

The Book of Job  
Class Notes  
Session 21

**Job 38.1-7** Chapters 38-40 begins God's response to Job...Out of the "whirlwind." ... סָעָר (*śā·'ār*)... Lit., "Storm" "Wind" "Tempest."

The "Lord" answers... יהוה (*yhwh*)... "(The covenant) God."

The Lord comes to Job as Job had requested... (23.3–5) and answers Job's "windy words" (16.3).

Job believed that if the Lord came to him in a whirlwind, He would crush Job... (9.17)...

What Job experiences is exactly what he wanted...God is speaking with him...Without destruction!

"Job is first rebuked (but not derided) for speaking *without knowledge*. The Bible does not consider ignorance to be either sin, or the root of sin...Job is completely in the dark because he lacks counsel and knowledge. These God now supplies."<sup>1</sup>

The point is that knowledge of the origins of the world is inaccessible to men.

"In a series of questions on cosmology, oceanography, meteorology, and astronomy, God challenged Job's competence to judge His control of the world. God used irony to point up Job's ignorance (e.g., "Tell Me," vv. 4, 18; "Surely you know!" vv. 5, 21)."<sup>2</sup>

**Job 39.1-6** Job does not even know the animal world...Animals give birth to their young and the "natural" world operates without Job's help (Or knowledge of how...)

"Totally apart from man's help or knowledge, but obviously under God's supervision, mountain goats and deer bring forth their young, who soon grow up, leave their parents, and fend for themselves (cf. references to the "young" in 38:41; 39:30)"<sup>3</sup>

**Job 40.1-5** God's first speech began with a rebuke and challenge...God concludes with a rebuke and challenge!

"The rebuke is in the form of a question. The one who contends refers to Job...Twice (10:2; 23:6) Job considered God's (10:1) contending with him (*rib*, bringing a court case against him), but now ironically, God turned the accusation around...Since Job had accused God he should answer these questions (cf. "answer Me" in 38:3; 40:7)."<sup>4</sup>

"In the whirlwind, Job comes face-to-face with the reality of his humanity. Although Job accused the Lord of being unfair, God responded with a mild, yet firm counteraccusation. The Lord reminded Job that He not only created the world but also continues to care for it. We, too, question God and wonder whether He is actually in charge of the daily events of our lives. Coming face-to-face with our Creator brings us to our knees. Yet the fearsome face of the Creator also smiles on Job and shows him mercy."<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> F.I. Andersen. *Job: An Introduction and Commentary* (Vol. 14, pp. 294–296). InterVarsity Press, 1976).

<sup>2</sup> J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck Eds. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* (Victor Books, 1985).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

**Job 41.1-4, 33-34** As God's "silence" has ended...God continues to respond to Job and his questions and laments.

Even though God was silent through the chapters of Job, God was always with Job! God's silence does not mean God's absence.

In chapter 41 God continues to question Job using the images of that time....In ch.41...The "Leviathan."

לִיָּתָן (*liw·yā·tān*)...Lit., "Serpent" (Large aquatic animal)

While the nature of the "leviathan" is debated among Biblical scholars....Many commentators believe this is a reference to a crocodile.

The Jews used the word to describe their enemies...(Isaiah 27.1)...Some commentators do cite that the leviathan is likely an allusion to evil and perhaps, Satan himself. (*Revelation 12:9*)

Evil is certainly a wild force that threatens peace, the good, and love itself.

This point is that all of Job's questions and fears were based on what Job thought he knew and on what he believed he could control....But Job can't even control a crocodile!

"A fishhook ... a rope...a cord, and a hook are inadequate to capture so fierce an animal (vv. 1–2)...God then used this fierce amphibian to illustrate man's inability to oppose God (to stand against Him) or to claim He owes them something (since everything is His). If Job panicked at seeing a crocodile, how did he dare confront the crocodile's Maker?" (J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.). *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*).

Again, God is pointing out that an animal that most people are frightened of, and have little control over...a crocodile (?)...is God's creation...how much more is God and His ways out of our control (and knowledge)!

**Job 42.1-6** This final chapter of Job is truly the summary of all that has taken place so far.

Through the life of Job God has revealed the character of (the) Satan...Satan's desire is to split God from people and people from God.

What Satan wanted he did not get...God giving up on Job because, according to Satan, Job only worships God because his life is good...And...Job did not give up on God even in the midst of suffering and unanswered questions!

Job recognized that God is God, and He has reasons and purposes that we humans will never know or perhaps could never fully understand. One of the core themes of Job is...Will Job (you and I) trust and worship God in the midst of suffering, struggles, and questions of faith?

"So what is new about Job's knowledge that *you can do all things* (2) is not that God is almighty, but that God has an inescapable purpose in whatever he does. Job's suffering makes sense to God, even though God has in no way explained or justified it to him. Job's mistake has been to demand an answer to the problem of suffering, which is to intrude into an area beyond human comprehension: *'I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know'* (3)."<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> D.A. Carson, R.T. France, J.A. Motyer, and G.J. Wenham. Eds. *New Bible Commentary*.