



June 1, 2008

Act Three, Scene Two —  
God Speaks

Job 38 – 42

## INTRODUCTION

Like it or not everyone of us eventually goes through a Job moment. Some are horrifically tragic, the death of a child. While others may seem less, the person facing cancer, or a job loss, or divorce the same question haunts us. God where are you in the darkness.

Finally in our journey through Job we come to the last scene in the last act, God himself now speaks in the darkness to Job. God speaks, not just to Job to each of us in our Job moments when we cry out God where are you?

P.S. Turn with me to Job 38 and let's discover what we can expect from God in our Job moment.

## I. In our Job Moment we should expect God to Speak.

Job 38:1

38:1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm.

Job 40:6

6 Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm:

God answers our cry in our Job moment. He will answer. Job waited, he endured he persevered, but he was answered.

**A. Speaks in the midst of the storm.  
38:1, 40:6**

- Analogy or literal? Whirlwind
- We don't have to wait for it to be over we can expect him to answer in the crisis.
- He shows up, we have to go find him.

**B. Speak unapologetically.**

Job 38:2-3

2 "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge?"

3 Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.

Gird up your lions. Prepare yourself. God says brace yourself this is not going to be easy. You are going to have to go through it, it is going to be painful but the outcome will be good.

ILL: Novocain is a wonderful thing. I've had too much dental work done in my life that I don't know how I would have faced it without Novocain. But every time I've had Novocain I have to brace myself for the shot. For the moment when the Dentist says, your are going to feel a pinch. I have to brace myself to receive it even though it is a good thing. God says to Job, "brace yourself."

1. Brace yourself—you might not like the answer

2. Brace yourself—you are about to be challenged

## II. In our Job Moment we should Expect to be confronted by his Greatness

Job 38-41

God raises questions to remind Job of what he has forgotten.

### **A. Forgetting who He is**

*Job 38:4-7*

*4 "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation?*

*Tell me, if you understand.*

*5 Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!*

*Who stretched a measuring line across it?*

*6 On what were its footings set,  
or who laid its cornerstone-*

*7 while the morning stars sang together  
and all the angels shouted for joy?*

*NIV*

*Job 38:12-13*

*12 "Have you ever given orders to the morning,  
or shown the dawn its place,*

*13 that it might take the earth by the edges  
and shake the wicked out of it?*

*NIV*

*Job 38:31-33*

31 "Can you bind the beautiful Pleiades?  
Can you loose the cords of Orion?  
32 Can you bring forth the constellations in  
their seasons or lead out the Bear with its  
cubs?  
33 Do you know the laws of the heavens?  
Can you set up [God's] dominion over the  
earth?  
NIV

**1. Creator**

**2. Definer**

**3. Sustainer**

## **B. Forgetting his omnipotence**

*Job 40:1-9*

*40:1 The LORD said to Job:*

**2 "Will the one who contends with the Almighty  
correct him?"**

*Let him who accuses God answer him!"*

*3 Then Job answered the LORD:*

*4 "I am unworthy-how can I reply to you?  
I put my hand over my mouth.*

*5 I spoke once, but I have no answer-twice, but I will  
say no more."*

*6 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?  
9 Do you have an arm like God's, and can your  
voice thunder like his?  
NIV*

## **1. Behemoth**

*Job 40:15-16  
15 "Look at the behemoth,  
which I made along with you  
and which feeds on grass like an ox.  
16 What strength he has in his loins,  
what power in the muscles of his belly!  
NIV*

*Job 40:24  
24 Can anyone capture him by the eyes,  
or trap him and pierce his nose?  
NIV*

## **2. Leviathan**

*Job 41:1-5  
"Can you pull in the leviathan with a fishhook  
or tie down his tongue with a rope?  
2 Can you put a cord through his nose  
or pierce his jaw with a hook?  
3 Will he keep begging you for mercy?  
Will he speak to you with gentle words?  
4 Will he make an agreement with you  
for you to take him as your slave for life?  
5 Can you make a pet of him like a bird  
or put him on a leash for your girls?  
NIV*

*Job 41:12-14  
12 "I will not fail to speak of his limbs,  
his strength and his graceful form.*

*13 Who can strip off his outer coat?  
Who would approach him with a bridle?  
14 Who dares open the doors of his mouth,  
ringed about with his fearsome teeth?  
NIV*

### **III. In our Job moment we should expect to be humbled by our inadequacy**

*Job 42:1-3*

*42:1 Then Job replied to the LORD:*

#### **A. Our Conclusions presumed he was out of control 42:2**

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

#### **B. Our understanding amounts to ignorance 42:3**

*3[You asked,] 'Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?'*

*Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.*

*NIV*

### **IV. In our Job moment we should expect to know him as he truly is.**

*42:5*

*Job 42:4-6*

*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."*

*NIV*

### **A. Learning what he may teach us**

### **B. Discovering how he seeks to use us**

*Job 42:7-9*

*7 After the LORD had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. 8 So now take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and sacrifice a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. You have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has." 9 So Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite did what the LORD told them; and the LORD accepted Job's prayer.*

*NIV*

## **V. In our Job moment we should expect that he will deal with our future.**

*Job 42:10-17*

*10 After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before. 11 All his brothers and sisters and everyone who had known him before came and ate with him in his house. They comforted and consoled him over all the trouble the LORD had brought upon him, and each one gave him a piece of silver and a gold ring.*

*12 The LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys. 13 And he also had seven sons and three daughters. 14 The first daughter he named Jemimah, the second Keziah and the third Keren-Happuch. 15 Nowhere in all the land were there found women as beautiful as Job's daughters, and their father granted them an inheritance along with their brothers.*

*16 After this, Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. 17 And so he died, old and full of years. NIV*

God never told him what he would do. All Job could do is trust in the future.

The Lesson Job learns the less in the darkness is this

**TO TRULY KNOW GOD IN HIS AWESOME  
MAGNIFICENCE IS ENOUGH EVEN IN THE  
DARKNESS OF A JOB MOMENT.**

**THE ANSWER IN THE DARKNESS IS GOD.**

Who am I, that the Lord of all the earth  
Would care to know my name  
Would care to feel my hurt  
Who am I, that the Bright and Morning Star  
Would choose to light the way  
For my ever wandering heart

Not because of who I am  
But because of what You've done

Not because of what I've done  
But because of who You're

Chorus:

I am a flower quickly fading  
Here today and gone tomorrow  
A wave tossed in the ocean  
A vapor in the wind  
Still You hear me when I'm calling  
Lord, You catch me when I'm falling  
And You've told me who I am  
I am Yours, I am Yours

### **CHALLENGE**

We close our Job series with the reminder that God is the almighty all powerful creator who chooses to love us and he is the answer even in the darkness.

Let's worship the Creator. It is a Communion Sunday and I want us to remind ourselves of how much we are loved. If the creator God was willing to die for us, we can trust him in our job moments. As we sing take time to visit a communion table and remember we are his and he loves us,