**Job Restored**

**A Bible Story From**

**Job 38:1–42:17**

**Bible Story Number: 1010130**

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**Job Restored**

**Bible Story**

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**Background**

The life of Job is real. He was a real person facing real life hurts and challenges.

These events provide a rare view into the spiritual world. They give one answer to one of life’s most haunting questions: Why do bad things happen to good, even godly, people?

This answer does not apply to every situation; yet, it provides an important view of God and His interactions with one very real man. God lifts the curtain and allows us a glimpse behind the scenes. This account reveals who God is, His complete power, limitless control and incomprehensible ways. We gain a better understanding of what He means when He says: “For as heaven is higher than earth, so My ways are higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts” (Isa. 55:9).

A word of warning is in order. Quotes from Job can be misleading sometimes. His friends (and even his wife) told Job things that are conventional religious wisdom but not godly advice. For example, on one occasion, Job’s wife told him: “Do you still retain your integrity? Curse God and die!” (Job 2:9). She spoke out of frustration and clearly gave Job ungodly advice.

Job’s friends had a sincere desire to help. However, they gave him advice based on widely held beliefs, rather than sound theology. One friend said, “If you are pure and upright, then He [God] will move even now on your behalf and restore the home where your righteousness dwells” (Job 8:6). His friend’s intentions were good, but his advice was not. Much of the book of Job is actually this ungodly advice from his friends.

Context is always essential to understanding the Bible. Job is filled with examples. Therefore, beware of any Bible verse presented in isolation. It is always wise to check it out yourself. Acts 17:11 commends the believers in Berea who did just that with the preaching of Paul and Silas: “The people here were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, since they welcomed the message with eagerness and examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.” God will help you when you have a genuine desire to hear from Him.

The question of when Job lived is not directly addressed in the book. His place in the chronology of human events is clearly not the focus. An educated guess about when these events occurred is, in the final analysis, just that, a guess. It is likely that Job lived sometime after Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but even that is not known with certainty. The stories about Job are included here in this volume because of what we learn about God.

This Bible story mentions two animals that are not known to us: the Behemoth and the Leviathan. From the text, the Behemoth was obviously a very large animal. For example, it tells us that its tail was like a cedar tree. There is much speculation about these animals, but their exact identification is not the purpose. We do know that the Behemoth was a large animal that was not afraid of any other animals. The Leviathan was also feared and was not able to be tamed by man.

**Story from the Bible**

**Job 38:1–42:17**

This is what the Bible says.

God spoke to Job from a whirlwind. He asked him a series of questions: Where were you when I made the earth? Who measured it? Who put it together? Who holds it up? Who made the oceans and the clouds? Have you ever told the sun to rise? Can you explain death?

God asked him if he could tell Him all this. Then God asked more questions: “Do you know where light and darkness come from? What about snow, hail, dew, rain, lightening, ice, or frost? Can you set the stars in place and make the constellations? Did you create wisdom and understanding? Can you teach a lion to hunt and provide food for its young? Do you know every time a goat or deer gives birth? Do you know how many months each animal should be pregnant before it gives birth? Can you control a wild donkey or wild ox?”

God continued His questions: Did you make the ostrich, a bird with feathers that leaves her eggs in the sand to be warmed by the sun? How does the ostrich survive when it abandons its eggs so that they could be stepped on and crushed or eaten by other animals? Did you create the horse, and make it fearless in battle? Does an eagle fly at your command and make its nest in high places?

Job humbly replied to God, “I am so insignificant. How can I answer You?”

Again God spoke to Job from the whirlwind: “Would you declare Me guilty to justify yourself? Do you have an arm like God’s? Can you thunder with a voice like His?” (40:8-9)

God told Job to look at the Behemoth that He made. It was the greatest of the animals. No man could tame it and yet, He created it. Everyone feared the Leviathan and yet, He created it too. It could not be beaten with any weapon. Spear and arrows were useless and nothing could penetrate its scales. Yet, God created it.

Job spoke to God and said: “I know that You can do anything. I surely spoke about things I did not understand. I take back my words and repent.”

God spoke to Eliphaz and told him to relay His message to the other two friends who came with him. God told them He was angry with them because they had not spoken the truth about Him as Job had done. God told them to offer a sacrifice. Then Job would pray for them and God would listen to Job’s prayer. They obeyed God.

After Job prayed for his friends, God restored his prosperity and blessed Job with twice as much as he had before. Job had seven more sons and three more daughters. His daughters were the most beautiful women in the land.

Job lived 140 years after God restored him. He saw his children, his grandchildren and his great-grandchildren. He lived a full life.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* What are some of the questions God asked Job?
* What is the purpose of the questions God asked Job?
* How did Job respond to God’s questions?
* Why do you think God mentioned the Behemoth and the Leviathan to Job?
* What attitude did Job have in his response to God?
* What happened to Job in the last part of his life?
* What did you like about this story?
* What did you not like about this story?
* What did you learn about God from this story?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.