



HMR Men's Neighborhood Bible Study

Job - A Man of Trials, Tribulations, and Faithfulness

Lesson #7: Job 38 - 42 (Controversy between God and Job)
 Tuesday, December 1, 2020 | 7:00 PM | Prepared by Chris Alexander
drchrisalexander@outlook.com

Series Overview

The book of Job provides one of the greatest narratives addressing the interaction of God, man, and Satan. We not only observe God's Sovereignty displayed in this incredible book, but the book dispels the notion that *bad things can't happen to good people*. The trials and tribulations to which Job was subjected, including the loss of his sons, daughters, wealth, and health, were used to display the incredible power God has in controlling the events in our lives and the faithfulness that one man could exhibit while enduring some of life's greatest challenges.

During the "time of COVID" we need to study men like Job in all their humanity struggle with the unknowns of life, while also trusting in God's overall goodness and mercy. When we know God has a plan, specifically one for our lives, it makes almost any experience bearable. As Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 12:10 (NIV): *That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

Provided below is the outline for our series that will cover 42 chapters in the book of Job over a 7-lesson period. All Scripture is God-breathed and intended to transform our lives. The book of Job is no exception as God intended for us to learn from Job's experiences. God's desire is that as we endure trials and tribulations in our own lives, we remain laser-focused on Him and His plan for our lives. It is essential that we believe He has everything under control, that nothing surprises Him, and through all circumstances His desire is to transform us to be more like Jesus.

Focus	Dilemma of Job	Debate of Job					Deliverance of Job
Lesson Number	1 September 8	2 September 22	3 October 6	4 October 20	5 November 10	6 November 17	7 December 1
Divisions	Controversy between God and Satan	First Cycle of Debate	Second Cycle of Debate	Third cycle of Debate	Final Debate from Job	Solution per Elihu	Controversy between God and Job
Biblical Passage	Job 1:1 to 2:13	Job 3:1 to 14:22	Job 15:1 to 21:34	Job 22:1 to 26:14	Job 27:1 to 31:40	Job 32:1 to 37:24	Job 38:1 to 42:17
Topics	Conflict & Prose	Debate & Poetry					Repentance & Prose
Location	Heaven & Earth	Land of Uz (North Arabia)					Heaven & Earth
Time	Patriarchal Period (c. 2,000 B.C.)						

We've finally reached the end of our journey together in exploring the book of Job. In studying this book, we have learned a great deal about God's order and plans for mankind, the importance of relationships between family and friends, dealing with tragedy, and the power of God. Some of the greatest insights we have into God's plans for our lives and His allowing evil are gained in reading the book of Job.

Today's theme is "a life changed". Our family recently watched *The Chosen* miniseries (www.thechosen.tv) that describes Jesus' encounters with men and women in the New Testament. It is available online and I strongly encourage you to watch it (you'll likely "binge watch" all the episodes, so don't start watching too late in the night!). As He has always done, when God (and Jesus) encounter a man or woman, their lives are forever changed. Job's encounter with God changed him forever.

1. Read Job 38. What an experience! Can you imagine what it was like to get such a response from God? I shudder to think about God would say to me. In reading through this chapter, what do we observe in God's response in relation to the following?
 - a. Creation of the earth (vs. 1-11)
 - b. Celestial pattern of the earth (vs. 12-15)
 - c. The creation and control of light (vs. 19-21)
 - d. Power over the weather (vs. 22-30, 34-38)
 - e. Creation of the stars (vs. 31-33)
 - f. Control over the animal kingdom (vs. 39-41)

2. Obviously, God "lays it on the line" with Job in this portion of the book (and his friends Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite). Although God allowed Job and his friends to speak, He did not remain silent. He took into consideration all they said before providing His response.
 - a. Why did God allow the men to speak? Consider the phrase *Better to be silent and thought a fool than to open one's mouth and remove all doubt* in responding.
 - b. Are there areas in your life where you believe you should remain silent and allow God to speak?

3. Read Job 40:15-24 about the Behemoth and Job 41:1-34 about the Leviathan.
 - a. Describe the physical characteristics of the Behemoth and its power?
 - b. Describe the physical characteristics of the Leviathan and its power?
 - c. What creatures does God seem to be describing based on our knowledge of animals?
 - d. What does it say about the power of God in terms of His ability to control these animals?

4. **Wrapping it all up.** Read Job 42. One of my favorite aspects of being a follower of Jesus is that when He encountered people and had a conversation with them, He changed their lives. The very trajectory of the early disciple's lives were changed because of their encounter with Jesus.
 - a. How was Job's life changed because of all he experienced?
 - b. How has God and your encounter with His Son, Jesus, changed your life?

Next Meeting Date: Please plan to join us for *Christmas at the Alexanders*. It will be great for us to get to know each other's wives. We'll have dessert and coffee at 7 PM on Friday, December 11th. We look forward to seeing you and your *better half*!