

# **Challenging Chapters of the Bible**

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# Job 42

- **1 Then Job replied to the Lord: 2 "I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you. 3 You asked, 'Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?' It is I—and I was talking about things I knew nothing about, things far too wonderful for me. 4 You said, 'Listen and I will speak! I have some questions for you, and you must answer them.' 5 I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes. 6 I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance."**

# Job 42

- **7 After the Lord had finished speaking to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite: “I am angry with you and your two friends, for you have not spoken accurately about me, as my servant Job has. 8 So take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and offer a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer on your behalf. I will not treat you as you deserve, for you have not spoken accurately about me, as my servant Job has.” 9 So Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite did as the Lord commanded them, and the Lord accepted Job’s prayer.**

# Job 42

- **10** When Job prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes. In fact, the Lord gave him twice as much as before! **11** Then all his brothers, sisters, and former friends came and feasted with him in his home. And they consoled him and comforted him because of all the trials the Lord had brought against him. And each of them brought him a gift of money and a gold ring. **12** So the Lord blessed Job in the second half of his life even more than in the beginning. For now he had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 teams of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys.

# Job 42

- **13 He also gave Job seven more sons and three more daughters. 14 He named his first daughter Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. 15 In all the land no women were as lovely as the daughters of Job. And their father put them into his will along with their brothers. 16 Job lived 140 years after that, living to see four generations of his children and grandchildren. 17 Then he died, an old man who had lived a long, full life.**

# Job 42

- **After 41 chapters of Job's pain and wrestling with his friends and with truth, he surrenders to the sovereignty of God.**
- **Job is a unique case in scripture of a man who, not only suffered for being righteous, but was laid nearly bare to the enemy because he was righteous.**
- **There is no better example to look to when we feel like we are suffering for no apparent reason.**

# Job 42

- There are times when we either know, or have a good idea why we are suffering, but sometimes we don't.
- We suffer because of:
  - Sin. (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 11:30)
  - Sowing and reaping. (Gal 6:7)
  - Poor choices. (dating unsaved people)
  - Unknown origin. (Job)

# Job 42

- **In Job's case, he never did find out why he lost his family, his health, and his wealth.**
- **What he finally concluded was that his plight was unimportant when face to face with God.**
- **Ps 34:8 Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!**



# Job 42

- Job was placed in a position where he had a Q&A session with God and he comes away shocked and changed.
- When he sees God in His glory, suddenly all of his temporal problems faded away.
- He once thought of himself as God's intellectual peer, but ends up knowing how small he actually was.

# The Charges of Job

- **Job 9:22** Innocent or wicked, it is all the same to God. That's why I say, 'He destroys both the blameless and the wicked.' **23** When a plague sweeps through, he laughs at the death of the innocent.
- **Job 9:33** If only there were a mediator between us, someone who could bring us together. **34** The mediator could make God stop beating me, and I would no longer live in terror of his punishment. **35** Then I could speak to him without fear, but I cannot do that in my own strength.

# The Charges of Job

- **Job 10:2** I will say to God, ‘Don’t simply condemn me— tell me the charge you are bringing against me. **3** What do you gain by oppressing me? Why do you reject me, the work of your own hands, while smiling on the schemes of the wicked?
- **Job 10: 18** ““Why, then, did you deliver me from my mother’s womb? Why didn’t you let me die at birth?

# The Charges of Job

- **Job 13:3** As for me, I would speak directly to the Almighty. I want to argue my case with God himself.
- **Job 13:22** Now summon me, and I will answer! Or let me speak to you, and you reply. **23** Tell me, what have I done wrong? Show me my rebellion and my sin.
- **Job 17:6** God has made a mockery of me among the people; they spit in my face.

# The Charges of Job

- **Job 23:3** If only I knew where to find God, I would go to his court. **4** I would lay out my case and present my arguments. **5** Then I would listen to his reply and understand what he says to me.
- **Job 27:35** “If only someone would listen to me! Look, I will sign my name to my defense. Let the Almighty answer me. Let my accuser write out the charges against me. **36** I would face the accusation proudly. I would wear it like a crown. **37** For I would tell him exactly what I have done. I would come before him like a prince.

# God Answers

- **Job 38:1 Then the Lord answered Job from the whirlwind: 2 “Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorant words? 3 Brace yourself like a man, because I have some questions for you, and you must answer them.**
- **God answers with a litany of wonders He has orchestrated and Job is understandably silent.**
- **When God speaks, nothing else needs to be said.**

# God Answers

- **Job responds as we would expect a righteous man to respond – he was contrite.**
- **He says he was all wrong, and he is sorry and changed.**
- **Job claims to have seen God, but I doubt it was as clear as it sounds – John 1:18 “No one has seen God”. (Jesus)**
- **But if it wasn't with his physical eyes he certainly saw Him in some fashion.**

# God Answers

- **What is abundantly clear is that Job was changed by his interchange with God.**
- **No longer does he question.**
- **No longer does he assume he can make persuasive arguments with God.**
- **No longer does he complain about the injustice he endured – having seen God, nothing else matters.**



# **Job 42: 10 When Job prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes.**

- The way to restoration with God may involve getting right with our friends, family, and enemies.**
- Job was repentant before – he was in awe before, but his losses were not restored until he prayed for his accusers.**
- Matt 6:14 If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

# **Job 42: 10 When Job prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes.**

- **Evidently praying for those who have mocked us and wronged us, is about as strong a statement one can make about being changed by God.**
- **Matt 5:44 But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!**
- **This is what happens when we really see God – we are changed to the point where we do things we once thought impossible.**

**James 5:11 Behold, we call those happy who were steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.**

- **Compassionate and merciful?**
- **Didn't God allow Satan to have his way with Job right up to taking his life?**
- **Job lost 10 children, his wealth, and his health in rapid succession and we call that compassion and mercy?**
- **Yes, when viewed in context!**

**James 5:11 Behold, we call those happy who were steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.**

- **One of the best lessons I've learned as a Christian is that God is not interested in my comfort as much as He is in my being conformed to the image of His son.**
- **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:10 In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you.**

# Questions