

Job Chapter 39

- God's first questions to Job dealt with God's power and wisdom in bringing the universe into being.
- The second series of questions deals with His providential care of His creatures, which began in Chapter 38:39 - are you going to provide for the lions? What about the ravens?
- In Chapter 39 we continue with the wild goats and donkey's:
- Up to this point except in one instance (Job 12:9) God has been referred to as "God" and "the Almighty," but starting in Chapter 38 God is referred to as the "LORD" - "Jehovah" or "Yahweh."
- This is the name that God would reveal to Israel centuries later and Exodus Chapter 3, the name that speaks of His self existence, "I AM that I AM."
- The name that describes His covenant relationship with His people.

V: 1-4 The wild goats is probably a reference to the ibex, which is a common animal in that part of the world, in Israel. ([Pictures #1 & #2](#))

- Can you mark when they or the "hinds" (deer) calve? These animals live in the wild, they pretty much just do their thing - no one knows when they will bring forth their young.
- Do you know their gestation period?
- ⁴Their young ones are in good "liking" meaning they are in good health, they're strong, and they thrive.
- Their young leave their parents fairly quickly and begin to forage on their own, especially compared to human babies.
- Human babies are particularly helpless and vulnerable, totally dependent upon their parents. Some animals survive without ever seeing their parents. They hatch, and they go about, and instinctively are able to survive on their own.
- But with a child there is that total dependency upon their parents, for long periods of time, years, it can stretch sometimes into 20, or 30, or even 40 years!

V: 5-8 Wild donkey's - you still see some of those in the wilderness areas of Israel as well.

- Their home is the wilderness areas, those barren places, they scorn or dislike the cities, they don't regard to voice of the drivers, the herdsman - not trainable. They just wander those mountainous places living off the land. They look pretty scruffy too.

Psalm 104 is about the providence of God:

Psalm 104:24 "O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth us full of thy riches."

V: 9-12 "Unicorn" is a reference to a "wild ox" that is thought to be extinct, an aggressive animal like a rhinoceros that readily attacks anything that came near.

- Can you tame the unicorn and make him plow for you, will he be domesticated and be used to bring in the crops? Harnessed to a wagon or cart? No.

V: 13-18 Who gave the peacock its beautiful feathers? What about the ostrich?

- The ostrich is described as a "stupid" animal - they dig holes in the ground, lay their eggs there and leave them. When attacked or afraid they will simply stick their heads into those holes in the ground and wait for it to be over. Hiding their heads in the sand. Not what anyone would call a brilliant defense.
- ¹⁸As I mentioned their first attempt it to hide their head in the sand, usually at some point when they realize they are not hidden they will lift up their heads and begin to run - and can outrun a horse! Thus she scorns the horse and his rider.

V: 19-25 Speaking of horses that were used in war. Horses were the tanks of the day, big and fast, fearsome animals.

- ²¹Pawing at the valley: chomping at the bit; they say that a horse takes a thousand steps before he takes one.
- Rejoicing in his strength, fearless, racing out to meet men in battle. Living for the battle.

V: 26-30 God has planted in the minds of some of the birds the various migration patterns and so on.

- The Golden Plover is a miraculous testimony: They live in Hawaii for part of the year but they mate and raise their young in the Aleutian Islands. So in the spring time they will fly from Hawaii, a couple thousand miles over the ocean, without any land marks, and fly to the Aleutian Islands. Once there they will mate, build their nests, and hatch their eggs, incubate their young.
- Come fall, they're not done. They like to spend their winters in Hawaii. So as winter approaches they'll begin to eat a lot to build up the fat in their bodies for

their flight to Hawaii. They will fly back to Hawaii without charts or maps, or landmarks because it's all ocean.

- You might be thinking, well, they've been there before. When the adult Plover's leave, the young ones aren't strong enough to leave so they are left behind. After a few more weeks of eating and fattening up they take off on their first trip and they too end up in Hawaii. It's not always smooth sailing, sometimes they hit storms that drive them off course, but they still end up in Hawaii and start the cycle all over again.
- God is asking Job, did you put that wisdom in their little bird brains?
- The reference to the hawks and the eagles, God has given them incredible eyesight. From way up on high they can spot that rabbit, or that field mouse - and they soar down and grab it, then their little ones enjoy a good meal.

