

God Responds to Job

His words seem to be a carry over from Elihu's sermon to Job, so begin your reading from chapter 36:22-26 and move forward from there. God begins his speech in chapter 38-41. Listen carefully to what He has to say about Himself.

Chapter 36 & 37 Elihu's great sermon to Job (Read 36:22 -- 37:24)

22 God is exalted in his power. Who is a teacher like him? 23 Who has prescribed his ways for him, or said to him, 'You have done wrong'? 24 Remember to extol his work, which men have praised in song. 25 All mankind has seen it; men gaze on it from afar. 26 How great is God--beyond our understanding! The number of his years is past finding out.

Chapter 38:1-3 "Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me."

1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. He said: 2 "Who is this that **darkens my counsel** with **words without knowledge**?

3 Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me."

Chapter 40:1-2, 6-7 "Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me."

1 The LORD said to Job: 2 "Will the one who **contends** with the Almighty **correct** him? Let him who **accuses** God answer him!" 6 Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm:

7 "Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me."

The rest of these chapters are QUESTIONS (77 questions):

Note that God is using sarcasm in these questions. The best way to study these questions is to go through the chapters underlining each question "Who...What...Were you...Can you?" etc.

Challenge & Correction

The storm!

Brace yourself for my interrogation and questions – 38:1-3

Job darkens counsel without knowledge – 40:1-2, 6-14

Job contends, corrects, condemns, and accuses God

- Creation – earth and heavens – 38:1-38
- Creatures – great and small – 39:39-41, 39:1-30
- Critters – prehistoric creatures – 41:1-34

Job's Confession – 42:1-6

I spoke what I did not know

Now I have seen God

I despise myself and repent

CHAPTER 38 – The Mysteries of Creation and the Universe

- Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? 4
Tell me, if you understand.

- Who marked off its dimensions? 5

Surely you know!

- Who stretched a measuring line across it? 5
- On what were its footings set? 6
- Who laid its cornerstone-- while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? 6
- Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb? 8
- When I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness? 9
- When I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place? 10, 11
- Have you ever given orders to the morning? 12
- Have you shown the dawn its place? 12
- Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea? 16
- Have you walked in the recesses of the deep? 16
- Have the gates of death been shown to you? 17
- Have you seen the gates of the shadow of death? 17
- Have you comprehended the vast expanses of the earth? 18

Tell me, if you know all this.

- What is the way to the abode of light? 19
- Where does darkness reside? 19
- Can you take them to their places? 20
- Do you know the paths to their dwellings? 20
Surely you know, for you were already born! You have lived so many years!
- Have you entered the storehouses of the snow? 22
- Have you seen the storehouses of the hail? 22
- What is the way to the place where the lightning is dispersed? 24
- Where is the place where the east winds are scattered over the earth? 24
- Who cuts a channel for the torrents of rain, and a path for the thunderstorm? 25
- Does the rain have a father? 28
- Who fathers the drops of dew? 28
- From whose womb comes the ice? 29
- Who gives birth to the frost from the heavens? 29
- Can you bind the beautiful Pleiades? 31
- Can you loose the cords of Orion? 31
- Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons? 32
- Do you know the laws of the heavens? 33
- Can you set up God's dominion over the earth? 33
- Can you raise your voice to the clouds and cover yourself with a flood of water? 34
- Do you send the lightning bolts on their way? 35
- Do they report to you, 'Here we are'? 35
- Who endowed the heart with wisdom? 36
- Who gave understanding to the mind? 36
- Who has the wisdom to count the clouds? 37
- Who can tip over the water jars of the heavens? 37
- Do you hunt the prey for **the lioness** and satisfy the hunger of the lions? 39
- Who provides food for **the raven**? 41

CHAPTER 39 – The Mysteries of the Animal Kingdom

- Do you know when **the mountain goats** give birth? 1
- Do you watch when the doe bears her fawn? 1
- Do you count the months till they bear? 2
- Do you know the time they give birth? 2
- Who let the **wild donkey** go free? Who untied his ropes? 5
- Will **the wild ox** consent to serve you? Will he stay by your manger at night? 9
- Can you hold him to the furrow with a harness? 10
- Will he till the valleys behind you? 10
- Will you rely on him for his great strength? 11
- Will you leave your heavy work to him? 11
- Can you trust him to bring in your grain and gather it to your threshing floor? 12
- Is **the ostrich** stupid did not God endow her with wisdom or good sense? 13-17
- Do you give **the horse** his strength or clothe his neck with a flowing mane? 17
- Do you make him leap like a locust, striking terror with his proud snorting? 20
- Does **the hawk** take flight by your wisdom and spread his wings toward the south? 26
- Does **the eagle** soar at your command and build his nest on high? 27

CHAPTER 40 – Do You Think You Are Like God?

