

Job's Confession

Job 42:1-6

If the book of Job were written by a man, instead of by divine inspiration, man would have concluded the book with God explaining to Job why he suffered. But that is not the main issue of the book. The purpose of the Book of Job was two-fold: (1) To prove Satan's accusations about Himself and Job were false (1:8-12), and (2) to humble Job's pride and self-righteousness.



➔ James 5:11— This is where God was going through the Book of Job. God was bringing Job to this very place.

Job was beaten. Now he must decide. The question is not *why*, but **WHO**— **Who am I?** and **Who is God?**

- **Who am I?** is an admission of Job's need. God asked Job, "**Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?**" (Job 38:2). "Job who do you think you are talking the way you do?" Now Job answers God's question: "I am unwise" (v. 3), and "I am unworthy" (v. 6).
- **Who is God?** is an affirmation of Job's faith. This brings us to the first point...

I. **Job's RECOGNITION of God** (vs. 1-3).

A. **Affirms God's power is INFINITE**—"*I know that thou canst do every thing...*"

1. Infinite in what God **does** (omnipotent). After God has grilled Job for the last four chapters about His marvelous creation—from controlling weather patterns... to the stars in the heavens... to the amazing animals God created... from the behemoth and Leviathan—Job concedes God can do whatever He wants to do.
 - God *could* stop all sickness, war, and injustice if He wanted. And He *will* eventually. But for now, they serve His purpose.
2. Infinite in what God **knows** (omniscient). God knows our every thought! Even a sparrow doesn't fall to the ground

without Him knowing it (Mt. 10:29). He is aware of your situation and He allows it knowing it will ultimately work for your good (Rom. 8:18-39).

➡ v. 3—Job repeats God’s question (cf. 38:1-2), and then answers he is the one who spoke without knowledge.

B. **Admits his understanding is INSUFFICIENT** (v. 3)—“...*therefore have I uttered that I UNDERSTOOD NOT; things too wonderful for me, which I KNEW NOT.*” This was the result of Job’s inability to answer any of the 82 questions God asks in Job 38-41. Job finally admits, “I spoke when I didn’t know what I was talking about.”

- Job did not have all the facts. He was ignorant of the controversy between God and Satan.

➡ v. 4—Job again repeats God’s demand (38:3), and tries to answer.

II. **Job’s RELATIONSHIP with God** (v. 5).

➡ Job mentions two things about his relationship with God: (1) What he had **heard** about God, in the past; and (2) What he now “sees” with his own eyes, in the present!

➡ Job’s relationship with God went from a knowledge *about* God to a knowledge *of* God.

There are some who claim to have seen God: Joesph Smith, Oral Roberts; Jesse DuPlantous. Charismatic leader, Roberts Liardon, claims in his book “*I Saw Heaven*,”¹ that on one afternoon in 1974, when he was eight years old, he was caught up into heaven where he met Jesus face to face. He said Jesus gave him a personal tour of heaven. He saw golden streets, dazzling looking flowers, plenty of mansions, and trees that “swayed back and forth, dancing and praising as we passed.” Liardon recounts what happened when Jesus lead him to the River of Life:

When we came to a branch of the River of Life, we took off our shoes and got in. The water was knee-deep and crystal clear. Do you know the first thing Jesus did to me? He dunked me! I got

¹ <https://issacharpropheticcity.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/i-saw-heaven.pdf>

back up and splashed Him, and we had a water fight. We splashed each other and laughed.

That meant something to me, for the King of Glory, the Son of God, to take time out for little eight-year-old Roberts, to play with him in the River of Life. When I get back to heaven, I want to put up a historical marker on that spot that will say: This spot is where Jesus Christ became not only Roberts Liardon's Lord and Savior, but his friend.

Yes, He became my friend. Now we walk and talk together. When I hear a good joke, I can run to Jesus and hear Him laugh at it. And when He gets a good one, He tells me.

...Another time I saw Jesus, I was about 11 years old. This time, He walked in through the front door while I was watching the comedy, "Laverne and Shirley" on television. He came over, sat down beside me on the couch, and kind of glanced at the TV set.

Everything in this natural world clicked off. I could not hear the television or the telephone. All I heard was Jesus, and all I saw was His glory.

He said, "Roberts, I want you to study the lives of My generals in My great army throughout time. Know them like the back of your hand. Know why they were a success. Know why they failed, and you will lack nothing in that area."

...Jesus got up, walked back out the door, the TV clicked back on, and I resumed watching...

- ➡ Do you really believe that is what happens when a man "sees" God? Can a man really see Jesus face-to-face and then go back to watching "Laverne and Shirley?"
 - ➡ Job did not see God and have a water fight with Him or swap jokes with each other.
- A. **Second-hand faith**—"*I have **heard** [in the past] of thee by the hearing of the ear.*" Job confessed all he knew about God was from hearsay (cf. Ps. 44:1).
1. He knew God in a general way—He knew the facts about God—God existed... God was Holy... God hated sin... etc. This is a good start, but he needed to go further.

