

# JOB

## Chapter-By-Chapter Through The Greatest Poem in Literature

Session 32 | Job 38:1-39:12

### Job 38:1-40:5 | The Lord Speaks to Job, Job Responds

- Job 38:1-3 - The LORD (YHWH) calls Job to the podium.
  - YHWH (sometimes pronounced Yahweh other times Jehovah, but the actual pronunciation is unknown) is the covenant-name of *Elohim*, and is shown by all capital letters. It is also YHWH who spoke to Satan in chapters 1 and 2.
  - The Lord **answered Job out of the whirlwind**, which is likely literal (compare His speech in Exodus 19:19-20, Judges 5:4-5, etc), but could refer more poetically to the *whirlwind of thought* from the book.
  - The Lord asks a question pointed toward Job, **Who is this that darkeneth counsel**, a question related to the plans of God.
    - The question does not condemn Job as sinful, but rather as **without knowledge**.
    - God then challenges Job to **Gird up now thy loins like a man** (a phrase used numerous times in Scripture to refer to readiness for action).
    - The action about to take place is questions of which God will **demand of thee** an answer.
    - This fits perfectly with our scenario of Job representing Israel during the tribulation. Now that the Lord has appeared, judgment is about to ensue. We will expect that Job be judged yet vindicated in the end.
- Job 38:4-7 - God's Wisdom Shown in Creation of the Earth
  - The Lord begins a series of questions that all seek to prove God's wisdom.
  - These verses speak to things still today beyond reach of man's understanding.
  - Of special interest is that the **sons of God shouted for joy** (v. 7) when the Lord **laid the foundations of the earth** (v. 4).
    - Because the phrase **sons of God** is a reference to Angels (see Job 1:6), this means that Angels must have been created *prior to* the **foundations** of the earth, or, at minimum, the **corner stone thereof** (v. 6).
    - This is the strongest argument in support of the Gap Theory held by Scofield and other earlier-era dispensational teachers.
- Job 38:8-11 - God's Wisdom Shown in the Sea
  - These verses seem to describe days 2 and 3 of creation, in which the waters were separated, both the waters *above from below* and then the waters from the dry land.
  - The verses display an authority over the seas, so that their **proud waves** can be stopped and told **Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further** (v. 11).
  - It is no coincidence that the Messiah would calm wind and wave at His command.
- Job 38:12-15 - God's Wisdom Shown in the Morning and the Evening
  - Job is asked if he has **commanded the morning since thy days** (v. 12), turning away darkness (and the evil men who work under its cover).
  - The poem is referring not only to the glory of the dawn, but also a likely allusion to the day of Judgement that will bring light upon wickedness.

- Job 38:16-18 - God's Wisdom Shown in the Depths of the Earth
  - The **springs of the sea** and the **depth** of the earth (v. 16), as well as the **doors of the shadow of death** (v. 17) are largely unknown and unexplored (and, one could surmise from this passage, that they will remain so until the end of this age).
  - These verses show God as knowing that which man only ponders.
- Job 38:19-21 - God's Wisdom Shown in Light and Darkness
  - The creation of light is still a partial mystery by science.
    - "...if an atom has excess energy (i.e., if it is in an excited state), it can get rid of that energy by emitting a photon and changing to a less excited state. The photon will carry an amount of energy essentially equal to the difference in energy between the excited state and the less excited state (minus whatever energy goes into recoil). If you're asking about the mechanism by which the light wave (photon) is generated, you may get answers that range from "Don't ask" to "it just happens".  
<https://physics.stackexchange.com/questions/83487/how-is-light-created#83928>
  - In short, scientists know how to create light, but light itself remains a mystery.
- Job 38:22-30 - God's Wisdom Shown in Forces of Weather
  - As Elihu had previously done (Job 36:27-37:13), the Lord speaks of "natural" weather phenomenon and the manner in which they are beyond human understanding.
- Job 38:31-35 - God's Wisdom Shown in the Skies
  - As Job has done before, in verses 31-32 he makes mention of **Pleiades** and **Orion**, also mentioning the **Mazzaroth** (the zodiac of 12 constellations) and **Arcturus with his sons** (Arcturus is a quickly traveling star with a cluster of 52 additional stars close at hand - the light of this star was used through a telescope and photo-sensor to turn on the lights to begin the 1935 World's Fair in Chicago).
  - The reader is encouraged to see Appendix 12 in The Companion Bible by EW Bullinger for more information on this subject.
  - Job also mentions the **ordinances of heaven**, revealing that there are some *laws* or *statutes* of heaven that are beyond **the dominion** of man (who was given dominion of the earth).
- Job 38:36-38 - Who Can Fully Comprehend God's Wisdom?
  - Because the pattern breaks here from a display of God's wisdom to questions about man's inability to comprehend, this could be taken as the beginning of "part 2" of the Lord's speech to Job.
  - The verses that follow speak more of **the inward parts** than the previous verses, which spoke of God's wisdom in *outward parts*.
- Job 38:39-41 - God's Wisdom Shown in Provision for the Lion and the Raven
  - The "natural instincts" of the lion and raven display the wisdom of God. Consider the great expense and turmoil that man would go through to feed even *one* lion or raven.
- Job 39:1-4 - God's Wisdom Shown in the Birth of Wild Animals
  - The Lord specifically mentions the **wild goats of the rock**, as well as **the hinds** (a small female deer).
- Job 39:5-12 - God's Wisdom Shown in the Freedom of the Wild Animals
  - In verses 5-8 the Lord speaks of the freedom of the wild donkey, in verses 9-12 of **the unicorn**. Note that the Hebrew word דָּרְךְ [reem] is largely untranslatable, and KJV uses *unicorn*.
  - While mocked, the Septuagint uses *monoceros* and the Latin uses *unicornus*.
  - The Young's Literal does not translate ("Is a Reem willing to serve thee?").
  - Other translations speculate with words like *wild ox* (NASB, ESV, etc), though there is another Hebrew word for ox used 79 times in the Hebrew Scriptures. It seems that some type of single-horned animal would be more in view.