

“Pain, Death and Suffering: Life Lessons from Job’s Suffering”

Job 38-42 (38:4-18)

(Introduction)

YouTube

video:<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HEeh1BH34Q>



I. The World Below (on earth) (38:4-18)

1. In 38:4–7 God focuses on the earth.
2. In 38:8–11 God focuses on the sea.
3. In 38:12–15 God focuses on the dawn.
4. In 38:16–18 God focuses on the depth and breadth of the sea and land.

II. The World Above (vv.19-38).

- * First, in verses 19–21 God asks Job about the origin of light and dark.
- * Second, in verses 22–30 God asks him about snow.
- * Third, in verses 31–33 God asks Job to look at the constellations.
- * If not, come back down then and we will just talk about the rain again (verses 34–38).

III. The World of Animals (38:39-39:30)

- * In 38:39–41, God asks who Job thinks provides lions and birds with their food?
- * The birth of the young (39:1–4). "Do you know when the mountain goats bring forth? Do you observe the calving of the hinds?"
- * The wild donkey (39:5–8). "Who has let the wild donkey go free?" And so it goes.
- * The wild ox (39:9–12): you don't know how to bind him or use him. He is mine.
- * The stupid ostrich (39:13–18): she walks away from her eggs; she treats her young cruelly.
- * Take the war horse (39:19–25), "Do you give him his might? Do you clothe his neck with strength?"
- * Finally, Job, (39:26–30) "Is it by your wisdom that the hawk soars, and spreads his wings toward the south? Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up and makes his nest on high?"

Three Acts of Job's Submission (42:1-6):

Then Job replied to the Lord:

“I know that you can do all things;
no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without
knowledge?’

Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me to know.

“You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak;
I will question you,
and you shall answer me.’

My ears had heard of you
but now my eyes have seen you.

Therefore I despise myself
and repent in dust and ashes.”

- * 1. He submits to God's absolute sovereignty: that God can do whatever he pleases, and is not constrained by anything outside himself (vv.1-2).
- * 2. He submits to God's infinitely greater wisdom and knowledge: he has spoken about things of which he is very ignorant (v. 3).
- * 3. He again quotes God and then gives his own response.
- * 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me.' I had heard of thee by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees thee; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.' (vv.4-6)

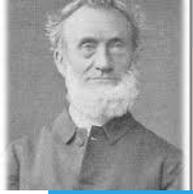
III. Four Takeaways:

1. BELIEVE with all your heart in the absolute sovereignty of God.
2. Believe with all your heart that everything He does is right and good.
3. REPENT of all the times you have questioned God.
4. Be SATISFIED.

George Müller (1805 – 1898)

‘jettisoned’ Hudson Taylor into ministry:

- * “If we desire our faith to be strengthened, we should not shrink from opportunities where our faith may be tried, and therefore, through trial, be strengthened.”
- * “Faith does not operate in the realm of the possible. There is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible. Faith begins where man's power ends.”



George Müller (1805 – 1898)

'There are five conditions which I always endeavour to fulfil, in observing which I have the assurance of answer to my prayer':

- * 1. I have not the least doubt because I am assured that it is the Lord's will to save them, for he willeth that all men should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (see 1 Tim. 2.4); and we have the assurance 'that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us' (1 John 5.14).
- * 2. I have never pleaded for their salvation in my own name, but in the blessed name of my precious Lord Jesus, and on his merits alone (see John 14.14).
- * 3. I always firmly believed in the willingness of God to hear my prayers (see Mark 11.24).
- * 4. I am not conscious of having yielded to any sin, for 'if I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me' when I call (Ps. 66.18).
- * 5. I have persevered in believing prayer for more than fifty two years for some, and shall continue till the answer comes: 'Shall not God avenge his own elect which cry day and night unto him?' (Luke 18.7).

Reflection Questions:

- * What do you think is the purpose of your ‘current trials’?
- * As a result of trials, do you find yourself talking more to God or less?
- * Are you content with your prayer life? How can you build upon your prayer life?
- * What is it going to take for you to be ‘satisfied’?