

GOD IS IN TOTAL CONTROL! Part 1.

Scripture: Job. 38:1-7

1Then the Lord answered Job, out of the whirlwind, and said:2 Who is this who darkens counsel By words, without knowledge? 3Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.4 Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me if you have understanding. 5Who determined its measurements? Surely you know. Or who stretched the line upon it? 6To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, 7When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Let me touch upon a strange character called Elihu and then come to the climax of this book, God's encounter with Job.

Job. 32:1-5. 1Then these three men ceased answering Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes. 2But the anger of Elihu, the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, burned against Job, his anger burned, because he justified himself before God. 3And his anger burned against his three friends, because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job. 4Now Elihu had waited to speak to Job because they were years older than he. 5And when Elihu saw, that there was no answer, in the mouth of the three men, his anger burned.

Who is this new guy, Elihu, who just showed up suddenly from nowhere? We had known only 3 people so far, Eleazar, Zophar, and Bildad. Where did Elihu come from suddenly? The beginning of book of Job, or the end of book, does not have this Elihu character. At the end, God addresses to only Job, and his first three friends.

Job 42:7-9. 7It came about, after the LORD had spoken these words to Job, that the LORD said to Eliphaz, the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against you, and against your two friends, because you have not spoken of Me, what is trustworthy, as My servant Job has. 8Now therefore, take for yourselves, seven bulls and seven rams, and go to My servant Job, and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves, and My servant Job will pray for you. For I will] accept him, so as not to do with you as your foolishness deserves, because, you have not spoken of Me what is trustworthy, as My servant Job has.” 9So Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite, went and did as the LORD told them; and the LORD [b]accepted Job.

In this last chapter of Job, you will not find Elihu's name, when God speaks. This Elihu character must have been a late addition, and some commentators skip his whole speech and treat it more like an appendix. I am not going to go through the whole speech of Elihu, but will touch upon few selected passages, to capture the tone of his speech. His tone of anger can be heard from the beginning of chapter 38 itself!

“2But the anger of Elihu the son of Barachel, the Buzite, of the family of Ram burned; against Job his anger burned, because he justified himself before God. 3And his anger burned against his three friends, because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job”.

He was angry with Job, because he seemed to justify himself, and, against the three amigos, because they had no good answer, yet, they condemned Job!

The first three men ran out of gas. They had exhausted all their wisdom to convince Job. They were just vexed and gave up totally. This is the time, Elihu does a “poonthax” (poonthax is a great Tamil word for sneaked in!) Elihu’s speech stretches to additional 6 chapters! He seemed to be the youngest of all, and you could feel that young blood boiling with seething anger, while he talks! He trashed indiscriminately, both his three friends and Job.

*Job 32:6-10. 6So Elihu, the son of Barachel, the Buzite, spoke out and said,
“I am young in years, and you are old;
Therefore, I was shy, and afraid to tell you, what I think.
7 I thought, age should speak,
And increased years should teach wisdom.
8 But it is a spirit in man,
And the breath of the Almighty, gives them understanding.
9 The abundant in years may not be wise,
Nor may elders understand justice.
10 So I say, Listen to me,
I too will tell what I think.*

Elihu says that he was young and therefore he was afraid or shy to speak at first. He thought older people would have more experience, and therefore, more wisdom, but he did not find that! He said correctly, it is the Spirit of God that brings understanding and wisdom to any person, irrespective of one’s age. Joseph was a young teenager. But he was very wise because He knew God, and He honored God by avoiding evil. If you have the Spirit of God, and if you hear His voice, you will walk wisely! Now Elihu, based on this logic, he wanted them to listen to him.

*Job. 34:35-37. 35 Job speaks without knowledge,
And his words are without wisdom.
36 Job ought to be tried to the limit,
Because he answers like wicked men.
37 For he adds rebellion to his sin;
He claps his hands among us,
And multiplies his words against God.”*

Just by reading these verses, we can see what kind of person Elihu was! He was not a wise person as he portrayed himself to be! Vs. 35 tells us clearly that he was highly

judgmental of Job. He pronounced the judgment saying Job had neither knowledge nor wisdom.

Elihu wished that Job was tried or tested even more thoroughly so that everyone could see his true color. Elihu comes to a harsh conclusion that Job was responding like a wicked man! Why did he come to this conclusion?

Is it because Elihu thought that Job was rebellious against God. How come Job was rebellious? Is it because Job said that he suffers for no apparent cause? Or because he claimed himself as righteous? That is not rebellion. It could be out of ignorance or lack of understanding! Sometimes we use the wrong words and condemn others, and that is not good. Elihu accused Job vehemently with hurtful words. He accused Job of “clapping his hands” against God! It is an interesting phrase, which could mean, Job gleefully clapping his hands against God, because he thinks that he is winning the argument! Or it is a gesture of open mockery and contempt. Elihu also accused Job of multiplying his words against God, meaning, lot of words, but no substance! In modern slang, shooting the breeze!

