

“My Ears Have Heard of You But Now My Eyes Have Seen You!”

Job 42:1-6

Introduction

Have you ever met someone you had heard about, but never met in person before?

The Bottom Line: Even in suffering God is Sovereign and all are silenced, but also in suffering, God is Present and gives it purpose!

- **Even in Job’s suffering God is Sovereign.**

Job 38:1-3

Job 40:1-2 “The LORD said to Job: **“Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him? Let him who accuses God answer him!”**

vv. 1-3 “Then Job replied to the LORD:

2 “I know that you can do all things;
no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

3 “You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?’
Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me to know.

What Job experienced, and that we need to be reminded of:

1. We don’t find all the answers we might wish to find about suffering.
2. He, who was righteous, was in no position to justify his own situation and accuse God of injustice.

Was God’s reply to Job as harsh or something much more tender and compassionate?

- **There are a couple of beliefs that are totally destroyed in Job.**

- 1) Suffering is always the result of sin.
- 2) Retribution and blessing will always be seen in one’s lifetime.

“They (*Job’s friends*) falsely make the assumption that people can comprehend the ways of God without taking into account the fact that divine retribution and blessing may extend beyond this present life.”

Spirit-Filled Life Bible, Introduction to the Book of Job, p. 708

- **God was Present with Job in his suffering.**

vv. 4-6 “You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak;
I will question you,
and you shall answer me.’

5 “My ears had heard of you
but now my eyes have seen you.

6 “Therefore I despise myself
and repent in dust and ashes.”

Though God is Sovereign, He also:

1. Saw all that was happening,
2. Was with Job in the midst of suffering (even if he didn’t sense Him)
3. Heard all of Job’s complaints—evidenced by His response to Job.
4. Shared in his pain.
5. Spoke to Job in his pain and suffering. And it worked on all levels.
6. Had a purpose for Job in his suffering. Job’s suffering had meaning and value in a much larger struggle going on behind what he could see.

- **Faith is refined in the fires and storms of pain.**

One of the key things we see from Elihu and reiterated by God is that suffering is often used by God to teach lessons and to strengthen a person.

“instead of continuing to focus on preventing suffering—which we simply won’t be very successful at anyway—perhaps we should begin to enter the suffering, participating insofar as we are able—entering the mystery and looking around for God....shared suffering can be dignifying and life-changing.”

Eugene Peterson, *The Message*//Remix 2.0 Pause: A Daily Reading Bible, p.1325

We often get to see how God has given people something; ***peace, tranquility, depth, beauty, holiness, and even joy in the midst of suffering.***

Conclusion

“My ears had heard of you, but now my eyes have seen you.”

Suffering does call our lives into question.

Humility and repentance are two of the greatest responses to God that we find in the Scriptures.

But let’s always remember: God is present with us in suffering: 1) He sees us, 2) He is with us, 3) He hears us in our complaints, 4) He shares in our pain, 5) He speaks to us in our pain, 6) He has a purpose in our pain.