



Job – Part #5

We will finish the book of Job this week by combining and addressing these last two sections:

- Job’s Testing (an unexplained tragedy) 1:1 – 2:13
- The Dialogues (the search for answers) 3:1 – 31:40
- Elihu’s Speeches (an attempt at theodicy) 32:1 – 37:24
- **God’s Response** (and Job’s repentance) **38:1 – 42:6**
- **God’s Restoration** (and of Job’s friends) **42:7 – 17**

Job has repeatedly challenged God’s justice, if only he could prove his innocence, and calls on God to respond. God shows up, but declares that He will be the One asking the questions and continues for two long chapters describing the wonders of creation and stopping to ask Job if he understands all these things...

It is worth pointing out that God ends this first section detailing His power over the sea monster “leviathan” (41:1-34). Most scholars believe this to likely represent the chaotic forces in the sea that are associated with Satan (the serpent in Gen. 3 and the dragon in Rev. 12 are also part of this association). Thus, the book of Job opens with a challenge by Satan, and it ends with God declaring His absolute power over the forces of Satan. God also seems to be saying in Job 41, “How could you, Job, possibly deal with the powers of Satan?” Job soon acknowledges his blunder and responds, “I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know” (42:3). Job then repents.

God also rebukes Job’s friends. Job prays for his friends (42:10) and God accepts his prayer. God blesses Job with tremendous blessings for the rest of his life but never explains to Job about the cosmic issues involved and Satan’s challenge or the reason for Job’s trials.

There is much we can apply from Job to our lives when inexplicable tragedy strikes us. We need to understand that God is sovereign, and we are not, and we will not always understand the “why.” There are also spiritual battles at play for which we do not see nor understand the causes and effects. We need to realize and reaffirm that God is always just, but He does not have to explain His justice to us. But most importantly, God expects us to trust in His character and His sovereignty despite the temporal suffering which comes upon us (His saints), believing that ultimately God’s eternal triumphant promises will prevail.