

The Glory of God in Creation

(1) Tuesday: Job 38:1-3 Intro. God Speaks. 4-18 The earth.

The book of Job was probably the first book in the Bible to be written. It contains an important lesson- to trust God's *heart* even when we cannot understand the working of his *hand*. It deals with the suffering of the righteous, showing that

All things work together for the good of those that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

God's glory is known through his servants even in suffering, because they will not turn away from him. In Job this is proved after Satan's initial accusations.

We know God is infinite in time and space, the mighty Creator, all knowing and powerful. Therefore here is a question; Is it right to doubt him, limit him, or mistrust him, or even to accuse him of wrong doing? God's essential lesson for man from the book of Job is this, 'I am God, you are Job (man), trust me!'

Job and his companions have many questions, assumptions and misunderstandings about God's working. Job questions God, and his three companions give a wrong explanation of his suffering (a cause and effect philosophy or natural justice- Do wrong and bad happens to you, do right and good happens to you.) Job knows he is redeemed by God *I know that my Redeemer liveth...Job 19:25* but cannot understand why he is being caused to suffer as a 'righteous man' before God.

Elihu is a young man who is last to speak and he gives a right view, preparing the way for God to speak. God does not answer any of the questions of Job and his companions. Instead he speaks from his right position of absolute authority and puts man in his place. God questions man, man should not question God in doubt or put him to the test. God will not have this. (See Romans 9:20).

We do not always know WHY, but we should trust WHO controls all things. Job was kept from seeing the whole picture for a reason that any reader of Job can now see and understand.

God starts to speak with a devastating few verses Job 38:1-4 (this could be read out loud). He then continues with more to remind Job of his greatness and why we should trust him regardless of whether we understand his work in the events that befall us. Essentially we should ask, 'Don't you think God knows what he is doing?'

This first portion is about the earth. He set the earth in its place v4, laid its foundations (man was not there to see it). He describes its creation, like a master architect designing, measuring and building. The multitudes of mighty angels sang v7. The

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mighty waters were brought forth and shut up by God v8. He made the clouds to cover like a garment for a newborn earth v9. He commanded the day, light and darkness 12-15. The ocean v16. Even death itself v17. Who can do that apart from God? Can you take in the whole earth at once like God v18?

Consider all this and remember the One Man who could command the wind and the waves on the sea of Galilee, calming the storm; and also rebuked a tree for producing no fruit so that it withered. We should therefore trust in the God who brings forth and orders creation so we can bear fruit for him in our lives.