

Lesson 11

God Speaks

- **Job finally get his wish for God to speak to him.** (Job 13:22; 31:35).

JOB 13:22 Then summon me and I will answer, or let me speak, and you reply.

JOB 31:35 ("Oh, that I had someone to hear me! I sign now my defense-- let the Almighty answer me; let my accuser put his indictment in writing.

- The way God answers is not the way he anticipated.
- In a series of more than 75 questions, God brings Job to his knees.
- He shows in a most powerful way that Job is a mere, finite, fallible, weak man.
- The patriarch will finally see himself as he is.
- Compared to the great God of the universe he is an ignoramus who has rambled on, speaking, complaining, accusing - without adequate knowledge of the Lord's character, Sovereignty, power, knowledge, wisdom, etc.

God's questions are designed to emphasized two propositions.

1. His sovereignty in the natural order of the universe. (38:1-40:5)
2. His sovereignty in the moral order of the universe. (40:6- 41:34).

The Lord Answered Job

JOB 38:1 Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind [tempest, storm wind] **and said,** Job 40:6

JOB 38:2 "Who is this that darkens [obscures] [My] **counsel by words without knowledge?**

JOB 38:2 "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? NIV

JOB 38:2 "With a cloud of thoughtless words. Mof.

See Elihu's remark found in Job 35:16. "So Job opens his mouth emptily; He multiplies words without knowledge."

Get Ready For The Debate You Have Been Longing For

JOB 38:3 "Now gird up your loins like a man, And I will ask you, and you instruct Me!

JOB 38:3 Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. NIV

JOB 38:3 Brace yourself like a fighter" - Jerus

1. God will do all the questioning.
2. Job is not permitted to question the Creator.
 - a. God is absolutely Sovereign.
 - b. Man, as mere clay, does not have the right nor is he capable of questioning the Sovereign, Omnipotent, Omniscient One.

JOB 38:4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell [Answer] Me, if you have understanding

[knowledge],

1. He was non-existent when God created the universe. (Gen. 1:1, 26, 27; 2:7).
2. God did not need or implore his help.

JOB 38:5 Who set its measurements, since you know? Or who stretched the line on it?

JOB 38:5 Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? NIV
“Do you know how its dimensions were determined, and who did the surveying” - Tay

JOB 38:6 "On what were its bases [foundations] sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone,

JOB 38:6 On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone– NIV
“What were its pedestals placed on?”

Angels Present At Creation

JOB 38:7 When the morning stars [angels] sang together, And all the sons of God [the angels] shouted for joy?

1. This is Hebrew parallelism
2. “Morning stars” and “sons of God” refer to angels. (Job. 1:6).
3. Angels were created before the world came into existence.
 - a. See Psalm 148:2-5.

PSA 148:2 Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts!

PSA 148:3 Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all stars of light!

PSA 148:4 Praise Him, highest heavens, And the waters that are above the heavens!

PSA 148:5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, For He commanded and they were created.

- b. It is not known when angels were created except they were created before the world and man.
4. Angels are finite creatures, but higher than men. (Psa. 8:3-5).
5. They are not subject to death (Lk. 20:36), but they are moral beings who can sin. (Jude 6; 2 Pet. 2:4).

Jude 6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,

2 PET. 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;

6. Jesus did not die for the fallen angels. (Heb. 2:16).
7. He died for “every man.” (Heb. 2:9).

Note on “sons of God”

1. The Hebrew writer wrote “For to which of the angels did He ever say, "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again, "I will be a Father to Him And He shall be a Son to Me"?” (Heb. 1:5).
2. This is sometimes interpreted to affirm the Hebrew writer contradicts the book of Job, but there is no contradiction.

3. In Hebrews chapters 1 & 2 the Hebrew writer is exalting Christ above the angels who are “ministering spirits” (Heb. 1:13,14).
 - a. Adam was “the son of God.” (Lk. 3:38).
 - b. All humans are “sons of God.”
 - c. Believers are called “sons of God.” (Gal. 3:26, 27).
 - d. But to none of these has God addressed as “My Son.” (Heb. 1:5).
 - e. This language was used of God’s special Son whom He, through the Holy Spirit, had raised from the dead and exalted at His right hand. (Rom. 8:11).
 - f. He is called “God” by the Father and exalted as king at God’s right hand. (Heb. 1:8, 13).

