



Let God Be God!

Job 38-42

Review of Job

We have seen Job suffer for no apparent reason. Job was adamant that he had done nothing to deserve all of his suffering.

Job has endured tremendous loss and cannot understand why God has allowed it happen.

Job 30:20-23—Job sees God being against him.

So, we see throughout the book of Job, everyone claims to know the reasons behind Job's suffering.

In Job's mind, if suffering is experienced, then it has to be deserved.

We see Job passionately seek an audience with Yahweh, but instead, we see Job struggle with the silence of God.



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Yahweh's Challenge of Job

OVERVIEW OF 38-42

Job has continually petitioned Yahweh to respond to his questions, and God finally breaks His silence and speaks for Himself.

That which Job has been asking for finally happens, but not in the manner that he expected.

During His discourse, Yahweh will ask more than 70 rhetorical questions of Job.

Through these questions, God is trying to drive Job to a deeper understand of Himself.



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OVERVIEW OF 38-42

Yahweh does not answer the questions that Job has been asking, He offers no apology for having been silent, and there is no acknowledgment of Job's struggles.

Job fears that God has abandoned him, yet the truth is that God had been present all along.

His faith and trust waivered, and he assumed the worst.

Yahweh points out to Job that the wisdom of God is superior to that of man. In spite of Job thinks, God knows what He is doing in the world.



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CHAPTER 38

OVERVIEW

Yahweh points out in this chapter the complexity of His creation and Job's ignorance of the way that the world works.

Yahweh's appearance is not only an audible one, but visual as well as Yahweh speaks out of the tempest.

God does not respond to Job's accusations, but instead, puts Job on the defensive immediately.



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CHAPTER 38

OVERVIEW

Yahweh's initial question is, "Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Now, prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me."

Job has wanted a trial before God, so God is about to challenge Job's competence to stand trial.

But, let's first see if Job is able to answer some simple questions.



Chapter 38

(38:1-3) The sentence has the form of a rebuke...as if Yahweh is talking to a foolish person.

The question expresses a surprise at how far Job's accusations have been from the truth about God and His design.

The question is condemnatory, and puts Job in the wrong from the beginning, showing a superior person expressing annoyance at an inferior's lack of comprehension.

Job is lacking adequate, or correct, understanding of the big picture of God's design and how He runs things. He is speaking words without knowledge.

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Chapter 38

We see in verse 3 that Job needs to prepare himself “like a man.” Job needs to realize that in calling God to court to defend His ways, that Yahweh is going to respond...but not in the way Job expects.

Verses 4-38 are broke up into 10 different strophes concerning different aspects of the physical world.

Verses 4-7 This first strophe describes the structure of the world.

Verses 8-11 describe the sea.

Verses 12-15 describe the new day.

Verses 16-18 describe the underworld.

Verses 19-21 discuss light and darkness.



Chapters 38-39

Verses 22-24 describe the heavenly storehouses.

Verses 25-27 describe rainstorm and lightening.

Verses 28-30 talk about different forms of moisture.

Verses 31-33 talk about the four constellations.

Verses 34-38 describe the clouds.

The next section has 7 strophes in it, dealing with animals.

Verses 38: 39-41 deal with the lion and the raven.

Chapter 39:1-4 describe the ibex.

Verses 5-8 describe the onager.

Verses 9-12 talk about the wild ox.



Chapter 39

Verses 13-18 talk about the ostrich.

Verses 19-25 discuss the war horse.

The final strophe (verses 26-30) talk about the hawk and the vulture.

Yahweh's first speech ends. God challenges Job to explain all these wonders. It becomes increasingly clear that Job has little understanding about the animals created by Yahweh—much less control them.

As Yahweh's first speech ends, it is surprising not only for what it does contain, but for what it also does not contain—no defense or explanation of what was happening in Job's life. No reasons are given for his suffering.

Yahweh presents Himself as the master architect of a world that is exceedingly complex in nature. He wants Job to find rest within God's purposes for the world. He wants Job to lift his eyes from the ash heap, and see the glory of God in His creation. Look upward not inward.



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Chapter 40

(40:1-5) As Yahweh's first speech concludes, has Job reached a point of surrender? Is he willing to drop his complaint against God? Have his questions been answered adequately?

Yahweh addresses Job again in 40:1-2, and challenges Job's thinking. Yahweh will not be put on the defensive by replying to Job's charges and complaints. Instead, God places the burden of proof on Job and asks if he is qualified to instruct Him?

Job seems to affirm what he previously stated, and is not taking it back. He has said all that he needs to say. He continues to stand behind his avowal of innocence. He does not indicate any regret for what he said earlier. He does not add anything, but he also does not take any words back.

He does not admit that he was wrong, and that God is right.

