

Why?

“What God Says About Suffering” – Job 38-41

May 6, 2012

Our Sermon Series

WHY? <i>A 6-Week Study of the Book of Job</i>		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
April 7-8	Why is There Suffering?	Job 1
April 15	Why is There Sickness?	Job 2
April 22	How NOT to Counsel Hurting People	Job 3-37
April 29	Helpful Verses from Job About Suffering	Job 3-37
May 6	What God Says About Suffering	Job 38-41
May 13	The End of the Story (<i>Guest Speaker Ben Stuart</i>)	Job 42

Outline of the Book of Job (Ryrie)

- **The Disasters of Job** (Chap 1-2)
- **The Dialogues with Job** (Chap 3-41)
 - Dialogue with Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar (Chap 3-31)
 - Dialogue with Elihu (Chap 32-37)
 - Dialogue with God (Chap 38-41)
- **The Deliverance of Job** (Chap 42)

Summary of Job 38-41

God does not answer Job's questions.
God does not explain Job's suffering to Job.
Rather God gives Job _____.

God's Perspective-Giving Questions (Job 38-41)

1. **Where were you when I _____?** (38:1-11)
 - God gives Job perspective by reminding Job that God is the Creator and Job is the creation: "I know infinitely more than you do."
 - **Isaiah 29:16** – *You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, "He did not make me"? Can the pot say of the potter, "He knows nothing"?*
 - Verse 7 is interesting: Angels pre-date the creation of the Earth. When the earth was created, the angels were there to sing God's praises. Job was not there. Therefore, Job should not expect that he will understand all that the Creator is doing.

2. **Can you _____ all of the inner workings of all of creation?** (38:12-38)

- Verse 16 – Have you walked along the bottom of all of the oceans?
- 71% of Earth is covered by salt water consisting of 310 million cubic miles of oceans and seas. The average depth is 12,430 feet (2.4 miles). The abyssal zone is 20,000 feet deep (3.8 miles) and the hadal zone is 36,000 feet deep (6.8 miles). The majority of the ocean's floor is unexplored. There are 230,000 species of marine life that we know of. Scientists estimate that there are over 2,000,000 species but we have just not been able to discover them.

3. **Do you _____ for all the animals?** (38:39-39:30)

- 39:1-2 – Do you know the birthday of every single animal on the planet?
- I find it interesting that God does not mention all of His knowledge about humans (His most complex animal). I believe that God is making a point: If I know THIS MUCH about all the animals, then think about how MUCH MORE I know about my greatest creation – you! I care for you!!! I've got you! I have things under control!!! Trust Me!!!
- **Matthew 10:29-31** – *Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. 30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.*
- Song: "His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me."
- The song is not: "My eye is on the sparrow, and I know much more than God."

4. **Are you _____?** (40:1-14)

5. **Are you _____ over Behemoth and Leviathan?** (40:15-41:34)

- Francis Andersen: "The climax of the poem is now enforced by two rhapsodies on monstrous animals altogether beyond man's power to tame. They are Behemoth (40:15-24), the fiercest land animal, and Leviathan (41:1-34), the most terrifying sea creature."
- Behemoth = hippopotamus
- Leviathan = crocodile
- For extended explanation of why these are not descriptions of dinosaurs see Hugh Ross, "Hidden Treasures in the Book of Job," pp.175-185.
- Hugh Ross: "Why would God devote so much of a rare direct communication with humans to elaborating on the description and behavior of a couple of wild animals? The One who created these wild beasts rules over all life and understands them in ways no human can. He has the power and wisdom to tame any creature at will. Humans do not. These two creatures powerfully dramatize our need to depend

upon God for the power and wisdom essential for managing Earth's life, especially and most importantly for managing, or taming, our own lives."

- David Atkinson: "Just as we cannot control the hippo, though it is part of God's creation, so we cannot control or even understand some of the deep questions of human suffering. There are some things which have, by their very nature, to be left within the mystery of God."

The Proper Response – The proper response to God's perspective-giving is _____, _____, and repentance (40:3-5; 42:1-6)

- Ecclesiastes 5:2** – *Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.*
- Key Verse = Job 41:10-11
- College story
- Application #1** – What does it look like for me to humble myself, turn around, and come home?
- Sobering statistic: _____ percent of high school students stop walking with God after graduation (Barna, Melleby)
- Application #2** – The Top 10 Things I Would Share with a Graduating Senior:
 - Seek _____ above all else (Matthew 6:33; 22:37-38)
 - Spend daily time with the Lord
 - Choose friends who will encourage you in your walk with the Lord
 - Find a Bible-teaching church wherever you go. Join it. Give 10% to the Lord through it. Serve in it. Get in a small group.
 - Prioritize people second only to God (Matthew 22:39)
 - Work hard (Proverbs 6:6-11; 10:4-5; 11:18; 12:9,24,27; 14:23; 18:9)
 - Discover your gifts and passions and follow God's lead in your vocation and service (Romans 12:1-8)
 - Be wise as a serpent and gentle as a dove (Matthew 10:16)
 - Stay out of _____ (Psalm 37:21; Luke 12:15; 14:28; Romans 13:8; Proverbs 22:7; James 4:13-17)
 - Choose a spouse wisely with God's leading (Proverbs 31:10-11)
 - Live in the tree of life rather than the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:9,15-17; 3:1-13; Revelation 2:7; 22:2,14). In other words, walk according to the Spirit rather than the flesh (Galatians 5:16-25; Romans 8:1-17).
 - Forgive those who hurt you (Ephesians 4:26-32)
 - Maintain a _____ rhythm daily (Genesis 1:13), weekly (Exodus 20:8-11), and yearly (Leviticus 23).

Questions to Discuss with My Family, Friends, and Small Group

- If you could ask God any question, what would it be?
- Read Job 38:1-21; 39:1-2; 40:1-9; 42:1-6 aloud and discuss its meaning and applications using these notes. Share your applications with each other and pray for one another.

Summer Sabbatical Preaching Menu

<i>Date</i>	<i>Preacher</i>	<i>Comments</i>
May 13	Ben Stuart	Leader of the 4000 student Breakaway Bible Study at A&M
May 20	Ken Werlein	Pastor of Faithbridge. Great friend!
May 27	Falu Gbolahan	Nigerian pastor of River of Life; I could listen to this guy all day long!
Month of June	Paul Helbig	Book of Ruth Teaching Professor of The Bible Seminary
Month of July	Family Sundays: Children with adults throughout July	
July 1	The Chalk Guy	A Grace Fellowship favorite!!!
July 8 (8:45)	Mitch Peairson	Regular GF worship service
July 8 (10:45)	NOIZE with Kidz XD Team	Special service geared toward families with children
July 15 (8:45)	Brian Owen	Regular GF worship service
July 15 (10:45)	Peter Nestler: Jump Rope Champion	Special service geared toward families with children
July 22 (8:45)	Jeff Tillson	Regular GF worship service
July 22 (10:45)	Cody Byrns: Juggler/Clown	Special service geared toward families with children
July 29	Dennis Rogers	Amazing strong man with a powerful Gospel message. Ask Wayne Kerr about him!
August 5	Dr. Lynn Lewis	Provost of The Bible Seminary