Origin Of The Sea

JOB 38:8 "Or who enclosed the sea with doors, When, bursting forth, it went out from the womb;

“Who fixed the boundaries of the sea, when it burst forth from the womb” Ber

JOB 38:9 When I made a cloud its garment [covering], And thick [clouds of] darkness its swaddling band,

JOB 38:9 when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, NIV

JOB 38:10 And I placed boundaries on it [the sea], And I set a bolt and doors,

JOB 38:10 when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, NIV

JOB 38:11 And I said,' Thus far you shall come, but no farther; And here shall your proud waves stop'?

“And, here appoint I the boundary of your tossing wave” - Sprl

Job Was Asked If He Had Ever Been Responsible For Dawning A New Day

JOB 38:12 "Have you ever in your life commanded the morning, And caused the dawn to know its place;

JOB 38:12 "Have you ever given orders to the morning, or shown the dawn its place, NIV

JOB 38:13 That it might take hold of the ends [edges] of the earth, And the wicked be shaken out of it [from their places of concealment]?

JOB 38:14 "It is changed like clay under the seal; And they stand forth like a garment.

JOB 38:15 "And from the wicked their light is withheld, And the uplifted arm is broken.

JOB 38:15 The wicked are denied their light, and their upraised arm is broken. NIV

More Questions For Job

JOB 38:16 "Have you entered into the springs [that gush forth from the ocean’s floor] of the sea? Or have you walked in the recesses [hidden caverns] of the deep?

Have You Ever Paid A Visit To The Realm Of The Dead?

JOB 38:17 "Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?

JOB 38:17 Have the gates of death been shown to you? Have you seen the gates of the shadow of death? NIV

He Was Not Even Able To Determine The Dimensions Of The Earth

JOB 38:18 "Have you understood the expanse [dimensions] of the earth? Tell Me, if you know all this.

“Have you comprehended the vast expanse of the world? Come, tell me all this, if you know” - NEB

JOB 38:19 "Where is the way [pathway] to the dwelling of light? And darkness, where is its place,

JOB 38:19 "What is the way to the abode of light? And where does darkness reside? NIV

"Where does the light come from, and how do you get there? Or tell me about the darkness. Where does it come from?" Tay

JOB 38:20 That you may take it to its territory, And that you may discern the paths to its home?

"That you may conduct it to its home, and may know the paths to its house" - Amp

JOB 38:21 "You know, for you were born then, And the number of your days is great!

Storehouses

JOB 38:22 "Have you entered the storehouses [treasures] of the snow, Or have you seen the storehouses of the hail,

JOB 38:23 Which [hail] I have reserved for the time of distress [stormy days], For the day of war and battle?

He Did Not Know How Light Had Been Distributed Around The Globe

JOB 38:24 "Where is the way that the light is divided, Or the east wind scattered on the earth?

JOB 38:25 "Who has cleft a channel for the flood, Or a way for the thunderbolt;

JOB 38:26 To bring rain on a land without people, On a desert without a man in it,

JOB 38:27 To satisfy the waste and desolate land, And to make the seeds of grass to sprout?

JOB 38:28 "Has the rain a [human] father? Or who [what man] has begotten the drops of dew?

Ice And Frost Not Of Human Origin

JOB 38:29 "From whose womb has come the ice? And the frost of heaven, who has given it birth?

JOB 38:30 "Water becomes hard like stone, And the surface of the deep is imprisoned.

JOB 38:31 "Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades, Or loose the cords of Orion?

JOB 38:31 "Can you bind the beautiful Pleiades? Can you loose the cords of Orion? NIV

1. "Pleiades" [Ple a dez] means a "heap, cluster" (Job 9:9; Amos 5:8).
2. It is a constellation of seven large and other smaller stars in the eastern sky.
3. Ori'on (o-ri'on) is a celestial constellation composed of myriads of stars, most of which are invisible without a telescope.
 - a. It was early imagined to resemble the form of a hunter who, according to ancient legend, was put to death by Artemis after his pursuit of the Pleiades.
 - b. Job attributed the creation of Orion, Arcturus, and Pleiades to God (Job 9:9; 38:31).
 - c. This constellation is located South of Taurus and Gemini.
 - d. It includes the giants Betelgeuse and Rigel.

Can You Manipulate The Heavenly Bodies And Bring On Seasonal Changes?

