

Job's Conversion Part 3

How Great Thou Art

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung 1/20/2018

Brethren, do you ever stop and really meditate on How Great God Is? That's the lesson Job had to learn. Job suffered for doing good and endured it patiently, and God was pleased with him.

Satan's business was going to and fro, and from walking up and down, and being the god of this earth. He wanted nothing more than for Job to **curse God**. Satan desired Job, just as he desired Peter, and just as he desires **all those whom God has called**. Satan challenged God:

Job 1:11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch **all that he hath**, and he will **curse thee to thy face**.

WZ Satan boasted to God that all men were falling prey to his subtle tactics. God said in effect that Job was successfully resisting Satan's ploy.

"Consider my servant..." God then granted Satan the freedom to strip Job of his possessions and his family, and to afflict him with excruciating boils (Job 1:12-19). Job at first accepted his plight, saying, "The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD" (Job 1:21).

Job 2:5 But put forth thine hand now, and touch **his bone and his flesh**, and he will **curse thee to thy face**.

Though it was Satan who brought all the sore trials on Job, **God is the one who ultimately allowed** it to take place for the **good** of Job. Job could rightly say to his friends that **God had touched him**:

Job 19:21 Have pity upon me, have pity upon me, O ye my friends; for the hand of **God hath touched me**.

But, Job did not curse God, as Satan said he would. Job was not yet a righteous man when God began to allow his trials to come upon him. We can learn a great deal in studying the life of Job in retrospect. We find that Job was chastened a great deal even though he was **blameless and upright** (Job 1:1).

Hebrews 12:6-7 Whom the Lord **loves** He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives. If ye endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chastens not?

Time and chance happen to the people in the world. God is not dealing with **them yet**. Job's trial and chastening bore good fruit. God loved Job. The very reason for Job's trial was because God knew that Job could and would do even better! The Book of Job closes without telling us much more about Job's **spiritual life**. His physical life was blessed doubly.

Job 42:12-13 So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses. (13) He had also seven sons and three daughters.

But it is not evident in the Book of Job how he fared **spiritually after** his tremendous ordeal. What was the rest of the one-hundred and forty years of Job's life like? It does not say so in the Book of Job, but we find that God later declared Job to be "**righteous.**" That means that Job grew in grace and knowledge of our Lord, and will be in the first and better resurrection. Ezekiel, writing much later under God's inspiration declared Job's righteousness.

Ezekiel 14:14 Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and **Job**, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls **by their righteousness**, says the Lord God.

Ezekiel 14:20 Though Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by **their righteousness.**

So it is God who reveals that Job was eventually **righteous.** God in His infinite wisdom had intervened in Job life in order to further the process of Job's **spiritual** growth. After suffering affliction, and in endurance, Job's **resulting** righteousness shows that God patiently waited for the precious fruit of conversion in his life.

James, the half-brother of Jesus was also well aware of the spiritual principles at work in the life of Job. It was **Job's steadfastness**, his endurance, or patience that James calls our attention to. He wrote:

James 5:7-11 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waits for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it... (10) Take, my brethren, the prophets [like Job], who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of **suffering affliction**, and of **patience.** (11) Behold, we count them happy which **endure.** Ye have heard of the patient endurance of Job, and have seen the **goal of the Lord**; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

KJV says "**end** of the Lord," but it is speaking of God's **Plan** for His people – His **goal** – to be Children of God. In Job chapters 6-7 we saw Job **plead** for relief and comfort from:

Job 6:4 The **poisoned arrows** of the Almighty are within me, the poison thereof **devours** my spirit: the **terrors** of God set themselves in array against me.

Job **said some terrible things** against God while undergoing his bone-deep pain and suffering. In the end, Job **admitted** that he had **talked out of turn**, and had said some things that were really **out of line.**

Job 42:6 Wherefore I abhor myself, **and repent...**

Job **apologized** for making **accusations** about things he could not comprehend.

Job 42:3 Who is he that hides counsel without knowledge? Therefore have **I uttered that I understood not**; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.

Job felt that God was being unfair. He felt that God had let him down. Job was out of his mind in suffering – to the point of being despondent. And, yet, he never stopped believing in God. God knows our frame - our weaknesses (Psalm 103:14). In His mercy and compassion, God knows when to **overlook** and **forgive** our shortcomings, inadequacies, limitations and failings.

