

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 338 – A Brief Recap Of Some Events From Ezra - Job

1. Did Cyrus recognize God's role in his domination?

Yes: *“(1) Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, (2) Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah” (Ezra 1:1-2).*

- Jeremiah prophesied of Judah coming out of Babylonian captivity and the power of the Medo-Persian's in such (**II Chronicles 36:22-23**, **Jeremiah 25:8-14**, **Jeremiah 29:10-14**, and **Jeremiah 51:11**).
- Isaiah prophesied of Cyrus [Cyrus II or Cyrus the Great by history's record] by name (**Isaiah 44:24-45:5**).
- Nebuchadnezzar had been similarly put in power (**Jeremiah 27:6-7**). The difference between Cyrus and Nebuchadnezzar was that Nebuchadnezzar got high-minded about his power and that continued after him too and led to their demise (**Daniel 5:17-31**).
- Cyrus had a mindset of obedience to God's will which was foretold (**Isaiah 45:11-13**).
- Cyrus would have been shown these things by men such as Daniel (**Daniel 1:21**, **Daniel 6:28**, and **Daniel 10:1**).

2. Was Cyrus willing to allow the temple to be rebuilt?

Yes, (**Ezra 1:3-11**).

- He even made sure the vessels taken into Babylon were restored and his instructions were carried out after his death (**Ezra 5:14** and **Ezra 6:5**).
- Even though nations outside of Israel were not under the Law of Moses, they were still expected to obey God (**Psalms 9:17**, **Psalms 22:28**, **Psalms 72:11**, **Psalms 117:1**, and **Romans 2:12-15**).
- When God commanded the heathen, and they disobeyed, He punished them (**Isaiah 10:1-19** and **Isaiah 13:1-24:23**).

3. What happened with the children of Barzillai?

*“(61) **And of the children of the priests:** the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai; which took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called after their name: (62) These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood” (**Ezra 2:61-62**).*

- **Numbers 3:10; 16:40**

4. What did they need before they could eat of the most holy things?

“And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and with Thummim” (Ezra 2:63; cf. Nehemiah 7:63-65).

- Urim and Thummim (**Exodus 28:30, Numbers 27:18-21, and I Samuel 28:6**).

5. What was the apparent mindset of the people of God when they gathered together in Jerusalem with offerings and during the laying of the foundation of the temple?

They were full of happiness, unity, joy, praise, and weeping: *“(1) And when the seventh month was come, and the children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem. (2) Then stood up Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brethren, and builded the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings thereon, as it is written in the law of Moses the man of God... (11) And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. (12) But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy: (13) So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off” (Ezra 3:1-2; 3:11-13).*

- As one man (**Nehemiah 8:2**; cf. **Amos 3:3** and **Romans 15:6**).
- As written (**Nehemiah 8:14**; cf. **I Kings 2:3**).
- The ancients had seen the first house (**Haggai 2:3**).

6. What caused God’s people to stop building the temple?

Their adversaries had worked against them after being rejected in their request to help the Jews rebuild the temple. They worked so hard against them that they hired counsellors to frustrate their purpose. They wrote letters to the kings. In the days of Artaxerxes they brought false charges that caused a decree that was enforced to stop the building of the temple. History of God’s kings rightfully reigning in power (ex. I Kings 4:21) was used to cause fear that Judah would rebel against the Medo_Persian empire. This lasted until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia (**Ezra 4:1-24**). These are most likely the times of Esther (**Ezra 4:6** and **Esther 1:1**).

7. What caused the building of the temple to resume?

The work of the prophets (**Ezra 5:1-2**).

- **Haggai 1:1-15** and **Zechariah 1:1-21**

8. Did Darius adhere to the letters sent to him to stop the temple from being rebuilt?

The enemies of God's people tried again to stop the building of the temple. God didn't allow them to stop the building till the letter came to Darius. Then, Darius recognized Cyrus' original decree, supported it, recognized God's ability to destroy etc. (**Ezra 5:3-6:12**). The temple was finished (**Ezra 6:13-15**). See **Daniel 9:1-19** for the mindset of Israel at this time.

