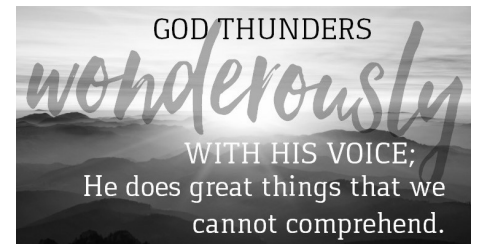


THE BOOK OF JOB –

“The Suffering and Consolation of the Christian”

Date: 4-15-18 **Lesson:** 19 **Text:** Chapters 36, 37

Theme: “God thunders wondrously with his voice; he does great things that we cannot comprehend; Remember to extol his work, of which men have sung”



Text: (Job 36:1-33) And Elihu continued, and said: (2) "Bear with me a little, and I will show you, for I have yet something to say on **God's behalf**. (3) I will get my knowledge from afar and ascribe righteousness to **my Maker**. (4) For truly my words are not false; one who is perfect in knowledge is with you.

(5) "Behold, **God is mighty**, and does not despise any; **he is mighty in strength of understanding**. (6) **He** does not keep the wicked alive, but gives the afflicted their right. (7) **He** does not withdraw his eyes from the righteous, but with kings on the throne **he** sets them forever, and they are exalted. (8) And if they are bound in chains and caught in the cords of affliction, (9) then **he** declares to them their work and their transgressions, that they are behaving arrogantly. (10) **He** opens their ears to instruction and commands that they return from iniquity. (11) If they listen and serve him, they complete their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasantness. (12) But if they do not listen, they perish by the sword and die without knowledge.

(13) "The godless in heart cherish anger; they do not cry for help when **he** binds them. (14) They die in youth, and their life ends among the cult prostitutes. (15) **He** delivers the afflicted by their affliction and opens their ear by adversity. (16) **He** also allured you out of distress into a broad place where there was no cramping, and what was set on your table was full of fatness. (17) "But you are full of the judgment on the wicked; judgment and justice seize you. (18) Beware lest wrath entice you into scoffing, and let not the greatness of the ransom turn you aside. (19) Will your cry for help avail to keep you from distress, or all the force of your strength?

(20) Do not long for the night, when peoples vanish in their place. (21) Take care; do not turn to iniquity, for this you have chosen rather than affliction. (22) **Behold, God is exalted in his power; who is a teacher like him? (23) Who has prescribed for him his way, or who can say, 'You have done wrong'? (24) "Remember to extol his work, of which men have sung. (25) All mankind has looked on it; man beholds it from afar.**

(26) **Behold, God is great, and we know him not; the number of his years is unsearchable.** (27) For **he** draws up the drops of water; they distill his mist in rain, (28) which the skies pour down and drop on mankind abundantly. (29) Can anyone understand the spreading of the clouds, the thunderings of his pavilion? (30) Behold, **he** scatters his lightning about him and covers the roots of the sea. (31) For by these **he judges peoples**; he gives food in abundance. (32) **He covers his hands** with the lightning and commands it to strike the mark. (33) Its crashing declares **his presence**; the cattle also declare that **he rises**.

(Job 37:1-24) "At this also my heart trembles and leaps out of its place. (2) Keep listening to **the thunder of his voice and the rumbling that comes from his mouth**. (3) Under the whole heaven he lets it go, and his lightning to the corners of the earth. (4) After it **his voice roars; he thunders with his majestic voice**, and he does not restrain the lightnings when **his voice** is heard. (5) **God thunders wondrously with his voice; he does great things that we cannot comprehend**. (6) For to the snow **he says**, 'Fall on the earth,' likewise to the downpour, his mighty downpour. (7) **He seals up the hand of every man**, that all men whom he made may know it.

(8) Then the beasts go into their lairs, and remain in their dens. (9) From its chamber comes the whirlwind, and cold from the scattering winds. (10) **By the breath of God** ice is given, and the broad waters are frozen fast. (11) **He** loads the thick cloud with moisture; the clouds scatter his lightning. (12) They turn around and around by **his guidance**, to accomplish all that **he commands them** on the face of the habitable world. (13) Whether for correction or for his land or for love, **he causes it to happen**.

