



A YEAR
with
GOD
Daily Devotional

DAY 13



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DAY THIRTEEN

Job 35 - 37

Listen. The Thunder Is Saying Something.

Elihu is still speaking. And by now, Job and his friends have probably stopped expecting much from any voice in the room. They have been at this for thirty-four chapters. Everyone has said their piece. Everyone has run dry. And here is this young man, still going. But something is changing in Elihu's voice as he moves through chapters 35 to 37. He starts with argument, and he ends with awe. He begins by correcting and he finishes by gazing. It is as though, mid-speech, he looks up and forgets what he was saying - because the sky is doing something extraordinary.

There are moments when the argument stops mattering because the presence of God becomes undeniable. Elihu is about to have one of those moments. And so are we.

Chapter 35 is Elihu still pressing his case against Job. His argument is sharp: if you sin, what does that take from God? If you are righteous, what does that give to Him? God is not diminished by your failures and not enlarged by your goodness. He is beyond the reach of either. And yet He hears - and sometimes He is silent because the pride of the one crying out is getting in the way of the answer.

It is a hard word. And it may not be entirely aimed at Job. It may be aimed at you. Because sometimes we approach God in our suffering as though He owes us an explanation - as though the fact that we have been faithful means He must account for Himself. Elihu is not saying God doesn't hear. He is saying: check the posture you are bringing to the silence.

- God is not deaf. But He is not impressed by volume either. Sometimes the quieter the approach, the clearer the answer.

Chapter 36 is where something shifts. Elihu moves from rebuke to wonder. He speaks of God's greatness - His power, His justice, His care for the afflicted. He says God opens their ears through suffering, commands them to repent of their iniquity, and if they obey, they spend their remaining years in prosperity and their years in pleasantness. There is a pathway through the pain. The suffering is not the destination.

*“He is wooing you from the jaws of distress
to a spacious place free from restriction,”*

- Job 36:16

Read that again. God is wooing you. Not dragging you. Not forcing you. Wooing - calling you tenderly, persistently, with intention, out of the narrow place and into something wider. The suffering you are in may be the very thing He is using to woo you toward a spacious

place you would never have sought on your own.

And then Elihu tells Job to stop and consider the wonders of God. Pause. Look. Before you say another word, just look at what is happening around you.

Chapter 37 is Elihu at his most spectacular. He has stopped arguing entirely. He is describing a thunderstorm - and the way he describes it, you feel the hair on your arms stand up. His heart pounds at the thunder. God's voice thunders in marvellous ways. He does great things beyond our understanding. He says to the snow: fall on the earth. He says to the rain: be a mighty downpour. Every creature stops in its tracks. The breath of God produces ice. The skies turn bronze.

*“God's voice thunders in marvellous ways;
he does great things beyond our understanding.”*

- Job 37:5

And then Elihu turns to Job and asks him the questions that God is about to ask at a far greater volume: Can you understand how God controls the clouds? Do you know how He makes lightning flash? Do you know the balancing of the clouds? Can you spread out the skies, hard as a mirror of cast bronze?

Elihu cannot answer these questions. Neither can Job. Neither can we. And that is exactly the point. Elihu is not building an argument

any more. He is preparing a room. He is clearing space in the conversation for Someone far larger than himself to speak. He ends his speech with these words:

“The Almighty is beyond our reach and exalted in power;”

- Job 37:23

He is beyond our reach. But He is not beyond our hearing. He is about to speak. And when God speaks from the whirlwind, nothing in the room will ever be the same again.

Tomorrow, the Voice that made the thunder speaks. Get

Speak this over yourself today:

God is wooing me — not punishing me.

The narrow place I am in is not my destination.

He is calling me toward something spacious.

I will stop. I will look. I will listen for the thunder.

