

Job 11.7-12—God vs. Man

- I. In his effort to humble Job and convince him of (what he thought was) his sin, Zophar sets forth the greatness of *God's wisdom*.
 - A. It has a *depth* that no man can plumb, v.8. God's wisdom, like His divine nature, is infinite.
 - B. It has a *breadth* that no man can limit, v.7. Limits are a construct of creation, but God is the Creator; and as such, He's without limits.
 - C. It has a *height* that no man can reach, v.8. God's wisdom is far above man's reach because God's wisdom is unbounded on every side and man is bounded on all sides.
 - D. It has a *length* that no man can measure, v.9, broader even than the sea.
 - E. Here are four dimensions brought together to make the same point: that there's an *incomprehensible* wisdom behind God's providence in our lives. *We cannot* know the deep things of God, cf. Rom 9.20; 11.33-34
- II. Zophar sets forth the greatness of God's sovereignty, v.10
 - A. Whatever God decides to do, no one can alter it. God has neither superior nor peer to challenge His will or stop the execution of it.
 - B. His power and sovereignty are supreme and He can do whatever He wills. And in nothing that He does can there ever be an injustice because He has a right to do what He will and He can will nothing but what is right.
- III. Zophar sets forth the greatness of God's omniscience, v.11
 - A. Man has high thoughts of himself, when he's nothing but dust and ashes. But God knows just what we are. He knows man to be an empty nothing—which is why God can't be fooled and God is right when He judges, Ps 51.4
 - B. And knowing man's sin as He does, how can He not judge it? How foolish it is, then, for a man, so well known by God, to continue a single hour in sin!
- IV. Finally, Zophar highlights just what *we are* in the light of so great a God as God is, v.12
 - A. We're born stubborn, willful, determined to have our own way, refusing to submit to authority, hating all good, loving all evil, and bent on doing everything we can to hurt ourselves. Could we be any more stupid and foolish?

- B. No wonder a man must be born again! In 3.3 No wonder the gospel of God's rescuing grace is so amazing and worthy of our worship and adoration!

Applications

- I. Stand in awe of God, your God.
 - A. He is the perfection of wisdom and the supreme Sovereign, worthy of all our praise, love, and service, Mt 4.10
 - B. And this is the God who makes Himself known to you in the gospel of Christ, the God who came in grace to you.
 - C. Stand in awe of a God who, though He knew all that you were and are, yet took you unto Himself as sons. You can't do better in all of life than to take His wisdom as the rule of your obedience.
- II. See that you adore the wisdom of God behind all your providences, especially the painful ones.
 - A. This passage teaches us that standing behind all your providences is the wisdom of your God!
 - B. Nothing happens in your life but what the wisdom of your heavenly Father has ordained. The cross you carry is of His appointment.
 - C. You may not understand His reasons, but you know His character and can trust His wisdom, Ps 119.68; Rom 8.28; Num 10.29. So rather than fretting over not knowing why God does what He does with you, stand in awe and adore the wisdom by which God does all that He does.
- III. See that you never prescribe to God what He ought to do in your life.
 - A. How miserable would you be if God ordered His providence in your life by the limits, ignorance, and selfishness of your wisdom!
- IV. See that you never quarrel with God's providence.
 - A. There's simply no ground in all creation high enough upon which you can stand in judgment over God. WSC 4; Belgic Conf. Art 14
 - B. Your happiness and blessedness are not in your understanding the mysteries of God's providence or in your getting all your questions answered. They're in your humbly submitting to God's will.