Studies in Job – Part 12: "God Rebukes Job" – Part 1 Job 38:1-18, 39-41; 39:1-4, 26-30; 40:1-5

A "divine primer" on absolute meaning in the whole created order.

1. God's Rebuke and Challenge

38:1-3

(1) Where God begins:

"Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said,
"Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

Dress for action like a man; I will question you,
and you make it known to me."

- His first words – a daunting rebuke!

-"Job, you do not know what you are talking about!"

- "Brace yourself, Job! I will now question you!"

- (2) The Content: A brief sampling of the marvels of the created order and the power and wisdom of God displayed therein.
 - 38:4-7 "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth...?
 - 38:12 "Are you the one that makes the sun to rise and to set, Job?"
 - 38:31-33 "Are you the one who controls the stars, Job? The constellations?

 Are you the one who has controlled the seasons from the dawn of time?"
 - 38:39-41 "Can you make sure the whole of the animal kingdom is properly fed?"
 - 39:1-4 "Are you knowledgeable of and do you keep track of the reproductive cycle of all of the beasts of the earth?"
 - 39:26-30 "Can you catalogue and do you understand the habits and distinguishing design features of the hawk and the eagle?"
- (3) The Two-fold purpose or thrust:
 - * It is not Job's station, it is not his *place* to make pronouncements about absolute meaning; to question or to challenge God's rule in the world.

- * There is not a meaningless fact in all of creation; there is no facet of anything in the whole created order that is not marked by total meaning.
- Job understands very little almost nothing concerning God's design or purposes in any of these things – but each is marked by total meaning!
- In God's world everything is marked with total meaning every part, every event.
 Job is to apply this to the events of his life.

2. Job's Response 40:3-5

(1) Job is utterly humbled, properly humbled. He will speak no more!

"Then Job answered the LORD and said,

Behold, I am of small account;

what shall I answer you?

I lay my hand on my mouth.

I have spoken once, and I will not answer;

twice, but I will proceed no further."

(2) He will remain quiet and listen to God!

Further Application

- 1. Every event has ultimate meaning with reference not to man, but to God.
- 2. The meaning of *most things* eludes us!
- 3. The meaning of all things is God-centered, not man-centered.

 Things may *appear* meaningless or arbitrary if we try to read them in terms of man!
- 4. And what of those most difficult circumstances in our lives? Where are we to begin?