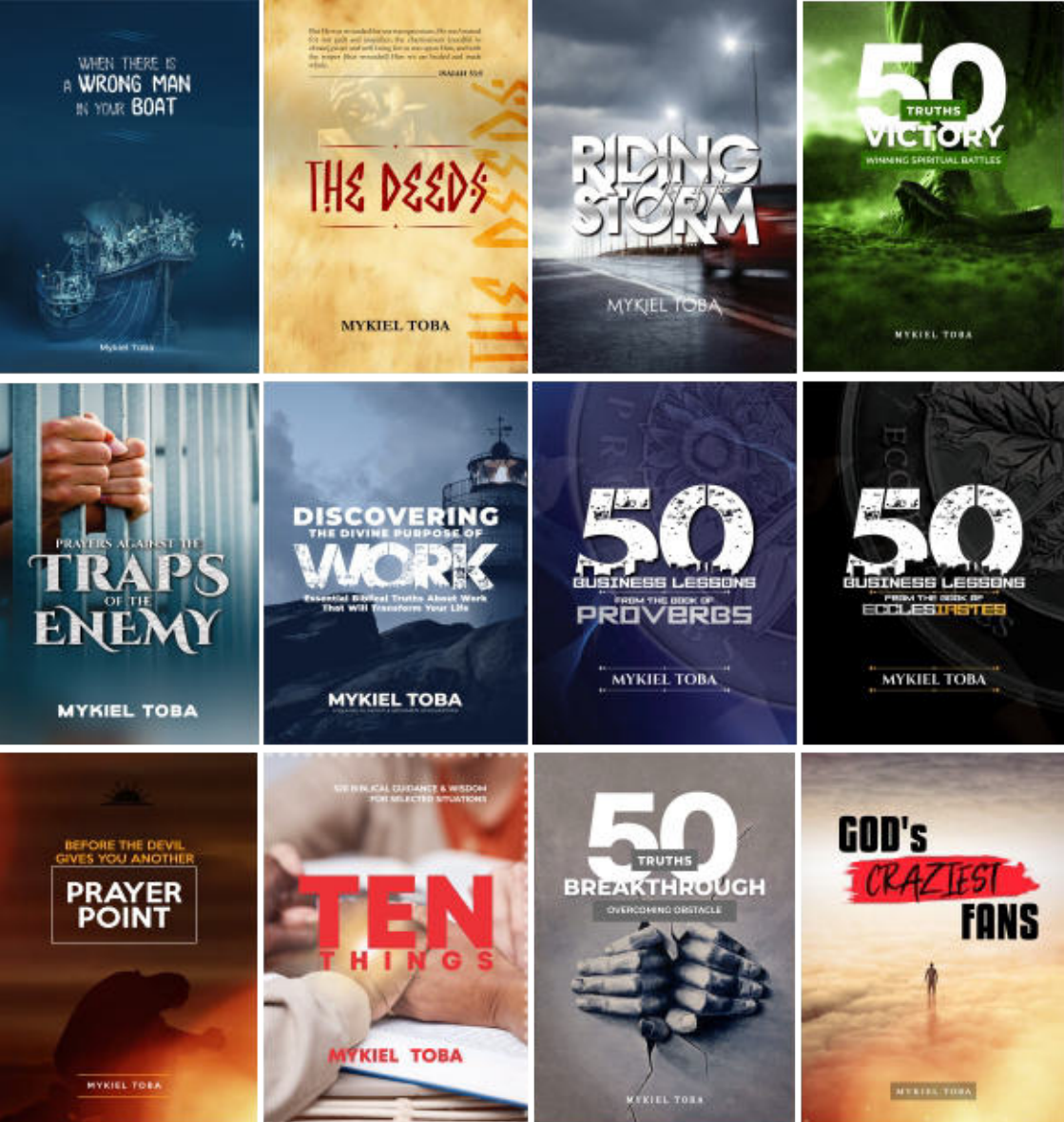
TOMORROW — Day 14 Job 38–39

Tomorrow God finally speaks. Not to explain. Not to apologise.

But to ask Job something that will rearrange everything Job thought he understood about the universe and about himself.

You do not want to miss this.

Day 13 of 365



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