Romans 4:5 ... A man's faith is counted for righteousness.

Romans 4:6 Even as David also described the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputes righteousness without works,

Romans 4:7 Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

Romans 4:8 **Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.**

Job's hope and faith remained ultimately in God

Job 13:15 Though He slay me, **yet will I trust Him.**

Job had **TWO BIG questions** that he simply could not get his mind around.

Why do the innocent suffer, and the wicked prosper.

Job said to God:

Job 40:5 Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: **yea, twice;** but I will proceed no further.

We find those here:

Job 9:22 This is one thing, therefore I said it, God **destroys the perfect** [along with] the wicked.

Job 21:7 Wherefore do the wicked live, become old, yea, are **mighty in power?**

Psalms 73:2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.

Psalms 73:3 For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Psalms 73:4 For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm.

Psalms 73:5 They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men.

Psalms 73:6 Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.

Psalms 73:7 Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish.

Psalms 73:8 They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily.

Psalms 73:9 They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.

Psalms 73:21 Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.

Psalms 73:22 So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.

Psalms 73:16 When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;

Psalms 73:17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I **their end.**

How do the **wicked end up?** **Jesus said,**

Matthew 13:42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Psalm 73:18 Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.

Psalm 73:19 How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.

Psalm 73:28 But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.

There is a lot of evidence that King **David had the Book of Job.**

David had very little of what we call the Bible today – Pentateuch and Job – what else? Maybe a dozen books – Joshua, Judges, Kings, Chronicles... This is exactly what God said to Job when He was putting Job **in his place** for thinking that he **knew everything**. I think that David was setting the words of Job to prose and music. Please follow along with me in **Psalm 104** and I'll **insert** some reference points from the Book of Job Chapter 38.

Psalm 104:1 Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, **thou art very great**; thou art clothed with honor and majesty.

Job 42:2 I know that **you can do everything**, and that no thought can be withheld from you.

Psalm 104:2 Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain:

Job 38:19 Where is the way where light dwelleth? and as for darkness, where is the place thereof,

Job 38:20 That thou should take it to the bound thereof, and that thou should know the paths

Psalm 104:3 Who layeth the **beams of his chambers** in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind:

Psalm 104:4 Who makes his **angels spirits**; his ministers a flaming fire:

Job 38:7 When the **morning stars** sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Psalm 104:5 **Who** laid the **foundations of the earth**, that it should not be removed for ever.

God said in:

Job 38:4 Where were you when I laid the **foundations of the earth**? declare, if thou hast understanding.

Job 38:6 Whereupon are **the foundations** thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof

Psalm 104:6 Thou **covered it with the watery depths as with a garment**: the waters stood above the mountains.

Job 38:9 When I made the cloud the **garment the sea**, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it,

Psalm 104:7 At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away.

Psalm 104:8 They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them.

Job 38:11 And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?

Psalm 104:9 Thou hast **set a bound** that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth.

Job 38:8 Or who **shut up the sea with doors**, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb?

Read it all – in your study time – and see how many points of **commonality** you are able to find in the Book of Job with the writings of David. Just a few brief thoughts:

(Job 38:4) Job's ignorance exposed... Job is presumptuous to criticize God.

...declare – speak up now Job You have a lot to say.

(Job 38:5) Line??? What is the first thing you measure from, Job?

Job 38:7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Job, have you created any angels?

(Job 38:12) Do you cause the Sun to come up ever since your birth?

(Job 38:18) Job, Have you ever explored all the earth – much less create it?

(Job 38:19) Job, Do you even stop to think that it is night on the other side of the earth?

(Job 38:21) Job, Do you know all the answers because you were already born when I created the universe?

(Job 38:22) Job, have you been in My barn where I keep the ice and snow?

(Job 38:25) Job, do you have a funnel for the floods, a leash for the lightening?

(Job 38:30) Job, are you able to make water freeze?

(Job 38:31) Job, Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?

(Job 38:32) Job, are you the one who orders the constellations to appear in their season?

(Job 38:33) Job, do you keep the Sun, Moon and stars in order?

When the Lord is answering Job, He says, "Can you Job, **make men wise - as I have done to you?**"

Job 38:36 Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? Or who hath given understanding to the heart?

Job, do you still want to tell me how great YOU are – in the face of ALL creation and my divine Providence?

Job 38:39 God speaks of His providence and mastery of the animal kingdom. God showcases the beauty of the animals, not only in form but also in function—why they behave the way that they do. In short, everything is the way it is because He has made it that way.

