

JOB 36-37 - LESSONS FROM THE STORM

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God does all He can to get our attention, to get us to stop thinking about ourselves and worldly things, and to get us to think about Him. And there's no doubt that God was using Hurricane Ian to get our eyes on Him, to get us to look to Him. Today, we're going to look at Job 37, and see what it says about how God uses the weather to get us to focus on Him, and to fear Him and be humble before Him.

Job 37:1. Elihu is the writer of this passage and his heart is pounding, and it's because of the truth of Job 36:22-33. And what do we learn from these vss?

1. God is exalted, is glorified by His works, by His powerful works, and as we read here, by the weather, by the thunder, the lightning, and the rain.

2. God is a teacher, and God uses the weather, and all creation to teach us about Himself. And the weather teaches us that God is powerful, good, and wise. Rom. 1:18-22

3. God creates the weather. There's no such thing as mother nature, as some inanimate or random force that makes the weather. Rain doesn't just fall, lightning doesn't just happen.

"God draws up the drops of water", "He spreads His lightning."

- And God is not just powerful, but He has wisdom, and understanding, and knows how and why to create every raindrop, every snowflake, every ice particle, every bit of wind. Now meteorologists may understand a few things about the weather, but they sure don't understand everything, and they sure don't make the weather - only God can do that.

4. God commands the weather to do exactly what He wants. It says that God causes lightning to strike the mark. That is, lightning isn't random, but is precisely and purposely directed by God to strike the exact place He wants it to strike. Coya Costa And so, God created, commanded, and caused Hurricane Ian to fulfill His purposes. He wants all the people affected by this storm to know that He caused the storm. And He wants them to be humbled by this storm, to see that He's great, beyond our understanding, and that He's holy, and sovereign, that He can do whatever He wants.

5. God uses the weather for His purposes. First, it is to judge people. God is holy, and He judges, He corrects, He disciplines people with the weather, and we particularly see that with storms that are devastating, that are destructive, like Hurricane Ian.

- Second, God uses the weather to show His goodness, and as we see here, by giving rain so people can grow crops, and therefore have food. But God judges people by withholding rain, and there is drought, and people don't have enough food.

6. The noise of weather declares God's presence. Thunder and the train-sound of a tornado, and the whistling / whooshing wind of the hurricane all declare God's presence. Yes, you may be afraid of these noises, but take comfort in the fact that it means God is present, that He is omnipresent, and that He is with you. And these sounds should cause the unbeliever to not just know that God is present, but that He is powerful and holy, and one to be greatly feared. Of course, God uses the noise of the weather for the animals – for by it, they know that they need to take shelter, to hide from the storm.

Job 37:1-5. Now what do we learn from these five verses in Job 37?

Job 37:1. Elihu, the writer of this passage, is greatly affected by the weather – His heart is trembling, is beating strongly. So too, the weather, and the fact that God created and caused the weather should affect our heart too. And God uses it to wake us up, to get our attention, and to show us His character and His power. And be thankful for the weather, and don't grumble, like many people do. And there is no doubt that God was using Hurricane Ian to get our attention, to get our eyes off ourselves and onto Him, to humble us, and to teach us about Himself.

Job 37:2. This says that the thunder is God's voice, that He speaks through the thunder.
- Now God speaks in 2 ways. General revelation is a phrase that means that God speaks through creation, through nature, through the weather, like we're talking about here. Specific revelation means God speaks through His word, through the Bible. Psalm 19:1-7 Job 37 focuses on general revelation, specifically that God speaks through the weather.
- And it says "*listen closely.*" When you hear God's voice, whether it's through the weather or through His word, then listen to Him, ask Him what He is trying to teach you, what He wants you to learn. You see, God is personal, and He wants you to listen to Him, and to know Him, and to love Him, and to follow Him.

Job 37:3. God speaks to everyone in the world. We read, "*under the whole heaven.*" That is, God wants every person in the world to listen to Him.

