

Turn in our Bibles tonight to Job Chapter 32. We are going to look at parts of Chapter 32 through Chapter 37. You may say, “Woah, that’s six chapters!” How is he going to do that? Well, if you have noticed we have taken pretty large chunks of Job a couple of times. For tonight though, there will be two intermissions for bathroom breaks, coffee and snacks will be provided, and nap time for all the children.

Sorry, a little humor there. Your saying, yes, very little humor. We’ll get through these Chapters! So, let’s jump right in!

As Matthew taught on last week, Job has made his final plea. Job still holds on to his innocence. We saw through Chapter 31, that Job, is not a perfect man without sin, but he detailed how he seeks to live for and honor the Lord with his life.

Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, Job’s friends of comfort, have spouted out accusation after accusation and have shared their wisdom and their knowledge of God throughout the situation Job has found himself in. At the end of Chapter 28, Job makes a statement about wisdom and its very source.

Job 28:28

²⁸ And he said to man, “Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.”

Each man has been sharing through their own wisdom and their own beliefs of who God is and how he interacts with people and the world.

Now we find ourselves at the point where Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar, and even Job have fallen silent. Job had to be thinking, “Silence, at last! Whew, I am glad that is over!” Well, not so fast there Job!

While everyone was talking, another gentleman, had come in and had accompanied this foursome and had been listening. We are introduced to another man this evening, a man named Elihu. Let’s see who he is and if he has anything to say as well.

Job Chapter 32:1-5

¹ So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes. ² Then Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, burned with anger. He burned with anger at Job because he justified himself rather than God. He burned with anger also at Job’s three friends because they found no answer, although they had declared Job to be in the wrong. Now Elihu had waited to speak to Job because they were older than he. And when Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, he burned with anger.

Who is Elihu? The name of Elihu’s father is shared and it also gives us his lineage, that he was a Buzite. In Genesis 22, after Abraham passed the test God gave him to sacrifice Isaac and God intervened where Abraham did not have to by providing the ram instead. We see God share with Abraham some family news. This family news is important because through this we see a woman named, Rebekah, that Isaac would marry to continue the family line. Through this we see the ancestry of Elihu. Look at the screens.

Genesis 22:20-21

²⁰ Now after these things it was told to Abraham, “Behold, Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor; ²¹ Uz his firstborn, Buz his brother; Kemuel the father of Aram.

As we read, Elihu was sitting there waiting patiently, listening to this back and forth between Job and his friends. The whole time, this wanting to speak, to say something building up in him. But Elihu waited because he was younger and was wanting to show respect to his elders, in the meantime expecting to hear words of wisdom from them.

You’ve been there, I am sure. You’re listening to this conversation and there are some things that are being said that are just eating at you and you are just looking for that spot to jump in. Here is Elihu’s opportunity! Everyone has gone silent and Elihu begins to speak.

Elihu first addresses Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar. Let’s read verses 6 to 14.

Job 32:6-14

⁶ And Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said: “I am young in years, and you are aged; therefore I was timid and afraid to declare my opinion to you. ⁷ I said, ‘Let days speak, and many years teach wisdom.’ ⁸ But it is the spirit in man, the breath of the Almighty, that makes him understand. ⁹ It is not the old who are wise, nor the aged who understand what is right. ¹⁰ Therefore I say, ‘Listen to me; let me also declare my opinion.’ ¹¹ “Behold, I waited for your words, I listened for your wise sayings, while you searched out what to say. ¹² I gave you my attention, and, behold, there was none among you who refuted Job or who answered his words. ¹³ Beware lest you say, ‘We have found wisdom; God may vanquish him, not a man.’ ¹⁴ He has not directed his words against me, and I will not answer him with your speeches.

Now, there is a lot to say for the wisdom that years of experiences can give to a person. There is a lot to say for the battle scars that come from years of living for and serving the Lord.

We know that age does not equate to wisdom. Not just when it comes to pertaining to following the Lord Jesus Christ. But also, when it comes to life in general. What Elihu is alluding to here is what Job said back in Chapter 28 verse 28.

Job 28:28

And he said to man, “Behold the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.”

We also see that statement written by the man who is considered to be the wisest man that ever lived, Solomon.

Proverbs 9:10

¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

True wisdom comes from having the correct starting point in your life. That starting point is recognizing God for who he is, Creator, Master, giver of life and eternal life. Being in awe, showing reverence, loving his Word, loving Jesus by keeping his commandments, beginning with repentance and giving up our life in service to the Lord. ***We see this contrasted in Proverbs 1:7***

Proverbs 1:7

⁷ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Wisdom only comes from God! It is the fool who thinks himself to be wise but ignores God. Think of it this way! Think of someone who you think is the smartest person in the world or that they think they are the smartest person in the world. Take a look at this picture.



