

## Out of the Whirlwind

As Elihu draws his remarks to a close, he proclaims the majestic power of God. He does so specifically by speaking of God's control over nature, especially storms. He says in 37:1-2, "my heart trembles and leaps out of its place. Keep listening to the thunder of His voice and the rumbling that comes from His mouth."

As Elihu speaks of God spreading the clouds and scattering the lightning, we can imagine a terrible storm forming over Elihu, Job, and the three friends. As soon as Elihu is done, it says that God answered Job "out of the whirlwind." Job had asked for an audience with God—now he had one! God appeared in a powerful whirlwind, and there spoke to Job. God's choice here is interesting. Don't forget that Job's children were killed by a great wind of some type. Now God speaks from a whirlwind. Could there be significance to this? Job has been enduring the greatest storm of his life, and now God appears in an actual storm. It may be a strong reminder that God is always present, and God is always in control. Satan may attack us, but God's plans will never be thwarted. Unless we let it, the whirlwind can't take us away from God, because even there, God is with us!



## "That You May Grow Thereby..."

*A weekly Bible reading plan*



### Job 35-42

#### The Blessed Latter Days

##### Overview

This week we finish up the book of Job. So far we've seen the setting explained (ch. 1-2), three rounds of discourse between Job and his three friends (ch. 3-31), and the first half of Elihu's speeches (ch. 32-34). This week, we will read the final speeches of Elihu (ch. 35-37), and then we will read God's response to Job (ch. 38-41). Finally we end in chapter 42 with the happy ending of Job's tale.

Everything in the book so far has been building a climax to these final chapters. Throughout the various discussions, there has been much confusion. Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar are convinced Job has sinned. Job wants God to explain why he is suffering. Elihu's final remarks set the stage for God to speak directly to Job. As God confronts Job, it is interesting to see what He doesn't do. God does not tell Job it was Satan who attacked him, nor does He explain to Job why Satan was allowed to attack Him. God simply shows His majesty, reminding Job of the folly of questioning God. In the end, Job doesn't really have an answer, but he does have greater trust in God!

##### Suggested Reading Schedule

Monday: Job 35-36

Tuesday: Job 37

Wednesday: 38-39

Thursday: Job 40-41

Friday: Job 42

##### QUESTIONS

- 1) Is Elihu mentioned again after chapter 37?
- 2) Draw lines to match the following passages with the appropriate topics:

Job 38:1-11	Animal Kingdom
Job 38:12-30	Creation
Job 38:31-33	Nature
Job 38:39—39:30	Stars/Constellations
- 3) What two creatures are mentioned in chapters 40 and 41?
- 4) Was the Lord happy with the things Eliphaz and his friends spoke?

### Remember the Purpose of the Lord

Suffering tends to make us short sighted. During storms of life, we often focus on the immediacy of pain instead of the hope of our future. This can lead down dangerous roads. When we allow pain and suffering to distract us, we may end up

questions God, getting angry with God, or even rejecting God. That's exactly what Satan wants. Thus, it is important that when we suffer, we force ourselves to look ahead, and remember the future God has promised us. When we keep our eyes on the shore of eternity instead of the pain of here and now, we can find the strength to remain faithful, even when times are tough. As Job's story demonstrates, God may allow us to suffer temporarily, but His ultimate plan is for a brighter future than we could possibly imagine!

BEHOLD, WE CONSIDER THOSE BLESSED WHO REMAINED STEADFAST. YOU HAVE HEARD OF THE STEADFASTNESS OF JOB, AND YOU HAVE SEEN THE PURPOSE OF THE LORD, HOW THE LORD IS COMPASSIONATE AND MERCIFUL.  
JAMES 5:11

### God & Justice

Job teaches us a very important lesson about God and justice. There are two ways that we might view justice or fairness, but only one is right. Which one do you think is correct?

Law of Fairness

God

God

Justice

According to this view, there is a law of fairness that supersedes even God, meaning that God is bound to act in accordance with the law of fairness. Thus, our response to suffering is to appeal to the law of fairness.

God Himself is the standard of justice. He uses His power and knowledge in accordance with His own moral perfection. Thus, whatever God does is fair, even if we don't understand it. Thus, our response is to appeal directly to God, and always trust in Him.

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