1. The LORD said to Job:
2. "Will the one who **contends** with the Almighty **correct** him?
Let him who **accuses** God answer him!"

Then Job answered the LORD:

**"I am unworthy--how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth.
I spoke once, but I have no answer-- twice, but I will say no more."**

6. Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm:
7. "Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.

- Would you discredit my justice? 8
- Would you condemn me to justify yourself? 8
- Do you have an arm like God's? 9
- Can your voice thunder like his? 9

Then adorn yourself with glory and splendor, and clothe yourself in honor and majesty. 10
Unleash the fury of your wrath, look at every proud man and bring him low, 11
look at every proud man and humble him, crush the wicked where they stand. 12
Bury them all in the dust together; shroud their faces in the grave. 13

Then I myself will admit to you that your own right hand can save you. 14

Chapter 40:15-24 – The Behemoth - the Hippopotamus? (Brontosaurus, Diplodocus, Brachiosaurus?)

Look at **the behemoth**, (which I made along with you and which feeds on grass like an ox. 15

- What strength he has in his loins, what power in the muscles of his belly! 16
- His tail sways like a cedar 17
- He is first among the works of God 19
- Can anyone capture him by the eyes, or trap him and pierce his nose? 24

Chapter 41 – Leviathan – A Fire Breathing Dragon?

- Can you pull in the leviathan with a fishhook or tie down his tongue with a rope? 1
- Can you put a cord through his nose or pierce his jaw with a hook? 2
- Will he keep begging you for mercy? Will he speak to you with gentle words? 3
- Will he make an agreement with you for you to take him as your slave for life? 4
- Can you make a pet of him like a bird or put him on a leash for your girls? 5
- Will traders barter for him? Will they divide him up among the merchants? 6
- Can you fill his hide with harpoons or his head with fishing spears? 7

If you lay a hand on him, you will remember the struggle and never do it again! 8

Any hope of subduing him is false; the mere sight of him is overpowering. 9

No one is fierce enough to rouse him. Who then is able to stand against me? 10

- Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me. 11
- Who can strip off his outer coat? Who would approach him with a bridle? 13
- Who dares open the doors of his mouth, ringed about with his fearsome teeth? 14

12. I will not fail to speak of his limbs, his strength and his graceful form.

15. His back has rows of shields tightly sealed together;

16. each is so close to the next that no air can pass between.

17. They are joined fast to one another; they cling together and cannot be parted.

The Leviathan in Scripture – The Fire Breathing Dragon

(Psalm 18:8, 44:19, 74:13, 104:26, Job 7:12, Isaiah 27:1, 51:9, Ezekiel 24:3, 32:2)

18. His snorting throws out flashes of light; his eyes are like the rays of dawn.

19. Firebrands stream from his mouth; sparks of fire shoot out.

20. Smoke pours from his nostrils as from a boiling pot over a fire of reeds.

21. His breath sets coals ablaze, and flames dart from his mouth.

22. Strength resides in his neck; dismay goes before him.

23. The folds of his flesh are tightly joined; they are firm and immovable.

24. His chest is hard as rock, hard as a lower millstone.

25. When he rises up, the mighty are terrified; they retreat before his thrashing.

26. The sword that reaches him has no effect, nor does the spear or the dart or the javelin.

27. Iron he treats like straw and bronze like rotten wood.

28. Arrows do not make him flee; slingstones are like chaff to him.

29. A club seems to him but a piece of straw; he laughs at the rattling of the lance.

30. His undersides are jagged potsherds, leaving a trail in the mud like a threshing sledge.

31. He makes the depths churn like a boiling caldron and stirs up the sea like a pot of ointment.

32. Behind him he leaves a glistening wake; one would think the deep had white hair.

33. **Nothing on earth is his equal-- a creature without fear.**

34. He looks down on all that are haughty; he is king over all that are proud."

End of God's Scolding

Job 42:1-6 – Job’s Response to God

1. Then Job replied to the LORD:
2. *"I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted.*
3. *[You asked,] 'Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.*
4. *["You said,] 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.'*
5. *My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.*
6. *Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."*

Summary of Job’s Response

- I am insignificant (dust, clay)
- I am not the center of the universe.
- I am not in control of anything.
- I know nothing at all.
- I spoke rashly of things beyond me.
- I feel like a fool, I despise myself.
- I repent in deep brokenness.

Other Passages to Explore

Psalm 51 – David’s repentance

Isaiah 55:6-11 – God’s thoughts and ways

Daniel 4:35 – God’s sovereignty

Proverbs 1:7, 3:5-6

He Maketh No Mistake

by A.M. Overton

*My Father's way may twist and turn,
My heart may throb and ache,
But in my soul I'm glad to know,
He maketh no mistake.*