

Trust God's Sovereignty

Job 38-42

Big Idea: God is sovereign over all things; so, I trust God when things don't make sense.

38 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:
²“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?
³Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it
known to me. ⁴“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the
earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. ⁵Who determined its
measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line
upon it? ⁶On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its
cornerstone, ⁷when the morning stars sang together and all the
sons of God shouted for joy? ...

40 And the LORD said to Job: ²“Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty? He who argues with God, let him answer it.” ³Then Job answered the LORD and said: ⁴“Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth. ⁵I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but I will proceed no further.” ⁶Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: ⁷“Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. ⁸Will you even put me in the wrong? Will you condemn me that you may be in the right? ⁹Have you an arm like God, and can you thunder with a voice like his?

¹⁵ “Behold, Behemoth, which I made as I made you; he eats grass like an ox. ¹⁶ Behold, his strength in his loins, and his power in the muscles of his belly. ¹⁷ He makes his tail stiff like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are knit together. ¹⁸ His bones are tubes of bronze, his limbs like bars of iron...

41 “Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook or press down his tongue with a cord? ² Can you put a rope in his nose or pierce his jaw with a hook? ³ Will he make many pleas to you? Will he speak to you soft words?

42 Then Job answered the LORD and said: ²“I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

³‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. ⁴‘Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me.’ ⁵I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; ⁶therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

Big Idea: God is sovereign over all things; so, I trust God when things don't make sense.

Trust God's Sovereignty

1. Sovereignty defined (42:2).
2. God's sovereign, and I'm not (38-41).
3. Submit to, and trust, God's Sovereignty (42:1-6).

1. Sovereignty defined (42:2).

²“I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.” (Job 42:2).

Sovereignty: God completely controls all things, all the time. Nothing happens without His permission or purpose.

We can define sovereignty in 4 parts.

i. Absolute authority

“Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases” (Ps 115:3).

ii. Complete control

“He works all things according to the counsel of his will.” (Eph 1:11).

iii. Unconditional freedom

“Who has known the mind of the Lord?” (Rom 11:34).

iv. All-Encompassing Reign.

God reigns over nature, nations, evil, decisions, salvation ...

1. Absolute Authority

God has the supreme right to do whatever He pleases, as He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things.

“Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.” — Psalm 115:3

2. Complete Control

God not only has the right, but also the power to accomplish all His purposes, and nothing can thwart His will.

“I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.” — Job 42:2

“He works all things according to the counsel of his will.” — Ephesians 1:11

3. Unconditional Freedom

God acts freely, without being constrained by anything outside Himself. He is not accountable to any higher authority.

“Who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” — Romans 11:34

4. All-Encompassing Reign

His sovereignty extends over:

Nature – Psalm 104, Job 38–41

Nations – Daniel 2:21, Acts 17:26

Satan and evil – Job 1–2, Genesis 50:20

Human decisions – Proverbs 21:1, Romans 9
Salvation – John 6:37, Romans 8:29–30

But ...

- i. Sovereignty should not distance us from the reality of our joys, struggles, and choices.
- ii. Our experiences are real, and our actions matter.
- iii. Sovereignty does not make evil good. Evil is still evil.
- iv. God's sovereignty doesn't excuse my lazy.

2. God's sovereign, and I'm not (38-41).

38 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: ²"Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?"

³ Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. ⁴"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.

God is sovereign over:

i. Suffering and satan/evil (1–2).

“The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.” (1:21; cf. 1:12, 2:10)

ii. Life and death (10:8–12; 12:10; 14:5).

“Your hands fashioned me and made me...” (10:8)

“Man’s days are determined, and the number of his months is with you...” (14:5)

iii. Nations and history (12:13–25).

“He makes nations great, and he destroys them...” (12:23)

God Is Sovereign Over Suffering and Satan

Text: Job 1:6–12; 2:1–6

Explanation:

Satan cannot touch Job without God's permission. God places limits on the extent of Job's suffering. This shows that even in pain, God is in control.

God allows Satan to test Job but sets strict boundaries: “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.” (Job 1:12)

This shows God's control over the Adversary. Satan cannot act apart from God's permission.

Illustration: Like a dog on a leash, Satan can only go as far as God allows.

Application: When trials come, remember they are filtered through God's loving hand. He is not absent; He is overseeing. Trust His boundaries.

God Is Sovereign Over Life and Death

Text: Job 10:8–12; 14:5

Explanation:

Job acknowledges that God formed him and numbered his days. Human life is not random—it is handcrafted and timed by the Creator.

God again permits Satan to afflict Job, but with limits: “Behold, he is in

your hand; only spare his life.” (Job 2:6)

God determines the extent of suffering, preserving Job’s life.

