

## A Study of the Book of Job: When Bad Things Happen to God's People

### *Lesson 17: The LORD Speaks: Part 1 (Chapter 38)*

#### **INTRODUCTION: REVIEW**

##### Review of Job Chapter 1 - 37

- Job was commended as one who was righteous and worshiped God.
- The LORD initiated the action in this drama by bringing Job to Satan's attention.
- Satan then challenged God to test Job's righteousness and faithfulness with severe affliction.
- The LORD allowed Satan to afflict Job (within pre-described limits).
- Job passed both tests of the loss of his possessions and family and his health.
- Job's agony was more than we can imagine or words can describe.
- Under the guise of supporting him, his three friends added to his woe by accusing him of bringing this suffering upon himself by some wrongdoing.
- In response, Job maintains his trust in the righteousness that comes by faith in the Savior and the resurrection to come, yet simultaneously he wrestles with despair and impatience and self-vindication.
- Although Job never cursed God as Satan had predicted he had come very close: questioning God's justice and calling him his enemy.

##### Main Question of the Book: Why do the righteous suffer?

- Three Friend's (Wrong) Answer:
- Elihu's (Better) Answer:
- Job's Answer:

##### Job Had Requested an Audience with God... Be Careful What You Wish For!

- **13:22** Then summon me and I will answer, or let me speak, and you reply.
- **23:3-5** If only I knew where to find him; if only I could go to his dwelling! I would state my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments. I would find out what he would answer me, and consider what he would say.
- **31:35** Oh, that I had someone to hear me! I sign now my defense—let the Almighty answer me; let my accuser put his indictment in writing.

##### 38:1-3

- A Theophany: A visible manifestation of God. What other theophanies can you recall from Scripture?
- "The LORD" – used in the introduction and closing of Job, but only 2x in the discourses. What is the significance of this name in the OT?
  - **Exodus 34:6-7** He passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin."

- The LORD turns the tables on Job: now he will be the one asking the (rhetorical) questions! In Scripture God often answers human questions with his own questions demonstrating man is not on par with God. Generally, the LORD asks four kinds of questions in chapters 38-41:
    - “Who has...?”
    - “Have you...?”
    - “Can you...?”
    - “Do you know...?”
- } ...all with the presumed answer of “no” / “no one”

**As we read Chapter 38, let’s ponder God’s rule over nature, his God’s divine characteristics, and work.**

38:4-7

- V. 7: Note: based on this verse some of suggested that the angels were created on (or before) day 4.

38:8-11

- 

38:12-15

- 

38:16-18

- 

38:19-21

- 

38:22-30

- 

38:31-33

- 

38:34-38

- 

How would you respond to someone, who would say that science has uncovered many of these secrets and the rhetorical questions God had for Job no longer apply to us today?