Job Chapter 40

V: 1-2 Moreover the Lord answered or continued to answer Job. Will he that contends with the Almighty instruct Him?

Isaiah 40:13 "Who hath directed the spirit of the Lord, or being His counsellor hath taught Him?"

Romans 11:34 "For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been His counsellor?"

- We have to be careful not to assume that position with God, sometimes in prayer we are prone to doing so. Explaining to God the difficulties or the ramifications of a situation - like God doesn't already know.

Matthew 6:8 "... for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him."

- Since you're so smart, since you've sought to reprove Me... give me an answer.

V: 3-5 Job is compelled to answer but at the same time has nothing to say.

- Job knows that he is "vile", meaning trivial, or insignificant, of little worth or value.
- He will put his hand on his mouth to keep himself from speaking, he will proceed no further. He knows that all he can do is dig himself a deeper hole.

Proverbs 10:19 “In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.”

Proverbs 30:32 “If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, lay thine hand upon they mouth.”

V: 6-7 This is the same statement that God initially made from chapter 38. Job has responded very briefly to these first things, but hasn't yet come to the place of the full confession that God is looking for.

- God isn't looking for silence; He wants a confession. He doesn't want our intellectual assent to His superiority, He wants our confession as well.

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Psalm 22:22 “I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.”

- God is demanding an answer from Job, and Job says “I'm just going to shut up...” So the Lord more or less say, OK, let's go another round...

V: 8 “Will you also dis-annul My judgment?” Will you break, invalidate, or void out My judgment? God's judgments, His Word stands forever.

Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.”

1 Peter 1:25 “But the Word of the Lord endureth forever...”

- No one, nothing can invalidate the Word of God.
- What about His judgments? Blaming God for our sins and problems?
- “If you hadn't made me this way...” or “if you hadn't put me in this situation...”
- How did Adam respond in the garden when confronted with his sin? “The woman you gave me...” It's your fault for giving her to me...
- It's a common practice or tactic; condemning others, in this case God, to justify our own behavior, trying to make ourselves righteous.

V: 9-14 Do you have an arm like God's? It's figurative speech but the Bible speaks a lot about the “mighty arm of the Lord.” That's how the children of Israel would eventually be delivered from their bondage in Egypt - can you match that?

- Can you thunder like the voice of God? As a police officer in the field, “command presence” was everything. Often times a “command voice” was very much needed and sometimes difficult to attain.
- But God thunders, you hear it from afar, as it gets closer, it cracks, it rumbles, it shakes the ground... God is asking Job can you do that?
- Can you array yourself in majesty and excellency, and glory and beauty?
- Job is probably still sitting there in his ash heap, his stinky gross clothes, covered in boils and so on - a pretty stark contrast - he can't do what God is challenging him to do.
- He can't elevate himself, nor can he abase or humble anyone else.
- If you could do all of this then you could save yourself, but you can't.
- Salvation is a miracle, a miracle that only God can accomplish!

Matthew 19:25-26 “²⁵When His disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, who then can be saved? ²⁶But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.”

V: 15-24 Behold now behemoth - I would certainly like to.

- There are different theories on exactly what “behemoth” is - some say it's an elephant because of parts of the description here that he's one of the beasts of the field. Others think behemoth is a reference to the hippopotamus that existed in and around the Nile river, some think that it might be a rhinoceros.
- I think it's a reference to dinosaurs. I believe in a young earth and that dinosaurs existed at the same time as men.
- Down in Texas where they say everything is bigger anyway... at the Biloxi river. There are fossilized tracks of different kinds of dinosaurs alongside human tracks, or in some cases human tracks inside of dinosaur tracks.

V: 17 The tails of neither the elephant, hippo, or rhino are like cedar trees, but I've seen reconstructions of dinosaur skeletons that make their tails look pretty big and strong.

- I'm not dogmatic on this, for now I'll just go with it was something really big, and powerful, that ate lots of grass, and drank lots of water.
- Can you make one of those? Nope.

- God is insisting that Job answer Him. Job is afraid to speak and say the wrong thing.
- What is God looking for? Confession? The declaration that God is right, the admission of our dependency on Him.

Psalm 121:1-2 “¹I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
²My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.”

- I say we give Him what He wants!