

Job 40-42

Some times I just sit back and think about the things that have taken place in this body since we've began the book of Job and my mind is blown away. The personal hurt that's come into so many lives, the trials, tragedies, and tough times, I've spoken to other Pastors and it seems as though when *they* taught through the book of Job they have similar stories. Radical tribulation that seems to take place on both the personal and corporate level with in their ministry; and part of me wants to think that it's because we're going *through* Job that all this has taken place in so many people's lives in the fellowship. But I believe it's more proper to think that because God *knew* so much would take place in so many lives, He *led us* to go through the book of Job. God has perfect timing as we sift through and take in His Word Vs by Vs, Ch by Ch, book by book. He knows what's ahead of us individually and collectively as a body, and knowing that there would be a significant chunk of us who were to experience some difficult days, in His mercy He's encouraged us to maintain the proper perspective through the suffering of Job. That God is in control even when everything seems to be spinning out of control in our lives, and that He's worthy of all that we are, my dedication *to* Him, my consecration *before* Him, the praise and worship of all of my heart *not* because of what He *gives*, but simply because of who He *is*.

He is God, Creator of all things, holy and righteous, compassionate and merciful; He gave His only begotten Son to die a horrible death upon the cross that I might be forgiven of *my* sin. He did that for me personally, and for you to; no greater love has anyone than this, than to lay down his life for his friends. And God demonstrated His own love towards us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. He owes me nothing, I owe Him everything.

And God will use suffering in our lives for our eternal good, and His eternal glory, suffering has a tendency to refocus us, God will use suffering to refine us, it causes us to lose our grip and become disillusioned with the things of this world that we might long for our home in heaven. It causes us to set our sights on things above, and not on the things of the earth. There's so much that God accomplishes in us, through us, and for us through suffering, often times it's in those times that we'll really draw near *to* Him and begin to hear *from* Him, we'll glean greater insights and receive fresh revelation *of* Him during seasons of suffering.

That's where Job's at. He'd been challenging God, longing to hear *from* God, wanting to present his case *before* God, with question after question (and in some cases, criticism after criticism) he's been crying out *to* God. And in chapter 38, out of the midst of the storm, from out of the whirlwind God spoke. And how often God speaks to us in our suffering, from out of the storm, but with Job (and so often with us) it wasn't to give him an *explanation*, but it was to give Job deeper *revelation* of who He is. We have a tendency to believe we want an explanation, but in reality our greatest need is a deeper revelation of who God is. His love for us, His thoughts towards us, thoughts of peace and not of evil, we need reminded of the fact that He really is in control, and that He has a sovereign plan and purpose through whatever is taking place in our lives because we *love* Him and have been called *by* Him. Therefore we can rest assured that He's working a beautiful end resolve that will work for our good and His glory in either this life or the next or both. We can rest a little easier knowing that He hasn't lost sight *of* us or His grip *on* us.

God didn't give Job an explanation, but He's been giving Him revelation as to His awesome power, majesty, and might, He's been questioning Job regarding creation, Job has been questioning God in regards to the way He rules; now God is questioning him.

And be it the vastness of creation, or the complexity of the creatures, all of which God tends to and takes care of, Job finds himself growing smaller and smaller, realizing like so many of us that the more we know, the more we realize we really *don't* know anything at all. And we're in awe of the greatness and enormity of our God. Holding the expanse of the universe in the span of His hand yet knowing every time a sparrow falls to the earth, billions of people on the planet yet He knows me by name, knows the # of hairs that are on your head, we serve an amazing God. Let's pick it up in Vs 1 of Ch 40

