

“Mine Eye Seeth Thee”

Job 42:1-6

Another title for this message could be: “What Happens When We See God?” And that question ought to be in our thoughts often. Do we see God as Job did? Do we hear God speak as Job did? He’s the same God – in fact, we have a privilege that Job didn’t: we have the Holy Spirit indwelling us. We should be listening for His still small voice in every circumstance of life – listing for God to speak. When we hear Him, what is our reaction? Job’s reaction was a very simple one, and it’s the reaction we ought to have, especially if we have sinned.

I. HE SEES HIS POWER – VS. 2A

A. Job said “I know” – he said this because he had observed God during his life and had seen Him do wonderful things. And, during this trial of his, and the discourse of Jehovah, especially in speaking about behemoth and leviathan, He had come to not just have a head knowledge about God, but had come to know, personally and specifically, that God can do “every thing.”

B. He said that he knew that God “canst do” – had the power residing within Himself to do whatever “thing” He wanted to do. Job saw this firsthand in his life, and he was about to see it again.

Genesis 18:14

¹⁴ Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

Jeremiah 32:17

¹⁷ Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:

Matthew 19:26

²⁶ But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, **With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.**

C. Job saw that God – could do “every thing” – no matter what it was, if He wanted to do it, and it didn’t violate His will or His word, He could do it. This speaks of God’s omnipotence.

D. “This is said by Job in view of what had been declared by the Almighty in the previous chapters. It is an acknowledgment that God was omnipotent, and that man ought to be submissive, under the putting forth of his infinite power. One great object of the address of the Almighty was to convince Job of his majesty, and that object was fully accomplished.” Albert Barnes

II. HE SEES HIS PERCEPTION – VS. 2B-3

A. Job saw that not only was God all-powerful (omnipotent), but He was all-knowing (omniscient).

Psalm 44:21

²¹ Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart.

Jeremiah 17:10

¹⁰ I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

B. Job saw that "no thought can be withholden from thee" – this is speaking of the thoughts of mankind.

1. "No thought" – speaks of the schemes, plans, thoughts of man.

"Most often the term denotes the evil plans, schemes, or plots humanity devises that are contrary to God's righteous decrees." (Spiros Zodhiates)

2. "Can be withholden" – there is no way we can hide our thoughts from God for He knows not just what we do on the outside but He knows what we are on the inside, and we cannot "thwart" Him from them – we cannot hide them from Him.

1 Samuel 16:7

⁷ But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

C. Do we see the perception of God? Do we see that He knows us – not just because of what we do, but He knows us because of what we think? Our thoughts are as important as our actions. Just because they can't be seen doesn't mean they won't be judged. That is what Job saw.

Hebrews 4:12

¹² For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

¹⁴ For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Matthew 12:36

³⁶ But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

D. In the first part of verse 3 we find Job repeating the question he was asked (38:2) in order to lay the framework for his answer. In Job's answer we find the true nature of Job. Although he was not hypocritical in this, nor was this trial because of sin in his life, Job still realized that he was a sinner, and that God could do what He wanted with what was His. Once God spoke, giving the great discourse on His might, Job saw himself in relation to God and realized He was nothing – and deserved nothing.

E. He said in the middle of that verse that "therefore have I uttered that I understood not."

1. The "therefore" is there for a reason – because God knows everything, even the thoughts of man.

2. Job “uttered” – he reported to God, and to all that wanted to hear
3. “That I understood not” – that he had spoken of things that God did in putting him through this trial for no apparent reason, and had reported things about God that he didn’t really understand – he now owns up to his ignorance in a very humble manner for all to hear, but especially God.

F. In the last part of verse 3 Job once again points to the all-knowing aspect of the attributes of God by saying that he had uttered, reported on “things too wonderful for me, which I knew not” – this is a reiteration of the previous phrase, so commonly done in Hebrew poetry, and it just expounds on the fact the Job spoke of things he really knew nothing about, things that were far beyond his finite ability to comprehend – “too wonderful” for him.

G. What about us? Are we willing to humble ourselves before the all-knowing, all-powerful Creator of the universe and admit there are things that God will allow us to go through, that we may never understand, and accept them as just and right and necessary, considering the facts of the power of the Godhead?

III. HE SEES HIS PRESENCE – VS. 4-5

A. This point speaks of God’s presence everywhere at the same time (His

omnipresence), and also, more specifically, His personal presence with us when we are in trouble.

B. Verse 4 is one of the peculiarities of Hebrew poetry – in the first part of the verse Job is saying to God that he would give an answer to the “demand of God,” as recorded for us in that latter part of the verse. The last part of the verse is a quote of what God said to Job – twice (38:3; 40:7) – and it is quoted as a means (poetically speaking) for the reader to know why Job is answering and what he is answering.

C. In verse 5 Job tells God that he had heard of Him throughout his life and especially during this great trial, “but now mine eye seeth thee.”

1. Whether or not this is a literal statement (I believe it is) is not absolutely clear.
2. This type of statement is used throughout the poetical books as a symbolic point that not only did he hear about God’s omnipotence and omniscience, but now he was able to observe it firsthand, for himself.
3. However, since God spoke to him audibly out of the “whirlwind,” it is very probable that He also appeared to Job in Person, in the Person of the only presence of the Godhead anybody has ever seen – the Person of the Son of God.

“Thy Shechinah, as Jarchi; thy divine glory and Majesty; the Logos, the Word or Son of God, who now appeared in an human form, and spake to Job out of the whirlwind; and whom he saw with the eyes of his body, as several of the patriarchs had seen him, and which is the sense of an ancient writer (n); though no doubt he saw him also with the eyes of his understanding, and had a clearer sight of his living Redeemer, the Messiah, than ever he had before; and saw more of God in Christ, of his nature, perfections, and glory, than ever he had as yet seen; and what he had heard of him came greatly short of what he now saw; particularly he had a more clear and distinct view of the sovereignty, wisdom, goodness, and justice of God in the dealings of his providence with the children of men, and with himself, to which now he humbly submitted.” (John Gill)

Isaiah 6:1

¹ In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

Acts 7:55–56

⁵⁵ But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

⁵⁶ And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

Conclusion: Verse 6 is the conclusion to what we

see when we see God. If it's not, then we are sure to miss the point of God's dealing with us and we are sure to miss a blessing of being right with Him. Job said "I abhor myself" – he saw himself in relation to the Almighty God and realized how wicked a sinner he was. He then repented. That is the same reaction every lost person on earth needs to have, as well as every believer needs to have when faced with the attributes of God.