

Job 38:8-11 “Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed’?”

INTRO: **Q.** How will you and I worship God in a manner worthy of Him? **Q.** How will you and I find the strength to not only endure, but to rejoice in suffering? **A.** You must know God, as He has revealed Himself in the Scriptures.

CONTEXT: The book of Job shows us a weight of suffering that no one in this room has ever been made to experience. Job, a righteous man, is bent down by it. He murmurs, grumbles, and groans all throughout the book. And then in its conclusion, he puts his hand to his mouth, and walks away feeling his suffering as only light and momentary. **Q.** How?

CONTENT: God does not come to him with soothing words of comfort. God does not come to him with the glorious promises in Romans 8. God lays the weight of his glory upon Job, and at once he perceives his suffering as light and momentary.

In Ch 38-41, God is laying out the works that He has performed, but the question He is demanding an answer to is “what is God, that He can and would do such things?” This is why God asks,

- **Job 38:2** Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?... (being)
- **Job 38:4** “Where were you... (eternity)
- **Job 38:4** Tell me, if you have understanding. (wisdom)
- **Job 40:8** Will you even put me in the wrong? (justice)

Q. “What is God, that He can and would do such things?” This is the question that Job 38:8-11 stands to answer, wherefrom we learn that...

DOCTRINE: God is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in all of His perfections.

LAYOUT:

1. I want to show you this doctrine from the text in 4 divisions
2. Then I want to show you how to use this doctrine with 6 directions

God is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His...

I. POWER

[8] “Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb,

- **CHILDREN** Have you ever tried to stop a wave at the ocean?
- [DEFINE] God's **power** is that perfection whereby He can do all He pleases.
 - **Daniel 4:35** ...and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand...
- **EXAMINE YOUR RELATIONS AND VOCATION** Does your life display that you are serving a God of infinite and eternal power? Beloved, you serve a God who does whatever He pleases! Live your life with zeal for Him, and stop caring what people will think! Make it your resolve to be faithful, and leave the results to Him. Stop keeping the peace by craftiness and sheepishness, and watch what your Lord will do!

Q. Who is like our God?

God is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His...

II. BEING AND HOLINESS

[9] when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band,

- **ADULTS** Have you ever had a possession that you referred to as, “your baby?” Maybe something you made, really took care of, and exercised great dominion over. God calls the ocean His baby.
- [DEFINE] God's **being** is incomprehensible. He simply is. He is contained by nothing, and eternally self-existent.
 - **Isaiah 46:9** ...for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me,
- [DEFINE] God's **holiness** is that perfection by which he acts by Himself, for Himself, with a perfect hatred against everything contrary to His holy will.
 - **Revelation 4:8** ...and day and night they never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty...

- **EXAMINE YOUR PRAYERS** When you go before the throne of grace, does your attention reflect that you are addressing a God who is incomprehensible in His being and holiness? Or do you march into the most holy place and loiter around without much thought for why you entered there? Stop and consider who you have access to through Christ Jesus! Consider the sprinkled blood that sanctified a path for you to go before the throne of grace! Tremble at this privilege! And avail yourself of it!

Q. Who is like our God?

God is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His...

III. WISDOM

[10] and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors,

- **Q.** Are there bars and doors at the ocean? This is the device that men use to contain a dangerous creature.
- **CHILDREN** I have an assignment for you. Take a cup of water, pour it on a basketball, spin the basket, then throw it as fast as you can without ever letting any of the water leave the ball. Who wants that assignment?
- **FOR YOU SPHERE-EARTHERS OUT THERE** Do you realize that is God's design?
 - Spinning on axis at 1000 mph
 - Revolving around the Sun at 67,000 mph
 - Revolving around the center of the galaxy at 447,000 mph
- [DEFINE] God's **wisdom** is that perfection whereby He knows all things, and how to dispose them to their best ends.
 - **Romans 16:27** to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.
- **EXAMINE YOUR GRUMBLING** What was the last thing you grumbled about? Draw it to mind if you can. Was it something to the effect, "why did you make me like this..." or "why was such allowed to happen..." As though you could instruct a God, unchangeable in His wisdom, how He might have decreed better.
- **READ YOUR BIBLE** This God wrote a book. Read it!

Q. Who is like our God?

God is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His...

IV. JUSTICE, GOODNESS, AND TRUTH

[11] and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed'?

- **Q.** Why does the ocean stay in its place? **A.** Because it is fixed there by His justice, goodness, and truth.
- [DEFINE] God's **justice** is that perfection wherein He always does what is right.
- [DEFINE] God's **goodness** is that perfection wherein He is upright in and of Himself, and is loving, kind, and patient with His creatures.
- [DEFINE] God's **truth** is that perfection whereby He is faithful, and cannot lie.
 - **Deuteronomy 32:4** "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he."
- **CHILDREN** Do you remember the story about Noah in the Bible?
 - The sea was made an instrument of God's **justice** when at once He redacted this decree...
 - **Genesis 7:19** And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered.
 - The sea was made a memorial of God's **goodness** and **truth** when He mercifully established His covenant with Noah and ever remained faithful to it.
 - **Genesis 9:11** I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."
- Why do you and I not fear being swept away by the monstrous ocean? Because God has established another way to satisfy His justice. Because God, in His goodness, has decreed limits for it. Because the God of truth will not break His covenant with Noah.
- **Q.** Who is like our God?

Q. Consider the ocean. What better display has God given us of His infinite, eternal, and unchangeable perfections?

A. The Gospel.

1. It is against this infinite, eternal, and unchangeable God that you have sinned.
2. In His infinite, eternal, and unchangeable **holiness**, He hates your sin with a perfect hatred.
3. Against your sin, His infinite, eternal, and unchangeable **justice** must be satisfied.
4. And yet, in His infinite, eternal, and unchangeable **goodness**, He has predestined such sinners to glory.
 - **Q.** How will He do it?
5. In His infinite, eternal, and unchangeable **wisdom**, He devised a plan.

6. His infinite, eternal, and unchangeable Son would take upon Himself your nature, so that by His death He might satisfy the justice of God.
 7. By His infinite, eternal, and unchangeable **power** He took up His life again.
 8. And according to His infinite, eternal, and unchangeable **truth** He has promised life to all who will take their refuge in Him.
- So go to Him! Right now! Leave your sin. Seek and find refuge in the Son. Give yourself no peace until your calling and election is sure.
 - God is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in all of His perfections. And there is salvation in none but Him.

V. USES

FOR DIRECTION

9. **Worship Him in the manner that He is worthy.**

Psalms 29:2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

10. **Labor to know the LORD in all of His perfections.**

Hosea 6:3 let us press on to know the LORD

11. **Crush your grumblings beneath the weight of His glory.**

Job 40:4 "Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth.

12. **Heads of households, teach your families the attributes of God.**

Judges 2:10 And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel.

13. **You who are suffering heavy things right now, delight yourselves in the weight of God's glory**

2 Corinthians 4:17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison

6. **Beloved, delight yourselves in the things that this infinite, eternal, and unchangeable God has declared "thus far, and no farther" to...**

1. To sinners (**Illustrate: Mt. Sinai**)
2. To your sin and misery
3. To your flesh
4. To the devil
5. To this world
6. To your suffering
7. To your humiliation