Vs1-2

I'm not really sure why the Ch broke when it did because this really serves as the conclusion of God's 1st speech to Job, and as it began with a rebuke and a challenge, so it ends the same way. And we note that in both cases the rebuke is in the form of a question. In Ch 38 when God broke on to the scene in an evidently audible way He said, "*Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? (That's the rebuke) Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.*" (That's the challenge) Job 38:2-3. And after serving Job a series of questions (none of which he was able to answer) God again rebukes Job saying, "Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him?" And He's rebuking Job for being a "Faultfinder" with God and seeking to complain against Him, as it were be an instructor to Him. And yet in all honesty how many times we do this very thing. We don't like what's going on, or how something turns out and we begin to find fault with God, we complain in our hearts against God, and we find ourselves issuing instruction to God. And it's not that it's wrong to pour out our hearts before God, the bible encourages us to do just that. But we need to be careful to recognize our place, God doesn't need our instructions. The bible says, "*For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?*" Rom 11:34 What kind of fool would actually try to counsel God? I guess the kind that's standing behind this pulpit, we've all sought to get God to go our direction, or take our instruction. But as we say from time to time, prayer isn't for the purpose of getting our will done in heaven, but it's for the purpose of getting God's will done on earth. When we take to our knees in prayer we're reporting as it were for duty. We make our report and avail ourselves for further instruction. And again it's not wrong to share with God all that's on your heart, but how critical are the words, "...nevertheless not my will, but Thy will be done." So, the rebuke, "Job you've been finding fault with Me, do you now wish to contend with Me, to give instruction to Me?"

And the challenge, "He who rebukes God, let him answer it." Answer what? All these questions that God has been posing to Him so far since Ch 38, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, or loose the belt of Orion, can you guide Arcturus, the run away star that barrels through space at just under 1 million mph? What do you know about the obscurities and complexities of the creatures I've created, how do you personally tend to them, or take care of them?" Job had wanted some answers, now God would like a few from Job.

Vs3-5

Job at this point sees himself before God in a balanced way. At one point Job said, “*You shall call, and I will answer You;*” Job 14:15. And again, “*Like a prince I would approach Him.*” Job 31:37. And now that God comes to him, and give that opportunity to him he realizes that he’s not as justified in the sight of God as he once thought he was. He says, “Behold, I am vile.” Which is to say, “I’m just a small and insignificant nothing before You.” “What shall I answer You?” Which is to say, “What can I say? I’m speechless, I’m shocked and shamed, I have no right to debate You or to contest You.” And he says, “I lay my hand over my mouth.” Which is just another way of saying, “I’m going to sit here in silence and shut up. I’ve spoken out of turn and it’s time that I just be quiet.”

Prov 30:32 says, “*If you have been foolish in exalting yourself, Or if you have devised evil, put your hand on your mouth.*” There comes a time when we should just sit down and shut up, we talk from time to time about having 2 ears and 1 mouth meaning that we should be listening at least twice as much as we’re speaking but too often it’s the other way around. And yet the bible says, “*In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise.*” Prov 10:19 When we talk too much we just get ourselves in trouble, say things we shouldn’t say, how wise to restrain our lips. That’s Job’s position now, “I’ve already said too much, now I’m going to just sit here in silence.”

And that’s good, now God’s got him where He can really begin to deal with him, we might understand silence as the 1st step towards true submission. Because even though Job is silent before God, he’s still not submissive, he doesn’t yet confess any wrong, simply his own insignificance. There’s no mention of repentance here, but he’s definitely done defending himself. And that’s a great thing, because as long as we’re busy defending ourselves before God, as long as we’re arguing with *Him*, He’s unable to accomplish His ultimate objective in *us*. But when we finally lay our defenses down, and we begin to surrender *to* Him, then we’re right on the threshold of repentance *before* Him. We’re willing to hear Him, and humble ourselves before Him, and so now that God has “got him where He wants him,” He continues on.

