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# **How Great Is Our God!**

**JOB 36:24-26**

## **Introduction**

1. There is a hymn which many of us have sung more times than we can count.
2. It is the hymn "How Great Thou Art" the lyrics of which are an English translation of a Russian version based on an earlier German translation.

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3. I want to draw your minds to the first stanza and the chorus for just a moment because tonight's lesson in Job focuses on the greatness of God.

**Oh Lord, my God**

**When I, in awesome wonder**

**Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made**

**I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder**

**Thy power throughout the universe displayed**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee**

**How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee**

**How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

4. Job's three friends have said all that they are going to say to him.
5. The last person to speak is a much younger man by the name of Elihu.
6. He has remained quiet as long as he can, but has reached a point where his anger burns.

7. Four times we read of his anger burning (cf. *Job 32:1-5*).
8. In *Job 32:8*, he says “Listen to me, I too will tell you what I think.”
9. In *Job 32:17*, he adds “I too will answer my share, I also will tell my opinion.”
10. His is the longest of any of the speeches made by Job’s friends (six chapters).
11. Tonight, I only want to focus on the last two chapters of his speech (*Job 36 & 37*).
12. In these two chapters I want us to focus on three points concerning God’s greatness:
  - a. He is majestic in power.
  - b. He is magnificent in His person.
  - c. He is marvelous in His purposes.

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## A. He Is Majestic In His Power

1. Four times here in chapter 36, Elihu speaks about God’s power.
2. The first is in verse 5 where he says,

“Behold, God is mighty but does not despise any;  
He is mighty in strength of understanding.”

(*Job 36:5*, NASB95)
3. Earlier, Job had said that our God is . . .
  - a. “Wise in heart and mighty in strength” (*Job 9:4*).
  - b. “If it is a matter of power, behold, He is the strong one!” (*Job 9:19*).
4. Even though God is mighty, He “does not despise any” — he does not lack mercy.

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5. He does not look down upon the affluent who cry out to Him (*Psalm 22:24*).

“For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted;

Nor has He hidden His face from him;  
But when he cried to Him for help, He heard.”  
(Psalm 22:24, NASB95)

**6. Neither does turn a deaf ear to the prayer of the destitute (Psalm 102:17).**

“He has regarded the prayer of the destitute  
And has not despised their prayer.”  
(Psalm 102:17, NASB95)

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**7. He is the self-sufficient ruler of the universe (cf. Job 34:13-15).**

“Who gave Him authority over the earth?  
And who has laid on Him the whole world?  
“If He should determine to do so,  
If He should gather to Himself His spirit and His breath,  
All flesh would perish together,  
And man would return to dust.”  
(Job 34:13–15, NASB95)

**8. At the end of Job 36, in verse 30, Elihu says this about God’s power.**

“Behold, He spreads His lightning about Him,  
And He covers the depths of the sea.”  
(Job 36:30, NASB95)

“See how He spreads His lightning around Him and covers the depths of  
the sea.” (Job 36:30, HCSB)

**9. God manifests His presence by surrounding Himself with the lightning of  
the storm.**

**10. All of this, you and I can only understand to a degree.**

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**B. He Is Magnificent In His Person**

1. In Job 36:26, we find another statement from Elihu concerning God's power.

"Behold, God is exalted, and we do not know Him;  
The number of His years is unsearchable."

(Job 36:26, NASB95)

2. It was Moses who wrote in Psalm 90:2, "Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."
3. None of us can write the biography of God.
4. Our understanding of God is limited to three realms: creation, experience, revelation.
5. God's revelation of himself to us is left to His discretion — He reveals to us what He chooses to reveal.

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6. In Job 36:22, Elihu speaks to God's power in another way.

"Behold, God is exalted in His power;  
Who is a teacher like Him?"

(Job 36:22, NASB95)

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7. He is the supreme Teacher (Psalm 25:8-14).

"Good and upright is the Lord;  
Therefore He instructs sinners in the way.  
He leads the humble in justice,  
And He teaches the humble His way.  
All the paths of the Lord are lovingkindness and truth  
To those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.  
For Your name's sake, O Lord,  
Pardon my iniquity, for it is great.

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Who is the man who fears the Lord?

He will instruct him in the way he should choose.  
His soul will abide in prosperity,  
And his descendants will inherit the land.  
The secret of the Lord is for those who fear Him,  
And He will make them know His covenant.”

(Psalm 25:8–14, NASB95)

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### **C. He Is Marvelous In His Purposes**

1. There was an approaching storm as Elihu was speaking to Job and his three friends.
2. This storm prompted Elihu to focus upon God’s power in nature and how uses it to accomplish His purposes.
3. First, Elihu speaks of the storm with its thunder and lightning (*Job 37:2-5*).

“Listen closely to the thunder of His voice,  
And the rumbling that goes out from His mouth.  
“Under the whole heaven He lets it loose,  
And His lightning to the ends of the earth.  
“After it, a voice roars;  
He thunders with His majestic voice,  
And He does not restrain the lightnings when His voice is heard.  
“God thunders with His voice wondrously,  
Doing great things which we cannot comprehend.”

(*Job 37:2–5*, NASB95)

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4. Next, there is the snow, the ice and the cold (*Job 37:6, 9-12*).

“For to the snow He says, ‘Fall on the earth,’  
And to the downpour and the rain, ‘Be strong.’”

(*Job 37:6*, NASB95)

“Out of the south comes the storm,  
And out of the north the cold.  
“From the breath of God ice is made,  
And the expanse of the waters is frozen.  
“Also with moisture He loads the thick cloud;  
He disperses the cloud of His lightning. “  
It changes direction, turning around by His guidance,  
That it may do whatever He commands it  
On the face of the inhabited earth.”

(Job 37:9–12, NASB95)

5. What is His purpose in all of this?
6. At times, God has used such events to correct or discipline His people:
  - a. The flood in Noah’s day served to remove a wicked generation from the earth (Genesis 6-7).
  - b. God used a number of events in nature to discipline Pharaoh (Exodus 4-10).
  - c. He used “fire from heaven” to bring about the death of Nadab and Abihu when they offered strange fire to the Lord (Leviticus 10:1-2) .
  - d. Again he used “fire from heaven” to show Ahab and the people of Israel that He was the one true God (1 Kings 18:20-38).
7. At other times He uses these things to bless His people.

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- a. The early and late rains (Deuteronomy 11:13-14).

“It shall come about, if you listen obediently to my commandments which I am commanding you today, to love the Lord your God and to serve Him with all your heart and all your soul, that He will give the rain for your land in its season, the early and late rain, that you may gather in your

grain and your new wine and your oil.” (Deuteronomy 11:13–14, NASB95)

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- b. Rain to bless the land (Deuteronomy 28:12).

“The Lord will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand; and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.” (Deuteronomy 28:12, NASB95)

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- 8. He uses these things to instruct us (Matthew 5:43-45).

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.” (Matthew 5:43–45, NASB95)

## **Conclusion**

- 1. Nothing and no one can compare to our God.
- 2. We must never forget this.
- 3. Let us worship Him with our silence, our words and our songs.

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- 4. In 1833, Robert Grant penned the words to this powerful hymn:

**O worship the King, all glorious above,  
And gratefully sing His wonderful love;  
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,  
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.**

**Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?**

**It breathes in the air, it shines in the light.  
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain.  
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.**

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**Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;  
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend!**