

GOD SPEAKS TO JOB

Job Chapters 38-41

What Was God Doing?

- Job's afflictions revealed his character flaws, including a lack of humility and meekness toward God
- God strongly rebuked Job with the objective of refining his character – His words would be a death-blow to Job's proud and contentious spirit

Strange Ways!

- God, in His sovereignty, used Satan (the spiritual Leviathan) as a means to subdue Job's self-confidence and pride, just as He has elsewhere:
 - Self-confident Peter (Lu 22:31-34,62; Jn 21:15-17)
 - The proud, immoral Corinthian (1 Cor 5:1-5)
 - Keeping Paul humble (2 Cor 12:7)

*“...a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure”
(2 Corinthians 12:7b)*

Application

As members of Adam's race, we all have natural character flaws that are part of our sinful nature. God uses mysterious ways to rid us of our old, troublesome ways and make us more like Christ, who is absolutely perfect in character. When we are in the wrong, our pride frequently prevents us from confessing (and putting away) our sin – instead, we blame someone else for the problem, including God (as did both Adam and Job). When we are “worldly” in our ways, brimming with pride and self-confidence, we are “playing in Satan’s backyard”. He is “the ruler of this world” (Jn 12:31) and “king over the children of pride” (Job 41:34). When we exhibit a satanic “I problem” (Isa 14:12-15), we are in opposition to God. He will allow us to be buffeted and sifted by Satan (and/or his allies) in order to bring about the desired outcome – a humble, meek spirit that is more trusting of Him (and less trusting of ourselves).

*“God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble”
(James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5)*