

# **WOMEN IN THE WORD**

## **OF**

### **FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH**

“Job: A 12-Week Study” by Eric Ortlund

Week Ten: The Lord’s Second Speech

April 12, 2022

Last week we saw that God pointed Job to the wonders of the natural world in order to adjust his perspective and focus. Firmly but gently, God succeeded in getting Job to see his own insignificance as He pointed out His power in creating and maintaining the natural world. But the Lord is not finished. He continues dealing with Job’s wrong attitudes by leading him to see that just as he is not capable of controlling the natural world, he cannot exercise jurisdiction over the moral realm.

To accomplish this, God first challenges Job to take on the responsibility of bringing down the wicked and the proud.

Then He questions Job about two powerful creatures, Behemoth and Leviathan. These creatures are symbolic of the cosmic forces that are at work in the world and in Job’s sufferings.

## **Chapter 40**

God begins this speech as He did the earlier one, letting Job know there’s more to come and he had better get ready.

In verse 8, we see once again that God is getting Job’s focus off himself and on God.

God has shown Job that there are many things he doesn’t know about Him, and thus he is not one to judge God’s ways.

Can Job prove his demands by manifesting authority that is equal to God’s? God is to be worshipped for His majesty, glory and splendor, as many Scriptures attest:

Psalms 29:2

Psalms 93:1

Psalm 96:6

Psalm 104:1

Even an earthly king displays his authority in his dress and bearing, and gets his glory from God:

Psalm 21:5

Then God confronts Job with a very serious issue: Job has charged God with acting unjustly.

God challenges Job to bring down the wicked, the thing that he and the friends have all talked about as proof of the justice of God.

There would be no reason for Job to plead for a vindicator if he can do this.

If Job cannot do these things, then he must hand the whole matter over to God and trust Him to work everything out according to His wisdom

Insights from Francis Andersen:

When we complain, we imply that we could propose to God better ways of running the universe.

Men are eager to use force to combat evil and wish God would do the same more often.

Only God can transmute evil into good.

The reality of God's goodness lies beyond justice.

The categories of guilt and punishment can only view human suffering as a consequence of sin, not as an occasion of grace.

Next God begins His discourse on two powerful beasts, Behemoth and Leviathan.

Job will be seeing a clear picture of these two powerful beasts and his inability to exercise any control over them.

Exactly what Behemoth and Leviathan are is a subject of much debate. Some say earthly creatures, while others, mythical monsters.

In this way, the imagery employed to describe them addresses the transcendent dimension of Job's problems. And it is affirmed that God is the Master of whatever force is behind Job's sufferings.

Behemoth is considered by many to be a hippopotamus. John Hartley points out that Egyptian pharaohs hunted them.

In the midst of the descriptive details, Behemoth is lauded as the "first of the ways of God," probably signifying the strongest and most formidable.

There is no question for Job here until verse 24.

The implication of God's question to Job is that it would be a daunting task for Job to attempt to hunt one, and likely unsuccessful.

## Chapter 41

After describing Behemoth, the most powerful creature of the land, God now turns his attention to Leviathan, the strongest creature of the water. Some scholars have maintained that Leviathan is a crocodile. Others interpret him as a serpentine sea monster.

Isaiah 27:1 In that day the LORD with his hard and great and strong sword will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan the twisting serpent, and he will slay the dragon that is in the sea.

Certainly there are details in the description that don't seem to match up well with a crocodile, and some are more along the lines of a dragon (verses 19-21). It's difficult for us to know with certainty.

In contrast to the section on Behemoth, God here begins with questions for Job, and gives descriptive details about Leviathan later. Can Job catch him as he would a fish? Or any other way?

Can Job make a pet of him for himself or his daughters?

But Leviathan is God's "pet."

Psalm 104:24-6

Does Job think he could catch this huge, powerful creature with harpoons or spears? God will set him straight on that in no uncertain terms:

Then in great detail, God goes on to laud the strength and domination of this imposing creature, who has no equal on earth and cannot be tamed or captured by anyone.

In addition to all the physical characteristics of Leviathan that induce fear in men, there are several descriptions here that lead us to see comparisons between Leviathan and Satan:

v. 24 –

v. 25 –

v. 33 –

v. 34 –

Elmer Smick: "By telling of his dominion over Behemoth and Leviathan, the Lord is...celebrating his moral triumph over the forces of evil. Satan, the Accuser, has been proved wrong, though Job does not know it."

God ends his speech with verse 34, but we need to go back to verses 10-11 to understand what He is driving at in all of this. His argument is that since no human being can subjugate Leviathan, surely then no one can ever successfully challenge the God who made Leviathan.

If Job is to renew his relationship with God, he must submit to him as Lord over all, relinquish his complaints, and accept in trust that God is working out good for him.

As Andersen so aptly puts it:

The argument to the superior strength of God is made, not to discourage men from trying to have dealings with God, but to enhance God's capability of managing the affairs of the universe so that men will trust him.

Next week: No meeting, Easter break

April 26

Week 11: Job's Restoration, pp. 81-7 in the study book  
Job Chapter 42