

NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOES

A study of the lives of Joseph, Jonah, and Job

Job - Chapters 32-37

Lesson 10

In Job 32-37, a man younger than Job and his three friends, Elihu, was *aroused against Job*. He challenged Job with what Elihu perceived was self-righteousness and the three men for their inability to have an answer for Job's distress. Like Job's friends, Elihu spoke many truths, but they were truths ill-applied. He spoke of God's grace, His justice, and His greatness. Yet, he fell short in representing the heart and intentions of God toward Job.

OBSERVATION: Read Job 32

1. Read Job 32 using the Observation Worksheet (the last pages of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God, Job, Job's three friends, and Elihu*.

Key Words: *God, Job, Job's three friends, Elihu, and wisdom*
3. The contrasting words *yet* and *but* occur two times in Job 32. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

READ JOB 32

1. After Job concluded speaking, a younger man, Elihu, felt compelled to share his thoughts regarding Job's distress. Using the first five verses of this chapter, list the reasons he was *aroused* to speak.
2. Although Elihu was younger than Job and his friends, according to verses 8,9 why did he still consider himself eligible to speak?

a. Record the words of Proverbs 2:6.

1.) How is the *wisdom* of God different than our own knowledge or understanding?

3. Scan the remaining verses of the chapter (beginning with verse 10) and share your thoughts regarding Elihu's attitude and approach.

OBSERVATION: Read Job 33

1. Read Job 33 using the Observation Worksheet (the last pages of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God*, *Job*, and *Elihu*.

Key Words: *God*, *Spirit*, *Job*, *Elihu*, *wisdom/knowledge*, and *the Pit*

3. The contrasting words *but* and *yet* are used three times in Job 33. Mark the words. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 33

1. Although Elihu claimed he would be responding to Job's words, he makes statements that prove he did not correctly hear Job. What did he quote Job as saying in verse 9?

a. Read Job 6:3, 7:21, and 9:2,28. Summarize what Job actually said about his *innocence*.

1.) Why do you think Elihu heard Job to say something other than what he actually said?

a.) What can we do to prevent this in our own lives?

2. The key word *Pit*, occurs five times in this chapter. Consider your own life, as God has kept you from *the Pit*. Using the words from chapter 33, reflect upon the grace God has shown in your life.

3. Notice Elihu's reasoning in verse 17 NIV that God uses suffering *to turn man from wrong doing and keep him from pride*. Paul was privileged to experience incredible revelations from God. What did Paul realize in 2 Corinthians 12:7.
 - a. Although God had done mighty miracles for the Israelites as they journeyed to the Promised Land, He also allowed hard times. What did Moses say was God's purpose? Deuteronomy 8:15,16.
4. Notice Elihu's statement in Job 33:29,30. How does this speak to you of God's grace?

OBSERVATION: Read Job 34

1. Read Job 34 using the Observation Worksheet (the last pages of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God, Job, and Elihu*.

Key Words: *God, Spirit, Job*, words that refer to Job's three friends, *Elihu, righteous*, and *understanding/wisdom/knowledge*
3. The contrasting words *yet* and *but* occur two times in Job 34. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 34

1. As we read Elihu's discourse, we discover that he seemed to hear Job's statements, but often added his own understanding to what he perceived Job to say. What did he quote Job of accusing God in verse 5?
2. *It profits a man nothing that he should delight in God* (Job 34:9). What would you say to refute that statement?
3. For much of Job 34, Elihu counters the accusation that God is not just. According to Job 34:10-15, why must God be *just*?

a. Define the word *just*.

b. What do the following verses teach us about God being *just*?

Psalm 92:15

Romans 9:14

c. Explain why God can never do anything wrong.

4. In Job 34:16-20 Elihu proclaimed that God must be *just* because He is not partial. Elihu followed that reasoning in verses 21-30 with the fact that God is very aware of life on this earth. What are some statements that Elihu made to support this?

a. Although we cannot see God, God sees us. God sees all that has happened, is happening, and will happen in our lives. What do you think your life would be like if this were not true?