9. What do we know about the man Ezra?

Ezra was a priest (**Ezra 7:1-5**). He was a ready scribe in the law of Moses (**Ezra 7:6**). He came from Babylon to Jerusalem (**Ezra 7:7-9**). *"For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments"* (**Ezra 7:10**). He was commissioned to come by Artaxerxes and given authority to be obeyed by Artaxerxes (**Ezra 7:11-26**). We can certainly know God was behind Ezra and his work: *"(27) Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers, which hath put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem: (28) And hath extended mercy unto me before the king, and his counsellors, and before all the king's mighty princes. And I was strengthened as the hand of the LORD my God was upon me, and I gathered together out of Israel chief men to go up with me"* (**Ezra 7:27-28**). Consider also **Nehemiah 8:1-8**.

10. Why did Ezra proclaim a fast at the river Ahava?

After finding a Levite (**Ezra 8:1-20**), we read that they needed to have the faith to seek what they professed all along – trust in God: *"(21) Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance. (22) For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him. (23) So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was intreated of us"* (**Ezra 8:21-23**).

11. How did the people of Israel, the priests, and the Levites err?

Their marriages with the heathen and the following of their influences: *"(1) Now when these things were done, the princes came to me, saying, The people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, doing according to their abominations, even of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. (2) For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of those lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass"* (**Ezra 9:1-2**).

- **Deuteronomy 7:1-11** and **Joshua 23:12-13**

12. What did Ezra and the people do about these sins?

Ezra responded by rending his garment, mantle, plucking off hair from his head and beard, sat down astonished, and feared with those assembled with him. In shame he came before God. The language and actions of Ezra showed real humility and the feeling of worthlessness (**Ezra 9:1-15**). He then presented the errors of the people to them with the solution of repentance (**Ezra 10:1-11**). They responded by ending their marriages with heathens and ultimately making an end with all the men that had taken strange wives by the first day of the first month. Their marriages were unauthorized and thus the only way to repent was to cease those relationships (**Ezekiel 14:6**). That was the Old Law. Then sacrifices were offered (**Ezra 10:12-19**).

13. Ezra focused on the rebuilding of the temple, what rebuilding was Nehemiah focused on?

The walls of Jerusalem, gates, and such as pertained to them (**Nehemiah 1:1-3:32**).

- We should note that Nehemiah had the mindset of repentance (**Nehemiah 1:4-11**). He asked the Lord to remember what covenant was in place through Moses (**Deuteronomy 4:29-31**).
- Though opposition was there at the start (**Nehemiah 2:12-19**), Nehemiah found strength in the Lord (**Nehemiah 2:20**).

14. Was the task of Nehemiah and the people without challenges?

No, they had opposition from Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant (**Nehemiah 2:19**), the Ammonite, and the Arabians all conspiring against them to cause them to fail (**Nehemiah 4:1-8**). They prayed to God and had to have a watch night and day. They set guards and remained on high alert. They didn't rest. They didn't change clothes except to wash them (**Nehemiah 4:9-23**).

- For the sake of thought and discussion, consider how quickly Nehemiah records a desire that the sins of their enemies would not be covered or blotted out (**Nehemiah 4:4-5**). While repentance is and always has been required for the forgiveness of sins (**Ezekiel 18:1-32** and **Luke 13:1-5**); how should we as Christians react differently under the Law of Christ than Nehemiah records of Israel toward their enemies? Study the following Scriptures in connection to the answer to this question: **Matthew 5:7**, **Matthew 5:43-48**, **Matthew 6:15**, **Matthew 18:15-35**, **Luke 23:1-34**, **Acts 7:51-60**, and **James 2:13**
- For further discussion and thought, based on the point above, didn't Nehemiah just say he and Israel were corrupt and didn't they need forgiveness in chapter 1? For our consideration, as PAST sinners (**Romans 6:1-6**), shouldn't we remember who we have been in the past when we look at the sins of others (cf. **Titus 3:3**)? Balance also requires us to consider that we cannot rewrite God's law. We cannot unconditionally forgive sins (**Luke 17:3-4**). Questions such as the one's I just posed require us to be balanced in our answers!

15. What complaint did some raise concerning their brethren?

They were bringing them into bondage and taking advantage of their brethren during this difficult financial time (**Nehemiah 5:1-5**). Nehemiah was angry and addressed the matter demanding those using their brethren restore what they had taken and make this terrible thing right (**Nehemiah 5:6-11**). The people heard and did as instructed (**Nehemiah 5:12-13**).

16. Was it only those on the outside that worked against Nehemiah?

No, while there was opposition on the outside and traps set for Nehemiah (**Nehemiah 6:1-9**), Tobiah and Sanballat also hired a prophet to work against Nehemiah from within (**Nehemiah 6:10-14**).