Job recognizes God's ultimate control over gain and loss.

“The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.” (Job 1:21)

Job 2:10 – Job Recognizes Sovereignty in Suffering. “Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?” (Job 2:10)

Job 10 – Sovereignty Over Human Life

“Your hands fashioned me and made me...” (Job 10:8)

“You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews.” (Job 10:11)

Illustration: Like an architect who designs every detail of a building, God designs every moment of our existence.

Application: Take comfort: Your life is not out of control. God holds your beginning, middle, and end.

God Is Sovereign Over Nature and Creation

Text: Job 38:1–41:34

Explanation:

When God answers Job, He doesn't explain Job’s suffering—He reveals His power. God governs lightning, sea creatures, the stars, and the seasons.

Job’s Lament Acknowledges God’s Cosmic Sovereignty

“He removes mountains... He shakes the earth out of its place...” (Job 9:5–6)

“He commands the sun, and it does not rise...” (Job 9:7)

Job affirms God’s incomprehensible and irresistible power.

Job 12:10–25 – Job’s Strongest Speech on God's Sovereignty

“In his hand is the life of every living thing...” (Job 12:10)

“He makes nations great, and he destroys them...” (Job 12:23)

A sweeping view of God’s authority over people, wisdom, leaders, and history.

Job 36–37 – Elihu on God’s Sovereign Rule in Creation

“God thunders wondrously with his voice...” (Job 37:5)

“He seals up the hand of every man, that all men whom he made may know it.” (Job 37:7)

God governs weather, lightning, rain, snow—all signs of His dominion.

Illustration: The weather, the tides, and even the birth of mountain goats all obey God's command.

Application: If God governs the cosmos, He can surely govern your chaos. Worship the God who holds all things together.

God Is Sovereign Over Nations and History

Text: Job 12:13–25

Explanation:

God brings down kings and raises up rulers. He determines the course of history and the fate of nations.

Job 5:8–16 – Eliphaz on God’s Control Over Nature and Justice

“He does great and unsearchable things, wonders without number.” (Job 5:9)

“He sets on high those who are lowly...” (Job 5:11)

Although Eliphaz misapplies truth, he affirms God's control over the world.

Job 14:5 – Sovereignty Over Time and Mortality

“Man’s days are determined, and the number of his months is with you...” (Job 14:5)

God controls the span of human life.

Illustration: Kingdoms fall and rise like tides—but God is the one who moves the oceans.

Application: Don’t put your hope in politics or power. Trust the King of kings whose plan will not fail.

God Is Sovereign Over Wisdom and Understanding

Text: Job 28:23–28

Explanation:

True wisdom belongs to God alone. We may not understand our suffering, but God does.

“God understands the way to [wisdom]... when he gave the wind its weight...” (Job 28:23–25)

Wisdom belongs to God alone.

Illustration: We see one piece of the puzzle—God sees the whole picture.

Application: Seek wisdom not just in explanation but in reverence: “The fear of the Lord is wisdom.”

God’s Sovereignty Demands Humble Worship

Text: Job 42:1–6

Explanation:

Job repents after seeing God's greatness. His suffering didn’t change, but his perspective did.

Illustration: A child doesn’t need to understand the storm if he’s holding his father’s hand.

Application: Humble yourself before God. Trust His character even when you can’t trace His hand.

God Is Sovereign to Restore and Redeem

Text: Job 42:10–17

Explanation:

God restores Job—not because Job earned it, but to demonstrate His grace. God had a purpose all along.

Illustration: Like a master weaver, God threads pain into a tapestry of beauty.

Application: God is not done with your story. He can bring restoration in His

time, for His glory.

Elihu: God as Sovereign Savior and Judge

Job 33:12–30

“God is greater than man.” (Job 33:12)

“He delivers the afflicted by their affliction...” (Job 36:15)

The Lord Speaks: The Pinnacle of God’s Sovereignty (Job 38–41)

God confronts Job with dozens of rhetorical questions about creation, animals, weather, and cosmic forces:

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?” (Job 38:4)

“Do you know when the mountain goats give birth?” (Job 39:1)

“Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook?” (Job 41:1)

These speeches are a majestic declaration of God’s omnipotence and inscrutable wisdom.

iv. Wisdom and understanding (28:23–28; 38–39).

“Do you know when the mountain goats give birth?” (39:1)

“Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook?” (Job 41:1)

v. Salvation and judgment (33:12–30).

“He delivers the afflicted by their affliction...” (Job 36:15)

vi. Nature and creation (9:1–7; 38:1–41:34).

