

# Where Were You When I Laid the Foundation of the Earth?

## Job 38:1-7; 42:1-6

The book of Job tackles the subject of **the inadequate view of God that both Job and his three friends had**

### What?

**God remains wise and just, and worthy of our simple trust**

*God's hidden wisdom and justice—*

Satan claimed that if everything was taken from Job, he would curse God, but Job still worshipped (1:21)

Satan claimed Job would turn on God if his health was taken away

This leads to Job's struggle and debate with his friends

Job and his friends had a simplistic view of God, that **He simply rewards the righteous and punishes the wicked**

His friends argued that Job must have sinned

Job argued he had not sinned, so God must justify Himself

Vs. 1—God answered from a storm to impress on Job His power, and the seriousness of challenging God from a self-centred viewpoint

Vs. 2—God assessed the words Job had spoken to his friends as empty of the facts, and obscuring the truth

Job was **blameless, but his understanding was flawed**

Vs. 3—understanding the depths of God **exercises a person mentally, spiritually and even physically**

**The Big (Epic) Question—“Where Were You When I Laid the Foundation of the World?” (vs. 4)**

This epic question, and the questions that followed, were intended to impress on Job **not just God's power, but his wisdom, as illustrated by creation**

He was saying to Job that if His wisdom in creation was so great that it was beyond Job's understanding, then **so was His wisdom in caring for and governing His creation**

God never answered Job's question in so many words

What Job did learn, though, was that **God remains just, even when He allows His people to be treated unjustly**

He learned that the **eternal purposes of God are beyond the understanding of man and God does not answer to man**

40:3-5—Before God was even finished, Job began to realize his arrogance

42:1-6—Job had only heard about God, but **now had encountered God personally**

He does not confess any sin, but repents in dust and ashes

### So What?

Job erred because he saw his situation **from the perspective of his rights, rather than the perspective of God's purpose**

*The final say—James*

*James 1:5, ESV—If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him*

This verse is saying that even though God's purpose is hidden from us, **we can ask Him for the wisdom to live well** in spite of the injustice we experience

Wisdom trusts God with simple **faith without knowing the reasons or the answers to our questions**

### Now What?

Consider in what areas you might be demanding your rights from God

Confess your lack of understanding and be humble before His great wisdom