Also we read: *“(17) Moreover in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters unto Tobiah, and the letters of Tobiah came unto them. (18) For there were many in Judah sworn unto him, because he was the son in law of Shechaniah the son of Arah; and his son Johanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah. (19) Also they reported his good deeds before me, and uttered my words to him. And Tobiah sent letters to put me in fear”* (**Nehemiah 6:17-19**). Therefore, Tobiah had and will continue to have inside advantages (**Nehemiah 13:4-6**). This ties back to the errors of Israel in their marriages with the heathens (**Ezra 10:10**) they were supposed to never have anything to do with from the time they entered the land promised to them.

17. Why were the heathens and enemies of Judah cast down in their own eyes?

They were cast down in their own eyes when they saw the wall around Jerusalem complete and perceived that this work was wrought of our God (**Nehemiah 6:15-16**).

- **Joshua 5:1** and **Psalms 126:1-2**

18. Why was Nehemiah's brother Hanani given charge over Jerusalem?

“That I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many” (**Nehemiah 7:2**).

19. When the wall was built, were there many living in Jerusalem?

No: *“(3) And I said unto them, Let not the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun be hot; and while they stand by, let them shut the doors, and bar them: and appoint watches of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, every one in his watch, and every one to be over against his house. (4) Now the city was large and great: but the people were few therein, and the houses were not builded”* (**Nehemiah 7:3-4**).

20. When the law was read by Ezra, did anyone help the people understand what was being read to them?

Absolutely: *“(1) And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel. (2) And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month. (3) And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law. (4) And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, and Shema, and Anaiah, and Urijah, and Hilkiyah, and Maaseiah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedaiah, and Mishael, and Malchiah, and Hashum, and Hashbadana, Zechariah, and Meshullam. (5) And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up: (6) And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground. (7) Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people stood in their place. (8) So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading. (9) And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law” (Nehemiah 8:1-9).*

- **Luke 24:13-27 and Acts 8:25-38**

21. After the solemn assembly they had, did the children of Israel show forth any signs of repentance?

Yes! After solemn assembly they had (**Nehemiah 8:18**), they assembled on the 24th day of the month fasting with sackcloth and earth upon them (**Nehemiah 9:1**). They separated themselves from all the strangers (until chapter 13 when they err again) and confessed their sins (**Nehemiah 9:2**). *“And they stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the LORD their God one fourth part of the day; and another fourth part they confessed, and worshipped the LORD their God” (Nehemiah 9:3)*. They recalled their history and sins (**Nehemiah 9:4-31**). They acknowledged God’s righteous judgment upon them (**Nehemiah 9:32-37**). They then made a covenant to obey God’s will entirely and sealed it (**Nehemiah 9:38-10:39**). This covenant will be broken, in multiple ways, when Nehemiah is no longer there holding their hands (**Nehemiah 13:4-31**).

22. What did the children of Israel do when they found it written, that the Ammonite and Moabite should not come into the congregation of God for ever?

“(1) On that day they read in the book of Moses in the audience of the people; and therein was found written, that the Ammonite and the Moabite should not come into the congregation of God for ever; (2) Because they met not the children of Israel with bread and with water, but hired Balaam against them, that he should curse them: howbeit our God turned the curse into a blessing. (3) Now it came to pass, when they had heard the law, that they separated from Israel all the mixed multitude” (Nehemiah 13:1-3).

- **Deuteronomy 23:3-5** (*consider that this law was in place until the 10th generation).
- The Ammonites and Moabites were descendants of Lot through the sinful acts his daughters committed against him (**Genesis 19:30-38**).

23. Were things handled aright when Nehemiah was not in Jerusalem?

No, things fell apart. Tobiah the Ammonite was allowed to stay in a chamber of the Lord's house and that had to be dealt with when Nehemiah returned (**Nehemiah 13:4-9**). The Levities were not given their earnings (**Nehemiah 13:10-14**). They were working on the Sabbath (**Nehemiah 13:15-22**; cf. **Exodus 20:8-11** and **Numbers 15:32-36**). They intermarried with the heathens again and their children even learned their foreign languages (**Nehemiah 13:23-24**). Nehemiah had to respond by contending with them (**Proverbs 28:4**), plucking off their hair, rebuking them, etc. (**Nehemiah 13:25-31**). Nehemiah used Solomon's errors as a lesson for the people to consider (**Nehemiah 13:26**; cf. **I Kings 11:1-9**).

