

Comments About Job 33–37

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss the book of Job. There will be times when we talk about (1) a group of chapters, (2) one chapter and (3) a portion of a chapter. Today, we will discuss Job 33-37.

I hope this project encourages you to review the valuable history and lessons found in the book of Job.

With his own ears

Last week, I mentioned the reason why Elihu talked. This week, I want to mention Elihu’s evaluation of Job’s sin.

Notice how Elihu described what he heard Job say (in Job 33:8-11).

Job 33:8-11—“Surely you have spoken in my hearing, and I have heard the sound of your words, saying, ‘I am pure, without transgression; I am innocent, and there is no iniquity in me. Yet He finds occasions against me, He counts me as His enemy; He puts my feet in the stocks, He watches all my paths.’ ”

Job 34:5—“For Job has said, ‘I am righteous, but God has taken away my justice.’ ”

Job 34:9—“For he has said, ‘It profits a man nothing that he should delight in God.’ ”

Job 34:37—“For he adds rebellion to his sin; he claps his hands among us, and multiplies his words against God.”

Job 35:2-3—“Do you think this is right? Do you say, ‘My righteousness is more than God’s?’ For you say, ‘What advantage will it be to You? What profit shall I have, more than if I had sinned?’ ”

Job 35:16—“Therefore Job opens his mouth in vain; he multiplies words without knowledge.”

Confronting Job

Early in his commentary to Job, we see Elihu issue a challenge to Job.

Job 33:5—“If you can answer me, set your words in order before me; take your stand.”

When God finally talked to Job, He confronted Job twice.

Job 38:3—"Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me."

Job 40:7—"Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me."

Helpful advice

Elihu also gave some advice to Job.

Job 33:12-13—"Look, in this you are not righteous. I will answer you, for God is greater than man. Why do you contend with Him? For He does not give an accounting of any of His words."

Job 33:31-32—"Give ear, Job, listen to me; hold your peace, and I will speak. If you have anything to say, answer me; speak, for I desire to justify you."

Job 35:4-6—"I will answer you, and your companions with you. Look to the heavens and see; and behold the clouds—they are higher than you. If you sin, what do you accomplish against Him? Or, if your transgressions are multiplied, what do you do to Him?"

Job 36:2-7—"Bear with me a little, and I will show you that there are yet words to speak on God's behalf. I will fetch my knowledge from afar; I will ascribe righteousness to my Maker. For truly my words are not false; one who is perfect in knowledge is with you. Behold, God is mighty, but despises no one; He is mighty in strength of understanding. He does not preserve the life of the wicked, but gives justice to the oppressed. He does not withdraw His eyes from the righteous; but they are on the throne with kings, for He has seated them forever, and they are exalted."

Job 36:22-23—"Behold, God is exalted by His power; who teaches like Him? Who has assigned Him His way, or who has said, 'You have done wrong'?"

Job 37:14—"Listen to this, O Job; stand still and consider the wondrous works of God."