

ANSWERING GOD

Job 38: 1-11, 18-19, 22-23

INTRO: Turn your Bibles, or turn them on, to the Old Testament book of JOB. Job chapter 38. If you are new to church life, Job is the book just prior to the Book of Psalms. You can easily find the longest book in the Bible, Psalms, by just flipping through the OT. When you find it, Job will be just a few pages back. Job has 42 chapters. We are looking at chapter 38 today.

The Bible, God's Holy Word, the perfect, infallible, all sufficient, Word of God, teaches us that God is Omniscient! Omniscient means, all knowing. All knowing means, that God owns all the knowledge, of all things, of all times, past, present, and future. There is nothing that has ever been known, that He didn't already know before it's revelation. And there are still things unknown to everyone else but Him. He knows everything! He is omniscient! That's so cool. That's my Heavenly Father I'm talking about! (My daddy's smarter than your daddy) BUT LET ME JUST SAY THIS, because this is what I'm preaching on today. For someone who knows everything, for someone who has perfect knowledge, God sure asks a lot of questions! Have you ever thought about that? WHY DOES THE GOD WHO KNOWS EVERYTHING ask me and you questions? Wow, that blows my mind! And God never asks a general question, such as, "How are you today?", or "what's up?". NO, NO, He always asks questions of the overwhelmingly probing nature! AND REST ASSURED, when He does ask a question, He already knows the answer.

Before I get too deep into the sermon, just so you know what I'm talking about, let's look at some of the first questions God ever asked of man...

1. WHERE ARE YOU? As far as we know, this was the first question God ever asked of man. He asked this question of Adam in the Garden of Eden after Adam had sinned. It is a question that echoes through history! The answer Adam gave added nothing to God's knowledge, but it did bring a new revelation to Adam as to the severity of his actions, and how his life had forever changed.

God has asked that question many times throughout history. Has He ever asked you that question? "Oh, I was catching up on emails, Uh, sorry God, I just had to catch up on FB, Lord, you know I was so tired, I just had to get some rest, I have just been so busy, I couldn't make it to church." WHERE ARE YOU?

2. WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? This time the question was asked of Eve. Can you imagine hearing the thundering voice of God as it was pointed to her in a tone she had never heard from God before? "WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?" And then comes the frantic search for an adequate excuse to take some, if not all, the blame off of her. But even as she spoke of the serpent, God already knew what had happened, and had already dried His tears from the fall. What about you? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

What if God asked you the question he asked Elijah when this man of God found himself holed up in a cave on Mt. Horeb... "What are you doing here, Elijah?" And God has a way of asking ONE question that seems to require MULTIPLE answers... "What are you doing HERE?" In this place, this old damp, cold cave? "What are you doing HERE?" Or was it, "What are YOU doing here?" Anyone but you, you are a man called of God. You're better than this. "What are YOU doing here?"

God's questions have a way of penetrating our secret places, and our darkest thoughts.

GOD MAY ASK SOMETHING OF YOU TODAY. If He does, please understand this, He expects an answer.

Today I'm preaching on the subject, ANSWERING GOD.

I want us to look for a few minutes at the life of Job. In our passage, the once "Patient" Job has lost his patience. He feels he's been unfairly treated and deserves an explanation. God was gracious in allowing time for Job to vent, but finally has enough, and in a big display begins to question this man Job.

Let me give you the backstory to where we are in scripture...

The questions God asked did two things. Notice...

I) THE QUESTIONS QUALIFIED JEHOVAH: vv 1-11

The Questions revealed...

A) God's Wisdom and Strength: vv 1-7 *"Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: 2 'Who is this who obscures My counsel by words without knowledge? 3 Now brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall inform Me. 4 Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. 5 Who fixed its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched a measuring line across it? 6 On what were its foundations set, or who laid its cornerstone, 7 while the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"*

These verses seem to confirm once and for all the mind and might of God!

ILLUS: A young boy was traveling alone by airplane to visit his grandparents. He was sitting by a man that just so happened to be a seminary professor. The boy was reading his Sunday School book, so the professor thought he would have a little fun with him. He said to the young man, "Son, if you can tell me something God can do, I'll give you a big shiny apple." The little boy thought for a moment then replied, "Mister, if you can tell me something God can't do, I'll give you a whole barrel of apples!"

ILLUS: There are two things certain in life... 1) There is a God. 2) It's not you.

B) God's Will and Sovereignty: vv 8-11 *"Who enclosed the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, 9 when I made the clouds its garment and thick darkness its blanket, 10 when I fixed its boundaries and set in place its bars and doors, 11 and I declared: 'You may come this far, but no farther; here your proud waves must stop?'" vv 18-20 "Have you surveyed the extent of the earth? Tell Me, if you know all this. 19 Where is the way to the home of light? Do you know where darkness resides, 20 so you can lead it back to its border?" vv 22-23 "Have you entered the storehouses of snow or observed the storehouses of hail, 23 which I hold in reserve for times of trouble, for the day of war and battle? 24 In which direction is the lightning dispersed, or the east wind scattered over the earth?"*

Can you imagine God setting loose the great power of the ocean and as a Tsunami it races across the world and then God steps forth and demands it stop here! The waves then stop their capping and the ocean begins to recede to its rightful place. WHAT POWER! That's the God we serve.

ILLUS: Someone once said, When you have nothing left but God, then you become aware that God is enough.

C. S. Lewis: "He who has God and many things, has no more than he who has God alone.

God is awesome! He is our all in all. He knows all things, can do all things, and is everywhere!

ILLUS: A little boy was looking up at the full moon one night when he asked his mother, "mommy, Is God in the moon?" "Yes son, God is everywhere." "God is really everywhere?" "Yes He is." "Is God in my tummy?" "Well, I guess He is." Then the little boy said, "Well then, God wants a banana."

So we see that the questions God asked Job QUALIFIED HIMSELF (JEHOVAH) as sovereign God. Notice...

II) THE QUESTIONS QUIETENED JOB: Ch 40:3-5 *"And the LORD said to Job: 2 'Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Let him who argues with God give an answer.' 3 Then Job answered the LORD: 4 'Behold, I am insignificant. How can I reply to You? I place my hand over my mouth. 5 I have spoken once, but I have no answer—twice, but I have nothing to add.'"*

God is patient and longsuffering, and merciful, but there comes a time in all our lives that He has to put an end to our grumbling and complaining. He usually does that by revealing Himself to us in some way. HAS GOD EVER GOTTEN YOUR ATTENTION?

ILLUS: When I was small, I would, sometimes, just ever so often, tend to be a handful. For the most part Dad was patient. But it did seem that he would sometimes get tired of my actions before I did. "Boy, it's time you straighten up." Or a simple, yet forceful, "Hush", and with that I knew it would be wise of me to... go into another room :)

CONCLUSION: God is awesome, and sometimes He has to prove it. He did so to Job, and He will to us.