- In conclusion, Nehemiah requested that God remember him for God (**Nehemiah 13:31**; cf. **5:19**; **13:14**; **13:22**). One who is faithful does not need to worry about God not remembering good works (**Hebrews 6:10**).

24. Why did Ahasuerus ban Vashti from coming before him and plan to give her royal estate unto another that is better than she?

Ahasuerus was a show off, wanted to display his might, as was common amongst Gentile nations (**Matthew 20:20-28**). He commanded her to come and parade her beauty at his banquet and she refused (**Esther 1:1-12**). Think about how alcohol played a role in Ahasuerus' actions and what we can learn from that (**Proverbs 20:1**; **21:17**; **23**; **29-35**; **31:4-5** and **Isaiah 5:11**). We are not told why Vashti refused. He was then counseled that her actions would cause the women of the Medes and Persians to despise their husbands (**Esther 1:13-18**). They were wise enough to realize you have to stop the spread of unruliness (cf. **I Corinthians 5:1-8**). So he then decreed the banishment of Vashti from his sight, her stripped her of her estate, and made a law that every man should rule his house (**Esther 1:19-22**).

25. Who was chosen to be the queen after Vashti?

This chapter starts with a seemingly mindset of regret regarding Vashti. So, virgins were sought throughout all the provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus. They were selected by appointed officers. Without revealing she was a Jew, Esther quickly obtained favor. When brought before the king he loved Esther above all the women so that he set the crown on her head. Her first cousin Mordecai looked in on her (**Esther 2:1-20**). She honored him as a parent even though she was the daughter of his uncle (**Ephesians 6:1-4**).

26. How did king Ahasuerus learn of his two chamberlains conspiring to kill him?

“(21) In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus. (22) And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto Esther the queen; and Esther certified the king thereof in Mordecai's name. (23) And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore they were both hanged on a tree: and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king” (Esther 2:21-23).

27. How did Haman become so full of wrath to want to destroy the Jews?

Because Mordecai would not bow to him or revere him (**Esther 3:1-5**). Thus, he plotted and convinced the king to allow him to decree to destroy all the Jews (**Esther 3:6-15**).

- **Proverbs 12:16; 21:24**

28. When the Jews mourned and Mordecai corresponded with Esther, what did Esther plan to do?

Esther heard of the plan to destroy the Jews and sent a messenger to confer with Mordecai. They sent messages back and forth. Mordecai pointed out to Esther that she too would face this fate (**Esther 4:1-14**). Then *“(15) Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer, (16) Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish. (17) So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him” (Esther 4:15-17).*

- Some read **Esther 4:14** and think this is evidence that God manipulated events to get Esther was she was. Such was possible (i.e. **Isaiah 44:28-45:19**). However, God would have told them that He was behind this if He was (**Psalms 145:9-13, Isaiah 42:8; 48:11**, etc.). For more studies on this see the following:
 - http://www.wordsoftruth.net/godisnotsomysteriousPART1_bay_2016.html
 - http://www.wordsoftruth.net/godisnotsomysteriousPART2_bay_2016.html
 - http://www.wordsoftruth.net/godisnotsomysteriousPART3_bay_2016.html
 - http://www.wordsoftruth.net/godisnotsomysteriousPART4_bay_2016.html
 - http://www.wordsoftruth.net/godisnotsomysteriousPART5_bay_2016.html

29. Did Haman perceive Esther to be a friend or a foe?

Since he was the only one, outside of her husband the king, invited to her banquet; he thought that made him special (**Esther 5:1-12**).

30. What did Haman want to do when he saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him?

He was full of indignation (**Esther 5:9**) and took the counsel of his wife and friends to prepare the gallows to hang Mordecai (**Esther 5:13-14**).

31. How was Haman's plans for Mordecai spoiled by his own words?

*"(1) On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king. (2) And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus. (3) And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him. (4) And the king said, Who is in the court? Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him. (5) And the king's servants said unto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court. And the king said, Let him come in. (6) So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself? (7) And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour, (8) Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head: (9) And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour. (10) Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken. (11) Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour" (**Esther 6:1-11**).*

32. How did Esther expose Haman and save the Jews?

She exposed Haman's plot at the banquet she set for her husband and Haman (**Esther 7:1-8**). Haman was hanged (**Esther 7:9-10**). The king then heard the plea of Esther to save her people and allowed Esther and Mordecai to write a decree with his seal to save the Jews giving them the right to defend themselves (**Esther 8:1-17**). The Jews defended themselves (**Esther 9:1-11**). Then Esther requested permission to hang Haman's sons and it was granted (**Esther 9:12-14; 23-25**).