JOB 38:32 "Can you lead forth a constellation in its season, And guide the [the stars of] Bear with her satellites [young]?

JOB 38:32 Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season, or can you guide the Bear with its children?

1. The "Bear" (KJV,"Arcturus") is a part of the constellation Bootes and one of the three most brilliant stars of the Southern Hemisphere in line with the tail of Ursa Major, "the Great Bear."

2. Job 9:9; 38:32.

JOB 38:33 "Do you know the ordinances [laws] of the heavens, Or fix their rule over the earth?"

Can You Cause Rain?

JOB 38:34 "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, So that an abundance of water may cover you?"

"Can you shout to the clouds and make it rain" - Tay

Can You Send Forth Lightnings

JOB 38:35 "Can you send forth lightnings that they may go And say to you, 'Here we are'?"

"Can you send out the lightning on its missions? Does it say humbly to you, 'Here am I'" - Mof

What Is The Origin Of Wisdom?

JOB 38:36 "Who has put wisdom in the innermost being, Or has given understanding to the mind?"

JOB 38:36 Who endowed the heart with wisdom or gave understanding to the mind? NIV

JOB 38:36 Who has put wisdom in the inward parts, or given understanding to the mind? NRSV

"Who Can Count The Clouds"

JOB 38:37 "Who can count the clouds by wisdom, Or tip the water jars [rain-clouds] of the heavens,

"Who is wise enough to number all the clouds? Tay

JOB 38:38 When the dust hardens into a mass, And the clods stick together?"

Does Job Have The Mysterious Instinct Which Enables The Lioness To Hunt For Herself And Her Cubs

JOB 38:39 "Can you hunt [stalk] the prey for the lion, Or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,

JOB 38:40 When they crouch in their dens [hiding places], And lie in wait in their lair [dens]?"

"And crane their necks in hunger" - Jerus

JOB 38:41 "Who prepares for the raven its nourishment, When its young cry to God, And wander about without food?"

1. The "raven" is the first bird named (Gen. 8:7).
 - a. It feeds in part on seeds and fruit.
 - b. To this fact our Savior alludes (Lk.12:24; Gk. "korax" [kahr ahks])
 - c. It also captures small creatures alive, but it loves carrion (Pro 30:17) and so was unclean.
 - d. Orientals, as well as occidentals, look upon it as a bird of evil omen (Isa. 34:11).
 - e. The Hebrew word of which raven is the translation, doubtless includes the {crows, jays,} and {choughs,} as is implied in the expression "in its kind" (Lev. 11:15; Deut. 14:14).
2. It was a despised, unclean bird.
3. God takes care of it. (Psa. 147:9; Lk. 12:24).

PSA 147:9 He gives to the beast its food, And to the young ravens which cry.

LUK 12:24 "Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; and they have no storeroom nor barn; and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds!

Mountain Goats Who Takes Care Of Them, Job?

JOB 39:1 "Do you know the time the mountain goats give birth? Do you observe the calving of the deer?

JOB 39:2 "Can you count [number] the months they fulfill, Or do you know the time they give birth?

JOB 39:3 "They kneel down, they bring forth their young, They get rid of their labor pains.

JOB 39:4 "Their offspring become strong, they grow up in the open field; They leave and do not return to them.

Wild Free Donkey

JOB 39:5 "Who sent out the wild donkey free? And who loosed the bonds of the swift donkey,

JOB 39:6 To whom I gave the wilderness for a home, And the salt land for his dwelling place?

JOB 39:7 "He scorns the tumult of the city, The shoutings of the driver he does not hear.

JOB 39:8 "He explores the mountains for his pasture, And he searches after every green thing.

Wild Ox If You Cannot Manage A Wild Ox, How Can You Manage My Universe?

JOB 39:9 "Will the wild ox consent to serve you? Or will he spend the night at your manger [crib, stable]?"

1. The Hebrew does not have "unicorn" as the KJV has.

2. The Hebrew is "reem" which means "wild ox".

JOB 39:10 "Can you bind the wild ox in a furrow with ropes? Or will he harrow the valleys after you?"

JOB 39:10 Can you hold him to the furrow with a harness? Will he till the valleys behind you? NIV

"Can you use a wild ox to plow with? Will he pull the harrow for you" - Tay

JOB 39:11 "Will you trust him because his strength is great And leave your labor to him?"

