

September 17

## Job 38-42

Hi, my name is Marty Barnhart; I am here in Tiananmen Square and am the Director of Ministry Expansion here at Christ Community. As you look around me you will see behind me Chairman Mao in this seat of power. This is the gentleman who helped China come to the place where it is at today. You also see people all around me who are observing not only what China is all about for them and what they have in their culture.

As I move you will notice behind me is a Cultural Museum. Here on the Square the Museum is a way for the Chinese to commemorate all of the memories and all of the many ways this great nation has been brought together. You will notice as well, as we continue to turn that there is a Monolith that is behind me that celebrates all of the wars and all of the people who have served this nation. Then as well, on to my left you will see the People's Congress that meets each year. Here, in comparison to our nation, it is a place where their representatives meet who serve their President who will be placed into office just after the time that you are watching this video in September.

Today as you were reading you were at the very end of Job in chapters 38-42. You noticed that something changed from what you read before. God began to question Job about himself and what he knew rather than Job questioning about what he knew or Job questioning others around him. Over 70 questions are asked by God. "Job, what do you know about animals? What do you know about snow? What do you know about the seas and the lands and everything else that God oversees? Job what do you know?"

When God had finished that questioning from chapters 38-39 he then says to Job what do you know? Job says this, "My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." (Job 42.5-6)

As you look in chapter 42 you say to yourself that this is really a great answer. As you reflect on this you have to say that this is a great reflection on our great God. As you think about this you have to say, "He is the sovereign God, he is the Almighty God." If he were to question me I would have to say the same thing. In one translation Job says, "I put my hand right over my mouth and can't speak. I despise myself in the midst of a God so great and so mighty that I look at myself and say I am nothing." The book concludes with more questions totaling over 70 in chapter 41 and then God restores to Job what he has not enjoyed in the last few months or years. God restored to him all that he had lost of his sheep, livestock and all of his possessions except one item. God did not restore back his 7 boys and three girls. There has to be a reason and I believe it is because they were already in eternity. Why replace or restore them if he was going to see them again? Job was a doubly blessed man not in the abundance of things but in two other ways.

First, he was blessed because God restored him. Some would argue that he was not blessed with an explanation. You are right to know this but God is not obligated to tell us his ways. Solomon said very simply in Proverbs, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." (3.5-6) What is our response? What is our response to what God has

gone through? What is our response to what Job has gone through and what is going on in our lives?

I believe that what Isaiah says is key to our acceptance of God's ways:

*28 Do you not know?  
Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He will not grow tired or weary,  
and his understanding no one can fathom.  
29 He gives strength to the weary  
and increases the power of the weak.  
30 Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall;  
31 but those who hope in the LORD  
will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.*

Where are you today? Are you at a place where you are saying, "God, I don't understand what you are doing in my life." As I said a few moments ago, it is worth it to trust him. Second, stand back in awe of the plan he has for your life. As one commentator said, "As we read Job 38-42 we are in the midst of a holy God on holy ground kind of passages." Take off your shoes, revel in what God is doing.

From Tiananmen Square I greet you and say, "Come to China and see this place they call a center of power. It is amazing and as I look around it is quite a sight but it pales in comparison to the Almighty God. A God of the universe who was powerful enough to save you and me and to place us in the light of his dear son. That's power, keep reading, take care!