

The Book of Job, chapters 38 - 42

- HOW STRONG IS GOD?
- IS HE STRONG ENOUGH TO CONTROL EVIL AND KEEP IT ON A LEAD?

'Naked I came from my mother's womb and naked I shall return. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. May the name of the Lord be praised'.
(1:21).

'Shall we receive good from God, and not trouble?' (2:10).

Job 4-37 - Job's 4 friends.

Job 13:4-5: *'I want to argue my case with God. You, however, smear me with lies; you are worthless physicians, all of you! If only you would be altogether silent!'*

"Your suffering is for your own good," says Elihu.

'God does all these things to a person - twice, even three times - to turn back his soul from the pit, that the light of life may shine on him' (33:29).

❖ WHERE is the voice of God?

9:22-24 – 'Does God destroy the good right along with the bad.
When calamity hits and brings sudden death, does
he fold his arms, aloof from the despair of the innocent?
He lets the wicked take over running the world,
he installs judges who can't tell right from wrong.
If God's not responsible, who is?'

Job 38-41: God speaks out of the storm

38:2 - "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge?"

38:3 - "Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me'.

38:4 - "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you know so much".

38:5-7 - "Do you know how its dimensions were determined and who did the surveying? What supports its foundations, and who laid its cornerstone, as the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?"

38: 19-21 - "Do you know where Light comes from
and where Darkness lives
So you can take them by the hand
and lead them home when they get lost?
Why, of course you know that.
You've known them all your life,
grown up in the same neighbourhood with them!

38:34-35 - "Can you get the attention of the clouds,
and commission a shower of rain?
Can you take charge of the lightning bolts
and have them report to you for orders?"

39:19-20 - 'Do you give the horse its strength
or clothe its neck with a flowing mane?
²⁰ Do you make it leap like a locust,
striking terror with its proud snorting?

39:26-27 - "Was it through your know-how that the hawk learned to fly? Did you command the eagle's flight,
and teach her to build her nest in the heights,
Perfectly at home on the high cliff face, invulnerable on pinnacle and crag?

40:1-2 - The LORD said to Job: 'Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him? Let him who accuses God answer him!'

40:4 - "I am unworthy - how could I ever find the answers? I lay my hand upon my mouth in silence. I have said too much already"

❖ JOB ENCOUNTERS GOD

42:1-6 - Job bows in reverent submission and confesses 3 great truths:

1. **Verse 1–2:** Job confesses the truth that God is absolutely sovereign:
'I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted'
(NIV).
 2. **Verse 3:** Job submits to God's greater wisdom and knowledge: .
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.
3. **Verses 4–6:** Job stops questioning God and accepts his will:
'You said, "Listen now, and I will speak;
I will question you,
and you shall answer me."
 - ⁵**My ears had heard of you**
but now my eyes have seen you.
 - ⁶**Therefore I despise myself**
and repent in dust and ashes.'

WE SEE GOD IN JESUS

Testimony by Vaneetha Rendall -

If I Only Knew Why

'Knowing why seems to be the elusive key that will somehow unlock all our pain. The key that will bring clarity and peace. Freedom'.

- **Trust Him in the Dark**
- **True Freedom Is Trusting God**
- **Encountering God in the Grief**

"God doesn't defend himself, he just defines himself. And somehow, in this response, Job's faith is transformed. Suffering had invited Job to 'see' God in a way he never had before. . . . Job learned that he could trust God with the things in this life he would never have the privilege of understanding."

- **The Answer Is God**

Christopher Ash:

'The assurance that God can do all things and that no purpose of his can be thwarted is the comfort I need in suffering and the encouragement I crave when terrified by evil. He does not merely permit evil but command it, controls it, and uses it for his good purposes ... The God who knows how to use supernatural evil to serve his purposes of ultimate good can and will use the darkest invasion of my life for his definite and invincible plans for my good in Christ'. (Christopher Ash)

I come, God, I come by Shane Barnard

*I come, God, I come I return to the Lord
The one who's broken, The one who's torn me apart
You strike down to bind me up
You say you do it all in love
That I might know you in your suffering.*

*Though you slay me Yet I will praise you
Though you take from me, I will bless your name
Though you ruin me Still I will worship
Sing a song to the one who's all I need.*

*My heart and flesh may fail
The earth below give way
But with my eyes, with my eyes I'll see the Lord
Lifted high on that day
Behold, the Lamb that was slain
And I'll know every tear was worth it all.*

*Though you slay me Yet I will praise you
Though you take from me I will bless your name
Though you ruin me Still I will worship
Sing a song to the one who's all I need.*

*Though tonight I'm crying out
Let this cup pass from me now
You're still more than I need
You're enough for me
You're enough for me.*

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/a-song-for-the-suffering-with-john-piper>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=709s0O44Ois> - 'None of your affliction is meaningless' - John Piper.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyUPz6_TciY - Though You Slay Me – Shane & Shane featuring John Piper

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9g9WUKMQ2c> - The Story Behind "Though You Slay Me" (Shane & Shane)