A dark, atmospheric landscape with a person standing in the foreground, overlaid with a city skyline silhouette. The scene is dimly lit, with a person standing on a rocky, snow-dusted path in the foreground. In the background, there are jagged, dark mountains and a faint, glowing city skyline silhouette. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

Have you ever had anything
'bad' happen to you?

How does this work?

Everything God does is right and just.

Bad things happen.



The Story of Job

- If everything God does is right, how do we make sense of what seems to be wrong?
- God's sovereignty vs. Job's integrity
 - Job defends himself by questioning God
 - The 'friends' defend God by condemning Job





Loving God No Matter What

*A Brief Look at
the Story of Job*

Chap. 29 – Job

- “What happened to the good ol’ days?”
 - “I used to be blessed by God” (2-6)
 - “I used to be respected” (7-10)
 - “I used to administer true justice” (11-25)
- Is Job provoking God?



Chap. 30 – Job

- “What happened to the good ol’ days?”
 - “Now I am rejected” (1-15)
 - “And I am dejected” (16-31)
- In the depths of depression
- Why would a loving God act this way? (20-23)
 - See Ps. 22; cf. Ezek. 24:15-24

Chap. 31 – Job

- “I swear to my innocence!”
- “The guilty deserve punishment” (2-3)
- “Therefore, if I have ... then...” (5-40)
 - Lust, falsehood, covetousness, adultery, oppression, selfishness, avarice, idolatry, malice, inhospitableness, hypocrisy
- “Let the Almighty answer me” (35-37)
- The words of Job are ended. (40)

Chaps. 32-37 – Elihu

- Elihu comes to God's defense
 - Angry at Job for justifying himself before God:
 - Job claims God is against him
 - Job claims he is in the right
 - Therefore, Job claims that God is *wrong*
 - Angry at the 3 for not defending God
 - Attempts to answer Job's main complaints
 - Some good things to say; some confusion

Chap. 32 – Elihu (Introduction)

- “Now its my turn to speak”
 - “I thought age should speak first” (6-10)
 - “But *older* doesn’t mean *wiser*” (9)
 - “No one refuted Job” (11-14)
 - “I am full of words” (15-22)
 - “I am partial to no one” (21)

Chap. 33 – Elihu (Speech 1)

- “God most certainly speaks” (see Job 13)
- “I’ll act as God’s representative” (1-7)
- “First of all, you’re wrong! (*proud*)” (8-12)
- “God uses dreams to warn man” (13-18)
- “God uses pain to chasten man” (19-22)
- “God uses angels to mediate for man” (23-28)
- “God does these to enlighten man” (29-33)

Chap. 33 – Elihu (Speech 1)

- How does sin relate to suffering? (19-22)
 - ‘Friends’: sin automatically leads to suffering
 - Elihu: suffering can lead away from sin
 - A warning or call to repent/change ways
- All 4 wrongly assume sin was involved
- Irony: Satan intended Job’s suffering to *cause* him to sin (1:11)

Chap. 34 – Elihu (Speech 2)

- “God most certainly is just” (see Job 12)
- “Job, you sound like a wicked scoffer” (1-9)
 - Quotes Job – *sort of* (5-6)
 - Wrongly accuses Job of wickedness (8)
- “God can do no wrong” (10-15)
 - “He pays man according to his work” (11)
 - “He is Sovereign” (13)
 - “He could kill us all but doesn’t” (14-15)

Chap. 34 – Elihu (Speech 2)

- “God most certainly is just” (see Job 12)
- “Can *you* judge *God*?” (16-20)
- “God sees/knows all – and He acts” (21-30)
 - “Who are you to question Him?” (29)
- “Does God submit to your terms?” (31-33)
- “Job should be punished for rebellion” (34-37)

Chap. 35 – Elihu (Speech 3)

- “God is Sovereign” (see Job 10:7)
- “You can’t have it both ways” (2-4)
- “God is *transcendent*” (5-8)
 - “Your sin does not affect God” (6-7)
 - “...but it does affect you and others” (8 -> 3)
 - So, you agree God is indifferent?
- “God ignores proud hypocrites” (9-16)
- *God will not answer you directly*

Chaps. 36-37 – Elihu (Speech 4)

- “God is innocent”
 - “Listen to me, I’m really smart” (36:2-4)
 - “God gives people what they deserve” (36:5-7)
 - “God uses pain to expose pride” (36:8-15)
 - “Don’t sacrifice learning for peace” (36:16-21)
 - “Don’t judge God; praise Him!” (36:22-26)
 - “See the coming storm!” (36:27-37:13)
 - “God has a good purpose in all” (37:13)

