

# GOD ANSWERS JOB

By Keith Greer

"Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me." {Job 38:1-3} Job just thought if he could question God and understand His reasoning, then he could endure the difficult situations he found himself in. Really ?

Do you remember the story of Job? Satan was walking "to and fro" upon the earth and God asked him if he had "considered my servant Job." Satan answered, "Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? .. But now, stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to your face!" {Job 1:9-11} Satan made a challenge before God – quit protecting him and he will depart from serving God. Never forget this is the background for the entire book – why does man serve God? Here is the proposition so we can understand – man will only serve God while things are going well and God blesses him. When those blessings turn to difficult tribulations – man will no longer serve God. Let's see who is right...

So God put all of Job's possessions in Satan's hands, except for his life. Job lost his children, his prosperity, and his wife even told him to "curse God and die". Job's friends even blamed evil for his sufferings. Did Job's love for God see him thru these trials? "Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD." In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong." {Job 1:20-22}

Yet, with all his sufferings, Job did have some questions. "Why did I not die at birth? Why did I not perish when I came from the womb?..." {Job 3:11} "What strength do I have that I should hope? And what is my end that I should prolong my life?" {Job 6:11} "Where then is my hope? As for my hope, who can see it? Will they go down to the gates of Sheol?" {Job 17:14} "But where can wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?" {Job 28:12} So, Job did have some questions!

Now that Job did his questioning, it was time for God to ask Job a few questions! Friend, be careful what you wish for – you may get it. Job wanted an audience with God and now he was going to receive one.

**"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?** ... To what were its foundations fastened? ... Have the gates of death been revealed to you? ... Where is the way to the dwelling of the light? ... Has the rain a Father? Or who has gotten the drops of dew? ... Who set wild donkey free? ... Would you annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me that you may be justified? Have you an arm like God?... " {Job 38-40:9} If you were Job, could you have supplied him with the answers?

"Then Job answered the LORD and said: Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth. Once I have spoken, but I will not answer; Yes, twice, but I will proceed no

further." {Job 40:3-5} "I know that You can do everything. And no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You." {Job 42:2} Job certainly got a dose of humility! Guess he was better off not knowing the "ways of God!"

Have you ever thought of questioning God about the events of your life? Maybe you thought He made a mistake a time or two. Could it be that some trial or difficulty in your life would have been easier to bear if you could just see God's reasoning of why you must have that trial? Next time that thought crosses your mind, think about Job. What if God said to you, " ... **Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you will answer Me.**"? Dear reader, would you really like to answer the Creator, sustainer and giver of life for the reasons behind His actions? \*\*\*