He does not confess any sin or repent at all.

He does not withdraw his case against Yahweh.

He is silenced, but he is not convinced.



Yahweh's 2nd Speech

(40:6- 41:34) God's Challenge to Job

Yahweh's second speech:

- 40:6-14, where Yahweh addresses Job and reproves him for misunderstanding God's plan in ruling the universe.
- Job may be puzzled by the actions of Yahweh (why do bad things happen to good people), but he is in no position to correct Him.
- How can Job deal with the pride in others (11) when pride is still an issue in his life.
- He challenges Job to run the universe. (Atkinson, page 153).
- Yahweh chastises Job for condemning Him in order to justify himself, but Yahweh continues to try and direct Job to a place of greater understanding.
- 40:15-24 covers the Behemoth. Hebrew word for "beasts." The greatest of land animals?
- The Behemoth is a creature that cannot be controlled by humans, yet Yahweh made it and is able to securely control it. He is a creature that operates within Yahweh's world and under Yahweh's power and boundaries. Yahweh is showing Job that he knows less than he thinks he knows, and that Job can control very little.

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The Leviathan

41:1-34 on Leviathan

- Yahweh describes the formidable features of Leviathan and states that no human is able to tame it.
- If Job is powerless to control the Leviathan or the Behemoth, how could Job expect to stand against Yahweh?
- (41:11) Everything under heaven belongs to God, and is under His control.
- Yahweh's authority encompasses all the creatures under God's creation, including the Leviathan, Behemoth, as well as Job.
- Yahweh is expressing to Job that he does not have the status to be making demands of the Almighty God.
- Job must take a submissive stance before the Creator.



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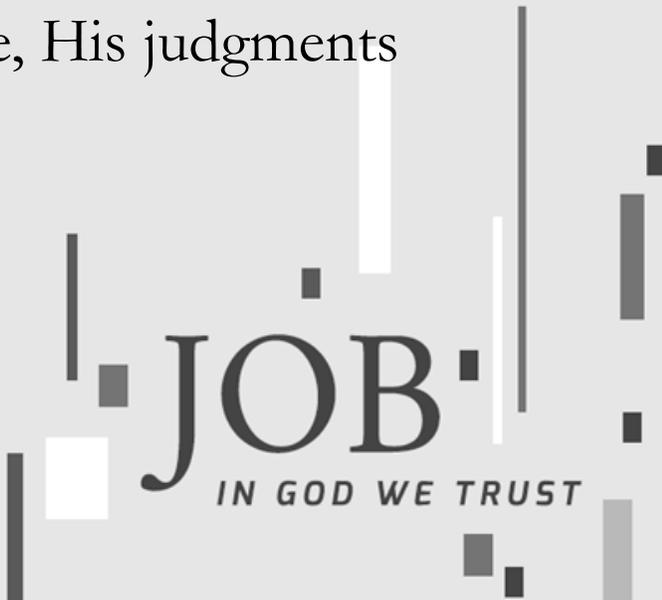
Chapter 42

Broken up into 3 separate, but related sections.

- Verses 1-6 relate the story of the ending of Job's struggle against God.
- Verses 7-9 resolve the issue between Job and his friends.
- Verses 10-17 address the issue of Job's suffering as well as his restoration.

(1-6) Job's struggle against the Lord comes to an end.

- Job acknowledges that God is all wise and all knowing. Therefore, His judgments must be true and just, even if they are mysterious to him.
- Job admits his ignorance of God's ways.
- He personally submits to God's sovereignty over him
- He retracts his case against God, and repents.



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Chapter 42

Verses 7-9

- Job's friends have not spoken the truth about God. It doesn't mean that Job's friends have been wrong about everything, nor that Job was correct in all his statements.
- God's words are specifically aimed at the important issues addressed in the debate between Job and his friends:
 - Is Job's suffering an expression of divine justice? NO.
 - Is God punishing Job for some sin? NO.
 - By insisting that Job's suffering is the result of God's punishment of Job's sin, the friends have slandered Job and misrepresented the purpose, justice, compassion, love and mercy of God. They have spoken incorrectly of God.

Verses 10-17

- It is in grace that God has made Himself known to Job...and Job is satisfied.
- God restores the fortunes of Job.
- The friends and family who had abandoned him (19:13-19) return.
- Seven sons and three beautiful daughters are born.
- Job lives another 140 years and saw four generations of offspring.



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Lessons Learned from Job

1. Am I speaking and thinking of God correctly?
2. Will I trust God when nothing around me makes sense, or am I challenging the way God runs His universe as Job did?
3. God wants us to have faith in Him...not in our circumstances, not in our wallets, and not in our own power.



Final Question

IS GOD ENOUGH?

