

Job is certainly a favorite book in the Sacred Scripture. He is a wealthy man who lives in a land called Uz. He has a large family and lots of flocks. We hear that he is "blameless and upright" and is always careful to avoid evil.

One day, Satan appears before God in heaven. God boasts to Satan about Job's goodness. Satan, however, argues that Job is only good because God has blessed him. By removing those blessings, Satan says that Job will curse God. God allows Satan to torment Job, but not to take his life in the process.

Consequently, in the course of one day, Job receives four different messages informing him that he has lost livestock, servants, and ten children. Job tears his clothes and shaves his head in mourning, but still blesses God.

Satan returns to heaven and God grants him another chance to test Job. This time, Satan afflicts Job with horrible skin sores. His friends come to console him, but it's no use. Job simply wants to die. He wishes he had never been born.

Eventually, Job wants to confront God and complain. After again proclaiming his innocence, Job cries out, "*Let the Almighty answer me!*" (31:35). Finally, God shows up. This is what we hear today in our reading. God asks a number of rhetorical questions. Do you know how the earth was formed? Have you been to the deepest part of the ocean? How big is the earth?

In other words, God is far wiser than Job. God has command of all creation. Job, on the other hand, has a very limited understanding of these things. Job basically says, "You're right Lord. How can I answer you?" In the end, Job is in awe at the majesty of God.

For us today, we have much to take away from this reading. First, like Job, we must realize that true wisdom is humility before God, not demanding answers. Some things are simply beyond human understanding. There are many things we simply won't understand.

Second, Job never learned the reason *why* he suffered. He simply had to trust that God is just and that He knows what is best for him. If God really is in control of all things, while some things remain a mystery, we know that God cares for us. In the end, it's not about having all the answers, but about faithfulness to the Lord.