I will bring one more passage to help you see who Elihu was. You will see that he is nothing but a bragging brat!

Job 35:2-4. 2 Wait for me a little, and I will show you, that there is yet more to be said in God's behalf.

*3 I will fetch my knowledge from afar,
And I will ascribe righteousness to my Maker.
4 For truly my words are not false.
One who is perfect in knowledge is with you.*

Elihu claims that he will fetch his knowledge from afar! He thought that his knowledge was so far wide and deep, he had to stretch his mind, grab it and bring it to Job and his friends! Also, he is so smart, he can think out of the box and explain because, others cannot even comprehend his deep thoughts!

He claims that his words are true. Then he says that he has the “perfect knowledge”, and a thorough understanding, and so everyone must listen to him! This is bragging! Paul discourages this kind of boasting. He tells us not to measure ourselves of how good we are, and then try to boast. Let someone else tell you how good you are! Still, it is an imperfect judgement of you because it comes from an imperfect human being. Best is taking the feedback from God Himself! How can you brag about your wisdom and understanding if you had taken those thoughts from God Himself? That is indeed idiotic! The glory and credit must go to God Himself!

I don't want to waste too much time on this bragging fool, Elihu, instead, I would like to turn your attention to God Himself! This is the climax of this book! Finally, Almighty God Himself, showed up!

*Job 38:1-3. 1Then the LORD answered Job from the whirlwind, and said,
2 Who is this who darkens the divine plan, by words without knowledge?
3 Now tighten the belt on your waist like a man, And I shall ask you, and
you inform Me!*

God spoke from the whirlwind, a dark storm cloud. God must veil Himself always, lest people see Him and die. Job wanted God to come down and talk to him. At last, Job's wish was granted!

God told Job to tighten the belt like a man! Be strong like a man. Do not be like a baby crying when I am talking to you, and you give me the answer!

God said first, Who is this who darkens the divine Plan?

Whom did God refer to? Elihu? He was the one who was bragging about perfect knowledge, which God refers to, as darkening the divine plan? Or some other friend of Job, who spoke last? We do not know for sure.

Job. 38:4-7. 4 Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding, 5Who set its measurements? Since you know? Or who stretched the measuring line over it? 6 On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, 7When the morning stars sang together. And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Good question! When was earth created?

When we look into the creation story of Genesis carefully, we can see that the earth already existed! In the beginning, God created the earth and the heavens. Earth was not created on the first day. That was way, way, way before, before time was created, way before that very first day of calendar, when light and darkness were separated. There is a gap of time between the galaxies that were created, which includes planet earth also, and specific creation steps took place on our earth. This is called the gap theory. When the earth was without form and void in the beginning, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters, there was nothing going on, on earth. But when God said, let there be light, and the day, and night were

created, the creation of life story started, and that became the first day of creation. So, if the scientists say, the earth was created billions of years ago, don't call it a fake science. No one was there when God created His heavens and the earth (except Jesus, and the Holy Spirit!). We have so much to learn about God's creation, but we cannot comprehend God's wisdom, and His ways of doing, and His plans for us!

So God is asking Job, "you seem to know about my way of doing things, but do you really know how I put things together, Job? So, who laid the foundations of the earth? Who sets the measurements? Who set the measuring tape over it? Who laid its cornerstone? Tell me Job? You speak like you know my ways, hot shot, answer me, now.

The morning stars singing together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? The sons of God are angels! Remember Job 1:6 and 2:1 where Satan joins these sons of God! The cluster of morning stars appear to be singing and praising God!

Job. 38:8-11. 8 Or who enclosed the sea with doors. When it went out from the womb, bursting forth; 9When I made a cloud its garment, And thick darkness its swaddling bands, 10And I placed boundaries on it, And set a bolt and doors, 11And I said, As far as this point you shall come, but no farther; And here your proud waves shall stop ?

Remember, Jeyan talked about this turbulent sea being contained by 200 feet of sandy beach? It is indeed amazing to think about it! God placed boundaries for the ocean, and said, 'As far as this point you shall come, but no farther; And here, your proud waves shall stop'! God knows how to control everything!

So how does it matter to us? Let me conclude and summarize with this important thought.

CONCLUSION:

Remember! Never forget! God is in total control of everything. Things may look like getting out of control for us. But God knows how to control everything! Things may look chaotic. Yet God can bring order. Just as the earth was without form and void, and He breathed life into it!

I have absolute peace of mind in my life, because of it. There is no need to panic about anything in our life! There may be some of you, hurting very much, because your life is spinning out of control. I want you to know God is in absolute control of your life! Fear not! He will bring order to your life in due time!

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