



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Job

BIBLE TEXT | JOB 40:1-24


1 The Lord said to Job: **2** "Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him? Let him who accuses God answer him!" **3** Then Job answered the Lord: **4** "I am unworthy—how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth. **5** I spoke once, but I have no answer—twice, but I will say no more." **6** Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm: **7** "Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. **8** "Would you discredit my justice? Would you condemn me to justify yourself? **9** Do you have an arm like God's, and can your voice thunder like his? **10** Then adorn yourself with glory and splendor, and clothe yourself in honor and majesty. **11** Unleash the fury of your wrath, look at all who are proud and bring them low, **12** look at all who are proud and humble them, crush the wicked where they stand. **13** Bury them all in the dust together; shroud their faces in the grave. **14** Then I myself will admit to you that your own right hand can save you. **15** "Look at Behemoth, which I made along with you and which feeds on grass like an ox. **16** What strength it has in its loins, what power in the muscles of its belly! **17** Its tail sways like a cedar; the sinews of its thighs are close-knit. **18** Its bones are tubes of bronze, its limbs like rods of iron. **19** It ranks first among the works of God, yet its Maker can approach it with his sword. **20** The hills bring their produce, and all the wild animals play nearby. **21** Under the lotus plants it lies, hidden among the reeds in the marsh. **22** The lotuses conceal it in their shadow; the poplars by the stream surround it. **23** A raging river does not alarm it; it is secure, though the Jordan should surge against its mouth. **24** Can anyone capture it by the eyes, or trap it and pierce its nose?"

DEVOTIONAL FOR JOB 40:1-24

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Wow, we are almost done with the marathon that is the book of Job. In the last two chapters God finally breaks His silence and talks to Job. God reminds Job of His power and strength and challenges Job to reevaluate his mindset.

As we continue into Job chapter 40, God continues to teach Job and challenge the way he questioned God for the first 37 chapters. There is some great stuff in this chapter, but I want to narrow in on just three verses: Job's response to God.



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The way Job speaks to God in verses 3-5 is vastly different from how he approached God in the chapters leading up to this point. Before God began to speak in chapter 38, Job was angry, self-righteous, and demanding answers from God. He knew himself to be "blameless" and wanted to see justice. He wanted to be proven right to his friends, to be treated in a way that he thought was just, and, since he felt like God abandoned him, for God to return to him.

After God speaks, we see that Job has been completely humbled. His tone changes entirely, not because his life has improved (he was still miserable), but because God has spoken to him and gently reminded him of how big He truly is.

Could you imagine God walking through all the wonders of His creation with you and then saying "he who argues with God, let him answer him (verse 2)!"? Gulp. I would not have wanted to be in Job's shoes at that moment. However, Job's response is so beautifully humble before his Lord and creator. After all the misery that he has been through and all the whining he has done, Job says "I am so unworthy (verse 4)." In another version, this verse reads "I am of no account," which, in the original Hebrew, literally means "of no weight." When he is faced with the weight and the majesty of God's wonder, he is reminded that he is tiny in comparison.

I love what Job says next. "I put my hand over my mouth (verse 4)." He will challenge God no more. Instead, he covers his mouth in submission. No matter why God has allowed these things to happen, Job is choosing to submit to God's will and trust Him. This is one of the simplest but most difficult disciplines of our faith: trusting God no matter what, even when we don't like it or understand it. We must choose to submit to God daily and trust that He knows what He's doing and we don't have to understand it, but simply follow Him.

Questions:

1. Read Matthew 26:36-46. In this passage we see Jesus pleading while still submitting to God's will. Do you find it hard to submit to God's will? Why or why not?
2. Do you struggle when you don't feel like things are right, fair, or just? Read Romans 3:21-31. This is a great reminder that, as sinners, we don't deserve anything but death. As believers, we have Jesus who is our justifier.
3. What is a practical way that you can choose to submit to God this week?