

**Episode:** Genesis & Job Series No. 06

**Narrator:** Job and Job's Wife

**Primary Scriptures:** Job 38-42

**Story Summary:** God gives Job a dressing down; conclusion to *Job*

**Location:** In the land of Uz

**Time:** In the time of Job

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** Job 38:1-4, 19-21; 40:1; 42:1-3

Job 38 opens a rather one-sided discussion between God and Job. It appears that Job's friends are not included in the discussion. Job has been wanting to talk with God, and this is his chance. However, once God starts speaking, Job realizes he wasn't prepared to get what he wanted.

God does not justify or explain his actions to Job. God does not inform Job of Satan's role in his misfortunes. God just gives Job the opportunity to see the difference between God's majesty and Job's insignificance, and he does that by asking Job some "simple" questions.

Where was Job when God laid the foundations of the earth? Who determined its dimensions? Where are its footings set? Who laid its cornerstone?

God goes on and on, asking questions about nature, weather, light, the stars, and a host of other things. It is not long before Job realizes he is incapable of understanding anything of importance, much less of advising or correcting God. Job 38-41 include some of the most valuable information about God in the Bible. Few things can humble you more than taking these chapters to heart.

Job 42:1-6 describe Job's final conclusion: he is incapable of speaking of things that are far beyond his understanding or dealing with an all-powerful God. God then turns to Job's friends and castigates them for speaking falsely about God. He forgives them when they offer sacrifices and has Job pray on their behalf.

The conclusion of the book of Job has caused a lot of differing reactions through the centuries. After Job prays for his friends, the Lord blesses the rest of Job's life even more than the first part! For the last 140 years of his life, he enjoyed great riches, more children and grandchildren, and (probably) his wife.

Why did God bless Job so much? Because he was faithful through his trials? Because he was humble at the end? To rub it in the nose of Satan? We are not told why. In that respect, we are like Job. We see that God gives and God takes away, but we do not have enough information to know why he does. And, like Job, we are incapable of understanding the nature of God sufficiently to predict why he does what he does.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Job 38 starts with the Lord speaking to Job. Do you think Job's four friends could hear what God said? (see Job 42:7)
2. When you read passages like Job 38:4-7, do you perceive the language to be entirely figurative or at least partially literal?
3. What is your favorite passage in Job 38 or 39? Pretend like you are Job and God stops to let you answer the question. What would you say?
4. In Job 40:1-2, God says Job accused him. What is God referring to?
5. God blessed Job more in the later part of his life than in his former. Of the older people you know, do you think most of them were blessed more in the earlier part of their life, or the later part?
6. Do you think the children Job fathered late in his life were by his original wife or by another?

### Application Questions:

1. Many people have questions they want to ask God when they get to Heaven. If you have such a question, do you think you will want to ask it, or will you feel more like Job does in Job 42:1-6?
2. Job 42:8 says God will accept Job's prayers about his friends because Job spoke the truth about God. What truth was God referring to? How do you speak truth about God to your friends?
3. When is the best time to determine what you know about God...before or during a crisis?

### Applications Questions for Teens:

1. Sometimes it is easy to think of God as the creator of all, but it can be difficult to think of him interacting with his creation. Read Job 41, and think of God interacting with creatures like that. Can you think of God interacting with you in the same way? Why or why not?
2. Job 42:7-9 shows God having Job pray for his friends so they will be forgiven. In your friend group, who would God choose to offer prayers for everyone? Why would God choose that person?
3. In the end, God blessed the last part of Job's life more than the first part. If you had written the ending to the book of *Job*, would you have made that happen? In your observation, does that sort of thing happen to the people you know?