Vs 6-8

You see here’s the bottom line of what’s been going on. Job has been saying that he’s righteous, which only leaves one alternative for God (from Job’s perspective) and that’s that God has been acting wickedly. He was in essence condemning God that he might be justified, and I believe that this to is something that we need to be careful of. How often we (though subtle or in an undercurrent kind of way) condemn God that we might be justified. We say things like, “I can’t believe God would allow this to happen to me!” And in so doing we purport that we’ve done nothing to deserve it, the action is unjust and unfair; and we may not even mention these words but at the crux of what we’re saying is, “God is wrong in allowing this to take place in my life.” And in so doing we’re condemning God that we might be justified

Vs9-14

So follow the flow. Job was condemning God that he might be justified, in essence saying that he knew better than God, that he was a better judge of the circumstance. And so God says, “Have you an arm like God? Do you have the strength and power that I have; can you thunder with a voice like His?” And He says, “Then go ahead and adorn yourself with majesty and splendor, array yourself with glory and beauty, and have at it.” Remember at one point Job

basically chided God for not dealing with the wicked, letting them roam free while the righteous suffered. And so God says, “Go ahead then, disperse the rage of your wrath; look into the hearts of men, deal with the proud, humble them, bring them low, tread down the wicked, bury them in the earth, bind their faces in hidden darkness, the I’ll say that you truly are the man, I’ll confess that your own right hand can save you.” Well I was disqualified with the 1st statement, I don’t have an arm like God’s, I can’t even dream of matching His strength and power, I can’t thunder with a voice like His, I definitely can’t adorn myself with majesty and splendor, or array myself with glory and beauty. There’s no way for me to look into the heart of a man to see a prideful heart, and even if I could I don’t have the ability to bring him low, or to destroy the wicked and deal with them in judgment so as to bind them in hidden darkness. And the point here is that if we can’t do these things than neither can we stand justified before God and be able to judge accurately or save ourselves.

Now that’s the broad scope, now God narrows it down, it’s as if He says, “Listen, I understand that the entire scope of My *creation* may be a bit much for you to grasp, and before you seek to subdue the wicked or proud of heart, let’s start by seeing if you can subdue even 2 of my *creatures*.”

And if Job isn’t able to subdue even a couple creatures, how can he feel qualified to be a judge over creation, or the affairs of man?

So God brings to the table “Behemoth” and the “Leviathan.” And as for what exactly these creatures are or were, there’s oodles of debate, most of the debate seems to stem from an evolutionary point of view that states that dinosaurs never coincided with man but died out millions of years before man existed. But a biblical perspective places man and dinosaur co-existing, and they would’ve been created on the 6th day just as man was according to the Genesis account. People say, “Then why don’t dinosaurs exist today?” Well, I’m not sure but I would suppose that it’s because they were gone before the endangered species list was brought forth to protect animals from extinction. Perhaps the post flood conditions weren’t conducive to their survival since now there would be extreme seasonal changes as opposed to a global tropical environment that existed on the pre-side of the flood. There’s all kinds of reasons that various species cease to exist, but Job wouldn’t have been too far removed from the flood so it’s more than likely that there were dinosaurs on the earth when he was around. But you have to understand that the term “dinosaur” wasn’t even coined until a British paleontologist by the name of Sir Richard Owen introduced it in 1842. To us it’s a huge deal to think of a big Brontosaurus roaming around in a field, but if it wasn’t a strange thing for you to behold because it’s all you ever knew you wouldn’t have a strange fetish to write about it per-say, and as far as you would be concerned it would just be another beast in the field or forest, much like an elephant or a rhinoceros or whatever. But if elephants or giraffes were extinct, 1,000 yrs from now people would be staggered that these things were on the earth not just trampling people, I mean the largest elephant that we have on record weighed 24,000 lbs, a giraffe can reach heights of 19 feet. But we’re not going “Oh my goodness, we’re all going to die!” They’re just a part of life as we know it.

So I obviously lean towards these creatures that God describes as some sort of land roving dinosaur and then what apparently seems to be some sort of sea dragon type creature. Some people say that God is poetically dramatizing the situation or using mythological

creatures to emphasize His point. But why would God culminate His case with Job by using overly emphatic poetry or some made up creature mythologically to prove His power? Yeah the book has been written in the form of Hebrew poetry, but it's not just a made up mythological story. Anyway, let's read about these guys.

