

### 38:1-4

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, **2 Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? 3 Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. 4 Where wast thou [where were you] when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.** And, of course, the "if" there is saying, "Job, since you claim to have understanding or you speak like you have understanding, well then...declare where you were when the foundations of the earth were laid."

### 38:5-11

**Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? 6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; 7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? 8 Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? 9 When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it, 10 And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors, 11 And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?** The reason the Lord is asking these questions is so that Job will be honest enough to say, "I wasn't there." And when God asks these questions, he's asking them in a loaded fashion so that we'll know, for example, He Himself was there laying the foundations of the earth.

### 38:12

**Have you ever in your life commanded the morning?"** Was there ever a day when you got up and said, 'Sun, arise'?" and the answer is no. But it's as if God is saying, "But I have. Every morning, Job, I have done that. I haven't failed in my lane of responsibility. I have every morning done my job. Every morning."

### 38:13

**and caused the dayspring to know his place; That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it?** "Have you ever seen the sunrise? Have you ever reached out with the sunrise that you commanded, Job, and shaken the horizon? Have you ever stolen the night from the wicked?" And, of course, the answer Job should be coming up with is, "No," and it's like God is saying without Job saying it, "Well, no." God is saying, "Well, I have. Every morning, Job, I shake the darkness out of the grasp of the wicked. Every morning, Job, I ruin the night of the night dweller. Every day, Job, I have shown up for work and I've done my job. Have you been there? Have you gotten me up one time? Have I ever slept through that alarm clock over there, Job?"

### 38:14

**It is turned as clay to the seal; and they stand as a garment.** You might remember this showed up at the tomb of Jesus (Matthew 28) when they were going to seal something or it might have happened there with the laws of the Medes and the Persians and Belteshazzar made a rule that if you kneel before any other god, well then you have to go into the lions' den (Daniel 6). He sealed it, you might remember. They'd melt the wax and they'd take the royal seal and grind it into the wax as if to say, "You are not so bold as to trespass against a king, are you?" You might remember that Joseph had the seal of Pharaoh.

And it's as if the Lord is saying, "Job, have you noticed that when there is darkness on the face of the earth, you don't notice all of the topography, all of the variance in elevation. You don't see it until the sun comes and breaks across the horizon and you see no longer a dark earth, now you see what looks like a seal in the clay." Can you imagine what the Grand Canyon looks like when there is no light and then the light breaks across the horizon and you see, "Oh, I guess it's probably not all flat land." It says if the clay has been turned and we see all of a sudden that God has been pretty creative a long time.

The end of verse 14, **they stand as a garment.** Why do the ends of the earth "stand up like a garment?" "You haven't traveled more than 100 miles and you're a rich man, Job, and that over there, I made it and I didn't even make it for you. I've been around a long time doing my work and I haven't needed your help once, Job. There's a good chance I can handle your life."

### 38:15

**And from the wicked their light is withheld, and the high arm shall be broken.** That has the idea of a defiance. The Israelites left Egypt with a “high hand” as if to say, “We’re the victors.” God says, “Do you know the wicked? I take their light from them, Job. I manage the horizon. I am the one who causes this light to be dispersed through the earth. Job, I have never one time needed your help and the wicked stand back and they just sort of watch me ruin their day. There is no defiance in my face.”

### 38:16

**Have you ever entered into the springs of the sea?** “Do you know where the water came from to fill those seas, Job?” And the answer really Job is thinking, “Well, no,” and God is saying basically, “Well, I’ve been there...Have you walked in the search of the depth? Have you ever been way down there, Job? I have.”

### 38:17

**Have the gates of death been opened to you or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death?** Often in that culture they think, “well, if you can go miles deep into the water and it seems like those who are dead go down, and all that water came out of the earth during the flood...then those are probably the doors to death.”

God says, “Have you been down there, Job? I don’t think so. Have you been down there? Have you seen the doors of the shadow of death? Job, have you been there?”

### 38:18

**Have you perceived the breadth of the earth? Declare if you know it all.** “Since you know it all, Job, tell me, have you been able to see this? Do you know how far it is? Do you know how wide it is?”

*Isaiah 40 Who has given counsel to the Lord? Who has **measured out the earth** with a span?...*

“Have you ever been able to just palm the earth like a basketball, Job, because I can. I have meted out the measure with a span,” Isaiah 40, I am convinced, comes from Job primarily. I think Isaiah knew Job very well and he says, “I have meted out the measure with a span. I have comprehended the dust of the hills in a scale. I have weighed the mountains in a balance and I count the nations as a drop in the bucket and I looked at the islands and I think it’s a very small thing.”

