

Lesson 9

Job 38–42



What God Does Not Say

- Doesn't say anything about Satan's challenge.
- In fact, He doesn't say a word about Job's suffering.
- His aim was to humble Job, to rebuke him for the charges he made against Him, and He definitely hit His target.
- His aim, though, was not simply to vent His anger, or to push Job away—it was to draw him closer.
 - “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you” (42:5).

Sound Familiar?

- “The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing” (145:15–16). “You visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it... You water its ridges abundantly, You settle its furrows; You make it soft with showers, You bless its growth” (65:9–10). “Living things both small and great...what You give them they gather in; You open Your hand, they are filled with good” (104:25, 27–28).
- “Look at the birds of the air...consider the lilies of the field...” (Matthew 6:26, 28).

God Speaks

- Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge? (What Elihu said—34:35; 35:16). Gird up your loins (prepare yourself) like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer. Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you understand. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! To what were its foundations fastened, or who laid its cornerstone—when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? (38:1–7).

God Speaks

- When the sea came forth from the womb, who placed boundaries on it—who bolted it shut with a door? Who said to the sea, “You may come this far, but no farther; your proud waves must stop here.” Have you ever in your life commanded the morning to come? Have you appointed the time for dawn to appear, the time when light is withheld from the wicked, the time when their upraised arm is broken? (38:8–15).
 - 38:9: “when I made the clouds its garments, and thick darkness its swaddling band”

God Speaks

- Have you ever entered, or walked in the deepest recesses (springs) of the ocean? The gates of death, the doors to the shadow of death—have you seen them? (*Psa. 23:4*). Do you comprehend the breadth or expanse of the earth? Tell me, if you know all this. Can you trace the path of either light or darkness to its home, and could you take them there? **You know, for you were born then, and the number of your days is great (ESV, NASV) (38:16–21).**

God Speaks

- Have you entered the treasuries of snow and hail, which I reserved for time of trouble, for the day of battle and war? (*Josh. 10:11*). By what way is light diffused (distributed over the earth?), or the east wind scattered over the earth? Who made a channel for the flood, a path for the thunderbolt, a path which brings rain even to desolate regions? Does dew and rain have a father, and who gives birth to the ice? (38:22–30).
 - 37:10: “By the breath of God ice is given, and the broad waters are frozen.”

God Speaks

- Can you control, lead, or direct the various constellations (several are named)? Do you know the rules (“ordinances of the heavens”) by which they operate? Can you call to the clouds and have them rain on you? Can you make lightnings your servant (have them say, “here we are”)? Who put wisdom and understanding into the mind? Can you pour out the bottles of heaven and make it rain in drought stricken places (“when the dust hardens into a mass and the clods stick together”—NAS)? (38:31–38).

God Speaks

- Can you hunt prey for the **lioness**, to satisfy the appetite of her young cubs? When a raven's young one's cry to God for help, who feeds them? The **wild mountain goats**—do you know their months of gestation and when they give birth? They deliver healthy offspring, who grow strong, and then leave home never to return. Who set the **wild donkey** free, whose home is the wilderness, who searches through the mountains for every green thing? (38:39–39:8).

God Speaks

- Will the **wild ox** be willing to serve you, bed by your manger, and plow your fields? Could you tame him to the point you could trust him to bring home your grain? The **ostrich** flaps her wings **joyously** (NASV), but lacks wisdom, especially with her young. She lays her eggs on the ground, and leaves them to warm in the dust. She forgets that a foot could easily crush them, making vain all her labors. But when she gets ready to run, she can outrun the horse and its rider (“when she rouses herself to flee, she laughs at the horse and his rider”—ESV) (39:9–18).

God Speaks

- Did you give the **horse** its power? Did you make him fearless, unafraid to charge into battle, despite the danger and the noise of war? Does the **hawk** soar by your wisdom? Did you command the **eagle** to make its nest on high, a point from which it can both be protected and spy out its prey? (39:19–30).
- **Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Let him who reproves God answer it (NASV) (40:1–2).**

Job Answers—Very Briefly

- Behold, I am vile (of small account), how can I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth. I spoke once, even twice, but I will say no more (40:3–5).
- Recall his earlier statements, like this one: “Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, that I might come to His seat! I would present my case before Him, and **fill my mouth** with arguments” (23:4–5).

God Resumes His Speech

- Gird up your loins like a man; I will ask more questions, and you shall answer Me. Would you really annul my judgment? Would you condemn Me to justify yourself? Do you have an arm like God? Can you thunder with a voice like His? Then array yourself with great majesty and splendor (dignity), glory and beauty (*like a king or ruler*). Pour out your wrath on the wicked and proud, and bring them low. I will then confess that your own right hand can save you (40:6–14).

God Resumes His Speech

- Look at the **Behemoth**, which I made as I made you; he eats grass like an ox. See the strength in his loins, the power in his stomach muscles. He moves his tail like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are tightly knit. His bones are like tubes of bronze, his ribs like bars of iron. The mountains yield food for him; in the cover of the reeds and the marsh, lotus trees provide him shade. **Can anyone capture him when he is on watch, with barbs can anyone pierce his nose? (NAS) (40:15–24).**

God Resumes His Speech

- Can you draw out **Leviathan** with a hook? Can you subdue him and have him plead for mercy? Can you make him your servant, or make him a pet for your maidens? Do battle with him and you won't try again. If no one is fierce enough to arouse him, who then can stand against Me? Who has preceded Me (given to Me) that I should repay him? Everything under heaven is Mine (41:1–11).

God Resumes His Speech

- This **Leviathan**—everything about his makeup shows power and strength and fierceness—his outer coat, his face, his teeth, his strong scales, his nostrils, his neck, his heart, and his undersides. Weapons of every variety are powerless against him. On earth there is nothing like him, one made without fear (41:12–34).

Job Answers, Repents

- I know You can do all things, that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. You asked, “Who hides counsel without knowledge?” I said things too wonderful for me; I didn’t know what I was talking about. You said, “Listen and let me speak; I will question, and you will answer.” I heard You with my ears, **but now I see You**. Therefore, I repent; I take back the things I said. I repent in dust and ashes (42:1–6).