

Message #42

Job 40:1-24

As we come to this amazing chapter in the book of Job, I want to remind us that Job is the most godly and most spiritual man on earth by God's assessment (Job 1:8; 2:3). There was no one on earth who loved God more or who was held in any higher esteem in heaven than Job. However, in these chapters, God really rebukes Job and one question we certainly would ask is "Why?" Why is God rebuking Job? The answer to that question is one we need to grasp.

As godly a man as Job was, there had been times when he wanted to debate his case directly with God. What that implies is that his circumstances, his situation, and the negatives of his world weren't right. There were times when he implied he could run things better than God and it was right here in his theology that Job needed to learn a valuable lesson.

Now we may be certain that if Job needed to learn a lesson, we do also. Truth is there have been times in all of our lives when we have probably questioned, criticized or even challenged God.

Isn't it true some have thought "If I were God, I would win the lottery?" Isn't it true that some have thought "If I were God, I would be in charge of the company?" Isn't it true that some have thought "If I were God, I would have been born into a wealthy family?" "If I were God, I would run the weather differently." "If I were God, that wouldn't have happened." Isn't it true we have all challenged God?

The truth is we aren't God and we aren't in any position to criticize God because we have no idea as to all that God is mysteriously doing. It is His world. It is His program. He is perfect and we are not. That is the lesson God wanted Job to learn and that is the lesson we need to learn.

As godly a man as Job was, there had been times when he wanted to debate his case directly with God, implying that his circumstances, his situation, and the negatives of his world weren't right. There were times when he implied that he could run things better than God and it was right here in his theology that Job needed to learn a valuable lesson.

GOD IS IN SOVEREIGN CONTROL OF EVERYTHING WORKING OUT HIS PROGRAM, AND WE ARE IN NO POSITION TO COMPLAIN OR CRITICIZE AGAINST GOD, BUT SHOULD KEEP OUR MOUTHS SHUT AND TRUST GOD.

I so appreciate the words of Dr. Anderson who writes: "Here, if we have rightly found the heart of the theology of the whole book, is a very great depth. There is a rebuke in it for any person who, by complaining about particular events in his life, implies that he could propose to God better ways of running the universe than those God currently uses (Francis I. Anderson, *Job*, p. 287).

You and I are in no position to sovereignly control anything in our lives because we do not know what we actually need. If it were left to us, we would not bring negatives into our world, but God knows we need them.

Death is a penalty for sin and we have all sinned. But who of us would actually follow through and carry out this penalty on a member of our own family? We don't understand justice. We don't understand man or the mysteries of God and we are not in any position to do anything, but trust Him and His sovereignty.

Now this chapter breaks down nicely into three simple parts:

PART #1 – God challenges Job. **40:1-2**

Just based on visible creation, man is totally incompetent to judge the ways of God and I can illustrate the point from our study last week. After we traveled through the verses we traveled through last week, some of our people said, “Well what about this animal or that animal.” Why did God make that animal? Now how in the world would I know? Half the time I can't remember what day it is, so how could I possibly know all God is doing in the animal world.

God says to Job, in view of my care of all things, what man is able to find fault with Almighty God? God basically says “speak up” Job. What man is in a position to contend with God or reprove Him? God has designed all things and cares for all things and just based on visible creation, man is in no position to judge the ways of God.

No man completely understands the physical world or the animal world, so what human is in any position to question God's sovereignty or to criticize? Complaining, murmuring and criticizing has been a great sport of believers in every dispensation. From leadership to provisions, God's people have often taken it to be their responsibility to talk as if they could do a better job than God. Truth is we need to keep our mouths shut. This brings us to Job's response:

PART #2 – Job answers God. **40:3-5**

Think of this point; Job is talking to God. He is actually in the presence of God and starts talking. This time, however, he is beginning to learn what he needs to learn. It is beginning to dawn on Job the lesson that he needs to personally learn. God's discussion with Job about His creation was starting to have a good affect on Job. There are at least four realizations that Job came to as God was speaking:

(Realization #1) - Job was insignificant when compared to God. **40:4a**

(Realization #2) - Job was in no position to even reply to God. **40:4b**

(Realization #3) - Job was shutting his mouth. **40:4c**

(Realization #4) - Job would not say anything further. **40:5**

The lesson Job needed to learn was one of quietly trusting God's sovereignty even when you can't figure out what is happening in your world. That is the same lesson we need to learn.

It doesn't matter how spiritual or big we think we are, when compared to God we are insignificant. J. Vernon McGee used to say if we could see ourselves as God does, we couldn't stand ourselves.