What about Job? He could do none of those things – he could only observe their existence. God showed Job example after example of His elaborate creation with its intricate workings. The Book of Job was often David’s inspiration.

I am aware that those who put the Bible in an **inspired order** have Job **AFTER** Psalms – but it seems to me that the King James Version is more correct in placing Job **before** Psalms. Job had a lot of good questions – and like a **man of character** – he waited patiently for the answers. In the end, Job realized that there was so much more to God than he ever considered.

Job thought he was brilliant – and he was – but he didn’t begin to scratch the surface when it came to God’s brilliance, power, patience and love.

The **Book of Job is a gold mine of spiritual beginnings**. If you seek to have the gold – like in a gold mine you have to dig for it.

Job 28:1 Surely there is a vein for the silver, and a place for gold where they fine it.

Job 28:2 Iron is taken out of the earth, and brass is molten out of the stone.

Job 28:3 He sets an end to darkness, and searches out all perfection: the stones of darkness, and the shadow of death.

Job 28:4 The shaft of a mine collapses... men ascend and descend up and down...

The Living Bible is a paraphrase – but it can lend some understanding to what is being said here:

Job 28:1 “Men know how to mine silver and refine gold, 2 to dig iron from the earth and melt copper from stone. 3-4 Men know how to put light into darkness so that a mine shaft can be sunk into the earth, and the earth searched and its deep secrets explored. Into the black rock, shadowed by death, men descend on ropes, swinging back and forth.

Job 28:12 But **where** shall **wisdom** be found? And where is the place of understanding?

Job 28:13 Man knows not the price of wisdom; neither is it found in the land of the living.

Job 28:20 Whence then cometh wisdom? And where is the place of understanding?

We come to the verse that inspired the Book of James:

Job 28:23 **God understands the way of wisdom**, and He knows the place thereof.

Job was a man of **Faith**. Believing and waiting on God.

James begins his Book with the answer to where wisdom is found: James – who studied Job – said:

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

James 1:3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

James 1:4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

James 1:6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

Elihu, described Job's problem accurately and presented to Job a vision of God's greatness and goodness. But Job continued to maintain his own position of righteousness. God brought Job around to see his error. In the end he came to say to God:

Job said, "Therefore I abhor myself, and repent" (Job 42:5). Job admits, "I was wrong about God being unjust." Job failed to understand that God sees far more than we are able to see. The Book of Job shows **human nature** at work - until God intervenes. In the beginning God said of Job that he was **blameless and upright**. He did not have the righteousness of Christ imputed to him, **yet!** God upheld Job as an example of how mere man is able to choose God's way over Satan's way.

Satan said to God, "That's because you bless him so much - take away his possessions and he will curse you." Satan was unsuccessful in having Job curse God.

Job said I'll accept the **bad with the good**. God, **again**, held up Job as an example of how mere man is able to choose God's way over Satan's way.

Satan's tactic was to have Job's three friends accuse Job falsely - over and over and over - getting Job to say, "**I** didn't do it, **I'm** not guilty, **I'm** innocent." Satan is imputing his own attitude into Job. I, I, I, Me, Me, Me,

Isaiah 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, **I** will ascend into heaven, **I** will exalt my throne above the stars of God: **I** will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

Isaiah 14:14 **I** will ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I** will be like the most High.

Pretty soon Job, no longer saw God in His benevolence, generosity, and goodness. Satan moved Job to the point of **accusing** God of being unfair. Keep in mind that Job was a man given to **carnal flesh** / sinful flesh like every other man. It was just that Job was a **man of virtue** - choosing for himself to go God's way with all his might. We come to the point of Job's conversion where he admits, I am nothing compared to you Lord: I surrender and shut up!"

Job 40:4 Behold, **I am vile**; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth.

Paul said: But sin working... death in me by that which is good:

Rom 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but **I am carnal**, sold under sin.

Rom 7:15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

Rom 7:16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

Rom 7:17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwells in me.

Rom 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) **dwells no good thing**:

Job 42:5 I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye sees thee.

Job 42:6 Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

Finally Job realized that God was exceedingly greater than man is. (Job 42:3-6).

What does Job mean when he says NOW my eye sees? How did he finally come to realize the greatness and omnipotence of God? What was the clincher for Job? Job humbled himself by repenting before the Lord and recognizing God's greatness. Job had not listened to Elihu: Elihu said, "In this you are not right."

