

## Message #44

## Job 42:1-6

As we come tonight to the final chapter of Job, we come to one of the great chapters of the Bible. This is the moment we have been waiting for. This is the chapter we have been looking for. In this chapter, God finally settles the score with Job's three obnoxious friends and He pours out His blessings on Job. It is a wonderful chapter.

But before we get to all of this, there are six powerful verses wedged between God's discussion with Job and God's deliverance of Job. These six verses are important to understanding what God was doing in Job's life and what he might be doing in ours.

Now we will notice that **verse 6** contains two critical words which we need to understand. In the New American Standard Bible, both begin with the letter "r"—"I retract " and "I repent ."

The word "retract" is one in Hebrew that means to reject, to despise, to hold in contempt (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 445). The word "repent" is a word that means to lament to the point of grieving and groaning (*Ibid.*, p. 544).

There are two different Hebrew words used for "repent" and this is not the one that means to turn around and change one's direction or thinking. This one has to do with emotional grieving .

What we learn from these two words is that just before God poured out His blessings on Job, Job came to the point where he despised or held in contempt something connected to himself to the point that he actually grieved over it. Job was not strutting around before God, he was humble .

**What we do know is that Job did not need to repent of some secret or hidden sin .** This is precisely what his "friends" had been claiming—he had some secret sin in his life and if he would just repent of it God would lift the judgments. We also know that God said Job was the most godly, upright man on earth, completely blameless in his life before God (1:8; 2:3). So it is evident that Job does not need to repent of some secret sin.

So just exactly what is it of which Job repented? The answer to this question is his shallow theological perspective of God . Job was a faithful man who feared God, but he was shallow in his doctrine and God used these events and His discussion to bring Job to see his faulty perspective. **God used a few illustrations from His creation to prove to Job that Job has no idea what God is doing.** Job cannot even begin to understand God nor can he possibly know all of the powerful things God does in His sovereign program. There were deep mysteries of God being unfolded here.

**GOD SOVEREIGNLY PERMITS NEGATIVE THINGS TO COME INTO OUR LIFE FOR HIS MYSTERIOUS PURPOSES AND WHEN WE FINALLY COME TO THE POINT WHERE WE TOTALLY AND COMPLETELY TRUST GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY AND NOT QUESTION THEM, WE HAVE LEARNED THE LESSON GOD WANTS US TO LEARN AND ARE BECOMING MANLY IN OUR SPIRITUALITY.**

This was the lesson Job learned. When God described just a few things of His creation, which Job could not even begin to explain or know, Job realized how foolish he had been in daring to challenge and question God. Job already “feared God” (1:1), but his “fear” was taken to an entirely different level here.

God was using these terrible things to make a powerful statement to His angels and to Satan but in the process of all of this, He was developing Job’s theology. He was taking him to a deep level in his relationship with God.

Now in these verses there are five wonderful realizations that Job came to through this terrible ordeal:

**REALIZATION #1** – Job came to the point where he knew God could do all things. **42:2a**

When a believer finally gets to the place where he really believes God can do all things, he has truly developed in his faith. What actually is it that develops Job? **The answer is true teaching about God, which came directly from the Word of God.** God needed to give Job a serious lecture and as Job was listening to that lecture, he was brought to the point where he needed to be and came to this realization.

When we are experiencing trouble, we need to come to terms with this point—God can do all things. In other words, if God wants to, He can eliminate the trouble. If He doesn’t choose to do so, He must have some sovereign purpose in view, which He may or may not reveal to us.

What we need to know is that God knows what He is doing and is doing all that He wants to do. Dr. Samuel Cox said Job finally realized that he is totally incompetent to sit in judgment against God.

Think about what we have seen in this book. There may be an angelic purpose behind what is negatively happening in our world. Demons may be at work and the Holy Angels may be carefully monitoring. The point is when we are in trouble we need to rest in the reality of the sovereignty of God. God can do all things.

God can give a job to someone. God can restore a relationship. God can topple a political leader. God can heal a sickness. God is not dead. God can provide blessings. God can save our family and our friends. He is God and we need to believe that point and trust God.

**REALIZATION #2** – Job came to the point where he knew no purpose of God could be thwarted. **42:2b**

The word “thwart” is one in Hebrew that means to shorten by cutting off or cutting away (Gesenius, p. 134). This is a very important point—no plan of God will be shortchanged. No purposed plan of God will be shortened or cut off. No one stops the plan of God and no one shortens the plan of God. Job finally came to the point where he realized this.

This is a point that God demonstrates time and time again. For example, every now and then some force rises up against Israel who claims they are going to see to it that she does not exist in her land. No matter when this has happened, God has always raised up someone to say “Really, I don’t think so.” God has a plan for Israel and no person, no power will stop it.