33. How did things turn out for Esther, Mordecai, and the Jews?

The Jews celebrated and had rest from their enemies. They set these days to remember them for generations to come (**Esther 9:18-28**). Esther continued as queen as was able to use her authority (**Esther 9:29-32**). *“For Mordecai the Jew was next unto king Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted of the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed”* (**Esther 10:3**).

34. As the book of Job begins, was Job faithful to God?

Yes: *“There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil”* (**Job 1:1**).

- Land of Uz (**Genesis 10:23** and **Lamentations 4:21**).
- About being perfect (**Psalms 37:37**, **Matthew 5:48**, **Colossians 1:28**, and **II Timothy 3:15-17**) and upright (**Proverbs 2:21**, **Proverbs 11:3**, and **Ecclesiastes 7:29**).

35. What did Job do continuously after his sons feasted with their sisters?

“(4) And his sons went and feasted in their houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. (5) And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually” (**Job 1:4-5**).

36. What did Satan first request of the Lord, concerning Job, and what was the Lord’s response?

“(6) Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. (7) And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. (8) And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? (9) Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? (10) Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. (11) But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. (12) And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD” (**Job 1:6-12**).

- Sons of God (**Genesis 6:2-4**; cf. **Luke 3:38**).
- Satan, and his angels, walking to and fro the earth (**Luke 10:17-18** and **Revelation 12:7-9**) in the past (**Luke 4:1-13** and **I Peter 5:8**),

- Now Satan and his angels are bound (**Jude 1:6** and **Revelation 20:10**).

37. Did Job sin when his possessions, servants, animals, and children were taken from him?

No, (**Job 1:13-22**).

38. What did Satan request of the Lord the second time he came before Him, concerning Job, and what was the Lord's response?

*"(1) Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. (2) And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. (3) And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause. (4) And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. (5) But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face. (6) And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life" (**Job 2:1-6**).*

39. When Satan smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown, what did Job's wife say?

*"Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die" (**Job 2:9**).*

40. How did Job respond to his wife?

*"But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips" (**Job 2:10**).*

• **James 3:2**

41. Who came to Job when they heard of all the evil that came upon him?

*"(11) Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came every one from his own place; Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite: for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him. (12) And when they lifted up their eyes afar off, and knew him not, they lifted up their voice, and wept; and they rent every one his mantle, and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven. (13) So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and none spake a word unto him: for they saw that his grief was very great" (**Job 2:11-13**).*

42. After seven days and nights Job opened his mouth and spoke. What did he begin to do when he spoke?

He began to be foolish in his talking as he cursed the night of his conception, his birth, and life in general (**Job 3:1-26**).

43. Did Eliphaz the Temanite imply that Job did something to cause his suffering?

Yes, (**Job 4:1-9; Job 5:17-27; 22:5**, etc.).

44. Did Job think that God caused his suffering?

Yes, (**Job 6:1-4; Job 7:11-21; 16:11-13; 19:6; 10-11**, etc.).

45. Did Job practice restraint with his mouth?

No, he in fact refused to refrain from speaking (**Job 7:11**; cf. **Job 10:1, Job 13:13**, and **Job 21:3**).

- *"In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise"* (**Proverbs 10:19**).
- **Proverbs 13:3, Proverbs 17:27-28, Ecclesiastes 5:1-3, Ecclesiastes 10:14, Psalms 39:1, Matthew 12:34-37, James 1:19-20, James 1:26, and James 3:2-18**

46. After the arguments between Job and his older friends (Job 8-31), who stepped in after remaining silent?

Elihu, (**Job 32:1-4**).

- Think about how they stopped because of Job's self-righteousness. While they all spoke foolishly, the point about an inability to talk to a self-righteous person is valid (**Proverbs 30:12, Luke 18:9-14, and Romans 10:1-3**).

47. Why did the man who started to speak, as addressed in the previous question, wait to speak up?

"(4) Now Elihu had waited till Job had spoken, because they were elder than he. (5) When Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, then his wrath was kindled. (6) And Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said, I am young, and ye are very old; wherefore I was afraid, and durst not shew you mine opinion. (7) I said, Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom. (8) But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding. (9) Great men are not always wise: neither do the aged understand judgment. (10) Therefore I said, Hearken to me; I also will shew mine opinion. (11) Behold, I waited for your words; I gave ear to your reasons, whilst ye searched out what to say. (12) Yea, I attended unto you, and, behold, there was none of you that convinced Job, or that answered his words: (13) Lest ye should say, We have found out wisdom: God thrusteth him down, not man. (14) Now he hath not directed his words against me: neither will I answer him with your speeches. (15) They were amazed, they answered no more: they left off speaking. (16) When I had

waited, (for they spake not, but stood still, and answered no more; (17) I said, I will answer also my part, I also will shew mine opinion” (Job 32:4-17).