Job 33:12 Behold, in this thou art not just: I will answer thee, that God is greater than man [**How Great thou Art**].

Job 36:26 Behold, **God is great** [**How Great Thou Art**], and we know him not, neither can the number of his years be searched out.

Elihu says consider God's wonders" (Job 37:14).

Job 37:14 Hearken unto this, O Job: stand still, and consider the **wondrous works of God**.

Job finds out that he was self-centered and not God-centered. Job had to come to realize that God is unerringly correct and perfect in all that He does - and that he (Job) sometimes missed the mark in his evaluation of God. God is so much greater than Job realized. Job's response indicates that he felt the full weight of God's powerful answer, and he repented:

The Book of Job is an interesting story that brings to light how God was working in ancient times with **certain men** exactly as He is working with us today. In the end, Job really understood not only the letter of the law, but also the spirit of the law.

The young man Elihu gave Job good counsel. He was a man of propriety, respectability decorum and good manners. Young people today would not understand Elihu's giving unquestioning respect and deference to his elders. (Job 32)

Elihu's counsel confirms that Job, while blameless and upright, was not nearly perfect. Elihu shows that repentance requires renouncing all self-will - while recognizing that God's authority is supreme.

Job 38:1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind [God does this a number of times], and said,

Job 38:2 God says, speaking of Job, "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?"

Job thought that he had come to the point that he was incapable of sinning.

There are evangelists in God's church that believe they haven't sinned since youth. So, whenever we get all big and puffed up in our own stupidity and carnality and our great importance, let's look at the questions that **God asked Job**: You think you're so good? You think you're so important? You think you're so righteous? You think you're so special to God?

Well, we are special, but only as God makes us special to Him—NOT because of who we are, carnally speaking.

Job 38:3 Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.

Job 38:4 Where were thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

Job did not rejoice or get puffed up at the destruction of those who hated him. (Job 31:29) But, Job felt that he had brought about his own righteousness and goodness. He did not realize that **only God is good**, and that the limited goodness that man possesses is a result of the **work God does in us**.

Romans 3:10-12 As it is written, there is **none righteous**, no, not one: There is none that understands, there is none that seeks after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; **there is none that does good**, no, not one.

Job was a very good man – **as men go** – putting every law and precept of God into practice in his daily life. But Job did not slow down and realize that there is so much more to God than meets the eye. God had to pull the rug out from under Job to get his attention. Job had to learn more **about God**, and he needed to learn **from God**. Job **had no secret sin** to repent of because he **had indeed** been living a good life.

Job understood gravity – but God points out to Job that He created gravity. God created the stars and constellations with their gravitational pulls.

Let's just run a brief survey of some of the points that God allowed Job to go through his trial **to bring him to perfection**. He felt **forsaken** by God, and he **accused** God of being unfair and acting **unjustly**.

Job 9:17 For He **breaks** me with a tempest, and multiplieth my wounds **without cause**.

Job says that God is capricious – treating evil people and good people the same. Job starts to get seriously out of line here... this sounds pretty accusatory to me...

Job 9:22 It is one and the same *thing*, therefore I said *it*, **He destroys** the **perfectly innocent** and the wicked.

Job tries hard to figure it out. He almost gets on the right track sometimes – but then, draws the wrong conclusions.

Job 10:8 Thine hands have made me and fashioned me together round about; **and yet thou dost destroy me**.

In verse 20, Job tells God, "just leave me alone." (bad attitude – but people will **foolishly get angry** at God)

In Chapter 11, **Zophar accuses job of lying**... but he is just grabbing at straws... and he tells Job, "you are getting off easy for what you've done."

Job argues back and forth with them – sometimes childishly.

Job says I just want my day in court – I'll show God **where He is wrong!**

Job 13:3 Surely I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to reason with God. [I can make a case against God – maybe He's right most of the time – but He's **wrong this time**]

He can kill me – I won't change my mind.

Job 13:15 Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain **mine own ways** before him.

Chapter 14 shows that the concept of **the resurrection** of the Just was understood in Job's day – and the world today has forgotten it.

Job knew full well that no human being has any power over death.

He also knew that God would resurrect the dead at His appointed time, however far into the future that would be:

Job 14:13 O that thou would hide me in the grave, that thou would keep me secret, until **thy wrath be past**, that thou would appoint me a set time, and remember me!

