
SG021803

The Whole Counsel of God – Job 38-42

Got questions? Email Pastor Jason at jasonduff7@gmail.com
(You can download this message as a podcast by searching Jason Duff on iTunes)

Introduction & Overview of the Section

The book of Job divides into three sections. The Prologue, (1-2), the Dialogue (3-37) and finally tonight the Monologue (38-42) where God shows up and asks Job 77 questions, that Job can simply not answer. The purpose is to show Job, God is beyond Him and His ways are greater than Job's ways.

God asks Job 77 questions that can be broken down into 3 basic ones

Do you comprehend my creation? (Job 38:1-38)

God begins by laying out for Job the intricacies of His creation. And there is a purposeful sarcasm because the wisdom involved in the creation of the world man simply does not possess. But God asks Job, do you understand it all, were you there, you seem to think and speak like you do!

Can you care for my creation? (Job 38:39-39:30)

God brings up six animals and 5 birds and lays out for Job how they operate in life and are cared for. Then the question is posed to Job, could you do this? You question my wisdom in dealing with you, but do you have the wisdom to deal with all of this?

Can you control my creation? (Job 40:6-41:34)

God then selects two animals at the top of the creation chain; the Behemoth and the Leviathan. (See definitions below) God's point is I have the power and wisdom to control these two magnificent animals. Do you Job? Do you they listen to you, are you able to control them?

In between those basic questions:

Job 40:1-5 – Job's 1st Response

Job 42:1-6 – Job's 2nd Response

Job 42:7-17 – God Restores Job

Definitions

"Onager" (39:5) – a wild donkey

"Behemoth" (40:15) – a large unknown animal

"Leviathan" (41:1) – a large unknown animal

(Some scholars teach these animals to be the hippo and the crocodile; however the text seems to indicate they are unlike any hippo or crocodile we have around today. Some have even suggested these to be biblical references to dinosaurs)

By The Way – "Science and the Bible"

Throughout the book of Job we are given scientific facts, known today by modern man, but at the time of this writing of this book, they were direct insights from God and add to the validity of scripture. Examples:

Job 26:7 – "He hangs the earth on nothing"

Job 26:10 – "He drew a circular horizon on the face of the waters"

Also see Isaiah 40:22 – "He sits above the circle of the earth."

Job 38-42 **God Speaks**

Introduction

The book of Job divides nicely into 3 sections

#1 - The Prologue – Job 1-2

- Where we are introduced to Job, his background and the trials he faced
 - Trials of lost possessions, trials of lost loved ones, trials in his marriage, and trials of his friends
- That leads us to the second section

#2 - The Dialogue – Job 3-37

- Job and 4 friends argue back and forth for 35 chapters concerning the reason Job is suffering
 - Job's friends have this basic premise – God judges sin, God has judged you – therefore you are in sin
 - Job the whole time maintains his innocence and in fact challenges God to come down and show him what he has done wrong
- That leads to the third section

#3 - The Monologue – Job 38-42

- God comes down to speak with Job, not to inform him of what he has done wrong, for God already told us that Job was blameless in chapter one
 - But everybody has been giving their opinion, what they think God is doing and now it is God's turn to talk

God wants to ask Job a few questions

- In chapter 3-37, Job who had been beat down by his quote unquote friends, starts to buy into this idea that God is judging him

So a few times Job says, well I want to question God, I have a few things to ask Him – here is what I would do if I were God

- And haven't we all been there – we are in a trial, in a difficult situation and we start giving God the benefit of our insight
 - "God why are you doing this?" – Why did you make that decision in my life
 - and Job has been doing that a little bit

So God comes to Job, starting in chapter 38 and starts asking Job a few questions of His own

- and basically it's the entrance exam if you want to be God
 - We throw around, "well here is what I would do if I were God", but be careful, because to Job who was saying those things, God says, okay, if you want My job, here is a few things you better be able to answer

It reminds me as a young pastor I got this book Pastoral Ministry by John MacArthur and in the back of the book it has the interview that his board gives pastors before they can be ordained into the ministry – I thought I just graduated BC – let's see...

