

The Book of Job

The Unsearchable Wisdom of God



LESSON 13
YAHWEH ANSWERS JOB, PT. 1
JOB 38:1 – 40:5

Chiastic Outline of Job



A. Job's Afflictions (1–2)

B. Job's First Response (3)

C. 3 Cycles of Debate (4–27)

D. Wisdom Poem (28)

C'. 3 Major Speeches (29–41)

B'. Job's Second Response (42:1–9)

A'. Job's Prosperity (42:10–17)

I. Waiting for God



- Job holding onto faith, but stretched to the limit

Job 35:13 Surely God does not hear an empty cry, nor does the Almighty regard it.

14 How much less when you say that you do not see him, that the case is before him, and you are waiting for him!

II. God's Wisdom Displayed in Nature



Job 38:1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:

2 “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?”

3 Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me.

II. God's Wisdom Displayed in Nature

A. Inanimate (38:1 – 38)



1. The Fixed Order of Creation (38:4–15)

a. The Earth

38:4 “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.

5 Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?

6 On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone,
7 when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for

II. God's Wisdom Displayed in Nature

A. Inanimate (38:1 – 38)



1. The Fixed Order of Creation (38:4–15)

b. The Stars

38:7 when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

38:31 “Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords of Orion?

32 Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season, or can you guide the Bear with its children?

33 Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you establish their rule on the earth?

II. God's Wisdom Displayed in Nature

A. Inanimate (38:1 – 38)



1. The Fixed Order of Creation (38:4–15)

c. The Sea

38:8 “Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb,

9 when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band,

10 and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors,

11 and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed’?

II. God's Wisdom Displayed in Nature

A. Inanimate (38:1 – 38)



1. The Fixed Order of Creation (38:4–15)

d. The Dawn

38:12 “Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place,

13 that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it?

14 It is changed like clay under the seal, and its features stand out like a garment.

15 From the wicked their light is withheld, and their uplifted arm is broken.

II. God's Wisdom Displayed in Nature

A. Inanimate (38:1 – 38)



2. Obscure Primeval Forces (38:16–38)

- a. Watery Deeps (38:16)
- b. Underworld/Sheol (38:17)
- c. Expanse of the Earth (38:18)
- d. Origins of Light (38:19–21)
- e. Origins of Severe Weather (38:22–24)
 - Thunderstorms and rain (38:25–28, 34–38)
 - Winter—Ice & Snow (38:29–30)

II. God's Wisdom Displayed in Nature

B. Animals (38:39–39:30)



1. Lions and Ravens (38:39–41)

38:39 “Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,

40 when they crouch in their dens or lie in wait in their thicket?

41 Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God for help, and wander about for lack of food?

II. God's Wisdom Displayed in Nature

B. Animals (38:39–39:30)



2. Mountain goats and deer (39:1–4)

39:1 “Do you know when the mountain goats give birth?
Do you observe the calving of the does?”

2 Can you number the months that they fulfill, and do you
know the time when they give birth,

3 when they crouch, bring forth their offspring, and are
delivered of their young?

4 Their young ones become strong; they grow up in the
open; they go out and do not return to them.

II. God's Wisdom Displayed in Nature

B. Animals (38:39–39:30)



3. Wild donkey and wild ox (39:5–12)

39:5 “Who has let the wild donkey go free? Who has loosed the bonds of the swift donkey,

6 to whom I have given the arid plain for his home and the salt land for his dwelling place?

7 He scorns the tumult of the city; he hears not the shouts of the driver.

8 He ranges the mountains as his pasture, and he searches after every green thing.

9 “Is the wild ox willing to serve you? Will he spend the night at your manger?

10 Can you bind him in the furrow with ropes, or will he harrow the valleys after you?

11 Will you depend on him because his strength is great, and will you leave to him your labor?

12 Do you have faith in him that he will return your grain and gather it to your threshing floor?

II. God's Wisdom Displayed in Nature

B. Animals (38:39–39:30)



4. Ostrich (39:13–18)

39:13 “The wings of the ostrich wave proudly, but are they the pinions and plumage of love?”

14 For she leaves her eggs to the earth and lets them be warmed on the ground,

15 forgetting that a foot may crush them and that the wild beast may trample them.

16 She deals cruelly with her young, as if they were not hers; though her labor be in vain, yet she has no fear,

17 *because God has made her forget wisdom and given her no share in understanding.*

18 When she rouses herself to flee, she laughs at the horse and his rider.

II. God's Wisdom Displayed in Nature

B. Animals (38:39–39:30)



5. Horse (war-horse) (39:19–25)

39:19 “Do you give the horse his might? Do you clothe his neck with a mane?”

20 Do you make him leap like the locust? His majestic snorting is terrifying.

21 He paws in the valley and exults in his strength; he goes out to meet the weapons.

22 He laughs at fear and is not dismayed; he does not turn back from the sword.

23 Upon him rattle the quiver, the flashing spear, and the javelin.

24 With fierceness and rage he swallows the ground; he cannot stand still at the sound of the trumpet.

25 When the trumpet sounds, he says ‘Aha!’ He smells the battle from afar, the thunder of the captains, and the shouting.

II. God's Wisdom Displayed in Nature

B. Animals (38:39–39:30)



6. Hawks and Eagles (39:26–30)

39:26 “Is it by your understanding that the hawk soars and spreads his wings toward the south?”

27 Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up and makes his nest on high?

28 On the rock he dwells and makes his home, on the rocky crag and stronghold.

29 From there he spies out the prey; his eyes behold it from far away.

30 His young ones suck up blood, and where the slain are, there is he.”

II. God's Wisdom Displayed in Nature

C. Summary of 38–39 meaning



1. Refutation of Job 3
2. Sets a limit to wisdom
3. God cares about nature
4. Not man-centered (not anthropocentric)
5. Not like Eliphaz's spiritual visitor

III. Challenge and Response (40:1–5)



Job 40:1 And the LORD said to Job:

2 “Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty? He who argues with God, let him answer it.”

III. Challenge and Response (40:1–5)



Job 40:3 Then Job answered the LORD and said:

4 “Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth.

5 I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but I will proceed no further.”

Cf. Job 7:11; 9:3 - 20

III. Challenge and Response (40:1–5)



- What about justice? Is God going to address the issue of justice?