

JOB: Man Of God  
October 2, 2005  
Message 8  
Scripture reading Job 38:1-11

INTRO: Well, how long have we been in this series? This is the eighth month and the eighth message. I cannot seem to get more than one message a month done. Where are we in Job? Well, let me briefly catch us up. We have been dealing with the trials of Job. We saw his trials by circumstances, how he lost all his possessions and then his family. Then we saw his trials by his friends. Three friends came to help fix him up. Job out argued all three friends and they fell silent.

But then another man, a younger man, a man by name of Elihu, spoke up and sought to show Job why he was suffering. That was our last message. So let us read what I see as the crucial verses in his message in 33:16-18 (read). God speaks to men in order to open their ears, and let them know how to live so that man does not do his own thing and pride catches him and casts him in the pit.

Elihu then goes on and deals with the justice of God in the next chapters. When Elihu is done, Job is silent. Man is done instructing man. And it is then, that God Almighty opens His mouth. And so we will see Job undergo trial by God Almighty Himself.

Now I want to remind us what Job has said about God up to now (13:1-3; 16:21; 23:3-7; 31:35-37).

13:1-3 "Behold, my eye has seen all *this*, My ear has heard and understood it. 2 What you know, I also know; I *am* not inferior to you. 3 But I would speak to the Almighty, And I desire to reason with God.

16:21 O that one might plead for a man with God, as a man *pleads* for his neighbour!

23:3 Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, *That* I might come to His seat! 4 I would present *my* case before Him, And fill my mouth with arguments. 5 I would know the words *which* He would answer me, And understand what He would say to me. 6 Would He contend with me in His great power? No! But He would take *note* of me. 7 There the upright could

reason with Him, And I would be delivered forever from my Judge.

31:35 Oh that one would hear me! behold, my desire *is*, that the Almighty would answer me, and that mine adversary had written a book. 36 Surely I would take it upon my shoulder, and bind it as a crown to me. 37 I would declare unto him the number of my steps; as a prince would I go near unto him.

Well, Job will now get his chance to talk to God. So we go to Job 38.

### C. By God (38:1-38)

Let me just back track for one moment. I mentioned last message that of Elihu's four speeches we would look at only one. I also said that Elihu's last three speeches exalted God (read 35:9-16). Job, you have spoken of a matter which you do not understand. You have multiplied words without knowledge. So let us read 36:1-5a (read). God is mighty! Elihu will go on to prove this. Then in verse 22 (read), he now says God is exalted by His power! He is mighty. He is powerful! So we read verse 26 (read). God is great! Elihu simply cannot say enough about Almighty God. He then goes on to say that God thunders with His voice (read 36:32-37:5).

When Elihu falls silent, Job remains silent. For the first time he has been brought to sit in silence and consider the words he has heard. So, Job is silent; his three friends are silent, and Elihu is silent. All is silent, and then, the sound of a whirlwind. What is more terrifying than the sound of a whirlwind? And then, out of the whirlwind, God, Almighty God opens His mouth. It would be easy to do fifty messages on what God says to Job. I am not exaggerating in the least.

Now God will instruct Job using creation as evidence. I divide this section, chapters 38-39 like this. In 38:4-35 God uses inanimate creation. In 38:4-7 He speaks of the earth; in 38:12-15, light and its influences; 38:16-21, the springs of the sea; 38:22-38, snow, rain, hail, thunder and lightning. Using those, God will not even have begun to deal with all

of inanimate creation, but it will be enough for His purpose, and that is to show Job that He knows and cares about what he is going through. Jack Taylor said that in this section God says, "I have a right to do what I am doing; I have a reason for doing what I am doing; and I have a reward for the faithful at the end."

And so we begin with God's first words in verse 2. God will finally break the silence. I wonder, is there someone here who says, "I have not heard from God for a long time?" I wonder, have you been searching for Him? You will find Him when you search for Him with all your heart. And so, here now are the first words that come out of the howling wind, "Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge?" God is speaking, not to Elihu, nor to Job's three friends. He is speaking to Job, one of the most righteous men on earth. Who was it that darkened counsel by words without knowledge? Job!

Now it is not that God is saying Job has no knowledge. It is in this present battle, it is with regard to why he is suffering that he has no knowledge. As a matter of fact, Job said God is my enemy, when in fact it was out of His great love that God afflicted Job. He was completely lacking in understanding with regard to why he was suffering. Every time he was counseled, he darkened that counsel by words that were not filled with knowledge.

Then God goes on like this: "Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me." Job, put on your armor. Get yourself ready. You wanted to talk to God. You wanted to demand an answer from Him. Get up Job, stand like a man. I am God, so, I will not answer to you; you shall answer to Me. Get up Job. Stand up like the great man you claimed to be. You said, "Oh that one would hear me! behold, my desire *is, that* the Almighty would answer me, and *that* mine adversary had written a book. Surely I would take it upon my shoulder, *and* bind it as a crown to me. I would declare unto him the number of my steps; as a prince would I go near unto him."

