than the birds? 25 And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? 26 If you then are not able to do the least, **why are you anxious for the rest?** 27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 28 If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, **how much more will He clothe you**, O you of little faith?