- and it starts out by saying, "To be ordained, a candidate must be proficient in three areas. Systematic Theology, General Bible Knowledge, and Practical theology"
 - sounds good – so just a few questions in each category...
- Systematic Theology
 - Please define – Bibliology, Anthropology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology, Eschatology, Angelology and Apologetics
 - And then there is about 20 question in each section

Then you have general Bible knowledge

- list all 66 books in order
 - what is the theme, author, date of writing and general outline of every book
 - give dates for the following events and people
 - read from the book
- Then I love, identify these key Bible characters
 - Read from the list

Practical theology

- a list of about 50 counseling and church disciple seniors where you need to know what to do and what Bible passages to use and every one of them is like – I have no idea, pray
 - And I remember reading this list as a young man and just thinking – Lord help me as a pastor
- And now that I have been doing this for almost 15 years, I know a little more, been through a lot of the counseling scenarios, but I still say, Lord help me

By the time we are done - that must have been how Job felt

- God asks Job 77 questions in this God test
 - And by the way – Job can't answer a single one

So we are going to examine each of those 77 questions in great detail – should only take about 3 days

- No??? – you don't want to do that?
 - Why not – what are you guys doing this week
- Well – alright – we can boil down the 77 questions God asks Job to 3 main ones, I want to consider tonight

Three Main Questions God asks Job

#1 – Do you Comprehend My creation? – Job 38:1-38

- The Lord answered Job – which by the way means the Lord was listening to all this talk

It is a sobering reality to consider God hears all of our conversations

- we think somehow, well I only talk about that guy behind his back at home, so it's okay
 - I just murmur to my family

Oh so you exercise Discipline with everyone else, but with your family you throw up your venom all over them – that's a good idea for the spiritual health of your family

- but understand - it is not just your family
 - the Lord hears what you are saying
 - the Lord hears your heart

God heard Job and his friends and His first series of questions back are concerned with God's creation

- God is saying, do you understand any of these things Job???
 - Do you know the measurements of the earth?
 - Were you the one who laid the boundaries for the ocean?
 - Can you tell me where Light comes from?
 - Do you understand the process of snow and hail?
 - Do you understand how I water the biggest garden you can imagine with no help from man
 - Can you control the paths of billions and billions of stars so they don't collide into one another?

- And in an almost sarcastic tone – God is saying to Job, were you there? Do you understand these things? Do you understand how they work???

It is amazing to me to ponder the greatness of God's creation – the book Privileged Planet

- when you begin to understand that we are approximately 93 million miles from the sun and yet if we were just a bit closer or further away – we would burn or freeze

You look at these things that God is asking Job and we today with thousands of years of study are just beginning to understand some of these things

- But man is still scratching his head, trying to understand the properties of light?
 - Still trying to understand the process of snow, hail and rain
 - I mean with all of our technology, how often does the weatherman get it exactly wrong
 - I mean how hard can it be in southern California – cool in the morning and evening and perfect during the day – but they still get it wrong
 - We can't control or even predict the weather
- 2012 Hurricane season was supposed to be light and yet it was the 3rd most destructive in history
 - they can't predict the weather
 - But you know who could tell you everything about next year's hurricane season, and the year after that and 20 years from now – God if He wanted – He understands it all

So He asks Job do you understand the vastness of the universe????

- we are just beginning to get it
 - Our sun – big – 1 million earths could fit inside our sun – huge
 - But our sun in puny
- Antares –512 million suns could fit in Antares – which each hold 1 million earths!!! – not as big
 - Canis Majoris the largest star we have found so far could hold 1.4 billion suns – each holding 1 million earths – Congress size numbers
 - And God holds this all in the span of His hand, these giants rumble through space perfectly

It's Amazing – God says Job do you understand how that all works???

- You see so often we come to God and thinking we understand life, we understand how all things work together and what is happening in our lives just doesn't make sense
 - And if God would just learn from the benefit of our insight – how blessed He would be
- That attitude was what Job had
 - And it's the attitude you and I often have, if we're honest

But what God is trying to show Job, and you and me if we would listen is..

- you don't understand - you don't get it
 - But I do – I have wisdom that you can't even begin to understand
- And wise is the Christian who realizes this, who realizes His ways are higher than my ways, in fact they are beyond my finding out
 - And when life doesn't seem to make sense to my puny mind – there is no reason to be alarmed
- The one who does understand all these things is the one in control – praise the Lord!!!!