OBSERVATION: Read Job 35

1. Read Job 35 using the Observation Worksheet (the last pages of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God*, *Job*, and *Elihu*.

Key Words: *God*, *Job*, words that refer to Job's three friends, *Elihu*, *righteous(ness)*, and *knowledge*

3. The contrasting words *yet* and *but* occur three times in Job 35. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 35

1. In Job 35, Elihu attacks what he perceives to be Job's self-righteousness. What was his accusation at the end of verse 3?

a. Since suffering falls upon both the righteous and the unrighteous, why does it matter whether we *sin* or not? Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer.

2. Consider the words of verse 6. According to Isaiah 59:2, what is the effect of our *sin*?
 - a. Using your own words, describe the effect of *sin*.
 - b. If you were told that your life would not change whether you *sinned* or not, why would you choose not to *sin*?
3. Job 35:10 declares that God *gives songs in the night*. In what ways have you experienced this?

OBSERVATION: Read Job 36

1. Read Job 36 using the Observation Worksheet (the last pages of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Elihu*.

Key Words: *God, Elihu, Job, words that relate to Job's three friends, righteousness, and knowledge/understanding*
3. The contrasting words *yet* and *but* occur seven times in Job 36. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 36

1. Elihu begins to speak of the greatness of God. *Behold, God is great* (verse 26). Scan through the chapter and list some of the phrases used to declare God's *greatness*.
2. Reflect upon the three questions in Job 36:22,23. What is your answer?
 - a. In contrast, consider the promise of Psalm 94:12. What *blessings* have you experienced as you have received the Lord's *instruction*?
3. If someone asked you, "Why is God great?", what would you tell them?

OBSERVATION: Read Job 37

1. Read Job 37 using the Observation Worksheet (the last pages of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God*, *Job*, and *Elihu*.

Key Words: *God*, *Job*, *Elihu*, and *knowledge*

Read Job 37

1. ... *stand still and consider the wondrous works of God* (verse 14). To what does Elihu liken God's voice in verses 1-5?
 - a. List what Psalm 29:3-9 declares about God's voice.
 - b. Although God's *voice* can be extremely powerful, share something you know about the heart behind His powerful *voice*?
2. The *voice* of the LORD can do things no other can do. Reflect upon Job 37:6-13 and list some aspects of God's powerful *voice*.
3. Elihu challenged Job with the words *do you know*. God will do the same thing beginning with chapter 38. Elihu's words were correct, but like Job's three friends, his premise was not. Their efforts were much like applying good medicine before considering the wound. Read Psalm 19:7-11 and record the blessings of God's word rightly applied.

REVIEW: Job 32-37

1. Share one thing that particularly ministered to you or challenged you from this study.

*As for the Almighty, we cannot find Him;
He is excellent in power, in judgment and abundant justice;
He does not oppress.*

- Job 37:23

Observation Worksheet

Job 32

¹ So these three men ceased answering Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes. ² Then the wrath of Elihu, the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, was aroused against Job; his wrath was aroused because he justified himself rather than God. ³ Also against his three friends his wrath was aroused, because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job. ⁴ Now because they were years older than he, Elihu had waited to speak to Job. ⁵ When Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, his wrath was aroused. ⁶ So Elihu, the son of Barachel the Buzite, answered and said: "I am young in years, and you are very old; therefore I was afraid, and dared not declare my opinion to you. ⁷ I said, 'Age should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom.' ⁸ But there is a spirit in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding. ⁹ Great men are not always wise, nor do the aged always understand justice. ¹⁰ "Therefore I say, 'Listen to me, I also will declare my opinion.' ¹¹ Indeed I waited for your words, I listened to your reasonings, while you searched out what to say. ¹² I paid close attention to you; and surely not one of you convinced Job, or answered his words-- ¹³ lest you say, 'We have found wisdom'; God will vanquish him, not man. ¹⁴ Now he has not directed his words against me; so I will not answer him with your words. ¹⁵ "They are dismayed and answer no more; words escape them. ¹⁶ And I have waited, because they did not speak, because they stood still and answered no more. ¹⁷ I also will answer my part, I too will declare my opinion. ¹⁸ For I am full of words; the spirit within me compels me. ¹⁹ Indeed my belly is like wine that has no vent; it is ready to burst like new wineskins. ²⁰ I will speak, that I may find relief; I must open my lips and answer. ²¹ Let me not, I pray, show partiality to anyone; nor let me flatter any man. ²² For I do not know how to flatter, else my Maker would soon take me away.