I think that’s funny. God is saying, “Since you know everything, Job.” Now, let’s try to remember they’re not sitting across the latte down at the corner. He is speaking to him, perhaps shrieking to him out of the middle of a tornado. There is not much two-way dialogue happening here. We’ve been hearing Job yack in response to pretty much everyone up until. He answers at the beginning of chapter 40 by basically saying, “I’m dirt.” But up until then, he doesn’t say anything and his silence bears witness to what God is trying to prove all along which is, “Job, you’re speaking out of your lane. You’re wrong.”

### 38:19

**Where is the way where light dwells as for the darkness? Where is the place thereof?** “Job, can you walk into a room and tell me where the light stops and the darkness ends? Now surely, Job, anyone can walk in the middle of a perfectly lighted place and say there is no shadow here but can you go? And you can probably go into a dark corner and say there is no light here but can you show me the line where it separates? Have you ever been able to find the place where the light sprung from on day one, Job, because I have. I was there. I know where it came from. Do you know where darkness lives so you can lead it back to its border? Have you ever found darkness like a runaway dog, Job, and got it home? Have you ever made the darkness behave because I do it every night.” I love hearing God talk about God.

### 38:21

**Knowest thou it, because thou wast then born? or because the number of thy days is great?** “What are you, Job, 70? Boy, you’re mighty old. Tell me about the first day that the light sprung. Tell me about the evening and the morning becoming the first day, Job. Since you know everything, since you understand everything, since you’ve been living an awful long time, Job, tell me about it.”

**38:22**

**Have you entered into the treasures of the snow?** "Have you been up here in the silos where I've dropped off hail and snow? Do you know where I've been storing that stuff, Job? I'm looking down on it. Have you been up here?"

**38:23**

**Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?** In the book of Joshua, the Lord killed more with hail than he did with the armies of Israel.

**38:26**

**To cause it to rain on the earth, where no man is; on the wilderness, wherein there is no man.** "Hey Job, over there in the wilderness where you think I've made all this for you, maybe I should just tell you that I've been raining it over there without your assistance, without your approval, without you eating from that land. I've been watering it for a long time. I hope you're okay with that, Job? And why have I been doing it?"

**38:27**

**To satisfy the desolate and waste ground.** "Are you serious?" Look at 37:11. It's like he's agreeing with Elihu:

*37:11 Also by watering he wearies the thick cloud: he scatteres his bright cloud, 12 And it is turned round about by his counsels: that they may do whatsoever he commands them upon the face of the world in the earth.*

He causes the watering to come whether for correction or for his land, or for mercy. Right in the middle: sometimes just because it's his land and he looks after it. God says, "I still send rain to the desolate places." Why? "Because it's my responsibility." The teaching here is, "Job, how about you watch your lane and I'll watch it too? And since you need me and I don't need you, I've got lots of time on my hands." Job had to learn and I'm not trying to beat up Job. Who wants to be remembered like that? Oh well, there are some good things about not being back in the days of the prophets.

**38:28**

when was the last time you begot a rain shower? **Hath the rain a father? or who has begotten the drops of dew?** "Hey Job, can you tell me a single rain storm you started?"

**38:29**

**Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who has gendered it?** See notes on 38:8 and 38:16.

**38:30**

**The waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen.** "By the way, Job, when was it that you were in charge of freezing the Arctic Sea? Oh, you weren't. I did it without you."

**38:31-33**

It just continues. He just continues to ask Job questions and it is as if God is saying, "Have you been down to the doors of the sea? No, you haven't? Strange. Have you been up to manage the snow storm? Oh, you haven't? How about over there? Were you over there freezing the Arctic? No? How about over there? Were you there raining on South Dakota?" "No." "It's funny, I was, Job. Have you ever kicked the sun up into orbit?" "No." "I did. Have you ever made the moon appear?" "No." "I was there. Job, I'm pretty sure that if I can handle all that, I can handle Job."

**38 Can you bind the sweet influences of Pleiades.** That's a star cluster, the sweet influences. "What makes those stars hang out together, Job?" The sweet influences. "Why do they seem like they're so in love with each

other they can't even break away from each other, Job? Don't you know that there are laws of science that everyone says are in place out there? And I'm the one who keeps those star clusters in place and I don't let another star join them. Hey Job, guess who did that? I did."