- This is how Jesus confronted Pilate, “*Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me?*” (John 18:34). All Pilate knew of Jesus is what he heard from others. He needed to know Jesus for himself.

For many, their knowledge of God is like a person who has studied a map of a country without actually seeing the country for themselves. They are an expert in reading the map, but have no idea what it is like to actually live there.

2. A relationship with God based on second-hand information will be shallow at best.

- You cannot live your life on the coat-tails of someone else’s faith (your parent’s faith... your preacher’s faith... your spouse’s faith).

B. **First-hand faith**—“...*but NOW* [in the present] *mine eye seeth thee.*” Job prophesied he would see God (19:25-27).

➡ **Job never experienced first-hand faith until tragedy hit.** Before Job’s suffering, his knowledge of God had been indirect and impersonal—based on hearsay. But now Job has had a first-hand encounter with God.

➡ Tragedy has a way of either driving us away from God or deepening our relationship with God. Pastor Blue who is in the final stages of ALS confirmed this to me last week when I visited him.

1. **How did Job “see” God** when God is invisible (Ex. 33:20; John 1:18; Col. 1:15; 1 Tim. 1:17; 6:16; Rom. 1:20)? Job saw God the same way Moses saw “*him who is invisible*” (Heb. 11:27 cf. Ex. 3:6; 24:9-10; Dt. 34:10).

- ➡ God may use theophanies or a Christophany (pre-incarnate appearance of Christ) to manifest Himself in some visible form. God could appear as “*the angel of the Lord.*”
 - Jacob saw God when he wrestled with “*a man*” throughout the night (Gen. 32:24-30).

- Joshua saw the Lord as “*the captain of the Lord’s host*” (Josh 5:13-15).
- Isaiah saw God upon a throne in the temple (Isa. 6:1-6).
- John the Baptist saw God as a dove descend from heaven (John 1:32).
- Paul saw the Lord on the road to Damascus (Acts 26:13-16; 1 Cor. 15:8).
- The Apostle John saw the glorified Christ in Revelation 1:12-17; 4:1-3.

In every case, it had a profound effect on their lives.

2. Paul writes about, “*The eyes of your understanding being enlightened...*” (Eph. 1:18). These “eyes” are not physical, but spiritual eyes. This is what Job meant when he said, “*mine EYE seeth thee*” (his eye of understanding - cf. 42:3).
 - a) Job did not see God with his physical eye. He saw a manifestation of God in a whirlwind (Job 38:1; 40:6; cf. 42:5).
 - b) Job could not see God before his suffering because his eyes were focused on himself. Once God stripped Job of his pride and self-righteousness, the eyes of his understanding became clear—it was like actually seeing God Himself.
3. Today God can be “seen.” How? You can “see” the Lord...
 - ...on the pages of His Word.
 - ...on your knees as He answers prayer.
 - ...in the lives of His people (Acts 11:26).
 - ...in the firmament of heaven.
 - ...in His providential dealings with us.
 - ...in the miracles He performs (“*Miracles From Heaven*”)
4. The reason many people don’t “see” God is because they don’t want to. The last person they want to see is God—The truth is, He will be the last Person they’ll see (Rev. 20:13-15).

Once Job saw the Lord, he didn’t need an explanation of why he was

God is on a personal level, instead of by hearsay. Knowing the answer to WHO, Job no longer needs to ask WHY?

III. Job's REPENTANCE towards God (v. 6).

- "Abhor" means to loathe, despise, disgust. It is the opposite of admire. Job saw nothing in himself that he admired. He despised himself. What do you see that you admire about yourself???
- Most psychologists would say Job's words reflected a poor "self-image." But, your "self-esteem" goes out the window when you are facing God.

A. Meaning of repentance—

1. Repent means a **change of mind**. Job changed his mind about being righteous in his own eyes and justifying himself (cf. 32:1-2). He discovered it wasn't about him.
2. Real repentance is not being sorry for something you *did*. True repentance is being sorry for what you *ARE*—"I abhor MYSELF..." True repentance goes beyond sorrow for doing wrong, but it extends to sorrow for being wrong.
 - Notice, Job does not repent of any "sins." He repents of who he is, **not** what he has done! The problem is not the *deed*—the problem is the *perpetrator* of the deed.
 - It is not a sorrow for sin, but a sorrow of SELF. Paul said in Romans 7:24—"O wretched man that I am!"
 - Job did not say, "I abhor Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar." He says, "I abhor myself." When you "see" the Lord, you don't see the wickedness of others. You see your own wickedness.

B. Means of repentance—This is the real result when a man "sees" God—He is humbled (Ps. 40:12; Isa. 6:1-5; Luke 5:8; Rev. 1:13-17).

SUMMATION: I recently heard a song titled "*It's Gotta Be God.*" The song's chorus concludes with this lyric, "If there's anything good in me, It's gotta be God... and it's gotta be grace!" Amen! That is the conclusion Job came to. Have you come to that conclusion for yourself?