Job 33

¹ "But please, Job, hear my speech, and listen to all my words. ² Now, I open my mouth; my tongue speaks in my mouth. ³ My words come from my upright heart; my lips utter pure knowledge. ⁴ The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life. ⁵ If you can answer me, set your words in order before me; take your stand. ⁶ Truly I am as your spokesman before God; I also have been formed out of clay. ⁷ Surely no fear of me will terrify you, nor will my hand be heavy on you. ⁸ "Surely you have spoken in my hearing, and I have heard the sound of your words, saying, ⁹ 'I am pure, without transgression; I am innocent, and there is no iniquity in me. ¹⁰ Yet He finds occasions against me, He counts me as His enemy; ¹¹ He puts my feet in the stocks, He watches all my paths.' ¹² "Look, in this you are not righteous. I will answer you, for God is greater than man. ¹³ Why do you contend with Him? For He does not give an accounting of any of His words. ¹⁴ For God may speak in one way, or in another, yet man does not perceive it. ¹⁵ In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while slumbering on their beds, ¹⁶ then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction. ¹⁷ In order to turn man from his deed, and conceal pride from man, ¹⁸ He keeps back his soul from the Pit, and his life from perishing by the sword. ¹⁹ "Man is also

chastened with pain on his bed, and with strong pain in many of his bones, ²⁰ so that his life abhors bread, and his soul succulent food. ²¹ His flesh wastes away from sight, and his bones stick out which once were not seen. ²² Yes, his soul draws near the Pit, and his life to the executioners. ²³ "If there is a messenger for him, a mediator, one among a thousand, to show man His uprightness, ²⁴ then He is gracious to him, and says, 'Deliver him from going down to the Pit; I have found a ransom'; ²⁵ his flesh shall be young like a child's, he shall return to the days of his youth. ²⁶ He shall pray to God, and He will delight in him, he shall see His face with joy, for He restores to man His righteousness. ²⁷ Then he looks at men and says, 'I have sinned, and perverted what was right, and it did not profit me.' ²⁸ He will redeem his soul from going down to the Pit, and his life shall see the light. ²⁹ "Behold, God works all these things, twice, in fact, three times with a man, ³⁰ to bring back his soul from the Pit, that he may be enlightened with the light of life. ³¹ "Give ear, Job, listen to me; hold your peace, and I will speak. ³² If you have anything to say, answer me; speak, for I desire to justify you. ³³ If not, listen to me; hold your peace, and I will teach you wisdom."

