

CCF Study Notes
Tuesday 7 AM Study
3 October 2006
Job 38-42

Before beginning to read from Job let us spend time in prayer, considering how we ought to glorify God in our lives. Let us ask God to help us to do the following:

1. **Never** doubt or challenge God's wisdom or providence but rather see them in all creation,
2. **Wait** for God's time, knowing that he works swiftly and has better perspective on all things,
3. **Accept** God's righteous judgments knowing that He will deal with evil because He is great,
4. **Avoid** self-righteousness, instead letting the righteousness of God dwell in us,
5. **Know** that God will take on that great dragon, Satan, and forever banish evil doers, and
6. **Glorify God** in our lives at all times, good and bad, knowing that he works through every event in our lives.

We see the conclusion of the matter. Many discourses have revealed little wisdom and caused much confusion. God finally speaks. God calls for humility. We are to recognize that God's wisdom far exceeds our wisdom. He provides for every need and is sovereign in all that happens under the sun. God's timing is perfect, and He works swiftly when He works. We just need to wait for God! God is not afraid to act. God sees things from the highest, most comprehensive perspective. All time and history stand naked before God. We contend with God and try to rebuke God when we feel slighted. Nevertheless, God will execute His perfect judgment. His power is unlimited. God is greater than any created thing. The greatest dragon, Satan, with all his strength and weapons and defenses, awes us. Yet God draws Satan out with a hook. God ultimately vanquishes Satan forever together with all those who serve Satan in doing evil. We see God as He really is, revealed to us in the person of Jesus Christ. We are silent, no longer complaining against or objecting to God's work in our lives. God's work is one of reconciliation. Job's healing came after he interceded for his three friends, being reconciled with his friends and reconciling his friends with God. After all his troubles Job had twice as much, lived twice as long, had seven sons and three wonderful daughters, and saw his children and grandchildren to the fourth generation.

The Lord speaks now to Job, asking Job just who he is to question God. What business do we have darkening counsel by sharing words that are not from God? When we give Christian counsel, we are to bring God's word, not empty words of philosophy or human advice. The God of creation rules the restless seas – and the storms of our lives. All that happens on earth or in heaven is under God's control. God provides for the weak and the powerful. God feeds even the beasts of prey and carrion.

God's timing is perfect. We just do not understand it. We must wait for God. God grants the wild animals their freedom, while still providing for them. Will not God grant the same to us? In our haste, we often reveal our lack of wisdom. We use the horse's strength to hasten into battle. Are we not inclined to try to harness God to our own ends as well? Like the hawks and

eagles, God has the wisdom that comes from a higher perspective. God looks on all of time all at once and knows exactly what needs to happen when. We do not have God's perspective, yet we question God's judgment as we look from our perspective.

God makes us in his image. We are born with a sin nature in us. Still we rise up to contend with God. When we contend with God, we are rebelling against God. Job hits bottom, coming before God in utter repentance and humility. Sometimes repentance requires that we be silent before God. Yet God continues to speak so that Job will come to understand better God's justice. God's strength, thundering voice, majesty, splendor glory and beauty back His judgment of the proud and wicked. Only God can destroy the wicked, and He will in time. Only God can save the righteous. Our problem is that we look at our problems here on earth as being like the great behemoth (Dinosaur?). They are too big for us, and sometimes we think they are too big for God. Yet God created behemoth, so God is much bigger than behemoth. God is much bigger than any problem we will ever face.

The problem of evil and sin in the world takes physical form as that great dragon who is Satan. Satan's strength, tactics, and weapons are far beyond our mortal strength. We could never overcome Satan. However, Jesus vanquished the great dragon by dying on the cross. Satan's days are numbered. Only God can overcome Satan. The only way we can have victory over Satan is through the blood of Jesus Christ and new life in the Spirit.

God reveals all of His glory in the person of Jesus Christ. Seeing Christ as He is, and seeing what He has done, we see the Father and repent as Job did in sackcloth and ashes. It is not enough to hear of God. We must know Him personally. Notice that God speaks to Job's three friends, asking them to have Job intercede for them. Notice that God asks people to make things right with each other – then with God. In addition, Job has the joyous privilege of interceding on behalf of Eliphaz and his friends. This healing process needs to work in the lives of many who have counseled others with human wisdom. Such counselors need to go to those whom they have counseled and ask their forgiveness and ask those who have been wrongly counseled to intercede before God on their behalf.

After Job intercedes for his friends, Job receives God's healing touch. His possessions are double what they were before. He has seven more sons and three daughters of unparalleled beauty and wisdom. Job lives another 140 years – twice what he had lived before his troubles. Job sees his children and grandchildren to the fourth generation. He dies old and full of years. What is Job's greatest treasure? The wisdom God gave is Job's greatest treasure. Job comes to the end of selfish ways – and God gives long life on earth and a rich reward in heaven.

Let us ask for that wisdom that comes only through knowing Jesus Christ!

P.S. Recordings of these studies in John, the Prophets, and Job and copies of these notes are now available on a new website at <http://www.jstoker.name>. A podcast is also available there or at <http://feeds.feedburner.com/CCF-T-Podcast>.