Three Main Questions God asks Job

#1 – Do you Comprehend My creation?– Job 38:1-38

#2 – Can you Care for my creation? – Job 38:39-39:30

- God moves from asking Job if he can comprehend His creation, to can you care for My creation
 - God brings up 6 animals
 - The lion, the goat, the deer, the donkey, the ox and the horse
 - And 5 birds
 - The raven, the ostrich, the stork, the hawk, and the eagle

And with each one He speaks about the uniqueness of the animals and what it takes to care for them

- He feeds them, all of them in the wild
 - He is there caring for them as they bring forth young
 - He had different gestation periods for so many of them – you know you would think if animals evolved, we would have evolved a similar gestation period

But they vary greatly

- from some species of opossum which has a gestation period of 12 to 13 days
 - that is crazy – pregnant to mommy in less than two weeks – no wonder we can't get them out of our garage, they multiply too fast
- you have heard they multiply like rabbits, they take a whole month, from pregnancy to baby, no it should be you multiply like opossums – Easter opossums

So you go from a opossum to an African elephant which has a gestation period between 660 to 760 days

- 760 days!!!! is over two years gang
 - Can you image that girls? – you are seven months in and miserable, you can think, at least I'm not an African Elephant, I feel like an African Elephant but at least I'm not with a year and 5 months to go!!!!

God cares for the animals in His creation and...

- He uses the animals to care for His creation
 - So amazing the process of pollenization by bees and how God designed the bees to have the pollen stick to their legs and then drop off at the next flower – it amazes me
- Truly as it says in Psalm 14, **“The fool says in his heart there is no God” – Psalm 14:1**

It is the fool who looks at God's creation and the care He has for it – and says, random chance, there is no God

We were at the San Diego Zoo and the tour bus driver was speaking about how the giraffes have adapted long necks over the years to reach their food source. And I wonder – what did they eat for centuries? Food lower – then why did they adapt to get the higher food???

- I remember when my wife and I we were learning about the process of birth when Christy was pregnant with Haley and the lady was informing us how the baby is living in this water pocket – and I asked why don't they drown. I guess how do they breathe would have been a better question, I wanted to know how they don't drown, and she began to describe how there is this flap over the lungs and the minute air hits it, it flaps open, never to unflap again so kids can breathe once they are born
 - How many generations did it take to figure that out

- Its amazing the care that God has for His creation

He tells Job about the ostrich and how it's not the smartest of birds, leaving its eggs to be trampled on

- Yet God takes care of it
 - An animal after animal after animal
 - Every part of God's creation – God has a providential care over

And I'm camping out here because just like we go before the Lord thinking we know everything, which is obvious that we don't

- so too we come before the Lord worried about His care of our lives

Especially when we are going through trials like Job

I remember thinking - God I'm out planting this church now. My income isn't as steady as when I was a youth pastor, now my diabetes medicine, it's not cheap – do you understand??? Do you get what will happen, next month if you don't take care of things??

- no – I maintain the entire ostrich population even though every single one of the them are dead beat parents but your case – what am I going to do???

Jesus speaking to His disciples in Matthew Chapter 6 said,

"Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" – Matthew 6:25-26

- Jesus explains to them – you don't have to worry about the basic issues of life
 - And He gives them reason – they are not to worry because that is what the unbelievers do, they are not to worry because life is more than that - But thirdly they are not worry because God is going to take care of it

Look at the birds

- You don't see them all stressed out, "oh no, where is the next worm coming from, oh now, will I find the supplies to build my nest – oh no"
 - You don't see it – why
 - They internalize it – they are very stressed out
- No – they know innately God will care for them
 - And then Jesus says, "are you not more valuable than them?"

Do you hear the Lord on this???

- I know the Peta groups are out there saying, eating eggs is just like abortion – animal and man are just the same, no difference
 - I'm sorry – I think we need to care for God's creation – but you are not the same as a bird – you are apple of God's eye, His masterpiece

And as Job sat there feeling like God didn't care at all and all was lost

- the Lord is trying to get him to see that He cares for even the most insignificant member of His creation
 - and that teaches us how much more God cares for you and me
 - He cares for them, He provides for them
- Friend – He will do the same for you – I promise – In fact God's Word promises and you can count on that
 - Even if you don't see or understand how!!!

- Do you comprehend my creation?
- Can you care for my creation?