This is an actual picture of the Apollo 11 spacecraft being rolled out to the launch pad at Cape Canaveral, Florida. What I want us to focus on though is all those cars. Each of those cars represents someone that worked in the Space program for the United States. Again, think about all those smart men and women that worked together to get the astronauts from earth to where they were able to land on the moon and return home.

Is that wisdom? No! It's a lot of knowledge. Think about the friend or family member that knows everything. Man, they know all about history, they know how to do this and that, they always are telling how you ought to be doing this or that. They may know a lot. Again, is that wisdom? No!

Wisdom comes from heaven, and a person who rejects God's wisdom, as it says in Proverbs 1:7, is likened to being a fool or being foolish. Romans 1 describes this person very well. Turn to Romans 1.

Romans 1:22-25

²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. ²⁴ Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

These people did not turn from evil because there was no fear of the Lord. There was no recognition of God's divine character because when it is recognized, revealed to us, we will bow down in worship. Beyond creation, God gave us his Word so that we can know him and see our need of salvation and how to live on this earth. To not follow God's word again is foolish. Tim said two weeks ago, ***False theology, false views of God, lead us to take false views of one another. We can often turn a friend into an enemy in our mind when we lose hold of the truth about God. I will add that it gives you the false view of the realities of life.***

1. God's Word instructs that he is the fool who says there is no God.
2. It is the foolish person who says that he did not create male and female.
3. It is the foolish person who says that marriage is not between one man and one woman for life.
4. It is the foolish person that says that it is not a baby in the mother's womb, and it deserves life.

5. It is the foolish person that says I am a good person, I am not a sinner, I do not need salvation through repenting of my sins and surrender my life to the Lord Jesus.
6. It is the foolish person who says they are saved but lives a life that shows no fruit whatsoever that they have truly repented and have been regenerated unto salvation.
7. It is the foolish person who sits in here Sunday after Sunday, Wednesday after Wednesday who will let the fear of man or fear of being in front of someone keep them from repenting and being baptized and live a life of obedience to the Lord Jesus.

Pray people, pray, that strongholds will be broken!

Elihu was pretty up front with all these guys but he now turns to Job specifically. In Chapters 33, 34 and 35, we see Elihu rebuke Job, he too explains God's justice, and then Elihu condemns Job. We saw in the first verses of Chapter 32 that Elihu burned with anger against Job. Meaning he was furious, nostrils are flaring, face red. The reason was that Elihu felt Job justified himself rather than God. Elihu explains this as his attention is directed to Job.

Job 33:1-7

“But now, hear my speech, O Job, and listen to all my words. ² Behold, I open my mouth; the tongue in my mouth speaks. ³ My words declare the uprightness of my heart, and what my lips know they speak sincerely. ⁴ The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life. ⁵ Answer me, if you can; set your words in order before me; take your stand. ⁶ Behold, I am toward God as you are; I too was pinched off from a piece of clay. ⁷ Behold, no fear of me need terrify you; my pressure will not be heavy upon you.

Here is a good lesson for all of us. Though Elihu is burning with anger towards Job, we see he tampers down how he speaks to Job. Elihu was going to still reprimand Job, but he is sharing that he has nothing to fear and this is out of love and Job, I too am just a man.

Elihu points out in verses 9 to 13 that Job said that he was without transgression. This was not completely true. Zophar said that, but Job was continuously proclaiming his innocence in this matter. Also, that Job was saying that God was treating him as an enemy because he is suffering. Job did say that in Chapter 13:24 and other chapters.

In verses 15 to 28 Elihu details that God speaks in three ways.

1. Dreams – Now, I personally have never experienced this. I do know those that say they have. Of course, we have to be careful in discerning whether it is from God or Satan.
2. Suffering – That is completely what we are learning and seeing through this study. That is the whole reason we titled the series, “Consider Job, A Study in Righteous Suffering!” James and Peter both wrote in their letters, led by the Holy Spirit, to tell us that we are to rejoice, have joy in the trial because God is using the test to strengthen our faith that will result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
3. God ministers to us through his Spirit. Elihu mentions specifically angels. Angels are God's messengers, and they are at God's bidding to do what he asks. Now, they are created beings and are not to be worshiped, but we see throughout Scripture God's use of angels to minister to his followers.

In Chapter 34 Elihu points out one of the topics that has been debated through this whole drama. God's justice.

