

# THE BOOK OF JOB

## Lesson 11 – Job 38-40

“The storm that Elihu had been describing in Job 37 finally broke, and God spoke to Job out of the storm. The answer to Job's problems was not an explanation about God, such as the three friends and Elihu had given, but a revelation of God. The four men had declared and defended the greatness of God but had failed to persuade Job. When God displayed His majesty and greatness, it humbled Job and brought him to the place of silent submission before God. That was the turning point.” Warren Wiersbe

Begin your study with prayer...

**Memory Verse** – This week’s memory verse is:

*“O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all.  
The earth is full of Your possessions—” Psalm 104:24*

### Read Job 38.

“God will indeed settle this dispute, but He will do it *His* way. Job wanted God to settle it by proving *him* right and explaining the reason for all his afflictions; Job’s friends wanted God to prove *them* right and for Job to recognize his error. God will not satisfy either one of these expectations.” David Guzik

1. Job 38:1 begins, “*Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind...*” The fact that the Lord answered means He was listening all the time, even though Job didn’t feel like He was. What do the following scriptures say about this?

a. Jeremiah 29:12-13

b. 1 Peter 3:12

2. Some have questioned whether the question the Lord asks in verse 2 is directed toward Job or to the four men who spoke so many words to Job. Either way, it applies.

a. Write this question below.

b. How could this apply to the friends? To Job?

**Consider Job 38:3-4.**

If we consider how Job argued in his own defense to his friends perhaps, in the depth of his suffering, he went further than he really wanted to go, but it did reveal what was really inside. In his questioning, he was really questioning God's fairness.

1. Job had said he wanted to talk with God several times in his discussions with his friends. What do you find in his words from the following scriptures?

a. Job 9:3

b. Job 13:3

2. In Job 38:3-4, now God addressed Job directly, saying that He will question Job.

a. Write the question He asked in verse 4 below.

b. What is God really asking with this question and the rest of the questions in this chapter?

3. We can find the proper attitude for man to have in the scriptures. Consider each of the following and share what you see.

a. Consider Roman 9:20. How does this apply?

b. What attitude do you see in Psalm 8:4 that would help?

4. How do the following scriptures represent the relationship between God and man?

a. Isaiah 64:8

b. Jeremiah 18:6

c. How does this perspective change the way Job might question God?

**Consider Job 38:5-41.**

As you read the next section again, God poses questions to Job. With each question, God is reminding Job of Who He is. Be sure to take time to enjoy the poetry and the amazing pictures painted by the words that remind us of God's amazing hand in creation and of His mighty power.

1. From Job 38:4-15 write an aspect of creation that stands out to you, or an overall view of what is represented of God in these verses.

2. Several times in his discussions Job said he would welcome death. In Job 38:16-21, the Lord speaks to Job about light and darkness and death. Consider both Job's words and God's words in the following scriptures, and comment on what you see.

a. Job 3:20-22 (Job)

b. Job 38:16-21 (God)

3. As we consider Job 38:22-30, God describes the various states and purposes of water in weather.

a. What purpose is given for hail in verse 22-23?

b. What example do you find in Joshua 10:11?

c. What is said of the rain in Job 38:25-30?

4. We look to the skies in Job 38:31-38. What do you find about:

a. the stars (verses 31-33)

b. the clouds (verses 34,35,38,39)

c. wisdom (verses 36-37)

5. What part of nature is Job questioned about in Job 38:39-41?

a. What do you find about this in Matthew 6:26?

b. How does this truth change your perspective?

**Read Job 39.**

In Chapter 39, consider the Lord's questions to Job about the wild animals of His creation.

1. In Job 39:1-12, God talks about three particular wild animals.

a. What aspect of the animals is described in verses 1-4?

b. What do you read that God did for the wild donkey in verses 5-8?

c. What is God asking Job about the wild ox in verses 9-12?

2. God now turns to the ostrich. In Job 39:13-18, what behavior is described of the ostrich?

a. From verse 17, why does it act this way?

b. What are your thoughts when you compare Job 38:36 to Job 39:17?

3. In Job 39:19-25, what characteristics do you see God chose to give to the horse? Notice how specific they are to this one animal.

4. Consider how God guides and directs the eagle and the hawk from Job 39:26-30. What two words describe how God does it in vs. 26-27?

5. What point do you see God making with His questions in this chapter?

## Read Job 40.

After reminding Job of Who He is, not to condemn him, but to teach him, God now specifically questions things Job said either with his words or his heart toward God.

1. What two specific things did God question Job about in verse 2?
  
2. Consider Job's response in Job 40:3-5.
  - a. How did he describe himself in verse 4? Find at least two different words used here from different translations.

The word *vile* "was a perfectly correct translation in the time of King James, because then *vile* did not mean what it has come to mean in the process of the years. In the Hebrew word there is no suggestion of moral failure. Quite literally it means, of no weight. Job did not here in the presence of the majesty of God confess moral perversity, but comparative insignificance." G. Campbell Morgan

- b. What did Job say he would do in verse 4?
  
    - c. What did he say he would not do in verse 5?
  
    - d. Describe the attitude you see in Job from these verses.

"Job made his strong and sometimes outrageous statements when he felt, to the core of his soul, that the LORD had forsaken him. Now with his sense of the presence of the LORD restored, Job could better see his proper place before God." David Guzik

3. Beginning in Job 40:6, God again questions Job about his wisdom and power. What two questions did God ask Job in verse 8?
  - a. Record the words of Isaiah 14:27.
  
  - b. How does this challenge you when you are tempted to doubt His ways?

4. Reflect on God's invitation to Job to pass judgment on others in verses 9-13. God had challenged Job's knowledge, his wisdom, and his power. Here God provokes Job to sit in God's seat of judgment and right the wrongs of the earth. Many of us have flippantly said we would like that privilege.

a. What mistakes might you make if you were in that place?

b. Remind yourself why God is the only One able to judge rightly by listing some of His attributes that would apply.

5. In Job 40:9-14, God continues to question Job's ability to be the judge with an "If, Then" statement.

a. **If** Job could do all that God mentions in verses 9-13, **then** what does God say Job could do in verse 14?

b. How does this challenge you when you are tempted to think you are right and God is wrong?

6. In Job 40:15-24, God seemed to say to Job that if he could not control a creature like the *behemoth*, then he had no right to sit in God's seat.

a. Consider verse 19 as you write the last line of this verse below.

b. Pointing out that the behemoth was unapproachable by all but God, why do you think God used the example of this mighty creature in His questioning of Job?

### **In closing...**

1. Why do you think this revelation of God quieted Job's questions when his friends' explanation about God failed?

“If we find it exasperating that God never gives Job any reasons for his long ordeal of suffering, then we have entirely missed the point of these final chapters. While it is true that the Lord’s answer to Job is neither logical nor theological, this is not the same as saying that He gives no answer. The Lord *does* give an answer. His answer is Himself.” Mike Mason

2. Take time now to remember what you have read in these chapters and share some thoughts on who God is.

***Memory Verse***

*“O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all.  
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