Vs15-24

“When's the last time you subdued one of these bad boys Job?” Most commentators think this is a reference to a hippopotamus, but the last time I checked they didn't have tails like cedars, and again most of that mentality stems from the fact that people don't want to succumb to the fact that dinosaurs and man didn't co-exist. Because to me (maybe I'm just simple enough) but the description seems pretty clear. Check out the Leviathan

Ch 41

Vs1-11

So whatever this thing was what we do know is that it was a creature un-fearful of man, untamable *by* man, a harpoon wouldn't pierce its skin (which disqualifies the whale) and if you ever tangled with it, it'd be the last thing you did. And God says here, “If no one is fierce enough to dare stir *him* up, then who is going to be able to stand against *Me*?” What's greater, a creature or its Creator? “Who has preceded Me, who is greater than Me? Everything under heaven is Mine.”

The bible says, “*Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it.*” Deut 10:14 The Psalmist said, “*The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.*” Ps 24:1

Vs12-21

And obviously this is the part that people struggle with. They say, “You mean to tell me that there were such things as fire breathing dragons?” Well, I just can't say that there wasn't. It's interesting to me that virtually every culture and every country has legends and myths of these types of things even though they couldn't have possibly communicated them to one another having been separated by thousands of miles of ocean water and language barriers. They weren't e-mailing each other these stories. You see the symbol of the dragon in China, Korea, Japan, they're found in Egypt, here in North America, Europe, often times the Romans had these emblems on their shields and all. And again it wasn't until 1842 that the word “Dinosaur” was ever even heard of. It's interesting when you do a search online what you discover regarding some of the historical records of ancient historians that wrote of flying reptiles, but I don't understand why it's so hard to believe that God could've created such a creature. Have you read the book of Revelation? There's some funky looking stuff that God has created. As for “fire breathing” check out this guy (show pic)

This is the bombardier beetle, *Time* magazine featured an article on this guy some yrs ago that read this, “Its defense system is extraordinarily intricate, a cross between tear gas and a Tommy gun. When the beetle senses danger, it internally mixes enzymes contained in one body chamber with concentrated solutions of some rather harmless compounds, hydrogen peroxide and hydroquinones, confined to a second chamber. This generates a noxious spray of caustic benzoquinones, which explode from its body at a boiling 212°F. What is more, the fluid is pumped through twin rear nozzles, which can be rotated like a B-17's gun turret, to hit a hungry ant or frog with bull's-eye accuracy” (see “Drafting...,” 1985, p. 70).

The online article that featured the quote from “Time” went on to say, “The bombardier beetle’s defense mechanism represents a very effective natural form of combustion. Copying such natural mechanisms is a part of the growing field of biometrics where scientists learn much from intricate design features already in nature. Understanding this beetle better could lead to significant advances in combustion research.” And this little guy is able to eject this spray out a revolving turret like mechanism— 212 degrees F—in a pulse-like fashion at a rate of 500 pulses per second.

So he’s not exactly “fire breathing” but he is boiling hot chemical spraying to the tune of 500 pulses per-second. And he does it by storing these chemicals in 2 different compartments that unto themselves are harmless, but when they mix together in a secondary chamber they react violently as they’re emitted. Now if God can do that in a beetle, what’s the problem of seeing that expanded in a huge reptile type creature?

“His breath kindles coals, and a flame goes out of his mouth.” That’s what God declared.
Vs 22-34

And really the point here is that God is saying, “Job if you can’t get a grip on these 2 things, and hope to subdue or dominate them, how can you then hope to subdue and rightly rule all of creation? You can’t, yet you think you have a better grip on things than I do?”

Ch 42

Vs1-2

You might underline Vs 2, “I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.” There’s nothing too hard for Me, says the Lord. With God *nothing* will be impossible, and nothing will thwart His plan or purpose for my life, even His purpose in my suffering will be accomplished.

My suffering doesn’t mean that God’s purpose is being withheld; as though something’s happening that He wasn’t planning on, He may not’ve caused it, but you can be sure He’ll accomplish His purpose through it, no purpose of His will be withheld from Him.

