

Elihu's Final Words Before God Speaks

As Elihu concludes his speech, a literal storm gathers on the horizon—thunder rolls, lightning flashes, and the wind rises. He takes this awe-inspiring scene and uses it as a powerful metaphor for God's sovereign majesty and unsearchable greatness. Though Elihu's tone has at times been lofty and self-assured, his closing reflections draw attention away from human arguments and turn our eyes upward—to the God whose voice shakes creation.

This chapter is Elihu's call to behold the majesty of God in creation and humbly recognize our limited understanding in the face of divine greatness.

Verses 1–5: God's Voice in the Thunder

“At this also my heart trembles and leaps from its place. Listen closely to the thunder of His voice... After it a voice roars; He thunders with His majestic voice, and He does not restrain the lightning when His voice is heard.” (vv. 1–4)

Elihu begins with awe. The natural storm is more than meteorology—it is a display of God's power and presence. Thunder and lightning are poetic pictures of God's voice and His activity. These are not just impersonal forces; they are manifestations of His glory in the created world.

“God thunders wondrously with His voice; He does great things we cannot comprehend.” (v. 5)

Here, Elihu reminds us that God's works exceed human understanding. Whether in nature or in personal suffering, we must humbly admit: we don't see the full picture.

Personal Application:

In your life, when you hear the "thunder"—those moments when God's power or providence overwhelms your understanding—don't pull back. Let it awaken holy reverence. When you can't comprehend what God is doing, trust that He does great things beyond your grasp.

Verses 6–13: God's Sovereign Control Over Weather and Purpose

“He says to the snow, ‘Fall on the earth’; likewise to the gentle rain and the heavy rain of His strength.” (v. 6)

Elihu reflects on how God commands the elements. Snow, rain, wind—they are not chaotic but ordered by His will. This is not a mechanistic view of nature, but a theological one: God is actively involved in the processes of the earth.

“Whether for correction, or for His land, or for mercy, He causes it to happen.” (v. 13)

Elihu makes a profound statement here: God uses the same event—rain, storm, or drought—for different purposes. Sometimes to correct, sometimes to bless, sometimes simply to sustain creation. The same act of God can have multiple meanings, depending on His intention.

Personal Application:

When circumstances shift—whether by storm or sun—ask, “*Lord, what is Your purpose here?*” Even natural events may carry spiritual significance. Do not assume every hardship is punishment, or every blessing is reward. Instead, stay attentive to God’s greater purposes.

Verses 14–20: Be Still and Behold

“Listen to this, O Job; stand still and consider the wondrous works of God.” (v. 14)

Here Elihu gives perhaps his most helpful instruction yet: “Stand still and consider.” In the face of suffering and confusion, Job is invited to stop striving and reflect deeply on God’s works and wisdom.

“Do you know how God controls the clouds or how the lightning flashes?” (vv. 15–16, paraphrased)

These are rhetorical questions meant to humble. Elihu is not mocking Job, but urging him to acknowledge the mystery of God’s works. If Job can’t explain the weather, how can he judge the ways of God in suffering?

“Shall it be told Him that I wish to speak? Would anyone ask to be swallowed up?” (v. 20)

Elihu reminds us that we should be cautious about demanding an audience with God—as Job had. Speaking boldly before the throne of the Almighty requires reverence and surrender, not complaint or pride.

Personal Application:

Sometimes we need to stop arguing, striving, or explaining—and simply stand still in worship. Ask yourself: *When was the last time I stood in silence before God, just to consider His greatness?*

Verses 21–24: The Majesty and Mystery of the Almighty

“Now people cannot look at the light when it is bright in the skies... From the north comes golden splendor; around God is awesome majesty.” (vv. 21–22)

Elihu ends by acknowledging the blinding brilliance of God’s glory. Just as we cannot stare into the sun, we cannot grasp the fullness of God’s being. He is clothed in light, surrounded by glory. He is beyond full comprehension—but entirely trustworthy.

“As for the Almighty, we cannot find Him; He is excellent in power, in judgment and abundant justice; He does not oppress.” (v. 23)

This is Elihu’s final theological statement: though God is incomprehensible, He is never unjust. He does not afflict arbitrarily. His justice and power are perfect, even when they are hidden from our sight.

“Therefore men fear Him; He shows no partiality to any who are wise in heart.” (v. 24)

The proper response to God’s majesty is reverent fear—not terror, but awe. God is not impressed by human wisdom or strength. He does not play favorites. He is holy, just, and sovereign over all.

Personal Application:

When life leaves you in the dark, and God's ways seem hidden, respond with worship, not complaint. Reverence is not a denial of pain—it is an anchor in mystery. Don't demand answers from God; offer Him your trust.

Conclusion: Prepare to Hear God Speak

As Elihu finishes, the storm reaches its peak. The thunder and lightning he described are no longer poetic devices—they are the stage for God's arrival. In the very next chapter, the Lord Himself speaks out of the whirlwind.

Elihu's speech is far from perfect, but it accomplishes one essential thing: it redirects Job's attention away from himself and his suffering, and toward the greatness of God.

“Be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)

Let this chapter challenge and invite you: when life storms rage and explanations fall short, fix your eyes on the greatness of God. Let the thunder of His voice humble you. Let the mystery of His ways quiet you. And let the majesty of His presence draw you into deeper trust.