



Sunday, November 25, 2018
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Job 38-42

All good things must come to an end, and so must our study in the book of Job. It is fitting that God has the final say in the book. After all, the book's action begins in the throne room of God. He was the One who authorized the suffering that Job endured. And for all the agonizing debate and discussion that took place, He had not departed from there. He was not overthrown or usurped in His authority at any point—despite the hopelessness that Job himself may have experienced.

In that fact is a lesson for our own endurance in the midst of suffering: God has not left His throne. While we suffer, the sun still rises and sets. While we suffer, the rain still falls. While we suffer, every living creature continues to live and eat—and God is the One who causes all of these things to happen. This is a great comfort to us. Greater still, however, is the bigger picture: that in Christ, God has promised an expiration date to our suffering. We will not suffer endlessly (if we are truly His). Rather, we will find ourselves one day in a place where there is no more suffering or crying or pain because this old order of things—the only experience we've ever known—will be done away with and we will live with Him forever.

Context

The lengthy section of God's speech to Job (chapters 38-41) serves as something of a climax to the book. Although most of the book is written in poetic and not narrative form, it still follows a general plot arc in which the tension builds throughout. God has been the object of speculation throughout the book and His character and His ways have become the main point of contention between the various characters. Right at the height of that tension is where God intervenes. Chapter 42, then, serves as something of an epilogue—a denouement—where Job responds to God.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Job 42:1-17

“God’s Final Words”

Key Ideas

- 1) Job’s final defense was to demand answers from God (31:35-37)
- 2) Elihu had explained to Job and his friends the ways of God (36:26-32; 37:22-24)
- 3) Non-Christians are those who don’t fear God. Christians are those who fear God.
- 4) God points Job to creation to demonstrate His power and care. If God can manage the whole world, He can certainly manage our worlds too.
- 5) God questions Job in a manner designed to drive Job to the end of himself.
- 6) God is so great. Who are we to attack Him?
- 7) God doesn’t give Job an explanation, He gives him a revelation of Himself.
- 8) Once we know that God is God, we don’t really need to know the answers to the “why” questions.
- 9) God wants to remove our self-trust and replace it with trust in Him.
- 10) “The final chapter [of Job] does not teach that every trial will end with ‘happily ever after.’ It teaches us that God always writes the last chapter.” – Warren Wiersbe

Discuss

- 1) How do God's final words to Job compare with how we typically comfort one another in the midst of suffering?

- 2) Would you be satisfied if God doesn't provide you with an explanation for your suffering? Why or why not?

- 3) Read Revelation 21:1-7. How does that passage comfort us even while we suffer in the meantime?

- 4) What does God's treatment of Job and his friends in chapter 42 teach us about His character?

- 5) What has been your biggest takeaway from the book of Job?