- Job 37:4-5. God's voice is majestic and wondrous. His voice is a perfect, beautiful, powerful, and awesome, a most unique voice – there's no voice in all the universe like the voice of God. Psalm 29

Psalm 37:5. God's voice is powerful in that He carries out His will. Yes, God's voice speaks forth His character, but it also carries out His purpose, His will. Job 37:6-13

1. God brings forth the rain and the snow with His voice. "*Mighty downpour.*" 20 in.

2. God seals or stops man from what he is doing. God used Hurricane Ian to literally stop people in their tracks, to stop people from doing what they wanted to do. Millions of people

in Florida had all these plans this past week, and God changed them by this one huge hurricane named Ian. Why? Because He wanted to get people's attention, to get them to see Him, and His work, and His character - His power, sovereignty, and holiness.

3. Like we said before, God uses the weather to cause the animals to take shelter, to go to their den, their lair, their home.
4. God causes ice to be made and bodies of water to be frozen. Houghton Lake
5. God makes the rain, and He makes all the clouds, and each cloud is unique. And God causes His clouds to move and to change direction. There are millions of clouds all over the earth, and God directs them to go where He wants them to go, and do what He wants them to do.
6. And again, we read that God uses the weather for two specific purposes, to correct or to judge, and to show His love, His goodness, His kindness.

Job 37:14-20. Elihu is talking to Job, and he tells him to think about the wonders of God as it relates to the weather. And Elihu asks him two questions:

1. He asks Job if he knows how God makes the weather, specifically how the lightning shines, and about the layers of the thick clouds. And what he is doing is questioning Job's wisdom or lack of it. Elihu goes on to state that God does know these things, and in fact, has perfect knowledge. That is God knows everything.

2. Then Elihu asks Job if he can spread out the skies. That is, does Job have the power, the ability to cause the weather? And Elihu is saying that Job doesn't have either wisdom or power when it comes to the weather. Scientists – climate change In all this, Elihu is telling Job that he doesn't know what he is talking about when he questions God about what He is doing. He is saying that Job is in the dark, that he is ignorant when it comes to the wisdom and the ways of God.

- Job 38:1-4. Creation, animals. Questions – Job has no answers.

Job 37:21-23. Vs. 21 is better translated in the NIV - it says, "*Now no one can look at the sun, bright as it is in the skies.*" And you all know this – you just can't look at the sun or you will damage your eyes. But I believe it is also saying that you can't actually see the sun, you can see the light from the sun, but you can't actually see the sun itself.

Vs. 22 says, "*Around God is awesome majesty.*" The point is that you can't see God just like you can't see the sun. And you can't find God, you can't say He is here or there. - God is God and He's way beyond us in every way - He is holy, holy, holy, completely set apart from us. But you can see the majesty, the power, the attributes, the character of God that's displayed in nature, in the things He created.

- Rom. 1:20 says, "*Since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen.*" Ps. 19:1-6

Vs. 23 makes it clear that God is perfectly just and righteous, that He always does what is right, and that He never does what is wrong. He is perfectly just and righteous in every one of His decisions, in everything He does, and with every single person. And that's a very encouraging truth for each one of us. We should never 2nd guess God – we should never be critical of God – we should never complain against God. You should always trust God for He has always done what is just and right, and He will always do what is just and right.

Vs. 24. And so what's the conclusion? That God will disregard those who are wise in heart, those who think they are always right, those who are know-it-all's, those who don't think they need God, those who are proud, those who aren't humble. The conclusion is that people are to fear God, to bow down to Him, to respect Him, to revere Him, to humble themselves before Him. And God uses the weather to move people, to cause people to fear Him, to be humble before Him, to bow down to Him.

And so this past week, there was a huge storm, a mammoth storm, a gargantuan storm, Hurricane Ian, the worst storm this state has ever seen. And this was God's storm, and God brought this storm to this state. And the main reason that God brought this storm to Florida was to humble people, to get people in this state to fear Him, to worship Him. Proverbs 1:7, Eccl. 13:1