

Your God is Too Small

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Job 34-37.

B. Elihu is speaking in accord with what God has taught him in the Scripture.

II. Job's first problem with God is that he has not done anything wrong, so he thinks God should bless him.

A. God has denied Job the right to bless him instead.

B. There is a subtle danger in our lives when we think that if we behave ourselves, God will bless our lives.

C. Job's problem is that he sees God as both unjust and unfair.

III. Elihu's argument about the truth of God.

A. God cannot be unjust.

B. When we say that God treats us unfairly, we are really saying that God has denied His own character.

C. It is God Himself from whom we get our sense of justice.

D. The only way we can ever properly relate to life is to begin with God.

E. No one can appeal God's decision because God is always consistent with Himself.

F. God accepts no substitute righteousness—God is not after reform, but repentance and relationship.

G. The hardest lesson of life is to learn that our righteousness is filthy rags before God, so we must depend upon God's righteousness bestowed upon us. (Romans 7)

H. The purpose of being righteous is not to minister to oneself. Our prayers are often not answered because all we want is relief.

I. The place to start with all human reasoning is that God is right and any deviation is wrong.

J. God is both merciful and just.

K. God delivers the afflicted by their affliction.

L. God uses His natural powers for both blessing and judgment.

M. God has many reasons for doing things. His wisdom is inscrutable.

Application questions:

1. Why does it not make any sense to accuse God of injustice? Explain.

2. What fact about God from Elihu's argument stands out to you? What strikes you about it?

3. What does it mean, "God delivers the afflicted by their affliction." Can you recall a time when you learned a valuable lesson through God's affliction? What was it?
