



# Eternal PERSPECTIVE

## Job

### BIBLE TEXT | JOB 38:1-41

**1** Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: **2** "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? **3** Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. **4** "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. **5** Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? **6** On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, **7** when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? **8** "Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, **9** when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, **10** and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, **11** and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed'? **12** "Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, **13** that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? **14** It is changed like clay under the seal, and its features stand out like a garment. **15** From the wicked their light is withheld, and their uplifted arm is broken. **16** "Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? **17** Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? **18** Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this. **19** "Where is the way to the dwelling of light, and where is the place of darkness, **20** that you may take it to its territory and that you may discern the paths to its home? **21** You know, for you were born then, and the number of your days is great! **22** "Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, or have you seen the storehouses of the hail, **23** which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war? **24** What is the way to the place where the light is distributed, or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth? **25** "Who has cleft a channel for the torrents of rain and a way for the thunderbolt, **26** to bring rain on a land where no man is, on the desert in which there is no man, **27** to satisfy the waste and desolate land, and to make the ground sprout with grass? **28** "Has the rain a father, or who has begotten the drops of dew? **29** From whose womb did the ice come forth, and who has given birth to the frost of heaven? **30** The waters become hard like stone, and the face of the deep is frozen. **31** "Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords of Orion? **32** Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season, or can you guide the Bear with its children? **33** Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you establish their rule on the earth? **34** "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, that a flood of waters may cover you? **35** Can you send forth lightnings, that they may go and say to you, 'Here we are'? **36** Who has put wisdom in the inward part or given understanding to the mind? **37** Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens, **38** when the dust runs into a mass and the clods stick fast together? **39** "Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, **40** when they crouch in their dens or lie in wait in their thicket? **41** Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God for help, and wander about for lack of food?



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## DEVOTIONAL FOR JOB 38:1-41

AUTHOR: WAYNE WHITAKER

I have heard it said over the years not to ask God for patience because He will give you plenty of trials to test your patience. I was working on my memory verse for The Forge this last week and it was Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law". Anyone that knows me knows how hard it is for me to memorize anything. The older I get, I can go into another room to get something and forget what I had gone after by the time I get there. But I know it is worth the effort to memorize God's word, to store it in my heart that I might not sin against him. The thing that helps me memorize it is to go to the verse and see what each word means. As I was doing that in Galatians 5:22-23, I came to the word "patience". The definition of that word is endurance. The more I thought about that, I thought about Job and all the things he had to endure. "For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised" (Hebrews 10:36). I know none of us want to have patience (endurance), but whether you want it or not, it is coming. Someone is going to offend you, say something that is not true about you, or just test you, and that is when you're going to need those other eight characteristics of the Fruits of the Spirit.

Let's look at Job and the things he endured in all the previous chapters. He lost all of his children; that by itself would break most of us. He lost all the things he had worked a lifetime to accumulate; anyone that ever lost a job or a home knows what that feels like. Then he had to endure physical pain with sores on him from the top of his head to the bottom of his feet. Have you ever been in so much pain you were ready to die? Job was in terrible pain. He lost the respect of his wife, who turned on him when things got tough; that was a pain to the heart that he endured that likely hurt worse than the sores. And how about those great friends of his? He was hurting and in grief and then his friends told him it was his own fault because he had unconfessed sin in his life. Who could endure that? Not me and probably not you without knowing God is going to show up and deliver you. And that was what Job was doing. Did he do it right by asking God to come to the court to plead his case? Not really, and that brings us to Chapter 38 when God shows up.

God makes a big entrance! It says in verse 1 that the Lord answered Job in a whirlwind. Then in verses 2 and 3, "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Now gird up your loins like a man, And I will ask you, and you instruct Me!" Verse 4 says, "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding." In these first few verses, we are reminded that we cannot possibly understand God. Instead, we have to trust Him and His character (Proverbs 3:5-7).



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In this chapter, God tells Job of His mighty power, asking if Job was around when God created the light, or if he knows the measurements of the earth, and many other questions that exemplify His power. Verse 36 brings the biggest question. "Who has put wisdom in the innermost being, or given understanding to the mind?" I'll answer this question with scripture, "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5). When God speaks, it is always a "drop the microphone" moment, so be still and listen to the Creator of everything. "We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful" (James 5:11).

## Questions:

1. Are you going through a great trial in your life? If so, first take it to the Lord (Proverbs 3:5-6).
2. Have you been hurt by someone, or have you hurt someone yourself? Either way, go to that person and make things right. Do not hold on to unforgiveness (Matthew 5:23-24; Romans 12:18).
3. Are you actively reading God's word and memorizing scripture that you can store in your heart for the times you need to have patience (endurance) in your life? Are you in a Journey Group that can come alongside you and pray for you during these times? If not, reach out to [pastor@stonepointchurch.com](mailto:pastor@stonepointchurch.com) to find out more information.