

Job 42:1-2 Then Job replied to the LORD: “I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted.”

Job 42:3 “Surely you spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.”

“*Wonderful*” means marvelous, extraordinary, surpassing greatness. This word is most often used in the Psalms, as an expression of praise to God for His incredible wonders and miracles.

Job’s repentance opens a door for Him to **embrace** the wonder of God more fully, to trust in His plans and purposes more deeply.

Until we submit to God in my trial and are broken before God, we will not see the good. Because the circumstances may never change. But how you look at them does.

For Personal Reflection

How do you see yourself in your trial?

How do you see God in your trial?

Shattered

Looking at Suffering through the Eyes of Job

The Breathtaking Answer of God

Job 38-42

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A trial is a painful circumstance allowed by God to transform our conduct and our character.

I. God’s answers to our pain are always different that our man-made solutions for our pain.

Job 38:1-2 Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. He said: “Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.”

Job 38:4-7 “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

Job 38:22-27 “Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, or have you seen the storehouses of the hail, which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war? What is the way to the place where the light is distributed, or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth? “Who has cleft a channel for the torrents of rain and a way for the thunderbolt, to bring rain on a land where no man is, on the desert in which there is no man, to satisfy the waste and desolate land, and to make the ground sprout with grass?”

God’s response to Job is simply, “I am God, and you are not”.

God wants us to trust Him - even when we don’t understand.

v.2 **“Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge?”** That word *counsel* literally means ‘plans’. Not just advice. God is talking about His plans.

Isaiah 55:6-9 “Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

II. God’s answers to our pain show us our pride and that humility is to be prized.

Job 38:18-21 “Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this. “Where is the way to the dwelling of light, and where is the place of darkness, that you may take it to its territory and that you may discern the paths to its home? You know, for you were born then, and the number of your days is great!”

Job 38:31-33 “Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords of Orion? Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth (*12 signs of the zodiac*) in their season, or can you guide the Bear with its children? Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you establish their rule on the earth?”

Job 40:1-4 “And the LORD said to Job: “Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty? He who argues with God, let him answer it.” Then Job answered the LORD and said: “Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth. I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but I will proceed no further.” Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: “Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. Will you even put me in the wrong? Will you condemn me that you may be in the right? Have you an arm like God, and can you thunder with a voice like his? “Adorn yourself with majesty and dignity; clothe yourself with glory and splendor.”

III. God’s answers show us how to respond so that true transformation can take place.

Job 42:1-6 Then Job answered the LORD and said: “I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. ‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. ‘Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it

known to me.’ I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

The one thing that changes is Job’s vision. He suddenly *sees* differently. He sees himself differently and he sees God differently. And in that seeing, he is changed.

Job’s response here is not just a picture of *how to respond in suffering*. It is a picture of how we experience *real transformation*.

A. Job sees himself differently

Job 42:3,5 Job says, “Surely I spoke of things I did not understand...⁵my ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.”

He is repenting of his instinctive response in his suffering—making demands on God, assuming he himself knows better than God. Going through his list of good behaviors to show how he didn’t deserve any of this.

Job 40:8 God asks, “Would you condemn me to justify yourself?”

This is what brokenness and humility looks like. It is **seeing ourselves** differently.

“The truth is that feeling small may not be so bad if in recognizing our smallness we come to realize the wonder of God- a God who is beyond our ability to fully describe or imagine, yet someone we are privileged to know, love, and embrace. Looking up from our tiny estate we are faced with the supremacy of a God who not only is fully capable of running the entire cosmos today- a task that doesn’t tax him in the slightest- but sustaining the affairs of our lives as well”. *I am Not, But I know I am*, Louie Giglio, pg. 22

B. Job sees God differently

This is the second part of Job’s transformation. It occurred not just from seeing himself differently but also from *seeing God differently*.