

THE ULTIMATE ANSWER TO SUFFERING

(Job 38:1-18; 40:1-5)

Throughout all his devastating troubles and crushing ordeals, Job was waiting for just one Person to finally show up and speak to His grieving heart (Job 1:13-19; 2:7-12; 3:24-25; 7:3-5; 19:20; 30:27-30). He was yearning for an encounter with God. When the LORD finally responded to Job, he was terrified by God's divine presence. But God's striking and powerful presence also brought the greatest comfort to the heart of Job. He then realized that *the ultimate answer to all of his suffering is God Himself*. Hence, *even when God's action is often beyond our understanding, we can always trust Him*. To further understand this comforting truth, let's consider the essential reasons why we can always trust God in the midst of our trials.

- 1. In our suffering, God reveals His loving faithfulness.***
- 2. In our suffering, God reveals His complete perfection.***

3. In our suffering, God reveals His _____.
When the LORD finally broke His silence, He did not provide any explanation for Job's suffering. He neither disclosed any information about Satan's assault against Job's faith. Instead, the LORD plunges into a divine verbal tour of His marvelous creation through a series of seventy-seven questions (Job 38-41). Though this may bewilder and puzzle us, God's questions to Job are meant to teach us rich insights into the character of God.

a. Our Creator God _____ everything including evil.

At the very beginning of God's interrogation of Job, the LORD reminds Job that when He created the heavens and the earth, He did so with perfect design, precise order and enduring beauty (Job 38:1-7; Genesis 1:31). God's opening questions to Job challenge his assumption that the presence of evil and suffering indicates that the world is indeed out of order (Job 9:5-6; 12:22). In succeeding questions, the LORD affirms the truth that even the existence of evil, wickedness, suffering and death is under His sovereign dominion. From the creation of the sea and the setting of its limits (Job 38:8-11), the commanding of the sun to rise each morning (Job 38:12-15), the darkness of ocean's depth and the dread of death (Job 38:16-18; 3:11), the origin of light and darkness (Job 38:19-21), the bringing forth of snow, hail and frost (Job 38:22-30), the establishment of the constellations of stars (Job 38:31-33), the sending forth of rain and lightnings (Job 38:34-38), to the subduing of wild animals including the strangeness of the ostrich (Job 38:39-41; 39:1-30, 13-18), these are all under the governing power of our Creator God. The world, then, is not out of order. Our lives are not out of control. Since our sovereign God is reigning on His throne, everything is in order according to His wise and purposeful design!

b. Our Caring God blesses us with His _____.

In comforting His suffering servant Job, the LORD reminds Job of his divine title "Almighty" (Job 40:1-2). This title not only pertains to our God who is mighty and powerful. It also points us to our God who promises to bless His people with His securing presence (Genesis 17:1-2; 49:25). In response, Job humbled and surrendered himself, not to a Divine Bully, but to Almighty God who is his Divine Blessor and Comforter (Job 40:3-5). In the caring presence of our Almighty God, we could confidently say, "*It is well, it is well with my soul!*"
