

Comments About Job 42:1–6

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss the book of Job. There will be times when we talk about (1) a group of chapters, (2) one chapter and (3) a portion of a chapter. Today, we will discuss Job 42:1-6.

I hope this project encourages you to review the valuable history and lessons found in the book of Job.

Confronting Job

Early in Elihu’s commentary to Job, we see him issue a challenge to Job.

Job 33:5—“If you can answer me, set your words in order before me; take your stand.”

When God finally talked to Job, He confronted Job twice.

Job 38:3—“Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.”

Job 40:7—“Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.”

Job’s response to first challenge

Here is Job’s response to God’s first challenge.

Job 40:4-5—“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’s response to second challenge

Job’s response to God’s second challenge is found in Job 42:1-6. Let’s analyze his answer as we read it.

■ Job acknowledged the sovereignty of God’s power and God’s purpose (verse 2).

Job 42:2—“I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.”

■ Job repeated God’s challenge to him and admitted that he talked about ideas of which he was ignorant (verse 3).

Job 42:3—"You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know."

- Job repeated God's question to him and asked to be heard (verse 4).

Job 42:4—"Listen, please, and let me speak; you said, 'I will question you, and you shall answer Me.' "

- Job acknowledged that he was finally getting a better view of God (verse 5).

Job 42:5—"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You."

- Job acknowledged that he was finally getting a better view of himself and expressed his repentance in the manner of the times (verse 6).

Job 42:6—"Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

Similar reminders

Here are a few other reminders in the Bible about how the saints learn to see God.

Isaiah 66:1-2—"Thus says the LORD: 'Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist,' says the LORD. 'But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.'"

1 Corinthians 13:11-13—"When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."