Could Job have know about the Day of the Lord—the last year of the Tribulation?

Job 14:14 If a man die, shall he live *again*? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till **my change** comes.

Job 14:15 Thou shall call, and I will answer thee: You wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.

Job believed that God's Plan would come to fruition. How much did Job understand about deification—which means to become divine? Man to become a part of the God Family?

2Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these **ye might be partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

1John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, **we shall be like him**; for we shall see him as he is.

We are being created in order to bring glory to God.

In chapter 16 Job tells God – If our roles were reversed – I wouldn't treat you like you are treating me. Job desired to reason with God – he wanted his day in court.

Job 16:21 O that one might **plead for a man** with God..

In chapter 17 Job is so discouraged, he almost **goes into despair**.

In chapter 18 Bildad shows no compassion for Job saying you've got it coming to you because you don't even know God.

In Chapter 19 Job feels abandoned by God and declares that there is **no justice** in God.

Job understood that God, his Redeemer, would resurrect him from the dead at the appointed time—the return of Jesus Christ: Job fully understood about a coming Savior who would bring redemption!

Job 19:25 For I know that **my redeemer lives**, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

In chapter 20, Zophar accuses job of **oppressing the poor** – which Job never did.

In Chapter 22 Eliphaz really slams Job hard as a **thief and robber**.

Job 22:5 *Is not thy wickedness great? And thine iniquities infinite?*

Job 22:6 *For thou hast taken a pledge from thy brother for nought, and stripped the naked of their clothing.*

Job 22:7 *Thou hast not given water to the weary to drink, and thou hast withholden bread from the hungry.*

In Chapter 23

Job 23:4 I would **present my cause before Him**, and fill my mouth with arguments.

Chapter 26 Job keeps trying to make sense of it all. Job realizes God's infinite greatness:

Job 26:13 By His **[Holy] Spirit** He hath adorned the heavens beautifully; His hand hath formed the crooked serpent. [Satan]

But he returns to "I've done it correctly:"

Job 27:6 To **My righteousness** [integrity and innocence] I hold fast, and I **will not let it go**: my heart shall not reproach, or shame *me* so long as I live.

Job accused God of denying him justice.

Chapter 32 We come to the mention of Elihu..... who has been **patiently listening** all the time.

Elihu is a good guy – a true servant of God.

Job 32:2 Then was kindled the wrath of **Elihu** the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the kindred of Ram: Against Job was his wrath kindled, because he **justified himself rather than justifying God**.

Job 32:3 Also against his three friends was his **[Elihu's] wrath** kindled, because they had found no answer, and yet had **condemned** Job.

Elihu told Job, "Behold, in this you are not right." (Job 33:12)

Job 35:2 Thinkest thou this to be right, that thou saidst, **My righteousness is more than God's?**

Job went so far as to say that his righteousness **exceeded** God's righteousness (35:2)! [That is bold – arrogant and dangerous – **like Satan's sin**]

(Job 40:2) Job, do you still want to tell me how great you are in the face of ALL CREATION and my OMNIPOTENCE?

Job 40:8 Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? Will thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous?

Job, are you condemning me so that you might maintain your claim of being more righteous than Me?

(Job 40:10-11) Job, how would you rule the universe differently from me?

(Job 40:14) Job, while you are judging me/ others, can you save yourself?

Job was in the process of doing the same thing Satan had done – thinking that he could do an even better job than God!

Job had to learn the benevolence of God, and the power of God and the sovereignty of God, and that God always had Job's best interest in mind (Romans 8:28).

Job was absolutely convinced that he had done nothing which warranted such an act of God, and all he wanted was to be able to talk it out so that God might hear his side of the story—or, at the very least, be able to hear the reason why something so horrible had occurred to him. He was searching for **answers** to the cause of his hardship, and he knew that only God could supply them. Repeatedly, he sought a meeting with God wherein everything would be explained to him. When God answered Job out of the whirlwind – it **was much worse** than Job ever imagined it would be. Job got what he asked for.

Elihu rebuked Job for so easily comparing God with a man, and for claiming that **God is unfair**—that He is somehow unrighteous in His dealings with His creation, and that He was being unjust with Job. God Himself answered Job – but not as Job expected – but at a much higher level than Job was thinking. God's response covers Chapters 38-41, Please read those in your Bible studies.

