

# **MOUNT SINAI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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## **BIBLE STUDY**

### **JOB**

**Bible Study Strategies:** Prayer of Preparation

1. **Reading** the Scripture accurately
2. **Interpreting** the Scripture which is read
3. **Obeying** the Scripture as it is understood

**Aims of Bible Study:**

1. Increased Bible knowledge
2. Improvement as a student of the  
Scripture
3. Spiritual growth as a believer in Christ

### **THE INTERVENTION OF ELIHU (Chaps. 32 – 37)**

#### **Elihu's Second Speech to Job's Three Friends (Chap. 34)**

**34:1-15** Elihu next asks the three friends to test his words as they would taste food. He quotes Job's claim that God was unfair in causing a righteous man like him to suffer, and that there is no use being pious in order to please God. He then insists that God is never guilty of injustice. If He were to withdraw Himself, His creatures would utterly perish.

**34:16-30** If it is inappropriate to tell a king or a noble that he is wicked or worthless, how much more unthinkable to condemn the Sovereign of the universe who is completely impartial! No wickedness can be hidden from God; He strikes down the evil and delivers the oppressed.

**34:31-37** Apparently addressing Job, Elihu next counsel him to confess and forsake his sin, and to stop demanding God to do what he wants. Job has been

talking ignorance, speaking evil, spewing forth rebellion, sin, and a multitude of words against God.

### **Elihu's Second Speech to Job (Chaps. 35-37)**

**35:1-8** Elihu then reproves Job for claiming to act more righteously than God and for saying that righteousness does not pay. Man's sin does not harm the sovereign God, neither does his righteousness benefit God.

**35:9-16** Proud oppressors cry out in trouble, but they do not acknowledge the God who gave them wisdom above that of animals and birds; therefore, their prayers are not answered. Even if we do not see Him, God does see us, and we should trust Him and not be arrogant.

**36:1-12** In Elihu's fourth speech, he professes to draw from deep truths to defend the justice of God and to explain suffering. The Lord is eminently just in dealing with the wicked and the oppressed as well as the righteous (vv. 7-9), whether they are kings on the throne or prisoners in fetters. If righteous men have acted defiantly, He seeks to bring them to repentance by convincing them of their transgressions. If they obey and serve Him, He prospers them. If they don't, they perish by the sword and without the knowledge of God.

**36:13-21** If Job had been submissive and contrite, the Lord would have delivered him out of his dire distress, but because he was stubbornly self-righteous, he suffers the same judgment as the hypocrites. Elihu warns him that if he continues, he will suffer a fate from which a large ransom will not deliver him. (verse 18 is a needed warning for sinners in all ages.)

**36:22-33** Because God is all-wise, Job should magnify Him. His greatness is seen in His control of the rain, clouds, thunder, and lightning. We cannot fully understand the magnitude of His providential dealings, but we know that they portend grace to His people.

**37:1-13** Elihu continues to delve into various realms of nature to show the wisdom, power, awesome majesty, and golden splendor of God. His descriptions of nature, or a thunderstorm with its heavy rain, or of the whirlwind, snow, gentle rain, cold winds of the north, thick and bright clouds, or bright sunlight, are classic.

**37:14-23** Elihu ends with a direct appeal: "Listen to this, O Job, stand still and consider the wondrous works of God." He goes on to challenge Job's knowledge of nature: how the clouds are balanced and why he gets hot when the Southwind

blows. These lead up to the similar, but even more challenging, nature questions that the Creator Himself will pose to Job in the next main section of the book. Such excellent power surpasses our feeble comprehension. It is best to fear the Lord and to submit to His discipline, and not to be like Job, criticizing Him as unfair.

**37:24** Elihu's last verse is the application to Job, a concise conclusion to the whole matter. The first line of verse 24 is easy to understand; the second is difficult in the NKJV (and other versions). Francis Andersen translates the second line differently by taking the negative word in Hebrew in this construction as an assertion rather than a negation:

Therefore men fear Him;

Surely all wise of heart fear Him!