

Sunday Morning Worship – January 4

Sovereignty, Purity & the Needed Mediator

Scripture References

- Daniel 4:28–37
- Job 25:1–6
- Psalm 84
- Psalm 19:1–2
- Romans 1:19–20

Introduction

On the first Sunday of the new year, the pastor resumed the study through the book of Job, with a covenant-renewal focus planned for the following week. At this point in the narrative, Job's friends have each spoken twice. Job 25 records Bildad's third and final speech, marking the last contribution from the friends.

The aim of this message was to consider suffering and blessing in light of God's sovereignty, while recognizing how even true theology can be misused—*weaponized*—when it is detached from grace.

Exposition & Key Themes

1. God's Absolute Sovereignty (Job 25:2–3)

“Dominion and fear are with God.” God's sovereignty is not borrowed, limited, or regional—it belongs to Him intrinsically. The word *māshal* conveys His absolute rule and governance.

The term *pāḥad* (fear) reflects God's authority to protect and to judge. In God's high heaven, where His rule is perfect, there is true *shalom*—complete peace and wholeness. His heavenly armies are beyond number, and His light reaches all creation.

This truth aligns with the 1689 Baptist Confession, which affirms that God freely, wisely, and unchangeably ordains all that comes to pass, while remaining holy and never the author of sin.

2. God's Transcendent Purity (Job 25:5)

Bildad emphasizes that even the moon and stars—symbols of purity and brilliance to humanity—are not pure when compared to God's holiness. Light itself cannot be corrupted by darkness, yet even the purest created light falls short of God's radiant perfection.

This perspective is meant to cultivate humility, reminding every creature of their smallness before a perfectly holy God.

3. The Right Question, Used the Wrong Way (Job 25:4, 6)

Bildad asks one of Scripture's most important questions: *"How can man be right before God?"*

The problem is not the question, but how Bildad applies it. He portrays God as relating to humanity like a tyrant to worms, forgetting key biblical truths:

- Humanity is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26–27).
- Scripture consistently reveals a gracious, covenantal pattern pointing toward a Mediator.

Bildad's theology, though accurate in its description of God's holiness, becomes harmful when it is used to condemn rather than restore. Truth without grace becomes a weapon.

4. The Gospel Corrective

Elsewhere, Scripture answers Bildad's question clearly. Righteousness before God comes through Jesus Christ—the God-Man and our great High Priest. Christ lived under the Law, fulfilled it perfectly, bore God's wrath, and grants His righteousness to sinners (2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 3:26).

Suffering, therefore, is not evidence of divine rejection. God remains sovereign over suffering and uses it for His redemptive purposes (Romans 8:28).

Major Lessons

- High theology must be joined with humility, or it becomes destructive.
- No one can declare themselves justified—only Christ can.

- Creation testifies to God's glory and leaves humanity without excuse.
- Believers must guard against using sound doctrine as ammunition against the wounded.

Practical Application

- Cultivate humility by remembering that we are dust, yet deeply loved (Psalm 103:14).
- When offering counsel or correction, ask whether truth is being used to heal or to harm.
- In seasons of suffering, preach to yourself: *"Suffering is not condemnation. My Father is sovereign over this."*
- Point others to the Mediator, not to their failures.
- Regularly meditate on Scripture's portrayal of God's greatness (Psalm 19; Romans 1) to balance reverent fear with worshipful trust.

Conclusion & Call to Response

Job 25 presents a grand view of God, but a graceless view of humanity. True righteousness before a sovereign and holy God is found only in Jesus Christ.

The call is to repent of self-reliance, rest in the finished work of the Mediator, and approach God's throne with confidence through Him.

Prayer

Lord, You are dominion and fear, yet also mercy and grace. Humble us, keep us from weaponizing Your truth, and let Christ be our righteousness. Build Your church, draw sinners, and receive all glory through Jesus. Amen.

References & Resources

- Hymns sung: *In Christ Alone, Holy, Holy, Holy, He Will Hold Me Fast, Before the Throne of God Above*
- Historic resource: *1689 Baptist Confession* (articles on sovereignty and creation)