

Job Chapters 38-42

When I was about 11 years old, my parents have decided to send me to learn more English besides learning it in the day school. I was sent to a Christian based night school. One of the classes is Bible story. Most of the classmates don't know enough to fully read it, and thus she told the story. One night, she told the Jesus feed the 5000 miracle. After she told the story, she asked is there any questions. Usually nobody dares to ask questions. But that night I have full of courage to challenge her for those "nonsense". I asked her how could that be because it does not fit logic and physics. She stopped for a while and then started to try to answer but finally stopped. Definitely she was thinking to find the way to answer me. Anyway, if you want to know what happened after that, you have to wait until we finished the study of Job.

Job is an OT book. It is about God allowed terrible things happened to Job. Earlier chapters described Job's three friends talked to him, and they thought Job must be sinned and that was the cause of his misery. Job did not sin and was wondering why these terrible events happened. Job asked God. If you were Job, you would be more anxious for an answer.

1. Not answered or Answered by asking questions.

God asked job questions to make him think. God's question seems to be not related to the original question job asked. God asked questions about who has the power to create and control the universe (chapter 28). Thinking of a bigger and deeper question can lead Job to think deep and see the light for an answer. I remember my high school Physics teacher. I respected him a lot because he was kind and very smart. One day he explained some complex physics concepts to a small group of students after class. From the complexity of physics topics lead to ask us the question back "How can you tell there is no God?" I was sort of shock thinking how can a scientific person say that. However, I felt that he was asking it in a serious manner. That question stuck in my mind because I really respect him as a very intelligent person. Asking questions often leads one to think deeper or even an answer from the question.

2. Not answered or Answered on a different question.

A) Job 38-41 described (answered) God's own questions that is God is almighty, full of wisdom and cared for His creation including human.

B) Chapter 42 shows Job knew God more through those questions and answers (dialogue) with God. Now, Job despised himself, repented and has deeper understanding of God. Faith grows stronger. Book of James provides similar points where through trials one can know God more and one's faith grows stronger. (James 1:2-4 and James 5:11).

3. Not answered or Answered by an action.

God love us by action. When we are in trouble, think about God's blessings and promises. God's answer can be just His action in love.

Now, back to my 11 years old English class. She did not answer me that night on the Feed the 5000 miracle question, but went on to the next teaching topic. Next day, she has decided not to teach the Bible anymore. She did not answer may be she thought we cannot comprehend it. She just showed love by caring and praying for us. I saw her kneeled down and prayed for at least half an hour before class every night. Years later when I became a Christian, she is one of the model Christian I can think of.

God not just answered Job, but answered him in 3 different ways! God sometimes answered our questions in these different ways also. We just have to have a quiet heart to hear Him.

In the method of evangelism, answering non-Christian questions sometimes can be effective by answering methods described above also.