

The Book of Job: Blessed Be the Name of the Lord

Lesson Six

We remember that Job had suffered much. By chapter two, he'd lost everything. For the next 35 chapters God would say nothing, while Job's response to these losses went from shock to lamenting sorrow and then to struggle with God. In these 35 chapters we hear Job's friends trying to help him, though three of them were not much help. For 35 chapters, interspersed with amazing statements of faith by Job, Job asks, "Why?" Why had these losses happened to him? At times, He accuses God of being unfair, unjust. He asks, "Where is God?" "Why is this happening?" "When will this end?" "How could God do this to me?" Job wanted an explanation. Instead, he got something else from God.

In chapter 38, God breaks His silence. He speaks. From the middle of a storm God speaks to Job. And what Job then received from God was not an explanation. Job 38:1-11.

The tables had been turned. Instead of Job questioning God, now God was questioning Job. Seventy questions in four chapters. In other words, Job needs to let God be God. There is a God, and we are not Him. His creation alone speaks of what is far beyond us. God made the Milky Way, a galaxy that measures 104,000 light years across and contains over 100 billion stars. And that's just one galaxy. "Can you see it, Job?" God asks. "Can you see how carefully I've put it all together? Can you grasp the immensity of what I have created? Can you be My equal? Can you match My power, My ability to watch over and care for all of this? What do you say, Job?"

Then Job answered God. Job 40:4-5.

Job gets it. It's like he's been trying to telling Willie Mays how to hit and Sandy Koufax how to pitch. Now, Job surrenders. He stops pressing God for an explanation, because he has received instead a surprise.

God wrapped Himself in a storm. Job 38:1. God revealed Himself to Job that He is not a God who is distant, far off, disconnected. Instead, we have a God who is with us, who speaks to us in the storms of life.

This God who wrapped Himself in a storm would also wrap Himself in a human body. Instead of giving us an explanation, He gave us a surprise.

He gave us Himself. The Son of God took on flesh to take us into His arms and heal our hurts. The Son of God became an infant not to somehow prove that infants are innocent but in order to in all ways live the life of perfect holiness that we could not and experience the Father's judgment so that we need not. Instead of an explanation, God speaks in the storm and surprisingly becomes like us in Jesus Christ to suffer with us and save us.

Instead of an explanation for his suffering, Job received a surprise. A revelation. God spoke to him from within the storm. As a result, Job was able to move beyond shock, sorrow, and struggle to surrender. Jesus gives us the words for surrender: "Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." We dare say these words of surrender, because the surprising revelation of God in Jesus Christ beats any explanation, every time.