

An Overview of Job

Part 14

I. Introduction

- a. In our previous lesson, we were introduced to a new character
 - i. Elihu was a young man that had listened to the entire argument between Job and his other three friends
 1. After patiently considering their arguments, Elihu seemingly comes with an accurate doctrinal approach to the entire episode
 2. He corrected the three friends
 - a. He said that they were incorrect in their accusations against Job and had not proven that Job was guilty
 - b. He said that sometimes the righteous suffer while the wicked are allowed to thrive
 - i. These things are God's business and we simply have to accept them as His Providence
 3. He corrected Job
 - a. He lovingly told Job that whatever God's purpose was, it was for Job's benefit somehow whether he ever figured it out or not
 - b. He also correctly said that God wasn't blessing the wicked and cursing His children

II. Commentary

a. Job, Chapter 34

- i. Elihu here addresses Job and the other three friends
 1. He rehearses Job's words in **verses 5-9**
 - a. Job had believed that God was being unjust in treating the righteous worse than the wicked
 - b. MacArthur says that Elihu misquotes Job in **verse 9**
 - i. However, clearly Job had said the wicked are being blessed while the righteous are suffering trials

1. Is this not saying that there was no profit in this life in serving the Lord?
2. Clearly, this is not misrepresentation on Elihu's part as he is simply summing up Job's position
2. Elihu rightfully speaks of God's attributes
 - a. Holiness (vs. 10)
 - b. Just (vss. 11-12, 17-20)
 - c. Omnipotence (vss. 13-14)
 - d. Omniscient (vss. 21-22)
 - e. The final Judge of all (vs. 23)
 - f. Unquestionable (vss. 31-33)
3. Elihu seems to desire Job's complaint to finally reach God (vss. 34-37)
 - a. This is soon to occur

b. Job, Chapter 35

- i. Job had said that there as no advantage to being righteous (21:15)
 1. Elihu condemns such an attitude
 - a. Certainly, there is an advantage in being a child of God no matter the circumstances in this world
 - i. Take Lazarus and the rich man for instance
- ii. Elihu says truthfully that the righteous and the wicked both add nothing to God's character (vss. 4-8)
 1. He is still God no matter what
 - a. However, there is a benefit for a person if they are faithful to the Lord rather than entrenched in this world
- iii. Job had felt God had not heard him or answered him
 1. In this, Job was wrong
 - a. However, Elihu gives some truths concerning how we all ought to pray to God
 - i. Without pride (vss. 10-12)
 - ii. With proper motive (vs. 13)
 - iii. With complete trust (vs. 14)
- iv. Job was righteous for God had said so
 1. Job never cursed God as Satan said he would

- a. However, Job had certainly struggled with the predicament he was in and why it was occurring
 - i. This had led Job to say some things which were incorrect
 - 1. It is these things that Elihu is here referring to and which God Himself will soon address
- v. Where does Elihu differ from the friends?
 - 1. Some think he is speaking exactly like them
 - a. He is not
 - i. They were accusing Job of secret sins
 - 1. Elihu was not
 - ii. Elihu was simply speaking of the things that Job had said since the entire conversation had started
 - 1. His desire was to help Job trust God more
 - 2. His desire was to give Job comfort