

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 90 –The Lord Answers Job Declaring His Greatness (Job 38-40)

1. What “tone” is God going to set from the beginning of His answer to Job?

“(1) Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, (2) Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? (3) Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me” (Job 38:1-3).

2. Should Job realize, from God’s answer, how little understanding he has compared to his Creator?

Yes: *“(4) Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. (5) Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof” (Job 38:4-6)?*

3. Who sang and who shouted at the time of the creation of this world?

“When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy” (Job 38:7; cf. Psalms 19:1)?

4. From God’s answer to Job, who has dominion over the sea?

God does: *“(8) Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? (9) When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it, (10) And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors, (11) And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed” (Job 38:8-11)?*

It is interesting how God described clothing the ocean like a newborn infant. This certainly describes a loving Creator for that which He has formed.

5. What is God capable of doing with the light of the morning?

He can choose when, where, and upon whom the sun will shine: *“(12) Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; and caused the dayspring to know his place; (13) That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it? (14) It is turned as clay to the seal; and they stand as a garment. (15) And from the wicked their light is withholden, and the high arm shall be broken” (Job 38:12-15; cf. Matthew 5:45).*

6. Man did not “discover” springs in the sea until 1976-1977 (US Geological Survey). What do we find in our current context that shows God is our Creator?

“(16) Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth” (Job 38:16)?

7. What is God establishing in Job 38:17?

That Job cannot grasp the authority over death as God has: *“(17) Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death” (Job 38:17; cf. Revelation 1:18)?*

8. Does God show Job how little he knows about the size of the earth or where light comes from?

As God establishes that Job is not older than Himself, to know the creation, He sets forth how little Job knows about the earth: “(18) Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth? declare if thou knowest it all. (19) Where is the way where light dwelleth? and as for darkness, where is the place thereof, (20) That thou shouldest take it to the bound thereof, and that thou shouldest know the paths to the house thereof? (21) Knowest thou it, because thou wast then born? or because the number of thy days is great” (**Job 38:18-21**)?

9. What has God reserved against the time of trouble and the day of battle?

“(22) Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, (23) Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war” (**Job 38:22-23**)?

10. Did God try to get Job to ponder how much power over nature He possesses?

Yes, by showing how many things happen in nature from the wind to the stars and seasons after declaring Himself as the Creator: “(24) By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the east wind upon the earth? (25) Who hath divided a watercourse for the overflowing of waters, or a way for the lightning of thunder; (26) To cause it to rain on the earth, where no man is; on the wilderness, wherein there is no man; (27) To satisfy the desolate and waste ground; and to cause the bud of the tender herb to spring forth? (28) Hath the rain a father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew? (29) Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it? (30) The waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen. (31) Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion? (32) Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?” (**Job 38:24-32**).

11. What question did God use to show Job what little dominion Job has compared to Himself?

“Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth” (**Job 38:33**)?

12. By implication, what does God do to control the rain and lightning?

He speaks: “(34) Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee? (35) Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we are... (37) Who can number the clouds in wisdom? or who can stay the bottles of heaven, (38) When the dust groweth into hardness, and the clods cleave fast together?” (**Job 38:34-35; 37-38**)?

13. Does God attempt to get Job to see whom the author of wisdom and understanding is?

Yes, again by implication: “(36) Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart” (**Job 38:36**; cf. **I Kings 4:29**, **I Chronicles 22:12**, **Psalms 111:10**, and **Proverbs 2:6**)?

14. Should Job be able to learn about God’s might by observing the animals of the earth?

Yes: (**Job 38:39-39:30**).

15. What pointed question is laid upon Job as we begin chapter forty?

“(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” (**Job 40:1-2**).

16. Is Job bold in his answer to God?

No: *“(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 40:3-5).*

17. Does God allow Job “off the hook” after Job’s brief reply?

No, He calls Job out to do works like God can do to prove his right to question the Almighty: *“(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” (Job 40:6-7).*

18. What does God state as the reason for Job questioning and condemning God’s judgment?

“Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous” (Job 40:8)?

19. How does Deuteronomy 33:27 and Jeremiah 32:17 have an application to our current context?

“Hast thou an arm like God? or canst thou thunder with a voice like him” (Job 40:9)?

20. What does Job have to do to get God to confess that Job is able to save himself?

*“(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 40:10-14).*

21. Who made the behemoth?

God did: *“Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee; he eateth grass as an ox” (Job 40:15).*

22. How strong and massive is the behemoth?

“(16) Lo now, his strength is in his loins, and his force is in the navel of his belly. (17) He moveth his tail like a cedar: the sinews of his stones are wrapped together. (18) His bones are as strong pieces of brass; his bones are like bars of iron” (Job 40:16-18).

23. Who can make his sword to approach the behemoth?

Since it is God who made Him, it is God who can make his sword to approach him: *“He is the chief of the ways of God: he that made him can make his sword to approach unto him” (Job 40:19).*

24. What can we tell about the size of the behemoth from where it get’s food, sleeps, and drinks?

It was huge! *“(20) **Surely the mountains bring him forth food**, where all the beasts of the field play. (21) He lieth under the shady trees, in the covert of the reed, and fens. (22) **The shady trees cover him with their shadow**; the willows of the brook compass him about. (23) Behold, **he drinketh up a river, and hasteth not: he trusteth that he can draw up Jordan into his mouth**. (24) He taketh it with his eyes: his nose pierceth through snares” (Job 40:20-24).*