

# **MOUNT SINAI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

**8500 Cameron Road**

**Austin, Texas 78754**

**512-451-0808**

## **BIBLE STUDY**

### **JOB**

**Bible Study Strategies:** Prayer of Preparation

1. **Reading** the Scripture accurately
2. **Interpreting** the Scripture which is read
3. **Obeying** the Scripture as it is understood

**Aims of Bible Study:**

1. Increased Bible knowledge
2. Improvement as a student of the Scripture
3. Spiritual growth as a believer in Christ

## **THE REVELATION OF THE LORD (Chaps. 38:1 – 42:6)**

### **The Lord's First Challenge to Job (Chap. 38:1 – 40:2)**

#### **Introductory (38:1-3)**

The Lord Himself now answers Job out of the whirlwind, a not uncommon vehicle for an appearance of God in the OT. God's words are a welcome relief after the strife of words in the previous chapters. Job had been darkening counsel by words without knowledge, that is, he had been foolishly questioning the justice of God's dealings with him. Now the Lord will do the questioning, and it is time for Job to get ready to answer!

In the questions that follow, God does not give a detailed explanation of the mystery of suffering. Instead, He ranges through the universe to give glimpses of His majesty, glory, wisdom, and power. He is saying, in effect, "Before you take it on yourself to criticize My ways, you should ask yourself if you could manage the

creation as well as I do.” This, of course, can only show Job how powerless, ignorant, insignificant, inadequate, incompetent, and finite he is.

As we listen to the Lord’s questions, we have a recurring suspicion that they might be allegorical, that is, that they might have a deeper spiritual meaning, and that even the order of the questions might have significance. In the meantime, we see through a glass darkly.

Some might proudly say that thanks to modern science, we know the answers to many of the questions that God asks.

### **The Challenge of the Wonders of Inanimate Creation (38:4-38)**

**38:4-7** In poetic words of unsurpassed beauty, the Lord mentions the creation of the world when He laid the foundations of the earth, its measurements, its survey, its support (suspended in space, of course), and the angelic celebration. Then He asks, “Where were you when all this took place?”

**38:8-11** Moving from cosmology to geography and oceanography, He describes how He restricted the sea to its assigned shores, forbade further intrusion, and clothed the waters, as if there were a baby, with clouds and thick darkness.

**38:12-18** Next He vividly pictures His control of the morning – the light of dawn streaking across the heavens, illuminating everywhere it goes; unmasking the wicked who operate in darkness, as if by shaking them out, revealing the configuration of earth’s surface, as if it had been stamped out like clay under a seal; and bringing out the colors of the landscape as if it were a beautiful garment. Darkness, which is the preferred “light” of the wicked, is withheld from them and their evil plots are frustrated. He challenges Job to tell what he knows about the depths of the ocean, the realm of death, and the breadth of the earth.

**38:19-24** God now cross-examines Job on the origin and nature of light. The sun is not a sufficient answer, because there was light (Gen. 1:3) before the sun was put in place (Gen. 1:16). Was Job old enough to know the answer? And what does he know about snow and hail, which God sometimes harnesses in times of trouble and war? How do light and the east wind, which seem to come from a point, spread over the surface of the earth?

**38:25-30** Next, in a class on weather, Job is quizzed on rainfall and thunder, on how water falls on a desert, causing it to produce luxuriant growth, and on the

source of rain, dew, ice, and frost. How is it that water freezes hard as stone and solidifies the surface of the deep?

**38:31-33** No science is so calculated to show man his insignificance as astronomy. So God questions Job on his ability to control the stars and constellations, or keep them in their orbits, or determine their influence over the earth.

**38:34-38** Obviously, anyone who can question the wisdom and power of God should be able to bring down rain by shouting to the clouds, and command lightning so that it obeys instantly! Can Job tell God how the mind operates, how man gets wisdom and understanding in all these areas? No man has the wisdom to number the clouds, to say nothing of the particles of moisture by which they are formed. And no one can determine the time when the rain falls on arid ground that has been hardened into clumps and clods.