

 *Job 38–42:6 (The Whirlwind)*

Cover to Cover: Job & Sovereignty

*Note:**The questions raised at the beginning of Job are not answered until the end; or those raised today will not become clearer until we’ve finished !*

Catch-up: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/job/>

Context: So far, we’ve been focusing on Job and his friends dialogue as to the nature of his suffering the justice of God. This back and forth ended with the introduction of a fourth friend, who the LORD never dismisses but neither is he praised. He is the segue, the one who begins to reorientate the conversation toward the Lord. Yesterday we heard from the LORD in the whirlwind. Today we’ll consider all that the Lord has to say in response to Job (and his friends).

*Follow on Questions from this past Lord’s Day’s morning sermon:*

1. Recap the conversation between Job and his friends.
2. What are we to make of the things Elihu says?
3. How does the question “If God, why evil,” actually lead to a proof of God’s existence?
4. How might you explain the existence of evil to a friend (perhaps before or after the sermon)?
5. In Job 42:11 we read “for all the evil that the LORD had brought upon Him.” How has Job challenged or enriched your understanding of God’s sovereignty?
6. To what extent was the pyramid approach to understanding reality, causation and God’s sovereignty helpful (or not)?
7. The LORD never answered Job’s question of “why.” Why?
8. How has the study of Job been helpful?

**Read**: Job 38–42:6

*Passage Specific Questions:*

1. *Job finally gets what he has so desperately wanted, to have an audience with the LORD. He gets more than he bargained for!*
2. What does the whirlwind reveal/symbolize of God’s nature?
3. What do you think of the LORD’s opening words in Job 38:2–3?
4. *Job 38:4–39:30. The LORD takes Job on a virtual tour of the universe and asks him all kinds of probing questions. He looks at big things like the origin of the universe, the stars, the weather, etc. He looks at the detailed things like donkeys and goats and lions.*
5. What deeper assumption of the friends (and Job) is the LORD deconstructing here? See the LORD’s question in 40:2 for a help.
6. What is Job’s response in 42:3–5. What attitude is Job now showing?
7. *Job 40:6–14. The LORD now asks Job more questions. This time they centre around whether he would like to micromanage the universe according to his view of justice.* Is he capable of giving justice to a complex world?
8. *In Job 40:15–41 we’re introduced to two creatures: Behemoth and Leviathan. Some think these are a hippo and crocodile, others dinosaurs and still others mythological creatures. That is not the point, nor is it how these beasts may represent the world, but ultimately God.* How is God like them (see 41:9–11).
9. Job lamented in the dust, now he repents in the dust. What shall we make of Job’s 2nd response in 42:1–6?

Extra:

1. Job 42:7–9
	1. How were Job’s friends wrong? How was Job right?
2. Job 42:10–17
	1. How should we understand the LORD’s gift in restoring Job’s fortunes?
	2. Was it his family who ultimately brought Job the comfort he had sought? (Job 42:11a)

*BIG Questions to bear in mind:*

* *Where is this passage in the wider story of salvation history?*
* *In what ways does this passage point to Jesus? (Lk 24:27)*