Job responds in 40:1-5 (read it)

- I am vile, who am I to question You, to doubt You
 - I have nothing to say....
 - Good – one more set of questions for you Job

Three Main Questions God asks Job

#1 – Do you Comprehend My creation – Job 38:1-38

#2 – Can you Care for my creation? – Job 38:39-39:30

#3 – Can you Control my creation? – Job 40:6-41:34

- Job had come to the place where He was questioning God's control on things
 - And humbly we understand – with the limited knowledge Job had about what was happening
- To him there was only two possibilities

#1 - That God was in control and was punishing him without reason or #2 - Or God wasn't in control

- And Job was leaning in this direction
 - So God has a few more questions for Job

And in doing so God brings up 2 specific animals, Behemoth and Leviathan

- and God describes the greatness of these creatures
 - now before we go any further – what are these two creatures – none of us have been to the zoo to visit Behemoth, so what is that
- If you have a study Bible – It probably says in the margin a hippo and a crocodile
 - Now, might be – Damian Kyle
 - If it is – God is using some very poetic language, because I have seen hippo, and crocs at the zoo
- I wouldn't describe a hippo's tail as a cedar tree, nor could the Jordan flow into his mouth
 - And I have never seen a croc breathing fire, or seemed if you filled him with spears and swords that it would phase him

Personally – I believe God is bringing up to Job an animal that was alive at his time, but is currently extinct

- a type of animal you and I would call a dinosaur
 - but believing that brings up some interesting points

Of course Modern Science, which we talked about earlier teaches that dinosaurs lived millions of years before man was on the scene

- But the reality is there is actually much evidence to the contrary
 - They have found fossilized human tracks inside, fossilized dinosaur tracks in Texas - picture
- They have found cave paints with what is clearly dinosaurs portrayed – picture set #02

So I personally believe they existed at the same time as Man, I believe if these are dinosaurs mentioned here, that would mean they were on the ark, and lived after that

- on the ark??? – would they fit???
 - Well – you wouldn't bring full grown ones, babies will do as long as you get a blue and a pink one
- Well if they were on the ark, why are they not around today???

Well, I think two things happened to the dinosaurs after the flood

- number one – the world after the flood was a much different place
 - we have talked about a water canopy covering the world – helping man live longer
 - it would have also impacted the oxygen content, it would have been far richer concentration

Interesting – many dinosaur bones science have a real problem with because their nostrils were so small, there is no way they could have provided enough oxygen for their body size, with current oxygen concentration in the atmosphere today

- They would spontaneously combust from the friction of sucking in the air

The world was a differently place after the flood

- man's lifespan went down drastically, and no doubt there were some species of animals who simply could not exist in the new world

Another thing I believe happened to the dinosaurs after the flood was they were hunted by man

- on those cave pictures of dinosaurs that is exactly what is portrayed
 - sometimes they were successful, sometimes they weren't

But it is man's natures to rid his home from things that are harmful to his health

when we first moved to Texas our neighbor was an ardent libertarian, the minute I went to meet him he was very concerned that I was from California so he started telling me the government is trying to take our rights – and of course I played along, really what rights have they taken away

- they made me get ride of my cougar – excuse me??? – my cougar, I used to have a pet Mountain lion and the city made me get ride of it
- And I told him, hey I'm not liberal, but I am actually glad with my little tiny kids at the time, that you don't have a cougar in your back yard
 - Are you Kidding me
 - I didn't want it, because I wanted my family safe

Man has always felt that way

- So I believe it was a combination of these two things that happened to the dinosaurs
 - But I believe there were some still around at the time of Job and Abraham
 - And I believe this is what God is describing to Job

And His point is this – “can you control these animals, do they listen to you?”

- no – you can do very little about them
 - but they obey my commands – they are obedient Christian dinosaurs – just kidding

It reminds me of the Christian bear...

There was a man walking in the woods, and all of a sudden he was confronted by this rather large bear. And the bear began to chase him and eventually knocked him over. And as the man sat there, about to be devoured, he began to pray, “God, please make this bear a Christian bear, please God, please God – and then miracle of all miracles, God answered his request. The man heard the bear begin to speak, “Lord thank you for this food, you have provided for me...” – not a true story ☺

The point – thought these weren't Christian dinosaurs, they did not thank God for their food, they were under the control of God

- and God is wanting Job to see this

- Job has accused the Lord of not being in control, because Job could not rationalize how God could be and still love Him and want to care for Him

But instead of answering Job's questions, when you boil it down all God does it gives Job a greater revelation of who He is - Something God doesn't do is explain to Job why