- **I Timothy 5:1-2**

48. When Elihu spoke, was he going to use flattery?
No, (**Job 32:18-22**; cf. **I Thessalonians 2:5**).

49. How did Elihu address Job’s argument that he suffered without cause?
Elihu recalled Job’s argument (**Job 33:8-11**; cf. **Job 9:17, Job 10:7, Job 23:11-12**, etc.), and then established that Job erred in that he strove against God and that without reason in that his arguments were not valid (**Job 33:12-30**).

50. Did Elihu desire to justify [cleanse, turn to righteousness] Job?
Yes, (**Job 33:31-33**).

51. Did Elihu expect his words to be tried by those whom heard him?
Yes, (**Job 34:1-4**).

- He used Job’s own words (**Job 12:11**).

52. After reasoning of the Lord’s righteous judgment, did Elihu excuse Job or accuse him of sin?
He accused him of sin: *“(35) Job hath spoken without knowledge, and his words were without wisdom. (36) My desire is that Job may be tried unto the end because of his answers for wicked men. (37) For he addeth rebellion unto his sin, he clappeth his hands among us, and multiplieth his words against God” (Job 34:35-37).*

53. Based on Elihu’s wise response to Job, did Job speak foolishly?
Yes, (**Job 35:1-16**).

54. As Job is being properly rebuked, what are some of the things that Elihu said about God?
He spoke of God’s might, preservation of the righteous, expectations of obedience, rewards, punishments, God’s view of hypocrisy, judgment, that He does not respect persons, wealth, etc. He spoke of God’s greater understanding, His great works, the fear you should have, the natural blessings [heat of sun, etc.] from God, how He is unsearchable, etc. (**Job 36:1-37:24**).

55. Did the Lord excuse Job or put him in his place?
The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind with a “man up” and face me tone. The Lord reminded Job that He, the Lord is the Almighty Creator that formed the earth and therein. He reminded Job of the might of the Lord (**Job 38:1-39:30**).

- Unicorns (**Job 39:9-10**) were horned creatures of might (**Psalms 92:10**).

56. When the Lord called Job to answer, how did Job respond?

“(1) Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said, (2) Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? he that reproveth God, let him answer it. (3) Then Job answered the LORD, and said, (4) Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth. (5) Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: yea, twice; but I will proceed no further” (Job 40:1-5).

57. After Job’s answer, was the Lord satisfied that Job understood how ignorant he was to challenge the Lord?

Obviously not. The Lord said: *“(6) Then answered the LORD unto Job out of the whirlwind, and said, (7) Gird up thy loins now like a man: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. (8) Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous? (9) Hast thou an arm like God? or canst thou thunder with a voice like him? (10) Deck thyself now with majesty and excellency; and array thyself with glory and beauty. (11) Cast abroad the rage of thy wrath: and behold every one that is proud, and abase him. (12) Look on every one that is proud, and bring him low; and tread down the wicked in their place. (13) Hide them in the dust together; and bind their faces in secret. (14) Then will I also confess unto thee that thine own right hand can save thee” (Job 40:6-14).*

58. What point was the Lord making by speaking of the behemoth and the leviathan?

By speaking of the behemoth and the leviathan (**Job 40:15-41:34**) the Lord was showing how great He is by displaying two of the great creatures He created. If you cannot be greater than these two creatures, how could you dare stand up to their Creator?

- Leviathan (**Psalms 74:14, Psalms 104:25-26, and Isaiah 27:1**).

59. Did Job repent?

Yes: *“(1) Then Job answered the LORD, and said, (2) I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. (3) Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. (4) Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. (5) I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. (6) Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:1-6).*

- For a serious study on repentance, consider the following:
- http://www.wordsoftruth.net/truerepentance_byeager2009.html
- <http://www.wordsoftruth.net/wotvol17/wotbulletin04022017.html>

60. Ultimately, what did the Lord do to Eliphaz, Bildad , Zophar, and Job?

Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar needed to offer sacrifices and go to Job for him to pray for them (**Job 42:7-9**). *“And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before”* (**Job 42:10**).

- **James 5:11**