How about **the bands of Orion**? "Who put that belt on Orion anyway, the fether? Who did that, Job? I did." The furthest star away in that constellation (of which there are over 80 stars) is over 1,200 light years away. One light year is 6 trillion miles. 1,200 x 6 trillion miles! That's a difference of a factor of 6 between the closest and the furthest stars, and somehow everywhere you look, they are always in that constellation.

Now, here's something else to think about: the planet earth has to travel 206 million miles around the sun every year. That means that right now where you're sitting, you're traveling 33,000 miles per hour and God says, "I've been doing that a long time." Now, I know how we think. We look up to Orion and we say, "Well, that's up there. God's got that and the snow storm silos, that's up there. He's got that. Down there, that's the sea doors and he's got that but how about me way down here?" Oh good friends, when he can measure out the heavens in a span, it's not Orion's up here and earth is down here with poor little Job. No, it's all right here in His Mighty Hand.

### 38:32

**Can you bring forth Mazzaroth in his season?** Now, that is a plural constellation and most everyone I read thinks that that is the zodiac; all 12 signs of the zodiac are in Mazzaroth. "Can you bring them forth in their seasons? Can you make the constellations travel how they're supposed to, Job? Can you do that?"

"Well, no I can't," Job says.

"Well," God says, "I've been doing it a long time."

**or canst thou guide Arcturus** That's the constellation the Bear. **Can you guide him with his sons?** "Do you understand that they are not right next to each other, Job? I've been keeping him and his sons together and I'm pretty sure, Job, that if I can help the Bear and his sons, Pleiades and her babies, and if I can guide Orion and if I can keep the 12 signs of the zodiac, then, Job, I have not one time taken my eyes off of you."

### 38:33

**Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? Can you set the dominion thereof in the earth?** And all of a sudden we realize that we are so very small. Many of the galaxies in our universe are right now traveling 60,000 miles per second and each of those galaxies carry a billion stars and all of them are as much in the vision of God as you are. Not just Job, you and me. And those biggest prayer concerns that we have for 2014, God says, "I have seen them. They're all right here. I am where you are worried about, Job." I do believe that evil is one of the greatest proofs for God. If you did not have this innate consciousness that there was something better than the chaos you think you see, well, then what are you comparing it to if there is no God?

On October 30, 1937, the earth missed possible destruction by less than three seconds. It happened when a minor object, Hermes, weighing 500,000 tons, passed within half a million miles traveling at the speed of light. And God says, "It's as much in my hand as Pleiades and her cubs. This is in my grasp."

If God has been doing so well with what is apparently so limitless out there, he's probably doing just as well with what seems so endless down here which is coming in chapter 42. Sometimes we teach our children to hate God and we do it by allowing them to be dissatisfied and discontented and moody about what we do for them as parents. We allow them to have an attitude with us about what we do for them and we're teaching them that we, as God's representatives in their lives, really don't give them what's best for them. We give them something they may not really have a palate for and so if they want to whine and complain and get something different, that's acceptable. But what we're doing is teaching them that God really does give you second best sometimes.

They may not like it but what Job had to learn at probably 70 years of age was that God sometimes gives him a tuna sandwich when he wanted baked beans. And sometimes you have to show up in a whirlwind and say, "Junior, I've been around for 36 years and that's not an old, old man but it's a lot older than 14 and I might have some idea what you need."

Number next: if we cannot find the limit to his control we will not find the limit to his abiding presence. So you're here in Job 38. You've already seen...by the way, I want you to read once again verses 31 and 32 with me. Just look at it there with me. "Can you bind the sweet influences of Pleiades and loose the bands of Orion? Can you bring forth Mazzaroth in his season?" You're going to need to remember that in a minute.

*Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

So Paul says, "Let me name some limits and let's see if you can find separation from the love of God tonight."

*8:38 I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Are you frustrated with the fact you can't figure God out? Wonderful! I rejoice because that is indicative of a God who has limitless grace.

I have shown you many times Romans where Paul is a student of Job and I want you to see how Paul, I think, takes what appears to be a limitless vastness about God and turns it into a tune of grace because if you can't figure God out when he is doing things on the menu that you don't appreciate, then there is a strong possibility that you'll never reach the limits of his love. If you can't find the limits of his control, then that means you also will not be able to find the limits of his forgiveness. If you can't find the limits of his mind, then rejoice because there will be times when he gives you mercy and you will stand there in utter amazement about the absurd mercy of God.