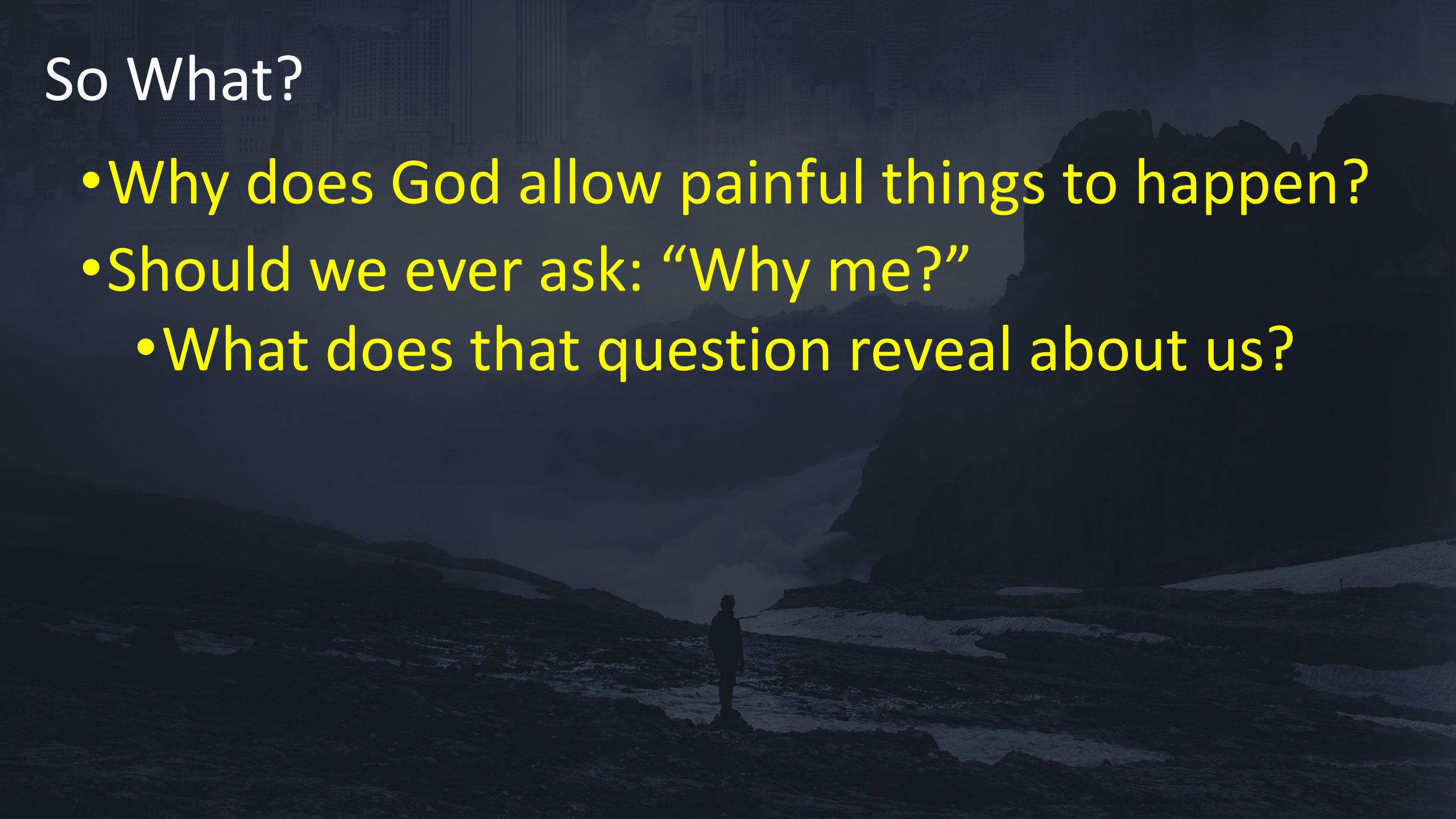
Chaps. 36-37 – Elihu (Speech 4)

- “God is bigger and smarter than you”
 - “Can you do what God does?” (37:14-21)
 - “God is mighty and just” (37:22-23)
 - “Humble yourself and fear Him!” (37:24)
 - Was Job’s silence acquiescence?



So What?

- Why does God allow painful things to happen?
- Should we ever ask: “Why me?”
 - What does that question reveal about us?



So What?

GOD

Satan

*“WHY
ME?”*

BAD

JOB

So What?

- God always has a purpose in all that He does
 - You may not understand His purpose, but if you trust Him, you don't have to
- You may not 'deserve' suffering, but it happens
 - What's being exposed?
 - Pride? (1 Pet. 5:5b-11)
 - Rejoice! (Rom. 5:3-5)