Vs3-6

There’s the answer we’ve been looking for. Now that He’s got insight into the revelation of who God is, His creative power and genius, His sovereign control of all things, His glory, His splendor and majesty, His providential care and love, he confesses his own unworthiness and repents. He’s more than just silent, now he’s submissive. Where he says, “I abhor myself” it speaks of despising and really retracting, in other words, “I retract all my statements spewed forth in pride, I humble myself before You and I repent.”

And notice what it was that brought Job to this position; it was a personal knowledge of God. Before he’d known of God, heard about God, sought to lead his life in a manner that was pleasing to God (and he did) but now he’s had a personal encounter with God, a radical revelation of God and his reaction was to despise himself and to repent. And such is always the case; when Isaiah got a personal glimpse of the Lord remember what he said, “*Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.*” Isa 6:5 Daniel describing the vision of the Lord that was given to him writes, “*I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength.*” Dan 10:8 The day that Simon Peter realized who the Lord was he read, “...*he fell down at*

Jesus' knees, saying, 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!'" Luke 5:8 When the apostle John had the vision of the Lord in the book of Revelation we read, "*And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead.*" Rev 1:17 You cannot come consciously - face to face with holiness with out your heart heaving with sorrow, recognizing your own depravity, with out being broken and undone. Job had heard of, and sought to honor/follow God, but now he'd met Him up close and personal and the response was that of repentance of his self righteousness and pride.

Vs 7-10

So God had Job's 3 buddies humble themselves before Job and ask for the one whom they'd been accusing of sinning before God to pray *to* God on their behalf. Because God had accepted Job, but not them, they'd yet to humble themselves. And so Job acted (in essence) as a priest on their behalf (sort of a Christ-like foreshadowing there).

But notice when the Lord restored Job's losses, "*When he prayed for his friends.*" When he offered a sacrifice on their behalf, those who had scoffed him, turned on him, cursed him and were spiteful towards him. He was now to pray for them, seek forgiveness for them (gee that sounds familiar) Jesus told us to pray for those who curse us, and persecute us and spitefully use us. Of course what did He pray as He was being nailed to the cross? "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." But there's a sense here where we can see that a lack of forgiveness only hinders the blessing that God wants to pour out upon your life (be it spiritually, or perhaps even materially if He should so choose as He did with Job). If Job hadn't forgiven them, prayed for them, the implication is that God wouldn't have restored his losses, it's almost as if the reservoir of God's blessing that was to be poured out upon his life was hinged upon his own act of being willing to forgive those who'd come against him. And I'm not sure how far I want to take that but suffice it to say that the bible is clear that we're to forgive one another; and unforgiveness only hurts and hinders us.

Vs11-17

So if Job lived double the years as well, that means he was 70 when this started and 210 when he died placing him in the time period of the Patriarchs. As for his kids they were double as well 10 in heaven, and 10 on the earth, he had a total of 20.

Job never got an explanation *from* God, but he got a much deeper revelation *of* God and that was all he needed. And this doesn't mean that every time misfortune befalls us that God will restore double if we just hang in there. But I believe it does communicate that there isn't any affliction that visits your life but that it won't work in you and for you a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. God may bless you in this life, but you can guarantee He will in eternity, and we learn that no matter what happens God is in control, and He loves us with an everlasting love therefore we can trust Him, commend ourselves to Him, and cast our cares upon Him knowing that He cares for us.

Prayer Points:

Father what an amazing account You've recorded for us in Your Word... We're in awe *of* You, in love *with* You, humbled *before* You. Help us to trust in You, not to always vie for an explanation, but that we might have insight and gain deeper revelation as to who You are. May

we tuck away the lessons we've learned in Job for a life time, that we not murmur or set ourselves against You in days of difficulty. But just know that You have a purpose and a plan for our lives that *will not* be withheld from You and that plan will make for our eternal good, and Your eternal glory, we love You, and we bless You, in Jesus name.