

TRUSTING GOD WHEN LIFE MAKES NO SENSE

The Book of Job

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Part 4: “WHEN GOD SPEAKS”

MAIN IDEA



God answers Job from the storm, not by explaining the hidden cause of his suffering, but by revealing His limitless wisdom, power, and care. Job is invited to trust the God, who governs creation, even when he cannot understand God’s purposes.

CENTRAL QUESTION: Why do we sometimes want to understand why we are going through a difficult time before we put our trust in God?

At last, God speaks. He does not tell Job about Satan’s challenge in Chapters 1 and 2, nor does He accuse Job of the secret sins his friends imagined. Instead, God asks a series of questions about the earth, sea, weather, stars, animals, the Behemoth, and the Leviathan. These questions are not meant to humiliate Job cruelly. They help him see the enormous difference between human knowledge and God’s wisdom.

Job had demanded an opportunity to present his case before God. Now, confronted by God’s greatness, he recognizes how little he knows. Chapters 38 to 41 teach that faith does not depend on receiving every explanation. We can trust God because His wisdom reaches far beyond ours, His power rules what we cannot control, and His care extends throughout creation.

A. READ JOB CHAPTERS 38 TO 41

Chapter 38: God questions Job about creation

What is God’s main purpose in asking Job where he was when the earth was formed?

- A. To give Job a scientific lesson about creation.
- B. To show that Job’s knowledge is limited while God’s wisdom governs the whole creation.
- C. To prove that Job caused his own suffering.
- D. To answer every question Job had asked.

Answer: B. God shows that Job's knowledge is limited while His wisdom governs the whole creation.

Chapter 39: God describes His care for the animals

What do God's questions about wild animals teach Job?

- A. Creation survives without God's attention.
- B. Only domesticated animals matter to God.
- C. God provides for creatures and directs lives that are beyond human control.
- D. Job should stop caring about his own suffering.

Answer: C. God provides for creatures and directs lives that remain beyond human control.

Chapter 40: Job is humbled as God describes the behemoth

How does Job first respond after hearing God's questions?

- A. He presents a longer defense.
- B. He admits his smallness and says he will speak no more.
- C. He accuses his friends again.
- D. He asks God to leave him alone.

Answer: B. Job admits his smallness and says he will speak no more. God then challenges him to consider whether he can govern with perfect justice and control Behemoth.

Chapter 41: God describes the leviathan

What lesson does the leviathan reinforce?

- A. Job can master every force if he tries hard enough.
- B. Some creatures are outside both God's knowledge and control.
- C. If Job cannot control the leviathan, he should humbly trust the God who can.
- D. The existence of leviathan explains the exact cause of Job's suffering.

Answer: C. If Job cannot control the leviathan, he should humbly trust the God who can.

B. GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is it that makes us want to understand *why* we are going through a difficult time before we put our trust in God?

Answer: We naturally want life to make sense. Understanding "why" gives us a feeling of control and helps us decide whether our suffering is fair or meaningful. We may hesitate to trust God because we fear that trusting Him means accepting something we do not understand. However, biblical faith means trusting God's character even when He has not explained His

purposes. Job never received a complete explanation, but he learned that God was wise, powerful, and worthy of his trust.

2. How do you know you are truly trusting God when you go through a difficult time?

Answer: You are trusting God when you:

- **Continue praying even when answers do not come quickly.**
- **Obey God instead of allowing fear to control your decisions.**
- **Honestly express your pain while still believing that God is good.**
- **Surrender the outcome to God rather than demanding your preferred solution.**
- **Look for God's strength to endure instead of merely asking Him to remove the problem.**
- **Trust does not mean that you have no questions, fears, or tears. It means that, despite them, you continue placing yourself and your future in God's hands.**

3. Why does God answer Job with questions rather than a direct explanation of his suffering?

Answer: God's questions reveal that Job lacks the knowledge needed to judge the whole situation. God does not disclose the heavenly events of chapters 1 and 2. Instead, He gives Job a larger view of His wisdom and rule, showing that trust can rest on God's character even when His reasons remain hidden.

4. In what ways can reflecting on God's creation bring peace when going through a difficult time? Where would you go to reflect on God's creation most?

Answer: Creation reminds us that the God who made and sustains the universe is powerful enough to handle our problems. Its beauty, order, and vastness help put our difficulties into perspective. Creation can quiet our minds, turn our attention away from fear, and remind us of God's wisdom and faithful care. This is one of the central lessons of God's questions to Job in Chapters 38–41.

A wonderful place near Scotts Valley would be among the redwoods...perhaps Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. You might also find peace overlooking Monterey Bay, where the ocean's size and beauty provide a powerful reminder of God's greatness.

5. Why doesn't God respond when I cry out, "God, please help me!"? Hint: see Why doesn't God respond when I cry out, "God, please help me!"? | GotQuestions.org.

Answer: God hears our cries, but His response may not be the response we expect. Sometimes His answer is "yes," sometimes "not yet," and sometimes He gives us strength to endure instead of immediately removing the difficulty.

His apparent silence does not mean that He has abandoned us or does not care.

God sees circumstances and purposes that we cannot see. Like Jesus in Gethsemane, we may ask for the suffering to be removed while also praying, “Yet not as I will, but as you will” (Matthew 26:39). God may use difficult experiences to deepen our faith, develop Christlike character, protect us from something we cannot see, or accomplish a larger purpose.

The linked article emphasizes that God always hears and responds, although His answer may be “no” or “not now.” Because God is good and understands everything, we can trust that His response comes from wisdom and love—even when we cannot yet understand it.

Key truth: God’s silence is not God’s absence. When we cannot understand His reasons, we can still trust His character.

C. APPLICATION

1. Remember God’s greatness for putting your unanswered questions in perspective.

Bring your questions honestly to God, as Job did, but remember that our viewpoint is small. The God who formed the earth and sustains its creatures sees connections, purposes, and outcomes that we cannot see.

2. Rely on God’s character when you cannot see His reasons.

God did not give Job the explanation he expected, but He gave Job a clearer vision of Himself. Recall what Scripture reveals about God’s wisdom, justice, power, and compassion, and let those truths support your faith while you wait.

3. Release the burden of trying to control what only God can govern.

Job could not command the weather, direct the stars, or tame The Leviathan. We also face realities beyond our control. Do what God has placed within your responsibility, then prayerfully entrust the rest to Him.

D. THE BOTTOM LINE

God’s answer does not explain why Job suffered. It reveals why God is worthy of Job’s trust. The Creator’s wisdom reaches where Job’s understanding cannot, His power rules what Job cannot control, and His care extends to every corner of creation.

When life makes no sense, we can trust God who is always in full control.

E. MEMORY VERSE

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. (Pro 3:5-6 NLT)