Before we address that again, I want to make a point here. As we end the study, we will see that God rebukes Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar. God tells them they did not speak rightly about him. But we do not see God rebuke Elihu. There are several reasons, but we see one here in Chapter 34 and it speaks to his motive and his heart.

Chapter 34:1-4

Then Elihu answered and said: “Hear my words, you wise men, and give ear to me, you who know; for the ear tests words as the palate tastes food. Let us choose what is right; let us know among ourselves what is good.

Though at the first, Elihu accuses Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar of not showing wisdom. Now he calls all of them wise men, including Job. I don't see Elihu being factitious, he is being genuine.

Hey guys! There is obviously a disagreement between all of us. Let's talk and see if we can work this out. Now, there are two outcomes anytime you get together with someone. You do end up in agreement. Or everyone still bows up. I'm right, you are wrong, that's it! No more discussion.

As Matthew brought out last week and what I mentioned back in Chapter 9, there seems to be a trial going on. Not only is Job on trial, it seems they have put God on trial as well. Elihu brings them to this point. Guys, if we can really hone in here on God's character, the truth and majesty of who he is, we can work this out.

Chapter 34:10-15

***¹⁰ “Therefore, hear me, you men of understanding:
far be it from God that he should do wickedness,
and from the Almighty that he should do wrong.***

***¹¹ For according to the work of a man he will repay him,
and according to his ways he will make it befall him.***

***¹² Of a truth, God will not do wickedly,
and the Almighty will not pervert justice.***

***¹³ Who gave him charge over the earth,
and who laid on him the whole world?***

***¹⁴ If he should set his heart to it
and gather to himself his spirit and his breath,***

***¹⁵ all flesh would perish together,
and man would return to dust.***

When God acts, he acts in perfect justice. God can do no wrong and he cannot lie. When God invokes judgment on the wicked, he acts in accordance with his holiness. When God invokes blessings upon those that humble themselves before him, he acts according to his mercy. When God allows us to go through trials and sufferings, he acts in accordance with his love and grace to strengthen us and bring us to a point to seek him more.

In verse 13 Elihu speaks to the fact that God is in control of all the universe, and no one assigned or gave God his authority. It is all within his essence of being the Great I Am! Therefore, all things created are under his rule. It's just like Jesse Waters. I'm Waters, and this is my World. Sorry Jesse, that's cute.

God says, “I AM, and this is my world!”

God is in control of all matters in this world. He knows all things that are going on, he hears every thought and sees every action of everyone, whether they be righteous or sinful.

In Chapter 35 Elihu speaks about this to Job. Back in Chapter 24 Job had questioned God's patience when it came to dealing with the wicked and the righteous for that matter. Job said in verse 1, ***"Why are not times of judgment kept by the Almighty, and why do those who know him never see his day?"***

Verse 12, Job said, ***"From out of the city the dying groan, and the soul of the wounded cries for help; yet God charges no one with wrong."***

The question from Job is there is so much wickedness and so much hurting should you not act upon each one. Elihu explains why God does not act immediately but God will act.

Chapter 35:9-13

⁹ "Because of the multitude of oppressions people cry out; they call for help because of the arm of the mighty. ¹⁰ But none says, 'Where is God my Maker, who gives songs in the night, ¹¹ who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth and makes us wiser than the birds of the heavens?' ¹² There they cry out, but he does not answer, because of the pride of evil men. ¹³ Surely God does not hear an empty cry, nor does the Almighty regard it.

In verse 10, we see the answer, none says, "Where is God my Maker!" Meaning they don't know God! They have not repented of their sins and surrendered their life to God in faith. Verse 12, "They cry out, but he does not answer, because of the pride of evil men!"

Now, what I am about to say, some of you may take as being hard. Though God hears every prayer! He hears every word we speak. The first prayer from anyone that God will act upon is the prayer to call out to God for salvation.

Matthew alluded to this last week as well. If you have not acknowledged God as the maker of all things, that you are accountable to God, and he is worthy of your life to be surrendered to him.

Then God is not obligated to act on your behalf, because you have turned your face against God and have told him, I don't need you for anything until I kind of get into this mess, and I need you to get me out of this. If that is the only time they call out to God, in Chapter 27 verse 8 it says that God cuts them off. Here in verse 13 God calls that an empty cry to God's ears.

But if you have surrendered your life to God through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you cry out for help. God hears you and he will act according to his majesty, his justice, his mercy, his love, and his will. His will that is best for us in that circumstance of our life.

Take comfort dear friend. God hears you and he will bring you through.

We started out tonight speaking of wisdom. True wisdom is the fear of the Lord and that brings understanding to what is true and what is right. The fear of the Lord is the understanding that God is sovereign even when the world looks like it is spinning out of control.