Even though Job did not know why all things were happening to him, what he did learn is that God was in sovereign control and he came to the point where he also realized there were mysterious sovereign things happening in his world that were not going to be shortchanged in any way. No one can stop God’s plan.

God said He will build His church and no one will stop that. If God wants a church built, no force in heaven or on earth can prevent it. If God wants you to do something or accomplish something, nothing can or will stop it from happening.

Now do you really believe this point? Do you really and truly believe no one can thwart the plan of God? Well then let me ask you a question. Do you think if God has chosen to save someone that the will of man can stop God from saving him? No one can thwart any purpose of God. That is the lesson Job learned.

**REALIZATION #3** – Job came to the point where he knew and admitted he had said foolish things. **42:3-4**

Now don’t miss this point. **It took a true grasp of the greatness of God and His sovereignty to bring Job to the place where he sees the weakness of himself.** Man is proud and loves to elevate himself. But when man comes to terms with the majesty of God, he is brought low.

Job is truly rebuking himself here. He realizes that he is in no position to instruct God in anything. This is precisely the point God brought against Job two times—Job 38:3; 40:7.

There are two admissions Job makes here:

**(Admission #1)** - Job did not have knowledge of the hidden purposes of God. **42:3a**

**(Admission #2)** - Job did not know what he had been talking about. **42:3b-4**

As Dr. Zuck said, Job had come to the place where he realized he had flunked all of God’s biology examinations (*Bible Knowledge*, p. 774).

Job was certainly not in any position to instruct God concerning anything (**42:4**). Now we may recall that Job had been talking about the fact that he hadn’t sinned and if he could only face God he could prove it. What he didn’t know is that God has deeper reasons for negatives other than just sin. Sometimes God uses negatives to develop the doctrine and theology of his own child, so he allows him to experience many negative things.

Job could not even begin to answer the barrage of questions God had presented to him, so he finally came to the point where he realized that he better shut his mouth and trust God's sovereignty.

Job was not in any position to instruct God concerning anything. Instead of demanding some confrontation with God, he should have asked God for instruction and guidance through the trials. Since God had sovereignly permitted these things to come into Job's life, Job could learn from them.

J. Vernon McGee said that some of Job's statements had reminded him of what he called "bull sessions" he had in school. He said a bunch of guys would get together and talk about things they didn't know anything about. They would just talk about anything and everything and just ramble when they didn't know what they were even talking about. Job learned his lesson.

Now we need to learn this lesson Job learned. We have the tendency to complain about all kinds of things—health, wealth, success, failure, jobs, age, looks, height, weight, appearance, our house, our parents, our marital situation, our children, our mate, the weather and even what team wins the game. We ought to just stop rambling and start trusting in God's sovereignty.

**REALIZATION #4** – Job came to the point where he realized what he had heard about God was not the same thing he needed to see about God. **42:5**

Job had heard that tragedies and troubles were always judgments of God. That is what he knew and that is what he believed. In fact, that is what his friends had been telling him. What he had come to see from God is that there can be mysterious, sovereign purposes and reasons why God permits the troubles and tragedies to occur.

God had painted a highly and holy sovereign self-portrait and once Job saw that, he realized his theology had been truly lacking. What had happened here is that Job was not left questioning God; he was left standing in awe of God, which is precisely what God wanted.

Until one comes to terms with the greatness of God's sovereignty and a complete trust in it, one will lack in his life and in his understanding of who God is. This is precisely why so many people who own Bibles and books about a variety of things never seem to make much progress in their spiritual life. It is the fear of the Lord that is the beginning of wisdom and part of what prompts one to fear God is a proper theological perspective of God. Job had been lacking in his grasp of theology about God. He had a grasp of part truth about God, but not a grasp of the whole truth about God.

**REALIZATION #5** – Job came to the place where he retracted and repented. **42:6**

**Now keep in mind what Job is retracting and repenting of—not sin, but an infantile theological grasp of God.** Job was finally to the point where he was willing to trust God's sovereignty and he saw himself as a loathsome creature compared to Almighty God.

Job was totally ashamed of the fact that he had dared to challenge God and question God. He had misinterpreted his misery with actually no idea of what God was really doing.

**Lessons to be learned:**

1. God can do all things, so if He isn't doing what we want Him to, He has His reasons and we need to remain faithful and trust Him.
2. No one will stop or shortchange the plan or program of God. When God has accomplished what He is accomplishing, His program and plan will move forward.
3. When we don't know what God is doing, we need to shut our mouths and trust our God.
4. We need to make certain that what we hear about God actually squares with what we see in His completed Word.
5. If we have said stupid things concerning God, we need to admit it to Him.