Job 34

¹ Elihu further answered and said: ² "Hear my words, you wise men; give ear to me, you who have knowledge. ³ For the ear tests words as the palate tastes food. ⁴ Let us choose justice for ourselves; let us know among ourselves what is good. ⁵ "For Job has said, 'I am righteous, but God has taken away my justice; ⁶ should I lie concerning my right? My wound is incurable, though I am without transgression.' ⁷ What man is like Job, who drinks scorn like water, ⁸ who goes in company with the workers of iniquity, and walks with wicked men? ⁹ For he has said, 'It profits a man nothing that he should delight in God.' ¹⁰ "Therefore listen to me, you men of understanding: far be it from God to do wickedness, and from the Almighty to commit iniquity. ¹¹ For He repays man according to his work, and makes man to find a reward according to his way. ¹² Surely God will never do wickedly, nor will the Almighty pervert justice. ¹³ Who gave Him charge over the earth? Or who appointed Him over the whole world? ¹⁴ If He should set His heart on it, if He should gather to Himself His Spirit and His breath, ¹⁵ all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust. ¹⁶ "If you have understanding, hear this; listen to the sound of my words: ¹⁷ Should one who hates justice govern? Will you condemn Him who is most just? ¹⁸ Is it fitting to say to a king, 'You are worthless,' and to nobles, 'You are wicked'? ¹⁹ Yet He is not partial to princes, nor does He regard the rich more than the poor; for they are all the work of His hands. ²⁰ In a moment they die, in the middle of the night; the people are shaken and pass away; the mighty are taken away without a hand. ²¹ "For His eyes are on the ways of man, and He sees all his steps. ²² There is no darkness nor shadow of death where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves. ²³ For He need not further consider a man, that he should go before God in judgment. ²⁴ He breaks in pieces mighty men without inquiry, and sets others in their place. ²⁵ Therefore He knows their works; He overthrows them in the night, and they are crushed. ²⁶ He strikes them as wicked men in the open sight of others, ²⁷ because they turned back from Him, and would not consider any of His ways, ²⁸ so that they caused the cry of the poor to come to Him; for He hears the cry of the afflicted. ²⁹ When He gives quietness, who then can make trouble? And when He hides His face, who then can see Him, whether it is against a nation or a man alone?-- ³⁰ That the hypocrite should not reign, lest the people be

ensnared. ³¹ "For has anyone said to God, 'I have borne chastening; I will offend no more; ³² Teach me what I do not see; if I have done iniquity, I will do no more'? ³³ Should He repay it according to your terms, just because you disavow it? You must choose, and not I; therefore speak what you know. ³⁴ "Men of understanding say to me, wise men who listen to me: ³⁵ 'Job speaks without knowledge, his words are without wisdom.' ³⁶ Oh, that Job were tried to the utmost, because his answers are like those of wicked men! ³⁷ For he adds rebellion to his sin; he claps his hands among us, and multiplies his words against God."

Job 35

¹ Moreover Elihu answered and said: ² "Do you think this is right? Do you say, 'My righteousness is more than God's'? ³ For you say, 'What advantage will it be to You? What profit shall I have, more than if I had sinned?' ⁴ "I will answer you, and your companions with you. ⁵ Look to the heavens and see; and behold the clouds--they are higher than you. ⁶ If you sin, what do you accomplish against Him? Or, if your transgressions are multiplied, what do you do to Him? ⁷ If you are righteous, what do you give Him? Or what does He receive from your hand? ⁸ Your wickedness affects a man such as you, and your righteousness a son of man. ⁹ "Because of the multitude of oppressions they cry out; they cry out for help because of the arm of the mighty. ¹⁰ But no one says, 'Where is God my Maker, who gives songs in the night, ¹¹ who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth, and makes us wiser than the birds of heaven?' ¹² There they cry out, but He does not answer, because of the pride of evil men. ¹³ Surely God will not listen to empty talk, nor will the Almighty regard it. ¹⁴ Although you say you do not see Him, yet justice is before Him, and you must wait for Him. ¹⁵ And now, because He has not punished in His anger, nor taken much notice of folly, ¹⁶ therefore Job opens his mouth in vain; he multiplies words without knowledge."

