



God Speaks
Job 38-42

Job and his friends debated why Job was suffering. After thirty-five chapters of debate, God spoke.

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God didn't explain why Job was suffering. He didn't say anything to comfort Job. In fact, he didn't make any reference to Job's personal suffering, or hardly touch on the long debate Job and his friends had. Yet, it must be admitted that God did speak to Job. Many others in suffering desire this audience and God seems to never speak. It's probable in speaking to Job, God has spoken to everyone. In chapters 38 and 39 God reveals His power and wisdom as Creator and Preserver by asking Job his knowledge of the creation. Job responded by admitting his ignorance and insignificance (40:3-5). God then turned Job's attention to two uncontrollable creatures, the Behemoth and Leviathan. God has sovereign authority to control the uncontrollable. God's point is this: if you can't understand God's ways in the natural realm, how can you understand them in the spiritual realm? Job responded to God's second line of questioning by acknowledging he spoke about things he couldn't understand. He repented of his words and humbled himself before God.

God Restores

God spoke to the three friends and rebuked them for their false words about God. They offered sacrifices and Job prayed for them to atone for their sin. God gave Job twice the wealth he had, and Job's family and friends came to his house and comforted him. God also gave him seven more sons and three more daughters. Job lived 140 years after his suffering.

Why Do We Suffer?

We suffer because we live in a sin filled world. Jesus said we would have suffering in this world (John 16:33). The creation is tainted by sin and groans for renewal (Rom 8:22). Sinful people hurt us. Christians especially face persecution from sinful people because the world hates us just as they hated Jesus (John 18:15-25 see also 1 Peter 3:13-17). We sin and face the consequences.

What's Suffering's Purpose

(1) Bring Glory to God – A man was born blind so Jesus could heal him and show that Jesus was the light of the world (John 9) (2) Deeper Ministry – Those who suffer have a ministry to comfort others (2 Cor 1:3-4) (3) Greater Good – God uses bad to bring about good! (Joseph - Gen 50:20). (4) The Father's discipline (Heb 12:3-12). God teaches us, tests us, and corrects so that we mature and have a stronger faith (1 Peter 1:3-9; Rom 5:1-5; James 1:12). He gets our attention so that we change our priorities or humble ourselves (For example, the disciples in the storm and Jonah in the storm). (5) Draw us closer to Himself – When we have nothing else to cling to, we will cling to God. (Job 42:5) (6) Remind us that this world isn't our home (Heb 11:13-16; 2 Cor 4:16-18). Always remember Roman 8:28 and John 16:33. God has a good plan for our lives and Jesus has conquered the suffering world we live in by his suffering on the cross and resurrection from the dead.