Are you ready Job? Ok, Job, question # 1: Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? (4a) Did

you know Job, that this earth has foundations? Oh yes it does. No one but I can move it. You said yourself, that it hangs on nothing. What makes it stay there Job? And when I placed it there, where were you? What, no answer Job? I thought you wanted to talk to Me? Tell Me, if you have understanding? Come on Job, answer Me. I thought you wanted to talk to me, why so silent? Where were you Job? No where? You were nothing, weren't you? Job, Job, can you hear me? Question # 1, no answer.

Ok Job, I have another question #2: Who determined the earth's measurements? (5) Surely you would know such a simple answer? Did you know Job, that the earth has to keep a certain distance from the sun? Did you know if it got a little closer, or a little farther away, the conditions for your survival would cease to exist and you would die? Did you know that I care so much for you every moment of the day that I keep every thing just right so you can exist?

What, no answer Job? Come now. Well then tell me, "Who stretched the line upon it?" Who was it that said the earth will be 93 million miles from the sun? Who stretched a line upon it? Who said it should travel at 107,000 kilometers per hour and still maintain its distance from the sun? Job, are you listening? No answer?

Ok, question 3: (read 38:8-11). Who shut in the sea? Who said to the sea, "Your proud waves may come this far and no further?" Job, was it you by any chance? No? Who was it? Job, I thought you wanted to talk to the Almighty? Why so silent? We have not even begun yet. You have not even tried to answer once yet. Did you know Job that if I did not control all these things you could never go out on the water? You would never know what those proud waves would do.

Ok, question 4: (read 12-15). Job, have you commanded the morning since your days began? Did you cause the dawn to know its place? Did you determine that there would be 24 hours in a day and 365 and a  $\frac{1}{4}$  days per year? Did you know that every morning happens at a precise time, and it does so at the command of someone?

By the way Job, if you know none of these things; and confessedly, someone does, who would that be? And since I know all these things and do all this, do you think I know what you are going through? And do you think I know what I am doing? If I did not know what I was doing with you, do you think every morning would be at the same time? I might mess up there too? Well, Job, say something.

"Well, if you cannot answer, let us go on to the next questions #5-6, (verse 16, read). Of course you haven't, you can't even get down there. But Job, I made this. Job, do you think I know how low you have gone? Do you think I know when it is low enough?"

"Well, this question and answer period is very silent Job. I thought you wanted to talk to the Almighty." Let's go on to question #7 (17 read). Neither Job, nor any person who has ever lived has seen the gates of death. But in Job 26:6 we find that sheol, the state of the departed dead is naked before God. He sees man just as much the moment after he passes through the gates of death as He does before. It is all the same to Him.

Question 8: "Job, have you comprehended the breadth of the earth?". Well, many things that were mysteries to Job are known scientific facts today. At the equator the breadth of the earth is 12,756 miles. In Job's day, of course, they had no idea about this. So the Lord says in verse 18, "Tell Me, if you know all this."

Let me fill in what I think this all means. Job, I, God Almighty do know all this. Do you then think I do not know what is going on in your life? Do you think that I Creator God, who know everything from the largest to the most minute detail, do not know what is happening in your life? Do you think that I have caused things to come into motion, and then have stepped back to let things run their course until they come to an end? Does creation indicate that I am that kind of God? Can you not see by every faithful new morning that I know all and care about everything? Come on Job, say something? Tell me if you know all this."

Questions #9 and 10: (read 19-21). "Where is the way to the dwelling of light?" Science may have discovered many things, but when it comes to the question of light, science is a mere baby. Job did not know the answer and nor do we. Here is another evidence of the greatness and unfathomable wisdom of God.

And yet, we may draw from this that if God knows all that pertains to the question of light, surely He knows all that pertains to our lives. Rather, it wants to sound these words loudly: I know every last minutist detail about you.

Question 11: (read 22) Have you entered into the treasury of the snow? What an incredible thing is snow! Listen to this from Encarta Encyclopedia: "Structurally, elemental crystals of snow occur in any of various hexagonal forms, depending upon exact atmospheric temperatures during formation. Among these six-sided, basically symmetrical shapes are needle, columnar or stud, platelike, and star-shaped crystalline types. Because of the infinite variability of weather conditions, every snow crystal is unique in its precise configuration, and it is the large number of reflecting surfaces of the crystal that make snow appear white. The longer rays that constitute the arms of the six-rayed stars are generally hollow tubes; they are evidently built up by additions to the edge of an original crystal." (© 1993-2003 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.)

Now let me extract one point of that article, "Because of the infinite variability of weather conditions, every snow crystal is unique in its precise configuration..." Is that not a lesson for man? Of the countless trillions upon trillions of snowflakes, there never are two alike, and God designs each one. Of the billions of people who have lived, there are not two alike, and yet God knows every cell in our bodies!

And I think God might add this for Job, "Job, in all of this, do you think I know what is going on in your life, and do you think I care? Every crystal that forms a snowflake is six sided. I see to it. Every

thing that happens in your life, I know about it. I know all about you.