“He commands the sun, and it does not rise...” (Job 9:7)

vii. Restoration and redemption (42:10–17).

“¹⁰ And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job” (42:10).

God Is Sovereign Over Wisdom and Understanding

Text: Job 28:23–28

Explanation:

True wisdom belongs to God alone. We may not understand our suffering, but God does.

“God understands the way to [wisdom]... when he gave the wind its weight...” (Job 28:23–25)

Wisdom belongs to God alone.

Illustration: We see one piece of the puzzle—God sees the whole picture.

Application: Seek wisdom not just in explanation but in reverence: “The fear of the Lord is wisdom.”

God’s Sovereignty Demands Humble Worship

Text: Job 42:1–6

Explanation:

Job repents after seeing God’s greatness. His suffering didn’t change, but his perspective did.

Illustration: A child doesn’t need to understand the storm if he’s holding his father’s hand.

Application: Humble yourself before God. Trust His character even when you can’t trace His hand.

God Is Sovereign to Restore and Redeem

Text: Job 42:10–17

Explanation:

God restores Job—not because Job earned it, but to demonstrate His grace. God had a purpose all along.

Illustration: Like a master weaver, God threads pain into a tapestry of beauty.

Application: God is not done with your story. He can bring restoration in His time, for His glory.

Elihu: God as Sovereign Savior and Judge

Job 33:12–30

“God is greater than man.” (Job 33:12)

“He delivers the afflicted by their affliction...” (Job 36:15)

The Lord Speaks: The Pinnacle of God’s Sovereignty (Job 38–41)

God confronts Job with dozens of rhetorical questions about creation, animals, weather, and cosmic forces:

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?” (Job 38:4)

“Do you know when the mountain goats give birth?” (Job 39:1)

“Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook?” (Job 41:1)

These speeches are a majestic declaration of God’s omnipotence and inscrutable wisdom.

If God governs the cosmos,
He can certainly govern your chaos.

3. Submit to, and trust, God's Sovereignty (42:1–6).

42 Then Job answered the LORD and said: ²“I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. ³‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know... ⁵I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; ⁶therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

Trusting God's sovereignty allows us to:

- i. Live with peace during uncertainty (Rom 8:28).
- ii. Walk in humility (Jam 4:13-15).
- iii. Worship, even during suffering (Job 1:21).
- iv. Confidently obey, knowing God's way is best (Phil 2:13).
- v. Share with boldness; God gives the increase (1Co 3:6f).
- vi. Rest, the world isn't yours to manage (Ps 127:1).
- vii. Forgive (Gen 50:20).

We Live with Peace in Uncertainty

Romans 8:28 – “We know that for those who love God all things work together for good...”

Truth: Because God is in control of all things, we don't have to fear the unknown.

Impact: You can rest, even when life feels chaotic, because nothing surprises God.

Practical Response: Instead of anxiety, practice daily surrender in prayer: “Lord, I trust Your plan, even when I can't see it.”

We Walk in Humility, Not Pride

James 4:13-15 – “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”

Truth: God determines our days and directs our steps.

Impact: We don't boast in our plans but acknowledge our dependence on Him.

Practical Response: Plan diligently, but always with a heart that says, “Not my will, but Yours be done.”

We Worship, Even in Suffering

Job 1:21 – “The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.”

Truth: God is sovereign over loss and blessing alike.

Impact: We don't need to understand God to trust Him.

Practical Response: In trials, choose praise—not because it’s easy, but because God is still worthy.

We Obey with Confidence

Philippians 2:13 – “It is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

Truth: God’s sovereignty includes empowering our obedience.

Impact: You’re not left to obey in your own strength—God is at work in you.

Practical Response: Step forward in obedience, even when it's hard, trusting that God is enabling you.

We Evangelize with Boldness

Acts 18:10 – “I have many in this city who are my people.”

Truth: God is sovereign in salvation—He draws people to Himself.

Impact: Evangelism is not about results, but about faithfulness.

Practical Response: Share the gospel without fear. You’re planting seeds—God gives the growth.

We Rest Instead of Striving

Psalms 127:1 – “Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.”

Truth: God controls outcomes; we are responsible for faithfulness, not results.

Impact: You don’t have to carry the world—God already does.

Practical Response: Sabbath isn’t laziness; it’s trust. Build space in your life to rest in God’s rule.

We Forgive Freely

Genesis 50:20 – “You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good...”

Truth: Even when others sin against us, God can use it for His purposes.

Impact: Knowing God is sovereign helps us let go of bitterness and trust His justice.

Practical Response: Release your grip on revenge. Forgive, knowing God is the ultimate judge and redeemer.

Because you know God is sovereign over all things, trust him when things don't make sense.