

## **God's Rightful Place**

While many of us often read the Bible for answers and guidance, the truth is that the Bible is about God. It is the revelation of God's character, His love for us, and His sovereignty over all things. If we are honest, many of us read scripture a little backwards. We turn the pages, hoping to learn something about ourselves or what God wants us to do; we position ourselves as the main character. However, as the book of Job teaches us clearly, God is and always has been the main character.

We begin this week's readings with a younger man, Elihu, offering Job some words of wisdom. Unlike Job's other three friends, Elihu does not blame Job for his misfortune nor does he claim to have all the answers. Instead, Elihu humbly yet boldly reminds Job that God is in control and that Job's role is not to question, but to trust in God's goodness. In Job 37:23-24, Elihu pointedly states that God's majesty and righteousness are evidence enough that He can be trusted:

*"The Almighty is beyond our reach and exalted in power;  
in his justice and great righteousness, he does not oppress.  
Therefore, people revere him,  
for does he not have regard for all the wise in heart?"*

Put simply-God is good, and God is in control. If He is with us, whom-or what-can stand against us? Regardless of Job's circumstances, no matter how tragic or unfair, Elihu's point is that the very nature of God is proof that He would not abandon Job and that He is trustworthy.

Then, in Chapter 38, God's voice breaks into the story to bring home the point. Although He doesn't have to, God chooses to provide Job with a glimpse of His sovereignty. He asks Job a

series of rhetorical questions that no human could possibly answer and, in turn, humbles Job and puts him in his rightful place before the Creator of all things.

Although there is nothing more comforting than God's grace and mercy, it's important for us as Christians to do a heart check every once in a while to make sure we are putting God in *His* rightful place. When life feels unfair or we are hurting, God wants to hear from us, but more than that, He wants us to trust Him. When we go before God with a posture of humility, our questions turn into faith and our doubts turn into hope.

The final chapters of Job reveal a side of God that can cause us to pause and maybe even cringe a little-and rightly so. God's words to Job are firm. But a healthy fear and reverence of the LORD are an important part of our relationship with God. When we see God on the throne and acknowledge His power and righteousness, we begin to realize that it would be foolish not to trust Him, especially when we are faced with circumstances we don't understand. We, like Job, have no reason to doubt a blameless and loving God that intricately oversees and cares for all of creation. In fact, once Job humbled himself before the Lord, the scripture tells us, "The Lord blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first." (Job 42:12)

Yes, the story of Job can teach us something about ourselves. We can learn humility, and we can be reminded to trust in God's wisdom. More importantly, though, it teaches us that God-the God who feeds the ravens and tells the thunderbolts where to go-is not only the main character in each and every story, He is the hero.

~ *Lisa Bonnema*

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### **January 28th Readings**

JOB 32:1-34:37

### **January 29th Readings**

JOB 35:1-37:24

### **January 30th Readings**

JOB 38:1-40:5

**January 31st Readings**

JOB 40:6-42:17

**February 1st Readings**

EXODUS 1:1-2:25

1 CHRONICLES 6:1-3

EXODUS 3:1-4:17

**February 2nd Readings**

EXODUS 4:18-7:13

**February 3rd Readings**

EXODUS 7:14-9:35