Job 36

¹ Elihu also proceeded and said: ² "Bear with me a little, and I will show you that there are yet words to speak on God's behalf. ³ I will fetch my knowledge from afar; I will ascribe righteousness to my Maker. ⁴ For truly my words are not false; one who is perfect in knowledge is with you. ⁵ "Behold, God is mighty, but despises no one; He is mighty in strength of understanding. ⁶ He does not preserve the life of the wicked, but gives justice to the oppressed. ⁷ 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. ⁸ And if they are bound in fetters, held in the cords of affliction, ⁹ then He tells them their work and their transgressions--that they have acted defiantly. ¹⁰ He also opens their ear to instruction, and commands that they turn from iniquity. ¹¹ If they obey and serve Him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures. ¹² But if they do not obey, they shall perish by the sword, and they shall die without knowledge. ¹³ "But the hypocrites in heart store up wrath; they do not cry for help when He binds them. ¹⁴ They die in youth, and their life ends among the perverted persons. ¹⁵ He delivers the poor in their affliction, and opens their ears in oppression. ¹⁶ "Indeed He would have brought you out of dire distress, into a broad place where there is no restraint; and what is set on your table would be full of richness. ¹⁷ But you are filled with the judgment due the wicked; judgment and justice take hold of you. ¹⁸ Because there is wrath, beware lest He take you away with one blow; for a large ransom would not help you avoid it. ¹⁹ Will your riches, or all the mighty forces, keep you from distress? ²⁰ Do not desire the night, when people are

cut off in their place. ²¹ Take heed, do not turn to iniquity, for you have chosen this rather than affliction. ²² "Behold, God is exalted by His power; who teaches like Him? ²³ Who has assigned Him His way, or who has said, 'You have done wrong'? ²⁴ "Remember to magnify His work, of which men have sung. ²⁵ Everyone has seen it; man looks on it from afar. ²⁶ "Behold, God is great, and we do not know Him; nor can the number of His years be discovered. ²⁷ For He draws up drops of water, which distill as rain from the mist, ²⁸ which the clouds drop down and pour abundantly on man. ²⁹ Indeed, can anyone understand the spreading of clouds, the thunder from His canopy? ³⁰ Look, He scatters His light upon it, and covers the depths of the sea. ³¹ For by these He judges the peoples; He gives food in abundance. ³² He covers His hands with lightning, and commands it to strike. ³³ His thunder declares it, the cattle also, concerning the rising storm.

Job 37

¹ "At this also my heart trembles, and leaps from its place. ² Hear attentively the thunder of His voice, and the rumbling that comes from His mouth. ³ He sends it forth under the whole heaven, His lightning to the ends of the earth. ⁴ After it a voice roars; He thunders with His majestic voice, and He does not restrain them when His voice is heard. ⁵ God thunders marvelously with His voice; He does great things which we cannot comprehend. ⁶ For He says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth'; likewise to the gentle rain and the heavy rain of His strength. ⁷ He seals the hand of every man, that all men may know His work. ⁸ The beasts go into dens, and remain in their lairs. ⁹ From the chamber of the south comes the whirlwind, and cold from the scattering winds of the north. ¹⁰ By the breath of God ice is given, and the broad waters are frozen. ¹¹ Also with moisture He saturates the thick clouds; He scatters His bright clouds. ¹² and they swirl about, being turned by His guidance, that they may do whatever He commands them on the face of the whole earth. ¹³ He causes it to come, whether for correction, or for His land, or for mercy. ¹⁴ "Listen to this, O Job; stand still and consider the wondrous works of God. ¹⁵ Do you know when God dispatches them, and causes the light of His cloud to shine? ¹⁶ Do you know how the clouds are balanced, those wondrous works of Him who is perfect in knowledge? ¹⁷ Why are your garments hot, when He quiets the earth by the south wind? ¹⁸ With Him, have you spread out the skies, strong as a cast metal mirror? ¹⁹ "Teach us what we should say to Him, for we can prepare nothing because of the darkness. ²⁰ Should He be told that I wish to speak? If a man were to speak, surely he would be swallowed up. ²¹ Even now men cannot look at the light when it is bright in the skies, when the wind has passed and cleared them. ²² He comes from the north as golden splendor; with God is awesome majesty. ²³ As for the Almighty, we cannot find Him; He is excellent in power, in judgment and abundant justice; He does not oppress. ²⁴ Therefore men fear Him; He shows no partiality to any who are wise of heart."