The fear of the Lord is the understanding that we cannot have true wisdom without a personal relationship with God through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The fear of the Lord takes us beyond the idea of a god that we created in our image and some cosmic genie to meet our every whim and make us happy or is permissive of our sinful lifestyles that we want him to affirm.

We receive true wisdom when we realize and acknowledge through repentance the greatness and majesty of God. In Chapters 36 and 37, Elihu sets the stage for our next guest into the story. The next two weeks we will see that God finally speaks to the situation. First, Elihu sets the stage.

Through all of what we have seen and heard there has been one constant. That is God! Look at the screens as we read James 1:16-18.

James 1:16-18

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

What God has revealed of himself in the past he will always be in the future. This goes for his character, and this goes for his Word as well. Through every circumstance in life we need to remember that God is in control, his greatness, and majesty will be revealed. God will answer us according to who he is and not what we think he is or who we have made in to be.

This trial in Job's life is coming to a close and Elihu brings all this back into focus as he does speak to God's greatness and majesty.

In my Bible at the top of Chapter 36 there is a heading:

Elihu Extols God's Greatness

The word "*extols*" captured my attention, so I looked up the meaning: *to praise enthusiastically!* God is worthy for us to praise enthusiastically even in the trial and in the suffering and in the joy and in the peace, the Shalom as we learned on Sunday.

Chapter 36:1-5

¹ And Elihu continued, and said: ² "Bear with me a little, and I will show you, for I have yet something to say on God's behalf. ³ I will get my knowledge from afar and ascribe righteousness to my Maker. ⁴ For truly my words are not false; one who is perfect in knowledge is with you. ⁵ "Behold, God is mighty, and does not despise any; he is mighty in strength of understanding.

Remember how all this started? Satan had come before God with the heavenly hosts and God asks Satan, "Where did you come from?" God asked Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job?"

This is just me, but using the word considered. Have you ever thought the reason that God asked that question to Satan he already knew Satan had been watching, considering what he could do to Job? He was watching Job's life and he was upright and blameless, and he was living for the Lord and he was such a witness for the Lord. Satan was thinking, "If I could just get my hands on Job." He is such a thorn in my side!

I won't get this completely right but some of you have probably heard this little humorous analogy of someone sold out to the Lord. You wake up in the morning and demons start running around, and they are saying, "Oh no! He's awake, She's awake!" Because we are living such a life for the Lord that there is an impact for the Gospel everywhere we go.

Consider Job! Elihu turns this around and he directs this to Job, but Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar, and himself for that matter. Hey! Listen, hear this, Consider God!

Chapter 37:14-24

¹⁴ “Hear this, O Job; stop and consider the wondrous works of God. ¹⁵ Do you know how God lays his command upon them and causes the lightning of his cloud to shine? ¹⁶ Do you know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him who is perfect in knowledge, ¹⁷ you whose garments are hot when the earth is still because of the south wind? ¹⁸ Can you, like him, spread out the skies, hard as a cast metal mirror? ¹⁹ Teach us what we shall say to him; we cannot draw up our case because of darkness. ²⁰ Shall it be told him that I would speak? Did a man ever wish that he would be swallowed up? ²¹ “And now no one looks on the light when it is bright in the skies, when the wind has passed and cleared them. ²² Out of the north comes golden splendor; God is clothed with awesome majesty. ²³ The Almighty—we cannot find him; he is great in power; justice and abundant righteousness he will not violate. ²⁴ Therefore men fear him; he does not regard any who are wise in their own conceit.”

In verse 23 it said, ***we cannot find him***. That does not mean God is not approachable and that we cannot know the character of God. God reveals himself in his creation, God reveals himself through his Word and God revealed himself through the living Word that became flesh, the Lord Jesus Christ. That meant, in our sinfulness, in our humanity we cannot come before the full glory and majesty of God as we are.

We need a mediator, and we have that mediator, a savior in the Lord Jesus.

Through Chapters 36 and 37 we saw these beautiful descriptions of God’s greatness and majesty. God is in control of all things, and he proved and will prove as we see the next two weeks, God was in control of all that happened here with Job.

Satan was not in control, he was but a pawn in the hand of God! Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar? God is using this to show them who he truly is. Job was definitely not in control! God used this trial to bring Job even closer to him. God used this trial to show his greatness and majesty to all the people watching this.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it isn’t a matter of if we will suffer. It’s a matter of when, and how! Can we get to a point in our lives, like the Apostle Paul and say, ***For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.***

Consider God! Consider his greatness and his majesty! Better yet! Extol his greatness and majesty!