

A Study of the Book of Job: When Bad Things Happen to God's People

Lesson 16: Elihu Speaks for God: Part 2 (Chapters 36-37)

36:1-4

- "Elihu is the forerunner of God in the final scenes of this drama." (Jensen)
- Again Elihu pauses at the beginning of this last speech to assure Job that he is speaking on God's behalf from a divinely-righted conscience.

36:5-21 – Elihu Defends God's Righteousness and the Role of Suffering

36:5-7

- At times in his speeches Job had suggested God is so high that he is indifferent towards human suffering, even that of the righteous, poor, and innocent like himself. What is Elihu's counter-point?

36:8-15

- Note: V. 8 – lit. 'But if he binds them' = the righteous from verse 7
- When God brings chastisement (here pictured as bonds) upon the righteous and the unbelieving they respond in divergent ways. Explain.

36:16-21

- What is one of the Lord's goals for the godly in affliction? (v. 16)

- At the same time there are equally dangerous temptations in affliction, such as...?

36:22-37:24 – Elihu Ponders God's Unsearchable Power in Nature

- Given its poetic prominence in these final verses of Elihu's speech and what is coming next (the LORD speaking out of the storm), it is likely that a thunderstorm was speedily approaching.

36:22-26

- What attributes of God should make us pause in our affliction?

36:27-33

- Consider the wonders of the water cycle—when and where the rain should fall—providing food for the righteous and unrighteous, the good and the evil, so that men might seek him (cf. Matt. 5:45; Acts 17:24ff). Even the animals recognize his coming.

37:1-13

- V. 1- 5: While God’s “voice” shakes the heavens and roars in the thunder, where does he speak most clearly and powerfully? (cf. 1 Kings 19:11-13a; Romans 1:16)
- V. 13: What are the juxtaposing messages from God displayed in storms?

37:14-24

- How should we respond to God’s unfathomable power displayed in nature (v. 14, 19-20, 24)?