There is a similarity in **approach and effect** to the responses of Jesus recorded in the New Testament. Perhaps the strongest theme of God's answer is **His sovereignty**. He created everything with which man interacts, as well as man himself—who has the right to demand an explanation from Him?

Who has the wisdom or the skill to bring to pass even the slightest fraction of what God has done and continues to do?—or to call His loving wisdom into account? I know that Paul is harkening back to Job when he reflects:

As Paul says, "But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, 'Why have you made me like this?'" (Romans 9:20)

Job was not and never could be on an equal footing with God; And to demand anything of God was foolishness. God Himself says that Job was blameless and upright. But, where did Job's virtue come from? Did God form Job out of **nothingness** like He did the physical creation? **Yes** – we are being created in God's image. Was Job a **self-made** man, or was he so exemplary because of **what God had done**—because God had known Him since before the foundation of the world. (Ephesians 1:4)

God was guiding events even before Job's birth that would contribute to Job's character. In essence, Job was boasting about something he had received (1Corinthians 4:7)—not something he had accomplished on his own. **Job may not have "despised others,"** but he did **"trust in himself** that he was righteous" (Luke 18:9-14).

Yet who was it that put a hedge around Job and protected him from Satan every second since birth? Who was merciful to Job in not blotting him out on the occasions when he had sinned? [20:11 sins of youth] Who provided the environment in which Job's character was formed and set? Who created the circumstances for Job to learn self-control, to develop empathy and pity, and to learn true justice? Who gave Job the means to help the poor?

Job would not have even been aware of God's standard of righteousness—especially the spirit of the law, but even the letter of the law—unless God had revealed it to him! This also gives a basic answer to Job's burning question: Why the severe trial? The answer is - because God was still creating Job—still fashioning him for the future, beyond the resurrection. The Potter knew what further preparation the clay needed in order to be a vessel of honor.

While Job was blameless and upright, **he was not yet perfect**. Who protected Job from Satan with a hedge all around him? Job had the gall to think he could meet with the Almighty on essentially **equal terms**, and God was reminding him that he was **far down the ladder of power** and authority within the universe.

Job 34:17 ...Will thou condemn him that is most just?

Elihu gave good counsel to Job, but Job was tired of listening - Do we become tired of God's marvelous works?

Job 36:22 Behold, God exalteth by His power: Who teacheth like God?

Job 36:23 Who hath enjoined him his way? or who can say, Thou hast wrought iniquity?

Chapter 40

Job 40:2 Shall he that contends with the Almighty instruct him? He that reproves God, let him answer it.

(Job 41:34) Job was blameless, upright, and righteous, but in losing sight of the immense gulf between himself and his Creator, he resembled a child of Satan—a child of pride—rather than a child of God.

Chapter 42

Job had amassed an impressive collection of knowledge and understanding about God and the right way to live—and he was quite admirably submitting to what he understood—but it was not until he went through this monumental trial that he finally **saw God**. All the good that Job did, even according to God's laws was not sufficient - God requires of everyone the spirit of the law.

Salvation is a special calling. Salvation is a special creation that God is working out now, which is done mysteriously, as far as the world is concerned; because it is done spiritually. That is why Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar could not understand - they were not called to conversion.

Job's response indicates that he felt the full weight of God's powerful answer, and he repented:

Job 42:5 I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear: but now **mine eye** sees You.

Job 42:6 Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

Job 42:9 ... the LORD also **accepted** Job.

Job came to really know God. What about us brethren are we doing everything as perfectly and upright as Job was doing before God corrected him? He did not yet know God. Yes, Job did the letter of the law - but what about us and the spirit of God's law and ways? We do not want to make the same mistake that Job made. Finally Job began to realize how vastly **superior** God was to him - not only with the physical universe but with His involvement with Job's spiritual welfare.

God is so much greater than even Job realized. Job's response indicates that he felt the full weight of God's powerful answer, and he repented:

God's goal in Job's life was to bring him to conversion and glory (Hebrews 2:10). Job came to realize that God's Plan is to eternally reward those who put their trust in Him and live as He directs. In the end, Job came to realize **How Great Thou Art** (Psalm 104:1) Job was finally able to see God's sovereignty and omnipotence:

Job 42:2 I know that **you can do everything.**

God is in total control of all His creation, and He is able to accomplish His Plan.

How Great Thou Art

End: Job's Conversion 3