



No Great and Powerful

Because Wizard was not great, nor was he powerful

The witch had power, but that power led her to do terrible things

The shoes had power, but they were an object

That is not the case for the story of Job, there was and is a “great and powerful” and today we are going to meet Him



A Journey with Suffering

A Study from the Book of Job



Audience with God

“Even today my complaint is bitter; his hand is heavy in spite of my groaning. If only I knew where to find him; if only I could go to his dwelling! I would state my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments. I would find out what he would answer me, and consider what he would say to me. Would he vigorously oppose me? No, he would not press charges against me. There the upright can establish their innocence before him, and there I would be delivered forever from my judge.”

Job 23:1-7



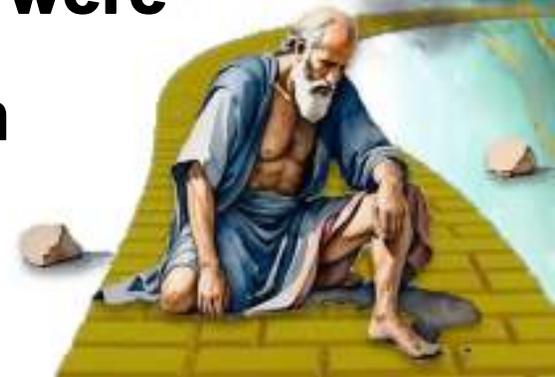
Job's Plan

If he can get an audience with God, he can make God see that a mistake was made

He would lay out his case and show God he was unjustly being persecuted

You can also see his desire not to just end suffering but to have things go back to the way they were

In his frustration, desperation and even arrogance he demands God to give explanation



When God Shows Up!

Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm. He said:

To Moses he was a burning bush

To the Israelites he was a pillar of fire and a cloud of smoke

To Elijah he was just a whisper

To Job he is in the storm



When God Shows Up!

What God did not Say

He did not tell Job about the opening scene

He did not say sorry for your troubles Job

He did not offer Job any sort of explanation, nor a would-be task to earn favor and get it all back

And while when the conversation is done, we transition to Job's restoration, but God did not promise Job, he gets it all back



When God Shows Up!

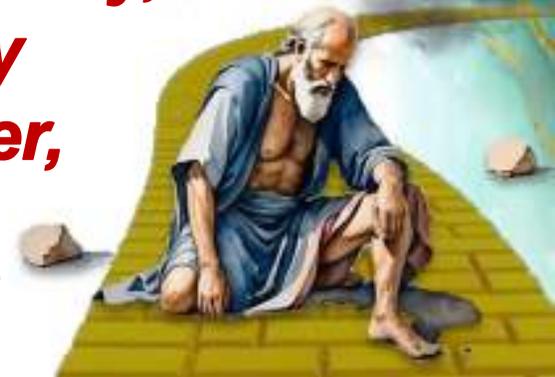
What God did Say

“Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.”

Job 38:1-3

Then Job answered the Lord: “I am unworthy, how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth. I spoke once, but I have no answer, twice, but I will say no more.”

Job 40:3-5



When God Shows Up!

What God did Say

Who am I?

Where were you?

God's entire line of questions is put to the backdrop of creation

**He discusses space
and astronomy**

He discusses the ocean

He discusses ecology

**He discusses
the weather**

He discusses the animals



When God Shows Up!

What God did Say

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Just as a lump of clay does not tell the sculptor how it wishes to be formed, the creation answers to me not the other way around

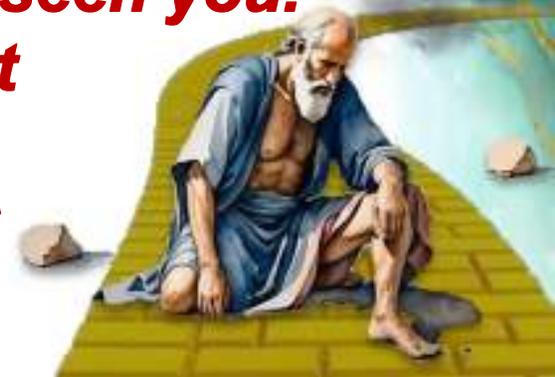
Romans 1:20



Job's Response

Then Job replied to the Lord: "I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?' Surely, I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. "You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.' My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore, I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."

Job 42:1-6



When God Shows Up!

Funny before God showed up Job felt entitled

After he spoke, he felt unworthy

As God questioned Job realizes he had no answers

When God asks who is questioning my plan Job did not dare say; ME!

And when it was all done Job's real response was to repent and go back to the ash pile

His understanding of God and faith changed



The Lesson Job Learned

Job started his journey with an
Obedient Faith -- (Religion)

When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would make arrangements for them to be purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom.

Job 1:5

**Religion has a place, and obedience
is a good first step to understanding
God**



The Lesson Job Learned

When suffering set in Job now has a

Desperate Faith

Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face.

This is a faith that is holding on to God for dear life through words and prayer

He is pleading for relief

He wants understanding

Job 13:15



The Lesson Job Learned

When suffering set in Job now has a
Desperate Faith

He is having trouble serving God because God seems unjust

He feels he is being treated unfairly but wants to hold on to God because that all he has left

Desperate faith allows us to realize our need for God, but this is not what God seeks

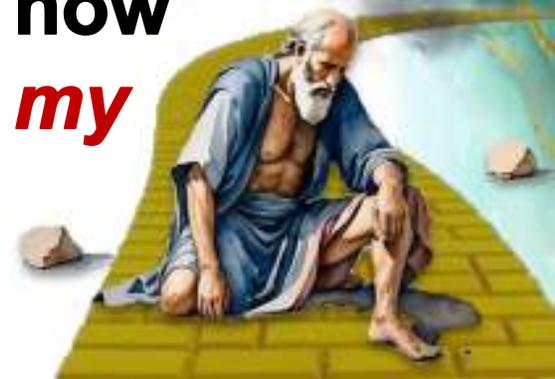


The Lesson Job Learned

After God Showed Up Job has
Sufficient Faith

At the start God, I am the star pupil now
“I despise myself”

In the beginning, I deserve to know now
“My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you”



The Lesson Job Learned

After God Showed Up Job has
Sufficient Faith

Before, God let me tell you how it's done, after
***“Surely, I spoke of things I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me to know”***

God it's not fair becomes

***“I know that you can do all things;
no purpose of yours can be thwarted”***



The Purpose of Suffering

Suffering is not to punish us, nor is it intended to just humble us and put us in our place, it is necessary to grow us into truly knowing and following God.

Despite how good Job was “doing” the God thing there was something more God desired



Responding to Suffering

He did not run to an altar to sacrifice

He did not stand in a field and sing songs

He did not just pray words

He went looking for answers from God

God Showed Up!

