

Message #38

Job 36:1-33

Sometimes in life we experience moments of exhilaration and sometimes in life we experience moments of humiliation. But no matter what happens in our lives we may always promote a God-exaltation. That was the point Elihu wanted to make in Job 36.

GOD IS IN COMPLETE, SOVEREIGN CONTROL OF EVERYTHING THAT IS SPECIFICALLY HAPPENING TO ALL PEOPLE, AND ALL PEOPLE NEED TO LEARN AND DEVELOP IN A GOD-EXALTING WAY RATHER THAN A GODLESS, REBELLIOUS WAY.

God may send positives into our world or He may send negatives. Our responsibility is to develop in godliness that continues to exalt Him no matter what comes our way. There are seven key verbal observations we may make.

VERBAL OBSERVATION #1 – Elihu appeals for those around him to further listen to him.
36:1-4

As a young man, Elihu had taken up quite a bit of time thus far in the lecture he had been presenting to Job and the others and he still had more to say. He wanted them to further listen to him and he gives five reasons why:

Reason #1 - Because he has more to say about God . **36:2**

Here is the greatest reason of all to speak in this universe; because you have something to say that will enhance someone's understanding of God. Speaking in behalf of God is something every believer needs to do.

There are times when we should shut up and there are times when we should speak up. When you have something to say about God that is true and sound it is time to speak up.

Reason #2 - Because he has knowledge which has come from afar. **36:3a**

Elihu was a Buzite (32:2), which means he was from the family of Abraham. His knowledge of God came from afar geographically and heavenly. He had knowledge of God from God and from his homeland.

The doctrine of the sovereignty of God is truly knowledge from afar. It is knowledge from heaven and it is a mystery. It takes knowledge from afar to come to terms with God's sovereignty. We cannot figure that out on our own. We will never know everything about God, but one who is beginning to recognize God's sovereignty is gaining knowledge from afar.

Reason #3 - Because he will exalt the righteousness of God. **36:3b**

He was not going to waste time elevating the righteousness of man, but he was going to elevate the righteousness of God. It is so refreshing to find someone who truly understands this point. Most people want to elevate their works and their righteousness, but those who understand truth elevate God and His righteousness.

Reason #4 - Because he will speak true words. **36:4a**

Elihu would not say or teach anything false. Elihu was fighting for truth. If you find someone who will tell the truth, you have found a rare individual. If you find someone who understands the truth and will stand for the truth, you have found a rare individual. Truth is from God and false lying is of the devil. Elihu was a young man dedicated to truth.

Reason #5 - Elihu would speak complete knowledge. **36:4b**

When it came to knowledge, Elihu was not a novice. His level of knowledge concerning God was at a complete and mature level. He had a depth level of understanding and this is what gave him the right to speak.

There are so many people who want to lead Bible studies and that desire may or may not be a good thing. James said be not many among you teachers, knowing you shall receive a stricter judgment (James 3:1). If we are going to teach, it is imperative that we know what we are talking about. Elihu did. He did have knowledge of God and His Word at a true, deep level.

VERBAL OBSERVATION #2 – Elihu describes God and His relationship to those wicked and those afflicted. **36:5-12**

There are six relationship matters that Elihu describes:

(Matter #1) - God is mighty, but does not despise any. **36:5a**

The Hebrew word “despise” is one that means to despise in the sense of rejecting (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 445). Elihu seems to be saying that God will not reject any who turn to Him. Contextually if one sees the wrong and admits the wrong and turns to God from the wrong, God will not reject or despise him.

(Matter #2) - God is mighty in strength and in understanding. **36:5b**

God is the one who is capable of giving strength and understanding to any who want it because He is the mighty God who has it.

(Matter #3) - God does not let the wicked live long. **36:6a**

God knows who the wicked people are and even though it may appear that they are healthy, wealthy and blessed, it is short-lived. It doesn't last long and they don't live long.

(Matter #4) - God gives justice to the afflicted. **36:6b**

God will always defend those who are afflicted by wicked, evil people. In the end, justice will be meted out and He will be the one who does it.

(Matter #5) - God never stops watching and caring for the righteous. **36:7a**

This is a wonderful promise in that God is always watching and caring for those who are in a right relationship with Him. He watches over them.

(Matter #6) - God never stops watching and analyzing political leadership. **36:7b-12**

All politicians should pay close attention to these verses, because Elihu is presenting the truth of God. It is clear Job and these others were leaders and Elihu brings out four facts:

Fact #1 - If God sends trouble because of arrogant transgressions of political leaders, He will reveal it (**36:8-10a**). How? In part, through God's people who communicate truth.

