

A Study of the Book of Job: When Bad Things Happen to God’s People

Lesson 18: The LORD Speaks & Epilogue (Chapter 39-42)

Introduction – In Chapter 38 the LORD had used a series of rhetorical questions regarding the establishment and workings of the natural world (earth, oceans, depths, light/darkness, weather, stars/cosmos) to demonstrate Job’s smallness. Now he focuses on things much smaller—creatures (like Job himself)—and Job’s (and mankind’s) ignorance and impotence is just as manifestly evident.

Scripture	God’s Question	Observations?
38:39-41		
39:1-4		
39:5-12		
39:13-30		

40:1-14 - Intermission

- v. 4 – “unworthy” = to be small/insignificant

1.) Why would the LORD keep on after Job? What is missing from his reply? (v. 4-5)

2.) God’s option, “Go ahead and _____, then I’ll give you an audience and we can talk as equals!”

40:15-41:34 – Creatures More Impressive/Formidable than Man: Behemoth and Leviathan

40:15-24 – Behemoth

Describe the characteristics of behemoth. What does this sound like to you?

41:1-34 – Leviathan

Describe leviathan. What does this sound like to you?

1.) What is God's point in describing behemoth and leviathan? (v. 41:10-11, 33-34)

2.) In the final analysis, how does the LORD answer Job's question about the problem of the righteous suffering?

3.) How do we, as God's New Testament children, have the promise and proof of something better? (cf. Isaiah 53:3-6)

42:1-6

1.) What does Job finally acknowledge through this painful experience and God's questioning?

2.) An alternate translation of v. 6 that more closely follows the pointing (punctuation):

עַל־כֵּן אֶמְאַס וְנִתְמַתִּי עַל־עֹפָר וְאֵפֶר:

"Therefore, I reject and drop [my case] because dust and ashes [I am]."

42:7-17

1.) Explain the irony in 7 – 9.

2.) Describe God's gracious restoration of Job. What does this teach us in our suffering and misery?