

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 02 June 2013..... Job 01-02..... Is This Really Happening to Me?
- 2) 09 June..... Job 03-14..... Was It My Fault?
- 3) 16 June..... Job 15-21..... Who Said Life Would Be Fair?
- 4) 23 June..... Job 22-28..... Whom Can I Trust?
- 5) 30 June..... Job 29-31..... What Can I Do Now?
- 6) 07 July..... Job 32-37..... Am I On The Right Path?
- 7) 14 July..... Job 38-42..... What Am I Supposed to Learn?

INTRODUCTION

- Elihu begins his discourse and hammers Job for his belligerence and ignorance of God's therapeutic discipline and sovereignty, yet, Elihu also suffered from misapplication at times
- But who was Elihu, and was his diatribe accurate?
 - ♦ Because of his youth, Elihu was the silent 4th friend until everyone else had finished – then he speaks for 5 chapters – longer than 12 other Old Testament books and 17 NT books
 - ♦ Some theologians believe Elihu's speech was on target since neither Job nor God challenged it – BUT silence doesn't always mean acceptance, and he did not receive any Divine affirmation
 - ♦ Other theologians say Elihu spoke with youthful exuberance and misapplied the Deuteronomic principle to Job's situation
 - ♦ But Elihu does shed some light on God's sovereign character and His concern for His creation, including Job

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv19-33. "Man is also chastened with pain on his bed...to bring back his soul from the pit" ♦ Elihu elaborates how God knows the value of adversity and uses pain & suffering for redemptive purpose or to prevent something worse from happening ♦ Psalm 119:71 <i>It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn God's statutes</i>
Job 34	<p>Elihu Defends God's Form of Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv7-8. Elihu falsely accuses Job of running with the wicked – BUT Elihu being in error does not invalidate everything he says. We need to discern each passage • vv23-24. Elihu truthfully says that God knows all things so He does not need to investigate anything further
Job 35	<p>Elihu Declares God's Goodness and Power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv6-7. Elihu presents a powerful contrast - A very wicked person does not harm God's plans, and a very righteous person does not offer God any benefit
Job 36	<p>Elihu Speaks Arrogantly – BUT His He Correct?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv3-4. Elihu claims his knowledge comes directly from God and his words are not false – BUT we have already seen false statements from him • Again, let's not throw out the baby with the bath water since his words, his perspective, his attitude, and his approach are included in God's Word for our learning • vv11-12. "If they [the wicked] hear and serve God they will end their days in prosperity and pleasures; [else] they will perish by the sword" – Elihu also bought into the Deuteronomic principle, which is heavily used and abused by prosperity preaches of all ages • vv27-31. Another truism from Elihu – God judges people by weather phenomena (i.e., rain & lightning)
Job 37	<p>Elihu Wraps Up with Some Good Thoughts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-13. Elihu elaborates on how God uses weather phenomena to accomplish His will for blessings or discipline (thunder, lightning, snow, rain, cold, or heat) • vv14-24. God is too big and wonderful, and our ignorance of Him and His ways is staggering

Passage	Comments
Job 32	<p>Elihu Seems Full of Himself</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-2. Elihu was "angry" at the other guys for their incompetence and at Job for his self-righteousness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Was Elihu's anger "righteous indignation" or was he out of line, or can we even tell yet? • v9. Elihu defends his youthful wisdom by saying "Being old does not guarantee wisdom, nor does having a lot of old folks around guarantee wise counsel is given" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Is this a truism? Unfortunately it is, but only where God's word is not absorbed properly..... Psalms 119 • vv18-20. Elihu says he's got to speak or he'll burst <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How would an older person take this kind of talk?

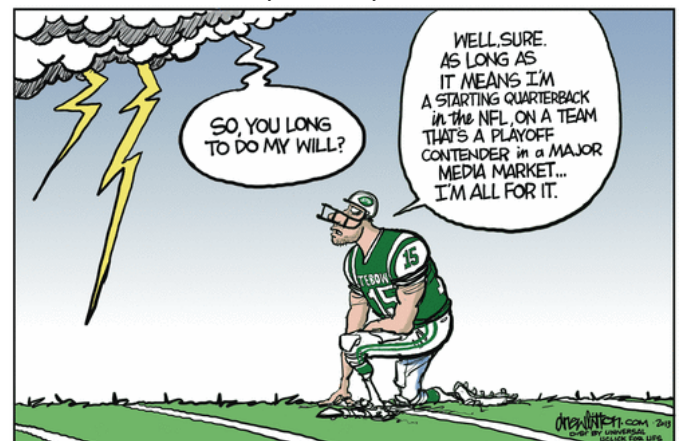
Wisdom of the Aged should bring comfort & guidance	Wisdom of the Youth can be seen as rash or incomplete
Job 12:12 Wisdom is with aged men along with understanding Pr 16:31 A gray head is a crown of glory; It is found with righteousness Pr 20:29 The glory of young men is their strength, But the honor of old men is their gray hair (i.e., their Wisdom & Understanding)	1Kings 12:8 But [Rehoboam] forsook the counsel of the elders, and consulted with the young men who grew up with him – and a kingdom was lost Job 32:9 The abundant in years may not be wise, Nor may elders understand justice Ps 119:100 I understand more than my elders, because I have observed God's Word

Job 33	<p>Elihu Comes Across as a Know-it-All</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v3. "My words are from the uprightness of my heart, and my lips speak knowledge sincerely" – BUT can't Job and his 3 friends say the same thing? • vv8-12. Elihu begins to use Job's words against him <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This is a good approach to use when counseling people – it affirms accurate understanding • v13. Elihu makes a good point about Job complaining about God not giving him a reason for his dilemma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ God will tell Job later that He owes no man anything • vv14-18. Elihu makes another good point that God subtly influences people to go certain ways without them even noticing He was directing their paths
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CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Elihu's observations of God's majesty and our ignorance of Him is worth noting. Our lifelong goal is to continually grow in God's grace & knowledge so we are adequately prepared to do His will

NEXT WEEK: Job 38-42. God basically responds with "Who are you to question Me?" Job readily accepts this answer, and God restores to Job double what He initially took away from him



It's easy to do God's will when everything goes our way