



SESSION

5

THE STORY OF
JOB & GOD



1. I like figuring out who it was that did something mean to me.
2. Most of the people in this room use good theology in wrong ways...On accident, of course!
3. God takes good things away, when you need to learn a lesson.
4. If you question why bad things are happening to you, you are a legalist.
5. If you don't believe that God allows innocent people to suffer, you don't believe in salvation.



SUMMARY: Job 38-42

Job 38-39 - God Uses Nature To Challenge Job's Wisdom

Job 40:1-5 - Job's Initial Repentance

Job 40:6-41:34 - God Challenges Job's Authority Over Nature

Job 42 - Job's Repentance (Vss. 1-6)

Job's Intercession For His Friends (Vss. 7-9)

God Restores Job's Prosperity (Vss. 10-17)

GOD FINALLY SPEAKS

• **38:1 - God speaks to Job out of a whirlwind:** 1 *Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:* 2 *"Who is this who darkens counsel with words without knowledge?"*

Elijah was taken up into heaven by a whirlwind (2 Kings 2:1, 11). God's judgment is spoken of as coming in a whirlwind (Jeremiah 23:19; 30:23; Ezekiel 13:13). This is the very opposite of the "still, small, voice" with which God spoke to Elijah in 1 Kings 19:12. Possibly to remind Job of the greatness and power of God, much like God impressed the Israelites in the giving of the Law from Mt. Sinai (Exodus 20:18-19).

• **38-41 - What God does not say to Job:** God does not tell Job about the celestial gathering and the ensuing conversation between Himself and Satan, as we find it in Job 1 & 2. Neither is Job informed about God's purposes for his suffering.

∞ *Why do you think God does not talk about Satan's involvement here, but instead talks about His supreme power and authority?*

THE MISUSE OF GOOD THEOLOGY

• **42:7-10 - Where was Job RIGHT and his friends WRONG?:**

7 After the LORD had finished speaking to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite:

DIG DEEP

"I am angry with you and your two friends, FOR YOU HAVE NOT SPOKEN ACCURATELY ABOUT ME, AS MY SERVANT JOB HAS. 8 So take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and offer a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer on your behalf. I will not treat you as you deserve, for you have not spoken accurately about me, as my servant Job has." 9 So Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite did as the LORD commanded them, and the LORD accepted Job's prayer. 10 When Job prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes. In fact, the LORD gave him twice as much as before! (NLT)

∞ In what way, then, was Job right while his three friends were wrong in what they said about God?

● JOB'S WORDS IN THE FIRST TWO CHAPTERS OF THE BOOK.

He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will return there. The LORD gives, and the LORD takes away. May the name of the LORD be blessed!" (Job 1:21)

9 Then his wife said to him, "Are you still holding firmly to your integrity? Curse God, and die!" 10 But he replied, "You're talking like one of the godless women would do! Should we receive what is good from God, and not also receive what is evil?" In all this Job did not sin by what he said (Job 2:9-10).

∞ How does God give and take away...And what does that say about His character?

● JOB DECLARES THAT GOD IS WORTHY OF HIS WORSHIP, REGARDLESS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

This affirmation directly opposes Satan's assessment of why Job would worship God. Satan believes that men worship God only as long as He pours out material blessings on them. Job believes that God is worthy of his worship, even when He takes all his material "blessings" away.

∞ Why is this such a consistent struggle for most people?

● **JOB'S FRIENDS LOOKED AT BLESSINGS AND ADVERSITY THROUGH A LEGALISTIC LENS.** In short, they believed that what a person sows in life determines what they reap in life. Thus, they expect God to bestow material blessings as a reward for good works. Conversely, they expect God to bestow suffering and adversity as the consequence for sin. This error of legalistic thinking has a long history in the Old Testament. In Psalm 73 Asaph was greatly troubled by the fact that the wicked were prospering, while the righteous (which included Asaph) suffered.

∞ Why do you think that God allows Himself to appear "unfair" in things like this?

● **JOB'S FRIENDS COULD NOT ACCEPT INNOCENT SUFFERING.** Later on, Joseph and Daniel, would serve to refute this error of Job's friends. Beyond that, the whole sacrificial system God would establish would operate on the basis that an innocent victim could somehow make atonement for the sin of the guilty. When the Lord Jesus came to the earth as the "Lamb of God," He would make atonement for sin, once for all. Innocent suffering, denied by Job's friends, was foundational for God's saving work through the person and sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. Therefore, to deny innocent suffering as a possibility, was to deny Christ's work at Calvary.

∞ How can our present trials help us understand God more?

1. How much do I need to know "why" bad things are happening to me?
2. Am I letting God have complete power and authority of my life?
3. How does this help to clarify my understanding of God's character?

