

“Where Is God My Maker”

Job 35:1-16

Elihu is accusing Job of being so self-righteous that he thinks he is better than God – that God somehow would be controlled or influenced by Job’s righteousness. Of course, that’s not true (although Elihu could have misconstrued what Job said as recorded in 9:30-35; 10:15 and similar, as indicating that was what Job thought) – but what is true is what Elihu says about Jehovah in this chapter, and we can learn some wonderful truths about Him that will help us deal with trials today.

Elihu’s arguments are dictated in verses one and two and it is the same point of contention he made earlier in his discourse (34:9). As was pointed out in the study on chapter 34, Elihu apparently heard something that is not recorded in Scripture (not very likely, considering what he is accusing Job of saying) or he simply heard what he wanted to hear, or misinterpreted what Job was saying (which is most likely). Job did say something similar to this earlier (21:13-15) but he was pointing out what the wicked say and do, and since Elihu (as well as the other three friends) thought Job to be one of those “wicked,” he assumed Job was referring to himself (he was not).

Job 21:13–15

¹³ They spend their days in wealth, and in a moment go down to the grave.

¹⁴ Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways.

¹⁵ What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?

Job, by all accounts thus far, had demonstrated, in his loathsome laments regarding his suffering, that he didn't deserve what he was going through and there is indication that he felt he was unjustly being persecuted, but as we have pointed out, that is a normal reaction for frail man going through what he was going through, and to this point, God had not intervened to condemn Job for those sentiments, and that should have given Job's friends pause to consider that Job did retain his integrity through it all. All of that seems to be construed by Elihu as cause for what he has said, and is about to say – right or wrong.

Elihu shows us here (even though he was using it for the wrong reasons) that God is in a place where He can help, and that He is willing to do so. We need to remember this as we face our trials.

I. HE'S ABOVE US – VS. 1-8

A. In position – vs. 5

1. He's in heaven, above mankind, above His sin, above His influence.

[Psalm 8:3-4](#)

³ When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

⁴ What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

[Isaiah 40:21-23](#)

²¹ Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²² It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the

earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

²³ That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity.

2. He's in a place from which He can help.

[Philippians 4:18-19](#)

¹⁸ But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

¹⁹ But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

[Psalm 121:1-2](#)

¹ I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

² My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.

B. In Person – vs. 6-7

1. If man sins, it isn't going to affect the Person of the Godhead because God is greater than man.
2. If man is righteous, it isn't going to affect the Person of the Godhead because even the best person is still a sinner and still far below the righteousness, the holiness of God.

C. In power – vs. 8

1. We may influence others on earth, but God is far more powerful than anything we could consider holding up to Him.
2. He's above us in every way that is possible.

II. HE'S WITH US – VS. 9-13

A. Vs. 9 – The statement that Job had previously made regarding those that are oppressed caused Elihu to get angry with Job, and he sets out to point out that those that are oppressed have a God that loves them, that cares for them, that will help them if they only realize He is there with them, and for them.

B. Elihu points out that none of those that say they are oppressed have yet to recognize that God is there to help them – He is there to give "songs in the night" – to give peace in times of trouble – vs. 10.

Psalm 42:8

⁸ Yet the LORD will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.

Psalm 77:1-6

¹ I cried unto God with my voice, even unto God with my voice; and he gave ear unto me.

² In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord: my sore ran in the night, and ceased not: my soul refused to be comforted.

³ I remembered God, and was troubled: I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. Selah.

⁴ Thou holdest mine eyes waking: I am so troubled that I cannot speak.

⁵ I have considered the days of old, the years of ancient times.

⁶ I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search.

Acts 16:25

²⁵ And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

C. He shows that God is there with us to teach us – and what we know is far more than what any other of God’s created beings know – one of those things we are given to know about God is a conscience, as well as creation – vs. 11.

Romans 1:19–20

¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

D. They view God as not answering, and He often doesn’t, because, as Elihu correctly points out, “God will not hear vanity, neither will the Almighty regard it” – vs. 12-13.

III. HE’S WAITING FOR US – VS. 14-16

A. Job had been struggling with this trial long enough to have thought that it would never end, and that God would let it consume him – vs. 14.

B. Elihu points out why he thinks that it is still continuing – it's because Job, in his opinion, hadn't confessed with a contrite enough heart to satisfy God – vs. 15-16.

1. Verse 15 reads a bit strange to us in our use of English today – it is referring back to verse 14 where Elihu was encouraging Job to confess his sin and let God back in his life like he should be.
2. "But now, because it is not so" – because Job didn't confess enough and with a "broken and contrite heart." (The word for "contrite" – חָזַן – is a verb meaning to crust or to break in pieces. In relation to emotions, or heart, it is to be broken by the guilt of sin.)

Psalm 34:18

¹⁸ The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Psalm 51:17

¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

3. "He (God) hath visited in his anger"
 - a) God has brought this on Job for punishment.
 - b) The sense of this is seen more clearly in

Hebrew than in English. "Now it is comparatively nothing that he has visited you in his anger; that is, the punishment which he has inflicted on you is almost as nothing compared with what it might have been, or what you have deserved." (Barnes)

4. "Yet he (God) knoweth it not in great extremity" – Elihu didn't believe that Job was suffering enough and felt that God was too lenient on him, so he tells Job that, although he was suffering, it didn't even begin to pay for his sin.

a) "Knoweth it" – taken much notice

b) "In great extremity" – of great folly (בְּפֶשַׁע מְאֹד)

5. This verse might be read: "Because now He has not punished in His anger nor taken much notice of in great folly."

וְעַתָּה--כִּי-אֵין, פָּקַד אִפּוֹ; וְלֹא-יָדַע בְּפֶשַׁע מְאֹד

6. Of course, we all deserve far more than we've received when it comes to sin, for God's mercy is so great, so Elihu is right in this when it is used broadly, but it didn't apply to Job.

Conclusion: Do we feel that God is not near us? Do we feel, especially during times of trouble, that God has forsaken us? The world will tell us that God is nowhere to be found, that He is in heaven and doesn't care about us. But, as this chapter points out, that is not so. He may not accept the person of the wicked, but He is certainly close enough to help when called upon by His children.