

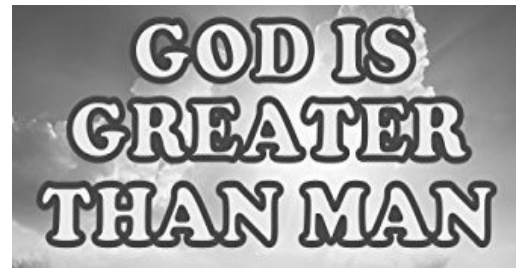
THE BOOK OF JOB –

“The Suffering and Consolation of the Christian”

Date: 3-25-18 Lesson: 17 Text: Chapters 32,33

Theme: “God is greater than man”

Text:



(Job 32:1-22) So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes. (2) Then Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, burned with anger. He burned with anger at Job because he justified himself rather than **God**. (3) He burned with anger also at Job's three friends because they had found no answer, although they had declared Job to be in the wrong.

(4) Now Elihu had waited to speak to Job because they were older than he. (5) And when Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, he burned with anger. (6) And Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said: "I am young in years, and you are aged; therefore I was timid and afraid to declare my opinion to you. (7) I said, 'Let days speak, and many years teach wisdom.' (8) But it is the spirit in man, **the breath of the Almighty**, that makes him understand. (9) It is not the old who are wise, nor the aged who understand what is right.

(10) Therefore I say, 'Listen to me; let me also declare my opinion.' (11) "Behold, I waited for your words, I listened for your wise sayings, while you searched out what to say. (12) I gave you my attention, and, behold, there was none among you who refuted Job or who answered his words. (13) Beware lest you say, 'We have found wisdom; **God** may vanquish him, not a man.' (14) **He has not directed his words** against me, and I will not answer **him** with your speeches.

(15) "They are dismayed; they answer no more; they have not a word to say. (16) And shall I wait, because they do not speak, because they stand there, and answer no more? (17) I also will answer with my share; I also will declare my opinion. (18) For I am full of words; the spirit within me constrains me. (19) Behold, my belly is like wine that has no vent; like new wineskins ready to burst. (20) I must speak, that I may find relief; I must open my lips and answer. (21) I will not show partiality to any man or use flattery toward any person. (22) For I do not know how to flatter, else **my Maker** would soon take me away.

(Job 33:1-32) "But now, hear my speech, O Job, and listen to all my words. (2) Behold, I open my mouth; the tongue in my mouth speaks. (3) My words declare the uprightness of my heart, and what my lips know they speak sincerely. (4) **The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life**. (5) Answer me, if you can; set your words in order before me; take your stand. (6) Behold, **I am toward God** as you are; I too was pinched off from a piece of clay.

(7) Behold, no fear of me need terrify you; my pressure will not be heavy upon you. (8) "Surely you have spoken in my ears, and I have heard the sound of your words. (9) You say, 'I am pure, without transgression; I am clean, and there is no iniquity in me. (10) Behold, he finds occasions against me, he counts me as his enemy, (11) he puts my feet in the stocks and watches all my paths.'

(12) "Behold, in this you are not right. I will answer you, **for God is greater than man**. (13) Why do you contend against **him**, saying, '**He will answer** none of man's words'? (14) **For God speaks in one way, and in two**, though man does not perceive it. (15) In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men, while they slumber on their beds, (16) then **he opens the ears of men and terrifies them with warnings**, (17) **that he may turn man aside from his deed and conceal pride from a man**; (18) **he keeps back his soul from the pit, his life from perishing by the sword**.

(19) "Man is also rebuked with pain on his bed and with continual strife in his bones, (20) so that his life loathes bread, and his appetite the choicest food. (21) His flesh is so wasted away that it cannot be seen, and his bones that were not seen stick out. (22) His soul draws near the pit, and his life to those who bring death. (23) If there be for him an angel, a mediator, one of the thousand, to declare to man what is right for him, (24) and he is merciful to him, and says, 'Deliver him from going down into the pit; I have found a ransom; (25) let his flesh become fresh with youth; let him return to the days of his youthful vigor';

(26) then man prays **to God**, and **he** accepts him; he sees **his face** with a shout of joy, and he restores to man his righteousness. (27) He sings before men and says: 'I sinned and perverted what was right, and it was not repaid to me. (28) **He has redeemed my soul from going down into the pit, and my life shall look upon the light**.' (29) "Behold, **God does all these things, twice, three times, with a man**, (30) **to bring back his soul from the pit, that he may be lighted with the light of life**. (31) Pay attention, O Job, listen to me; be silent, and I will speak. (32) If you have any words, answer me; speak, for I desire to justify you. (33) If not, listen to me; be silent, and I will teach you wisdom."

STUDY NOTES:

1. In chapter 32, Elihu (“He is my God”) the son of Barachel (“El/God blesses”) – from a godly family the Buzite (in eastern Arabia) , of the family of Ram, a fourth counselor who is younger than the other three, has been sitting on the sidelines waiting his turn to speak. He is deeply disturbed that Job is trying to vindicate himself rather than let God be God. He believes that the aged friends have left out the true guidance of the Spirit of God, and now he will speak, so that true wisdom from God can prevail. He believes that he has a genuine contribution to make.
2. In chapter 33, Elihu speaks directly to Job and calls him by name. He is convinced that the Spirit of God has given him life from the breath of the Almighty.
3. -The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life. **(Gen 1:2; 2:7; Nu 16:22)**
-Behold, I am toward God as you are; I too was pinched off from a piece of clay **(Rom 9:21; 2 Cor 4:7)**

-For God is greater than man.
(2 Chr 2:5; Ps 8:4; 50:21; Eccl 7:20; Is 55:8,9; Mt 19:26; Mk 10:27; Lk 1:37; 18:27)

-For God speaks in one way, and in two, He opens the ears of men and terrifies them with warnings, that he may turn man aside from his deed and conceals pride from a man; he keeps back his soul from the pit, his life from perishing by the sword. **(Ps 28:1; 30:9; 62:11; 69:18; 88:6,15,16)**

-Then man prays to God, and he accepts him; he sees his face with a shout of joy
(Ps 13:5; Prov 8:35; 1 Cor 13:12; 1 Jn 1:9)
- He has redeemed my soul from going down into the pit, and my life shall look upon the light.
- Behold, God does all these things, twice, three times, with a man, to bring back his soul from the pit,

- That he may be lighted with the light of life **(Jn 8:12; Eph 5:14)**

LUTHER’S WORKS –(Vol. 9, p. 41) - The Greatness and Power of God

“Thus the power of God hidden under the human activity is seen by faith to do all things; and the unbelieving, who see only the work of man and do not know the power of God, are deceived...What, then, are human powers, where faith and the Word reign, except masks of God, as it were, under which He hides and does His wonders, while through their weakness He stirs up the proud, brave, wise, and holy against Himself? And where they have collided, He soon gets rid of them, triumphs over them, and makes a show of them openly (Col. 2:15).

Blessed is he whose members and arms thus serve God. Yes, if someone knows that the power and wisdom of God are of such a sort, he trusts wholly, not in the mask of God but in the Word behind the mask; and he can and does perform wonders, yes, everything, in the Lord. So it will come about that he walks on, free and safe in the midst of presumption and despair, and does not tempt God while he has what he needs; again, he does not despair if what he needs is lacking. For God, who works with him under the things which he has, will also work with him without these things, where he has nothing.”

LIFE APPLICATION:

If the Spirit of God has made us, and if the breath of the Almighty gives us life,
and if God is greater than man,
how may we be lighted with the light of life - in the midst of our suffering and despair?