

Studies in Job
Job, “I Lay My Hand on My Mouth”
Job 40:1-5

“In answer to Job’s plea, God speaks, but in His own time and way. Rather than entering the fray as one of the disputants, God comes as God – speaking out of the whirlwind about the mystery of the universe” (David McKenna).

What did Yahweh’s speech accomplish?

1. God taught Job that He created the universe and this world.
2. Just as God governs the chaotic sea and restrains it, so He controls evil and evil-doers, setting boundaries that they cannot cross.
3. God’s government of His world is not selfish or self-serving, but rather He takes into account His entire creation.
4. God’s government not only expresses wisdom, it also expresses goodness and love.

I. Yahweh invites Job to answer (40:1-2)

- A. Will the faultfinder contend with Shaddai?
- B. Let him who reproves God answer it

II. Job answers Yahweh (40:3-5)

- A. Behold, I am small, how can I answer You?
- B. I put my hand over my mouth
- C. I have spoken once, but I cannot answer

D. Twice, but I can add nothing

Conclusion

1. God is not done with Job yet.

2. God has taught Job a vital lesson in round one and this first semester final. To be small and quiet before God is vital to trusting God.
Jn. 3:30
Psa. 40:8

3. The related lesson is that this smallness and silence is self-correction in light of who God is.
To be in awe of God, to feel small, to be still and silent before God, is to be in *the most honest place*. It is the only place where we truly understand who we are.