

March 24, 2021

Read Job 38

Key verses: Job 38:1-2

*Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:  
'Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?'*

### **Faith in Uncertain Times**

"Why?" You may recall hearing a child ask this question repeatedly as every answer you offer evokes another "why?" Perhaps the child is less curious than amazed that someone actually has all the answers to his/her questions. But eventually our adult patience runs thin and we bring the inquiries to a close with an answer like, "*Because God said so.*"

That is where our inquiries end. That's where they ended for Job, a man who lost everything out of no fault of his own; it was the tester, Satan, who dared God to allow him to strip Job of all joy in life in order to determine if Job's righteousness was in fact a *quid pro quo*, a response to the blessings that showered over Job – family, wealth, and health. Job's friends wonder whether Job has some dark secret in his past that has caused him to deserve such misery; his wife just tells him to curse God and get it over with. Job refuses to do so but nonetheless demands an answer from God to explain his predicament. And in Chapter 38 God begins to answer.

It is tempting for us to blame God for our suffering, though we are remiss to thank God for our joys. When we do ask God for answers we may get an answer that satisfies our need, but that's not always the case. Sometimes the answer we receive is the answer that Job received; we don't have the ability to understand. But in God's answer to Job, God points out in poetic beauty the wonders of creation, the magnificence of this world and the universe. And the fact that we are alive and capable of experiencing both good and bad in the presence of God is a blessing in itself.

As much faith as I have in science to ask great questions and seek answers, I know that we have limits. But God doesn't. We may not understand all that happens in our lives, but we place our trust in God to carry us through all of our trials and struggles. All we need is faith.

**Prayer:** Eternal God of all creation, how awesome is the universe that you have created! It is beyond our understanding, yet you have given us the capacity to ask questions and to find answers. Yet there will always be questions. We pray for faith in you during troubled times in our lives. Help us to find our true comfort in your presence, not in your answers. Amen.