Question 12: "...or have you seen the treasury of the hail?" Of hail, the same encyclopedia says, "Hail, is a form of precipitation consisting of roughly spherical pellets of ice and snow usually combined in alternating layers. True hailstones occur only at the beginning of thunderstorms and never when the ground temperature is below freezing." So snow and hail are both frozen water, but so different in their makeup and the conditions in which they occur.

Questions 13: (read verse 24): To all of these questions Job just sits there with mouth open. He had wanted to talk to God Almighty. He has been invited to do so, but he is silent. God is so vastly beyond him that man is simply another part of His creation. And in all of this, God's knowledge of man and His care for him is beyond comprehension.

Question 14:(25) Who has divided a channel for the overflowing water? The earth needs to be watered, for as we know from our own country, without rain we are soon in trouble. But take a moment now to consider rain. Is rain not incredible? You say, "Well, I don't know. It seems very normal to me." That is because we never consider it. The earth needs to be watered, but in one nice rain we might get millions of gallons of water. And what if it were dumped as a stream of water? How would you now distribute it to every place that needs water? Of if it were to come out of the ground, now how would you distribute it? So God caused evaporation, and that moisture would collect to little particles in the air. And when the particles get to heavy, they fall to the ground and they water everything everywhere.

Now look at verses 26-27 to see how effective this method is. You see, by this method, the whole earth may be watered, even every place where there are living things, but where there is no one to see that every bird, every animal, and every green thing has water. Now consider that for a moment. God cares for every bird or insect or green plant. He sees to it that it is watered, even though man will never even see that animal, bird, insect or plant.

Now just a moment Job. If God so cares for the birds of the air and the grass of the field, how much more does He not care for you? Was it not the Lord Jesus Himself who said these words, "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow (they are watered): they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith"? Pick a dandelion. Observe it. And then learn from it how much God cares for you. Oh, Job, you have said I was your enemy. Job, who is this that darkens counsel with words without knowledge?

Question 15: Now verse 25 says, "...or who has divided a path for the thunderbolt?" We have talked about this earlier in Job, how marvelous is God's work in cutting out a path for lightning.

Question 16: (28) Has the rain a father? Or who has begotten the drops of dew? What is the answer? God causes it to rain and God causes the drops of dew. So who cares for every blade of grass; every bird; every insect and every animal in the wilderness where no one is? It is I. Do you then think Job, that you have lost all and I do not know or care? Come on Job, why so silent? You wanted to talk to me. Talk. But Job is silent. The message of God's care is beginning to sink in.

Question 17: (29) What about ice and frost, Job, where does it come from? Who determined that at a certain temperature water would freeze? Did you know Job, that most things contract when they get cold? Did you know that if water contracted when it got cold it would sink and every lake in the cold would freeze out? You have said I have made you my enemy. Job, think. Look around and think. Certainly you should learn from creation itself that I do not operate like that.

Questions 18-22: (31-33) In these verses God points to outerspace. In recent years man has discovered far beyond what God reveals here, but let us simply take



the summary of verse 33 to get the point God wants to make here: "Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you set their dominion over the earth?" Job, how does everything stay where it is? How is it you can count on certain stars being there at certain times of the year? How is it that everything exists the way it does in the heavens? What do you have to do with it? And Job, if it is I that control all of these things, and much bigger than you can imagine they are, if it is I, can I not take care of your little problem? If I care that everything is consistent, do you think I care for you? Come on now Job, why don't you talk to me. You wanted to.

Question 23-24: (read 34-38) For a number of years, before the year we are in, our rainfall decreased. All of our farmers remember how we waited for rain. And all of us can understand this question: "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, that an abundance of water may cover you?" There was not one among all of us who could say to the clouds come, and they came. None of us could say when they did come, "Ok, now rain" and the clouds obeyed. We stood by hopeless as could be. Sometimes the skies would grow black and everything looked so promising, only to look a little later and the cloud seemed to have disappeared.

And I think God is saying, "Now Job, I can do this. I can call on the clouds and I tell them to rain and they do it. I can send out lightnings whenever I wish and the lightning flashes and the thunders roll.

CONCL: So Job, do you think that of all the things I can do, that I could not take care of your problems? Do you think I sit back and don't care? Do you really think I count you as my enemy? Come now Job, stand up like a man and say something." Job had said, "I wish an audience with God. I would stand like a prince before Him and answer Him and He would take note of ME." But now, after every question as God waits for an answer, silence reigns. All Job's carefully chosen words, are put back on the shelf. They are worthless, wrong arguments.

Are you here this morning, and you have not taken control of your life out of your hands and placed it in God's? You are convinced you can run your life better than God. Are you here, and though you wouldn't say it, but back in your

mind is the hiss of the voice of the devil: God is against you. He does not really care. If you trust Him He will give you some ugly husband or wife; He will make you do that one thing you hate doing; He will take advantage of you and you will be miserable all your days. And yet, when you consider life, you are running your own life. You choose your own music, your own girlfriend, boyfriend, job; videos; you style your hair your way; clothe your body your way; choose your job, and yet, if you were honest you would say, "I am miserable. Looking at my life honestly, I am just not happy."