

Trusting God's Plan and Not Our Own

Job 38:1-22

Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm. He said: 2 “Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge? 3 Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.

4 “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation?

Tell me, if you understand.

5 Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!

Who stretched a measuring line across it?

6 On what were its footings set,

or who laid its cornerstone—

7 while the morning stars sang together

and all the angels[a] shouted for joy?

8 “Who shut up the sea behind doors

when it burst forth from the womb,

9 when I made the clouds its garment

and wrapped it in thick darkness,

10 when I fixed limits for it

and set its doors and bars in place,

11 when I said, ‘This far you may come and no farther;

here is where your proud waves halt’?

12 “Have you ever given orders to the morning,

or shown the dawn its place,

13 that it might take the earth by the edges

and shake the wicked out of it?

14 The earth takes shape like clay under a seal;

its features stand out like those of a garment.

15 The wicked are denied their light,

and their upraised arm is broken.

16 “Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea

or walked in the recesses of the deep?

17 Have the gates of death been shown to you?

Have you seen the gates of the deepest darkness?

18 Have you comprehended the vast expanses of the earth?

Tell me, if you know all this.

19 "What is the way to the abode of light?

And where does darkness reside?

20 Can you take them to their places?

Do you know the paths to their dwellings?

21 Surely you know, for you were already born!

You have lived so many years!

1. In verse 1, what did God speak out of? How do you suppose Job felt at that moment? Whereas, just moments before God showed up, how did he feel? What is our proper attitude toward God?

- **Deuteronomy 13:4** - You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him.
- **Ephesians 3:12** - In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

2. While Job does not curse God, he does demand that God settle the dispute by proving him right and explaining the reason for all his afflictions. Job's friends wanted God to prove them right and for Job to recognize his error. How does God turn this around in vs. 3?

3. What were God's unanswerable questions designed to do for Job? Why did Job need to hear this?

4. Did God answer Job's question? Does God have to answer all our questions? What are we called to do in times of trial in regard to our relationship with God?

- **Proverbs 3:5-6** - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

5. Important note: To see this appearance of God to Job only as a rebuke is a grave mistake. Through God's speech, Job learns that he has not been ab_____ by God.

Job learns that God is in c_____. He will also learn that God is his fr_____ who acts for his g_____.

How are these things comforting?

CONCLUSION: God has now appeared to Job. Job's greatest agony was that he felt God had abandoned him, and now he knew he God was with him. Like any true revelation of God there were plenty of elements that would make Job feel small before the greatness of God; yet it could not take away from the massive comfort Job felt in simply being once again consciously in the presence of God.

In addition, it gradually dawned on Job that without knowing why he was suffering he could face it, so long as he was assured that God was his friend. We might imagine a small smile on the face of Job throughout this questioning, though it did appropriately humble him and bring him to repentance. Yet he smiled as a child who longs for his long-gone father might smile upon his father's return, even while being corrected - the child smiles because his father is here again.

Could all of this be true for you and your walk with God?