

Job 37:5-13

by Wayne Goff

“God thunders marvelously with His voice; He does great things which we cannot comprehend. For He says to the snow, ‘Fall on the earth’; likewise to the gentle rain and the heavy rain of His strength. He seals the hand of every man, that all men may know His work. The beasts go into dens, and remain in their lairs. From the chamber of the south comes the whirlwind, and cold from the scattering winds of the north. By the breath of God ice is given, and the broad waters are frozen. Also with moisture He saturates the thick clouds; He scatters His bright clouds. And they swirl about, being turned by His guidance, that they may do whatever He commands them on the face of the whole earth. He causes it to come, whether for correction, or for His land, or for mercy.”

These words were spoken by Elihu, the youngest of those gathered together to consider the plight of Job (Job 32:2-6). Elihu is not condemned by God in the book of Job as were Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar (Job 42:7-9). This makes Elihu an enigma to us, and we are to consider seriously his four speeches made in the book of Job, sometimes in defense of Job, but also as a rebuke to Job because Job *“justified himself rather than God”* (Job 32:2). Elihu also became angry because Job’s three accusers could not prove their case (Job 32:5).

The things spoken about the providence of God in nature (Job 37:5-13) are true, and we might note that Elihu said that these things were sent either for *“correction, or for His land, or for mercy.”* Indeed, that is exactly right. God Himself revealed to Job that there is *“treasure”* in the snow (Job 38:22). Long before science discovered the valuable minerals contained in snow, God revealed it in the oldest book of the Bible!

It would be wise for all of us, from time to time, to read Job 38-41 and see how many questions we can answer. Man thinks he has more knowledge than ever before, and our society gloats over their supposed knowledge. How much better for us to not know so many things than to know so many things that aren’t so?

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