

Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

Monday (November 27) – Job 35, 36

In chapter 35 Elihu continues to speak. As Job struggles to make sense of all that has happened to him, Elihu makes a clear confession about God. We, like Job, occasionally find ourselves in situations which we struggle to comprehend. In the face of such loss of health, livelihood, or loved ones, God is not answerable to us. God is God, and He is not subject to the whims and wishes of men. Our empty, foolish talk will not bring answers. So, Elihu's words remind us in difficult situations to have patience and to trust God: "Justice is before Him, and you must wait for Him" (Job 35:14).

In chapter 36 Elihu continues to speak about God. Just because He is distant does not mean there is nothing we can say about Him. God is almighty and all-powerful. But He is also good and hates no one. These truths are difficult to see in a moment of pain and suffering, and they may even seem contradictory. How can an all-powerful, good God allow suffering? And yet, God is all-powerful, He is good, and suffering does exist. Elihu does not attempt to resolve this seeming paradox. Neither can we. All we can do in the face of our own suffering is look to our all-powerful, good God and trust that He cares for us. He entered into our suffering in the person of Jesus, and He will one day deliver us from this valley of sorrow.

Tuesday (November 28) – Job 37, 38

In chapter 37 Elihu finishes speaking to Job by clearly articulating the incomprehensibility of God: "He does great things which we cannot comprehend" (Job 37:5). God's ways are beyond our ways, so just as it is wrong for us to assume that we can fully understand His ways, it is also wrong to accuse God of evil, though we may be tempted to do so amid pain.

In chapter 38 the Lord Himself begins speaking to Job. This speech is the full force of God's law upon Job, as the Lord gives numerous examples of how He upholds the universe. Then the Lord asks Job to consider if he is capable of any of these. Of course, Job is not capable of being God. And yet, the Lord seems to go on mercilessly. While these words are uncomfortable for Job and seem almost cruel from our perspective, the Lord speaks these words of harsh law for Job's benefit. The Lord cares for Job. So, He preaches the law to drive Job to repentance and faith, which will come to pass soon.

Wednesday (November 29) – Job 39, 40

In chapter 39 the Lord continues speaking, reiterating many of the same points from the previous chapter. But as chapter 40 begins, the Lord gives Job opportunity to reply. Job's response is succinct and filled with humility. He confesses that he cannot answer God, to which the Lord then asks why he tries to "play God." The point of these chapters is this: the universe is complicated—more so than we often realize. Yet God, in His infinite wisdom, has His eyes on all of it. Imagine trying to "play God" for a day and you will realize how complicated the world truly is. The lesson is simple in concept, yet difficult in practice: live in humility and trust God's wisdom. Only by the gift of the Holy Spirit can we adopt this attitude.

Thursday (November 30) – Job 41, 42

In chapter 41 the Lord concludes His speech to Job by speaking about Leviathan, who is described as “king” over the animals (Job 41:34). Much ink has been spilled in academia over the identity of this “Leviathan” and the “behemoth” of chapter 40. In the end, it doesn’t matter if these are mythical creatures of days gone by or creatures in our world today. God has power over Leviathan and behemoth, and Job does not, nor do you.

In chapter 42 Job confesses God’s omnipotence, his friends are rebuked, and Job is blessed. But perhaps the most significant detail of this chapter is what the Lord says of Job: Job has spoken rightly about Him. This does not seem to be the case, especially in chapter 31. And yet, God approves of the way Job dealt with his suffering. Yes, Job did not always speak theologically correct words, and yet Job never stopped His dialogue with the Lord. Through prayer, Job wrestled with his suffering—and this is pleasing to God. We never learn the answer to why God allows good people to suffer. But in our suffering, the Lord desires that we come to Him with our complaints, for He knows our pain (Hebrews 4:15) and is with us through it.

Friday (December 1) – Psalm 1, 2

The book of Psalms is like no other biblical book. It is a song book filled with the prayers of God’s people. The first two psalms are strategically placed at the beginning of the book to introduce us to some of the most important themes of the book. In Psalm 1 we are introduced to “the righteous one” and the two ways of living in this world. The righteous one is he who delights in the Lord’s law and brings forth fruit as a firmly planted tree. Psalm 2 shows us who this “righteous one” is—it is He who perfectly walks in the Law of the Lord—Jesus Christ, our Lord. The nations rage against Him, but their plotting is in vain because God has set His king in Mount Zion. The Lord Jesus has been enthroned in the heavens. Blessed are those who put their trust in Him—for they shall receive from Him righteousness.

Saturday (December 2) – Psalm 3, 4, 5, 6

Psalms 3 through 6 are prayers of a similar nature. Psalm 3 prays for salvation from enemies. Psalm 4 is a prayer of one who is in distress. Psalm 5 is a prayer of confidence. Psalm 6 is a prayer of repentance. Each of these Psalms offers a unique expression of the human need for deliverance, as we trust the Lord to provide this for us.

Sunday (December 3) – Psalm 7, 8

Psalm 7 is a prayer of one who is confident in his own righteousness. In a sense, it is only Jesus who has a right to pray these words: “If there is iniquity in my hands...let the enemy pursue me and overtake me” (Psalm 7:3, 5). And yet our sinless Lord has exchanged places with us—He has borne our iniquity to the cross and given us His righteousness so that when the Lord judges us according to our righteousness (Psalm 7:8), we will be acquitted.

Psalm 8 is a song of praise to the Lord, who has given peace on earth and good will to men so that all might be invited to praise Him now and eternally!