Fact #2 - If God sends trouble because of arrogant transgressions of political leaders, He demands repentance (**36:10b**). God commands leaders to turn from their evil.

Fact #3 - If political leaders respond favorably to God, God will bless and prosper them until the end of their lives. **36:11**

Fact #4 - If political leaders do not respond favorably to God, God will punish them and destroy them and they will die "without knowledge." **36:12**

God closely watches leaders to see exactly how they are responding to Him and His Word.

VERBAL OBSERVATION #3 – Elihu describes God's perspective of the godless. **36:13-14**

This is a fascinating look at realities that pertain to godless people. There are four realities that Elihu discusses that should have been a real encouragement to Job:

(Reality #1) - The godless get angry at God when hit with negatives. **36:13a**

Godless people hate God and they grow bitter and angry and hateful when He hits them with negatives.

(Reality #2) - The godless do not cry out to God for help when hit with negatives. **36:13b**

Godless people do not cry out to God for help, they trust themselves. Job always cried to God.

(Reality #3) - The godless die at a young age. **36:14a**

This is a very sober point. If a person refuses to repent and deal with sin when God convicts him, he can end up dead. We know that there are many passages of Scripture that say this very thing—I Corinthians 11:30; I John 5:16; Revelation 2:23.

If God brings one under conviction of sin and he/she refuses to respond, he can remove them. Now remember Job is an older man, so this should have been some encouragement to him.

(Reality #4) - The godless end up in false religions. **36:14b**

When people stop responding to truth, they are still religious and they drift into false religions. This is why false religions like Mormonism, Jehovah's Witness and Islam flourish. This is why people are drawn into Catholicism and Pentecostalism. They have stopped responding to the truth of God. This should have been encouraging for Job because he was still solid.

VERBAL OBSERVATION #4 – Elihu describes God's perspective of the afflicted. **36:15**

Now the first thing to see is that righteous people do get afflicted. Righteous people do get hit with negatives. But God views them completely different than godless people and stands ready to help them. There are two positive realities Elihu presents:

(Positive Reality #1) - God gives the afflicted deliverance. **36:15a**

In the midst of the affliction, God will be with His people and He will deliver them.

(Positive Reality #2) - God gives the afflicted instruction. **36:15b**

God enables His people to understand His Word and hear His Word in the midst of affliction. Notice God enables one to understand. God is the one who opens the ears.

VERBAL OBSERVATION #5 – Elihu describes God's work in affliction. **36:16**

Look carefully at what is revealed here. God uses afflictions to entice us to do His will. He does not let us go in any way; He constrains us and ultimately brings us to a table full of His blessings.

VERBAL OBSERVATION #6 – Elihu describes Job's potential mindset. **36:17-21**

There are five ways Job could think while going through this difficulty:

(Potential Mindset #1) - Job had judged the wicked justly and now God was judging him justly. **36:17**

God will always be right in anything He does and we need to think that way always.

(Potential Mindset #2) - Job must not let his anger turn into scoffing at God. **36:18**

(Potential Mindset #3) - Job must not think previous success can keep one from distress.
36:19

(Potential Mindset #4) - Job must not long for the night and for people to vanish . **36:20**

(Potential Mindset #5) - Job must not turn to the way that is evil . **36:21**

If a person turns to evil and sin when afflicted, then he prefers the sin to the affliction and the sin will bring the judgment of God. In the midst of suffering, Job needed to stay focused in working on his own life.

VERBAL OBSERVATION #7 – Elihu exalts God's character. **36:22-33**

There are nine wonderful Divine traits that Elihu presents about God:

(Divine Trait #1) - God is exalted in power . **36:22a**

(Divine Trait #2) - God is an unequalled teacher . **36:22b**

(Divine Trait #3) - God is not subject to any authority . **36:23**

(Divine Trait #4) - God's work should be seen and exalted by all men. **36:24-25**

(Divine Trait #5) - God is to be exalted even when we do not specifically see Him. **36:26a**

(Divine Trait #6) - God is to be exalted because He is eternal . **36:26b**

(Divine Trait #7) - God is to be exalted when He sends His storms . **36:22-30, 32-33**

(Divine Trait #8) - God is to be exalted because of His judgments . **36:31a**

(Divine Trait #9) - God is to be exalted because of His provisions . **36:31b**

I do not know what will happen to us this year, but I do know that regardless of what does happen, we can exalt and praise God for who He is. If we learn to do this, we have learned a great lesson in the midst of our troubles and trials.