

**I. Purposeful Discipline - Job 36:8-11**

1. Elihu comes to Job - as from God (**verse 8**)
  - his words are true in some part
- Rea
  - Satan is a master at this... mixing true with false
  - things are not this clear-cut
- Rea
  - life is not that simple. We have a lot of simple/ simplistic answers that come from Washington and the world of psychology today. What folk advise may work with lab rats but not with people.
2. Elihu teaches about God's discipline - in suffering
  - it is true that God disciplines His people (Rea - out of love)
- Rea 3. Life's negative things:
  - come because of sin - our own -and that which comes down from the fall
  - come because of God's discipline
  - God prunes us
  - God allows times of testing (as in the times of Job and Jesus - in the wilderness)
  - Satan has been allowed to run loose - but not completely in our world today
  - we suffer out of our own foolishness - not some moral evilness
4. Bound in the chains of affliction
5. God will come and explain why you are suffering... and you will repent (**verse 9**)
  - he is saying that Job is holding something back - some sin he needs to repent of
6. God comes to correct (**verse 10**) - then they will repent
7. If you respond well, you will spend your whole life in: (**verse 11**)
  - contentment
  - prosperity
- Rea
  - question, was Jesus financially prosperous?
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
  1. God does sometimes use suffering to bring people back
    - an example is the suffering of the prodigal before he returned
  2. I am not qualified to look at your suffering and say "this is your problem"
    - that would make me a Pharisee - and the church is full of them
  3. I'm a bit wary when someone says... "let me help you, right here"
    - Lord deliver me from those who have all the answers (even if it is my preacher)

**II. Judgment Coming - Job 36:12-16**

1. If you don't listen you will perish by the sword (**verse 12**)
- Rea
  - obviously listen to him
  - you'll die without knowledge because you reject knowledge
2. The godless (**verse 13**) in heart
  - there is resentment there
  - God binds them
  - they do not cry out for help
- Rea
  - all are true, but that does not mean that Job was "godless in heart"
3. They will die among the male prostitutes of the shrines (**verse 14**)

- Rea           -I think this one means that their circumstances get so desperate that they sell themselves in the shrines, then die
4. Those who suffer God will deliver (**verse 15**)
- God speaks to them in their affliction
- Rea           -this is God speaking to you - that's why you're having trouble
5. This is God - He is pulling you from the jaws of distress (**verse 16**)
- to a spacious place
- to comfort (not suffering)
6. Indeed God often tries to woo us from our sinfulness
- Rea           7. To thus "correct" the sufferer means you have assumed some things...
- what are they?
8. Suffering is a complex situation - hard to understand and apply
- Rea            -this complexity is the very reason Job was written
- Rea            -it is a necessary corrective of our simplistic faith
- Rea           **Ideas and Questions:**
1. In all our "ideas" we begin to think we understand it all
- there is much, much truth to be gleaned from the Bible, but upon closer looks, we see that the Bible counsels us not to think we understand it all
2. Discuss the "health and wealth" philosophy that has been prevalent in the last few years
- some who teach this idea are a bit reluctant to own it - it doesn't "sell"
3. Have you ever been an Elihu?

### **III. Justice Seen - Job 36:17-23**

1. Justice is seen in the way that Job has been treated (**verse 17**)
- Rea           -for Elihu Job has to be wrong (somehow) if not then God is not just in allowing this
- Rea           2. Good men suffering - it is often called "persecution" and has been around since the beginning of time
- if I get cancer does that mean that God doesn't love me?
3. Riches and the bribe are suggested as a way in which Job might "fall" (**verse 18**)
- Job only loved God because of the "riches"
4. Your wealth cannot shelter you from your pain (**verse 19**)
- wealth is a poor comfort when your children have died
5. In the night Job might hide from his pain (**verse 20**)
6. His options are affliction or repentance (**verse 21**)
- on the one hand he charges God with wrongdoing (Rea - injustice)
- on the other hand he admits his sin
- Rea           7. "Either ors" are often wrong
8. He reminds Job of God's greatness (**verse 22**)
- who is a teacher like Him (like God)?
- who would tell God what to do? (**Verse 23**)
- who would say to God "you have done wrong?"
9. The idea is that God controls circumstances in life
- He is in control - that is true
10. Three things we believe:

- A. God intervenes in history
- B. God guides human history
- C. God will bring history to His conclusion

11. So God IS in control

Rea -a fading doctrine is not mentioned here - so sad. The doctrine is the free-will of man. He has the opportunity (often) to sin. And, he often chooses to do the wrong thing. Another idea - God has allowed Satan to roam (for now). He will be ultimately destroyed, but not yet.

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. The sovereignty of God is beyond question!
  - that does pose some problems. If He is in control, (and is good) why does He allow some things?
  - in other words why does God allow the starving kids in Africa?
  - some such suffering is allowed by man, not God - why don't you feed those starving children in Africa, if you're so concerned?
2. The "explanation" for Job vs Satan is given in the first two chapters of Job - this is between God and Satan.
3. Many times we don't like "Job" - it upsets our theological applecarts
4. Many have opted for the deist god - that is one who simply watches and doesn't get involved. Our God is not that God! He is a God who gets involved - the big example? Jesus, the Christ. God got majorly involved!

Matt Capps/ July 4, 2021