



Before the THRONE

The Devotional

Volume 2

Books of Poetry

Job 36:11 – 16

“If they obey and serve Him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures. But if they don’t obey, they shall perish by the sword, and they shall die without knowledge. But the hypocrites in heart heap up wrath... they die in *their* youth ... Even so, he would have removed you out of distress into a broad place, where there is no restraint...” Job 36:11-16

Elihu has obviously had a glimpse of the Lord, but like so many who see Him, the picture is only a snapshot photo. It is from those snapshots that men build entire theologies and doctrines, and lest we cast all the blame upon our spiritual leaders, we have allowed our own experiences to forge the same mistaken ideologies in us as well. God is good. And we are instructed further by the prophets, “If you would be willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land, but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be destroyed by the sword.” (Isaiah 1:19-20)

There is a subtle trap that catches us when we make judgments of people based solely upon the circumstances by which we see them surrounded. The temptation is to say if they are financially blessed that God must love them and the money is His stamp of approval upon their lives. Conversely, if adversity has overtaken someone, there is a temptation to make an assumption that they are being punished somehow or maybe even deserving of such treatment – “they had it coming!”

Let us forget, we are living in a fallen world, dominated by sin and death. Sometimes in such a fallen world, the evil we see working itself out in the lives of people may have its source in numerous places – seed once sown finally being harvested – they are reaping what they have been sowing for years and years. It could also be that what they are experiencing is the result of warfare – they are casualties in the cosmic conflict that we as Christians are engaged in, often without the full knowledge of the consequences that are at stake!

Be careful of your judgments on others – endeavor to know men after the Spirit, not the natural circumstances that surround them.

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