

# Job 42 - The end of things

## Study 6

### Personal Preparation 1

This is one of the trickiest sections in the whole of Job. Particularly with the issue of whether Job repents because he thinks he was in the wrong, wrong to question, or wrong to question so boldly. But while there are some things which aren't crystal clear in this passage, it's obvious there is some sort of change in Job.

#### Read Job 42:1-6

1. What do Job's words in verses 2-3 tell us about what has brought Job to this point of humility?

2. What has changed between Job's complaints and Job's current situation according to verse 5?

Verse 6 is really hard to translate from the original Hebrew, and some translations can be slightly misleading as to how Job finally ends up. Maybe a better translation of Verse 6 would be:

“Therefore I melt in reverence before you,  
and I have received my comfort,  
even while sitting in dust and ashes.” (42:6)

3. Have a think about this translation, and compare it to your bible. Do you think it fits better with what Job is saying here and what's come before it, or do you think your bible's translation is better?

4. What difference does it make to the book of Job how this verse is translated?

In the end, Job's "repentance" is at the least an acknowledgement of the majesty of the God who had allowed him to suffer, and an acceptance that there are some things that Job just needs to accept because he's not God.

**THINK:** Have you, or do you think you would, respond to suffering the way Job does here - in acceptance that while he doesn't understand, he is willing to trust that God is doing what's best for him?



### Personal Preparation 2

To finish off what is for the most part a depressing book, we have a beautiful picture of Job's restoration in these final verses. The book started well for Job, but it ends even better!

#### Read Job 42:7-16

1. What is God's final judgement on Job and his three friends? (Verses 7)

2. What special honour (or vindication!) is Job given? (Verses 8-9)

3. List the ways in which God restores and blesses Job? (Verses 10-17)

**THINK:** Do you think Job would have felt differently towards God if God had not restored him? How has the Satan's accusation of Job at the start of the book (1:9; 2:4) been answered?

## Discussion Questions - The end of things

On the whole, Job is a pretty confronting and depressing book. But one happy feature about Job is it's Hollywood "happily ever after" ending.

**TO START:** Why do most Hollywood movies have a "happily ever after" ending? Do you like these kinds of endings?

### Read Job 42

What we see at the end of Job is a man who humbles himself before God, is restored to prosperity, and who has grown through the experience. How? Let's have a look through and see.

1. From verses 1-6, do you think that Job "repents" of what he's said and done in this book? (Do you think he has anything to repent of?)
2. What has occurred to bring Job to this point (verse 5)? What does that mean?
3. Job never really understands why he's gone through what he's gone through, as God never tells him. Which of the following reasons do you think Job has for coming to the point he's at, at the end of verse 6?
  - a. God has bullied him in to submission.
  - b. Job is trusting God in blind faith. (i.e. mindless acceptance)
  - c. Another reason...(you suggest one!)

**THINK:** Many people will say they'd believe in God if he came and spoke to them face-to-face. Is that what Job is saying here? Do you think a face-to-face explanation from God is fair enough?

4. What judgement do we see God pronounce upon Job and his friends at the end of the book? What (specifically) is God angry about that the friends have said to Job?
5. What do you think it meant that Job spoke "rightly" of God?
6. One of the things that we see at the end of the book is that Job views the world differently. Compare the description in verses 12-15 to Job 1:1-5. What are the similarities and differences, and why do you think there is such a detailed description of Job's daughters? Have a stab at what this might mean in terms of what Job has learnt.

**THINK:** Do you think things need to have a happy ending for God to be considered a good God?

### FOR US:

- Is there always a happy ending for Christians? (Any references from the Bible?)
- Do you think peoples view of God is affected by their circumstances (i.e. good or bad)? Any examples?

### SUMMARY:

- Try and describe the kind of God you have discovered in the book of Job? Fit this picture into what you know of God from the rest of the Bible.
- Has your understanding of suffering been changed or challenged?
- Do you think your response to people who are going through suffering, or your own suffering, is different?

**PRAY FOR EACH OTHER** that when suffering comes along (as it will) that you might trust in what you know of God - his goodness to us in Jesus Christ - and that the way we deal with suffering might bring glory to God.

# Notes and Prayer Points