God is governing the entire universe and we are but a speck of dust. We are in no position to question, criticize or challenge God. We need to keep our mouth shut and stop talking in a foolish way. Here is a critical point to learn; the only way some people will shut their mouths is by showing them the vast disparity between the infinite, holy God and sinful, finite man.

SEGMENT #3 – God questions Job. **40:3-24**

Job still was not quite where God wanted him to be, so God asks him another series of questions. Notice that God is speaking out of that whirlwind storm (**40:6; 38:1**). That would be very intimidating because a storm was something Job could not control. Again, God tells him to gird up his loins “like a man” (**40:7**).

Again, we see the critical point directly from God—**when we come to the place where we completely trust God's sovereign greatness, no matter what is happening, we are manly in our spirituality**. People who are manly are not whiners or complainers. They do not murmur about God, they trust God. They totally and completely trust God's sovereignty.

There are two specific subjects about which God questions Job:

Subject #1 - God questions Job concerning His judgments . **40:8-14**

This is an interesting section, which gives us great insight into some of the mysterious things of God. Now **verses 8-9** ask four questions, all of which are designed to make a point to Job:

(Point #1) - Job is in no position to annul any of God's judgments. **40:8a**

The basic idea here is that God asks Job can you really stop anything I am doing?

(Point #2) - Job is in no position to justify himself and condemn God. **40:8b**

The basic idea here is are you actually saying your assessment is right and I am wrong?

We should be very, very careful about what we say about God. It is a very dangerous thing to utter forth foolish words without knowledge.

(Point #3) - Job does not have God's strength. **40:9a**

(Point #4) - Job does not have God's say. **40:9b**

Now **verses 10-14** give us great insight concerning the greatness of God and concerning why God does certain things. God makes a series of statements to Job which say much about God:

(Statement #1) - God has eminence, dignity, honor and majesty as His clothing, Job doesn't.
40:10

(Statement #2) - God is able to humble the proud and destroy the wicked in His anger, Job isn't. **40:11-14**

We get a glimpse in these verses why God does certain things—to humble the proud and destroy the wicked—to bury them, as it were, in places He determines.

I am completely convinced that there are mysterious reasons for even the storms that demolish places. Tornadoes, hurricanes and floods, avalanches, lightning strikes and volcanic eruptions all have their sovereign purposes. Earthquakes, meteor strikes, ice storms, blizzards all come from God and there is nothing any proud and arrogant person can do except stand in awe of the power of God.

God simply says if you can pour out your anger on “everyone” who is proud, God will admit we can deliver ourselves. We are in no position to do something that can cause all the arrogant people to ban together and hide. God will specifically do this in the Tribulation (Rev. 6:15-16).

Subject #2 - God questions Job concerning His beast. **40:15-24**

In **verse 15**, God informs Job that He made Behemoth, just as He made Job. Behemoth, in Hebrew is a plural name for beast. Grammatically this is a plural of excellence. This beast is the first and strongest land beast ever designed by God. There is much speculation concerning this beast. Some say it is a hippo, some say elephant, some say dragon, some say dinosaur and some deny that it was a literal beast. The language would suggest that it was a literal beast.

There are ten specific traits brought out that describe it:

(Trait #1) - This animal is a vegetarian. **40:15b**

(Trait #2) - This animal has a powerful lower body. **40:16**

(Trait #3) - This animal has a huge tail. **40:17a**

(Trait #4) - This animal has huge thighs. **40:17b**

(Trait #5) - This animal has a large and strong bone structure. **40:18**

(Trait #6) - This animal was the first God designed. **40:19**

(Trait #7) - This animal lives deep in the mountains. **40:20**

(Trait #8) - This animal hides in marshy areas. **40:21-22**

(Trait #9) - This animal is not afraid of a raging river. **40:23**

(Trait #10) - This animal cannot be captured. **40:24**

Now let me ask us a couple of questions. Have you ever seen this animal described here? No. Do we even know for sure what it is? No. Does it exist someplace today? We don't know.

That is the point. God is so powerful and sovereign that He has designed a mysterious powerful beast that Job could not possibly even capture and maybe not even see. Obviously, if God can do that, we are in no position to criticize God or question God.

If Job would fear such a powerful beast, he certainly ought to fear the God who made him.

Here is a great point. I want you to think of the animal you fear the most. What animal, if you came face to face with it, would cause you to be afraid? Should we not fear the God who made the animal?