(14) "Hear this, O Job; stop and consider **the wondrous works of God**. (15) Do you know how **God lays his command** upon them and causes the lightning of his cloud to shine? (16) Do you know the balancings of the clouds, the **wondrous works of him who is perfect in knowledge**, (17) you whose garments are hot when the earth is still because of the south wind? (18) Can you, like him, spread out the skies, hard as a cast metal mirror? (19) Teach us what we shall say to **him**; we cannot draw up our case because of darkness. (20) Shall it be told **him** that I would speak? Did a man ever wish that he would be swallowed up?

(21) "And now no one looks on the light when it is bright in the skies, when the wind has passed and cleared them. (22) Out of the north comes golden splendor; **God is clothed with awesome majesty**. (23) **The Almighty--we cannot find him; he is great in power; justice and abundant righteousness he will not violate**. (24) Therefore men fear him; **he** does not regard any who are wise in their own conceit."

STUDY NOTES:

1. This is Elihu's fourth and final speech, and so now in chapters 38-42 we are going to hear from God Himself.
2. -Behold, God is mighty, and does not despise any; he is mighty in strength of understanding.
(Ps 5:2; 22:24; 31:22; 69:33; 102:17; 103:10; Num 23:19; Rom 11:29)
 - Behold, God is exalted in his power; who is a teacher like him? (Rom 11:33,34)
 - Who has prescribed for him his way, or who can say, 'You have done wrong'? (Gen 18:25)
 - Remember to extol his work, of which men have sung. All mankind has looked on it; man beholds it from afar.
(1 Chr 16:24; Ps 35:27; 92:5; 111:2; 138:5; 145:10; Ex 15:1; Rom 1:20; Rev 15:3)
 - Behold, God is great, and we know him not; the number of his years is unsearchable
(Gen 21:33; 1 Cor 13:12; Heb 1:12)
3. Atmospheric conditions are described in chapter 37 including:
 - evaporation, distillation, clouds, moisture, cyclonic behavior, winds, rains, storms, lightning.
 - The thunder of his voice and the rumbling that comes from his mouth.
Under the whole heaven he lets it go, and his lightning to the corners of the earth.
(Ps 18:13,14; 29:3-9; Mt 24:27; Lk 17:24)
 - his voice roars; he thunders with his majestic voice, and he does not restrain the lightnings when his voice is heard
(Ex 20:19; 1 Sam 2:10)
 - God thunders wondrously with his voice; he does great things that we cannot comprehend
(Jn 12:29)
 - By the breath of God ice is given, and the broad waters are frozen fast.
(Ps 147:17)
 - the wondrous works of him who is perfect in knowledge,
(1 Sam 2:3)
 - God is clothed with awesome majesty. (Ex 24:17; Ps 19:5)
 - The Almighty--we cannot find him;
he is great in power; justice and abundant righteousness he will not violate.
(Ps 44:1; Is 63:9; Jer 25:5; Lam 3:33; Ezek 18:23,32; 1 Tim 6:16)

LUTHER'S WORKS – Vol. 40, Page 307 – “Extolling God by Singing to Him”

“First, in the daily matins in the churches three Latin or German psalms may be sung. On days when there is no sermon a lesson may be read by the preacher, for instance from Matthew, Luke, the first epistle of St. John, the two epistles of Peter, St. James, some of the epistles of St. Paul, as well as both the epistles to Timothy, the epistle to Titus, to the Ephesians and Colossians. When these have been read through, one should start again from the beginning. He who reads the lesson shall then exhort the people to pray the Lord's Prayer for some common need appropriate at the time, such as peace, the needful fruits of the earth, and especially for the grace of God, that he may protect and rule over us. Then the whole congregation may sing a German hymn and the preacher read a collect.

At vespers it would be excellent to sing three evening hymns in Latin, not German, on account of the school youth, to accustom them to the Latin. Then follow the simple antiphons, hymns, and responses, and a lesson in German from Genesis, Judges, or Kings. After the lesson the Lord's Prayer should be said. Then one might sing the *Magnificat* or *Te Deum Laudamus* or *Benedictus* or *Quicumque vult salus esse* or simple preces (set daily prayers) so that the youth remain close to the Scriptures. Thereupon the whole congregation may sing a German hymn and the priest conclude with a collect. In small communities where there are no students it is not necessary to sing the daily offices. But it would be well to sing something when there is preaching.”

LIFE APPLICATION:

Since God thunders wondrously with his voice; And he does great things that we cannot comprehend;
How do we then remember to extol his work, of which men have sung?