

The Ultimate Test

The Trust Test

Job 38:1-42:9

We have reached the final message of our series on the book of Job, The Ultimate Test, and today we consider **The Trust Test**. Job's ultimate question is...

"Why have you made me your mark?" Job 7:20b

And some of God's responses:

"Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. 'Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding...Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place...Do you give the horse his might? Do you clothe his neck with a mane? Do you make him leap like the locust? His majestic snorting is terrifying...Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty? He who argues with God, let him answer it.' Then Job answered the LORD and said; 'Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth. I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but I will proceed no further...I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me.' I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.'" Job 38:3-4, 38:12, 39:19-20, 40:2-5, 42:2-6

Main Idea: The Trust Test Requires Clear Answers to Important Questions

Once God Spoke to Job, Two Questions Were Clearly Answered:

I. Who Is God?

"When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?" Psalm 8:3-4

"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created." Revelation 4:11

"There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy." James 4:12a

"The Almighty God is without peer. He himself is the judge, jury, executioner, and standard of justice." Justin Taylor

II. Who Are We?

"I had a million questions to ask God; but when I met Him, they all fled my mind; and it didn't seem to matter." Christopher Morley

"I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes." Job 42:5-6

"And he said, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God." Exodus 3:6

"But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.'" Luke 5:8

"And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'" Acts 9:4

"When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, 'Fear not, I am the first and the last.'" Revelation 1:17

"Until we are silenced before God, He can't do for us what needs to be done. As long as we defend ourselves and argue with God, He can't work for us and in us to accomplish His plan through us." Warren Wiersbe

The Trust Test requires knowing who God is and who we are as we go through trials.

God Answered Job's Questions, Not with Reasons but with a Relationship

"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."

Proverbs 3:5-6

"And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends. And the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and ate bread with him in his house. And they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him. And each of them gave him a piece of money and a ring of gold. And the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning...He also had seven sons and three daughters...And after this Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, four generations. And Job died, an old man, and full of days." Job 42:10-12a, 13, 16-17

While God restored everything Job had lost *times two*, he was under no obligation.

"In the whole story of Job, we see the patience of God and endurance of man. When these act in fellowship, the issue is certain. It is that of the coming forth from the fire as gold, that of receiving the crown of life." G. Campbell Morgan

It's one thing to scold God for his handling of our lives when we can't see or hear him, it's another thing to confront God to his face, but remember...

"...we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ..." 2 Corinthians 5:10

Trust in Christ for the forgiveness of sins in surrender to Him as Lord!

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities

- *New American Commentary: Job* – R.L. Alden (1993)
- *Be Patient* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *Wiersbe Expository Outlines on the OT* – Warren Wiersbe (1993)
- *Notes from My Bible* – D.L. Moody (1895)
- *The Spurgeon Study Bible* – C.H. Spurgeon (2017)
- *Tony Evans Study Bible* – Tony Evans (2019)
- *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary* – Hughes & Laney (2001)
- *The Wisdom Books: Job* – Chuck Swindoll (2023)
- *The Book of Job* – Ray Ortlund (2014)
- *CSB Study Bible* – Trevin Wax (2017)
- *4 Lessons from God's Interrogation of Job* – Justin Taylor (2012)