"Will you trust to his tremendous strength, and let him do your field work." Mof

JOB 39:12 "Will you have faith in him that he will return your grain, And gather it from your threshing floor?"

Ostriches'

JOB 39:13 "The ostriches' wings flap joyously With the pinion and plumage of love,

"ostrich" - RV, NASB, NIV - Not "peacock" as in the KJV

JOB 39:14 For she [the ostrich] abandons her eggs to the earth [the warm sand], And warms them in the dust,

1. The ostrich lays 30 or more eggs in a nest of sand.

2. Some eggs are left exposed and are thus "trampled."

JOB 39:15 And she forgets that a foot [someone] may crush them, Or that a wild beast may trample them.

1. These crushed eggs serve as food for the chicks that hatch.

JOB 39:16 "She treats her young cruelly, as if they were not hers; Though her labor be in vain, she is unconcerned;

JOB 39:16 It deals cruelly with its young, as if they were not its own; though its labor should be in vain, yet it has no fear; NRSV

1. She seems to exhibit unconcern for her young.

2. This is strange behavior even in the lower creation.

JOB 39:17 Because God has made her forget wisdom, And has not given her a share of understanding [intelligence].

1. From the human vantage point, she seems deprived of wisdom.

2. It is not clear if God is calling the ostrich stupid, or if He is arguing that the ostrich appears stupid to man who is so limited in his knowledge.

Not Even A Horse Can Catch Her

JOB 39:18 "When she lifts herself on high [to fly, to flee], She laughs at the horse and his rider. She runs at speeds up to 40 miles an hour.

Do You Give A Horse His Strength?

JOB 39:19 "Do you give the horse his might? Do you clothe his neck with a mane?

As He Snorts Charging Into Battle

JOB 39:20 "Do you make him [the horse] leap like the locust? His majestic snorting is terrible.

Anxious For The Battle To Commence

JOB 39:21 "He paws in the valley, and rejoices in his strength; He goes out to meet the weapons.

No Fear Manifested

JOB 39:22 "He laughs at fear and is not dismayed; And he does not turn back from the sword.

JOB 39:23 "The quiver rattles against him, The flashing spear and javelin.

He Cannot Stand Still When The Trumpet Blasts

JOB 39:24 "With shaking and rage he races over the ground; And he does not stand still at the voice of the trumpet.

JOB 39:25 "As often as the trumpet sounds he says, 'Aha!' And he scents the battle from afar, And thunder of the captains, and the war cry.

Point: Did Job create this beautiful and dynamic war machine? Was he responsible for its beauty and **magnificence**?

Is It By Your Wisdom That The Hawk Flies?

Did Job "program" the hawk in her migration route to the south?

JOB 39:26 "Is it by your understanding that the hawk soars, Stretching his wings toward the south?

Eagles

JOB 39:27 "Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up, And makes his nest on high? Eagles sometimes fly 10,000 feet in the air.

JOB 39:28 "On the cliff he dwells and lodges, Upon the rocky crag, an inaccessible place.

JOB 39:28 He dwells on a cliff and stays there at night; a rocky crag is his stronghold. NIV

Is He Responsible For The Eagle's Keen Vision?

JOB 39:29 "From there he spies out food; His eyes see it from afar.

1. The eagle has fantastic vision.
2. He can see a fish 3 miles away.

JOB 39:30 "His young ones also suck up blood; And where the slain are, there is he."

God Speaks To Job

JOB 40:1 Then the Lord said to Job,

JOB 40:2 "Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Let him who reproves God answer it."

JOB 40:2 "Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him? Let him who accuses God answer him!" NIV

Job Answers

JOB 40:3 Then Job answered the Lord and said,

JOB 40:4 "Behold, I am insignificant [weak, ignorant, foolish]; what can I reply to Thee? I lay my hand on my mouth.

1. He was incapable of answering the profound questions of the Almighty God.
2. This is a quick change on Job's part. (Job 13:22).

JOB 13:22 "Then call, and I will answer; Or let me speak, then reply to me.

3. He acknowledged he needs to shut up, **"I lay my hand on my mouth?"**

JOB 40:5 "Once I have spoken, and I will not answer; Even twice, and I will add no more."

JOB 40:5 I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but will proceed no further. " NRSV

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