

Defining Moments: Job in the Storm

Job's Character (Vs.1):

"blameless" - Hebrew word *tam* meaning perfect.

"upright" - Job faithfully obeyed God's laws.

"feared God" - highest expression of wisdom (Prov. 3-4).

"turned away from evil"

Job's Wealth (Vv.2-3):

- *three* and *seven* appear twice = symbolize completeness.
- Full extent of God's blessing:
 - Seven sons and three daughters. (vs. 2)
 - 7000 sheep and 3000 camels (Vs 3)

He was "the greatest of all the people of the east."

Job's Spirituality (Vv. 3-4)

God allows Satan to attack Job (Chapter 1)

"I was keeping all your cattle and plunderers came and attacked and took them all and killed the servants and I alone have escaped to tell you."

"I was with your sheep and lightning came down from the sky and destroyed all the sheep and all the servants and I alone have escaped to tell you."

"I was in the home where all of your children were feasting together and a wind came out of the desert and the house collapsed and all of your children are dead and I alone have escaped to tell you these things."

Job tore his clothes, shaved his head, fell to the ground and said, "Naked I came and naked I shall return, the Lord has given and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the Name of the Lord."

Two approaches of Job's counsellors

If only I knew where to find him; if only I could go to his dwelling!

⁴I would state my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments.

⁵I would find out what he would answer me, and consider what he would say to me.

“But if I go to the east, he is not there; if I go to the west, I do not find him.

⁹When he is at work in the north, I do not see him; when he turns to the south, I catch no glimpse of him. ¹⁰But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold. ¹¹My feet have closely followed his steps; I have kept to his way without turning aside. ¹²I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread. (Job 23)

How will God explain to Job what he has been through?

How will He comfort Job?

“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand. ⁵Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? ⁶On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—⁷while the morning stars sang together and all the angels^[a] shouted for joy? ⁸“Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, ⁹when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, ¹⁰when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, ¹¹when I said, ‘This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt’?

“Can you raise your voice to the clouds and cover yourself with a flood of water? ³⁵Do you send the lightning bolts on their way? Do they report to you, ‘Here we are’? ³⁶Who gives the ibis wisdom or gives the rooster understanding? ³⁷Who has the wisdom to count the clouds? Who can tip over the water jars of the heavens ³⁸when the dust becomes hard and the clods of earth stick together? (Job 38)

⁴“I am unworthy—how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth.

⁵I spoke once, but I have no answer— twice, but I will say no more.” (Job 40.3)

Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm: ⁷“Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. ⁸“Would you discredit my justice? Would you condemn me to justify yourself? ⁹Do you have an arm like God’s, and can your voice thunder like his? ¹⁰Then adorn yourself with glory and splendour, and clothe yourself in honour and majesty. ¹¹Unleash the fury of your wrath, look at all who are proud and bring them low, ¹²look at all who are proud and humble them, crush the wicked where they stand. ¹³Bury them all in the dust together; shroud their faces in the grave. ¹⁴Then I myself will admit to you that your own right hand can save you. (Job 40)

Then Job replied to the LORD:

² "I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

³ 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. ⁴ "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." (Job 42)

TWO Observations

1. Listen to God – who are we to question/judge God?
2. Every experience of suffering is about servanthood

Three steps to Job's submission:

1. He acknowledges (vv. 1-2)
2. He submits to God's infinitely greater wisdom and knowledge (vs. 3)
3. He has a joyous encounter with God. "Now my eyes have seen you." (vv. 4-6)

"Taste and see that the Lord is good!" Ps 34:8

Head vs. heart knowledge

Talking *about* God vs. Talking *to* God

Isaiah: "Woe is me! for I am a man of unclean lips . . . for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Lords."

Peter: "Depart from me Lord, for I am a sinful man"

Have you tasted and seen that the Lord is good?