

Sunday, October 21, 2018

Job 38:1-7, 34-41

Theme: "MYSTERY - SILENCED"

(SEARCHING)

Job searched for and called for God on many occasions for God to appear...

He wanted to confront God with his questions, concerns, and complaints..

He did not see God at the time of his search...

He felt as though he was struggling all by himself. But God was with him in SPIRIT...

You see, God's plans, designs, and divine activities cannot and will not be fully understood over our lifetime...

And so, in God's own time, He does divinely appear to Job in a STORM...

Job is now face-to-face with God and has the opportunity to confront God with his questions, concerns, and complaints...

*However, because God is the Master Designer who designs our lives...

*Because God is the One who measures, aligns, and stretches the construction line of the universe (5...)

*Because God is the One who lays the foundation and builds its cornerstone (6...)

*Because God is the One who orders creation (7...)

*And because God is the God of creation whose wisdom is far above our human understanding...

(SILENCED)

*His presence SILENCED Job to the point where Job's capacity to ask the question was inspired with a sense awe...

Even though God appears, He does not appear with the answers Job desires...

Instead, God appears with His own set of questions...

There are a total of 39 questions in chapter 38, which ranks as the chapter with the most questions in the bible...

There are a total of 20 additional questions in chapters 39:1-40:2...

That means God asked Job a total of 59 questions in the first round of INTERROGATION...

The second round of interrogation is found in chapters 40:6-41:34 and it contains another 24 questions...

The significant thing about these questions is that Job cannot answer a single one...

God was driving home the point that Job must let God be God, the sovereign and Supreme Creator who answers to no one...

If God is great enough to carve creation, then He is intimate enough to comfort us in times of trouble...

God may divinely appear to each of us one day, I pray that His presence will SILENCED us and moved us to listen to and hear what He has to say to us...

Through our personal prayer and devotional life, we can be SILENCED by the magnitude of God's presence...

Through reading of scripture, singing of the hymns, bible study, Sunday school, and worship, we can be SILENCED by God's gift of grace...

*Despite Job's pain and despair...

*Despite his suffering and loss...

*Despite his friends' criticism of him...

*Job was not too proud to be SILENCED by God's presence...

*He was SILENCED by the images of the morning stars and the heavenly beings rejoicing in God's glory...

*He was SILENCED by God's grace and wisdom...

*He was SILENCED by God's love and ability to be present in all things, even in his suffering...

*Because he was SILENCED by God's presence, he acknowledged God as Sovereign and Maker of all...

*He testified that his Redeemer lived...

*He understood that God was the way to wisdom...

He was able to listen to God's questions...

The questions cover a wide range of the astonishing wonder of God's creation...

First, God's emphasis is placed on the earth (4)

This question points to the wisdom of how all things are divinely inspired and influenced, from the foundation of the earth...

Emphasis is placed on the boundaries of the day spring and the ordering of the day and night (7...)

By asking these questions God paints a portrait of a world full of powerful and complicated forces...

He uses the questions to ask whether Job could control these powerful and complicated forces...

And if he couldn't then he should rely on God...

(TOO MUCH TALKING)

Prior to this time, there was Too Much Talking between Job and his friends...

They criticized Job...

We, too, can talk for a long time about things that confront us and things we do not understand without listening to God...

God just might ask us: "Who are these that question my wisdom with such religious arrogance?"

How can we be astonished at the wonder of God's creation, yet doubt the beauty of His plan for us...

(PRAYER)

Rather than spending our time just talking, we should call on the name of the LORD in prayer...

At no time did Job and his friends PRAY to God...

Despite their friend's pain and suffering, their attention was on what they thought was sin he committed...

Rather than seeking direction from God, they spent time drawing conclusions...

(SECURITY)

Think about a time when you felt silence was the most appropriate response to an experience or situation...

What did that moment feel like...

We do not have to have the last say in everything...

We cannot control life's outcome through our own efforts...

We cannot manage our lives by ourselves...

When Job lost his possessions, family, and health, he had no earthly security left...

He recognized he could only trust God for his future (31:24...)

Our lives and welfare are ultimately in the hands of an all-powerful and all-knowing God...

If we invest only in the things of this world, we will be shaken when we face challenges...

However, if we invest time in our relationship with God, we will be SECURE...

Amen!