- He doesn't explain why Job is going through what He is going through
 - That is what Job asked in chapters 3-38 over and over again – and that was what Job asked for

And this surprises me – because God has really good reasons

- I mean we can look at this story and see what God could have said to him
 - I was bragging about you Job to Satan
 - He accused you of being a mercenary instead of a missionary
 - I knew your heart and so I told Him to take away everything, I knew you would stand for Me
 - And now Job I am going to restore you and for generations people of God will be encouraged
- God could have given Job a great list of reason

But instead God just gives Him a greater revelation of Himself so Job could see God was worthy of His trust

- why???? – Well because we think we need an explanation – why is that happening to me, why is this happening in my life? –

But God knows an explanation will usually just lead to more questions

- most of us, if we were given an explanation would respond, well I see what you are saying God, but why would you do those things that way
 - explanations just bring on more questions

We really need is a greater revelation of who Jesus is

- and that is what happens, [look at chapter 42...](#)

Job goes from saying to God for 35 chapters, “God you come down and answer me, I disagree with the way You are running things to verse 5 of chapter 42, “I have heard You with the hearing of the ear, but now I have seen You... and I abhor myself...

- Job tells us he goes from hearing about God, having a relationship that is primarily up in his heart to seeing God
 - And the word there is interesting – it is far more than a visual encounter
 - To see means to perceive, to comprehend, to understand

God reveals himself to Job, Job gets a good look, and begins to comprehend, begins to understand who God is, verses who he (Job) is

- And when it hits, - he is never the same
 - He repents and submits to the sovereignty of God in his life – and its why we need it too

Revelation of the Lord

#1 - It stops the worrying

- I see how capable God is in caring for His creation – the birds of the air, I realize He cares for me – and I realize He has this
 - I was watching my dog the other night, head hanging over the coach, no worries and why would she – we take care of her

At the time I was worrying about something else, because that is what I do

- and God just convicted my heart
 - that dog isn't worried, because she knows you always take care of her

- are you better at that than Me – have you ever lacked

You know if my kids started saying to me, Dad, I don't know what we are going to do for food next week

- Dad what are we going to do for clothes or a place to live
 - I would say – why are worried about that, have I ever given you any cause to worry about those things
- And the Lord was ministering to my heart and yet you are sinner
 - How much more am I worthy of trust
- And friends this is not just a feel good issue
 - It is actually a sin to worry
 - Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 7 not to worry
 - Paul told the Philippians to be anxious about nothing
 - When we do – let's not sugar coat it, it is sin and it needs to be repented of
- But the way I deal with it in my heart is not more explanation from the Lord – “here is how I am going to take care of you”
 - If He did – we would respond, well I don't know about that plan, that sounds scary
- What I need is more revelation of who He is

Revelation of the Lord

#1 - It stops the worrying

#2 - It stops the complaining

Job spends 35 chapters asking – why do bad things happen to good people? I am justified, why would God do this to me

- But when He truly sees who God is and by comparison who he is, Job realizes, I am not good – I am vile
 - The fact anything good happens to me is just grace
- And even when trials do come – I realize they are not punishment for – they are to grow me, so its all grace – thank you
 - And the complaining of why me, it stops, not when God answers all my questions, but when I receive more revelation of who He is

Revelation of the Lord

#1 - It stops the worrying

#2 - It stops the complaining

#3 - It stops the questioning

- Don't misunderstand me, when I honestly say to the Lord, I don't understand what You are doing, please speak to me, please give me wisdom, I need help
 - That is fine, church
 - But most of us, that is not how we question the Lord
 - We question Him like He is on trial and we are judge and jury
- And not even an explanation from Him would stop that, no – we need Revelation and when we do, we realize
 - Lord I wasn't there to help You create the universe, and I don't help You run it
 - I don't understand what You are doing in my life or how it is all going to work out

But I understand that You are sufficient, you are capable, and I want to get out of the way, to stop carrying burdens I wasn't meant to carry and let you be God in my life

You do realize precious ones there is no vacancy at the God job right now

- He is not looking for interns to raise up to replace Him

- We act like He is
- The God job is filled
- So don't try to be Him, replace Him, put Him on trial, question Him
 - Just ask what Paul asked Him
 - Lord who are You – I need more revelation
 - And what do You want me to do – I need more direction

And Job gets to that point, and as soon as he does – God blesses him

- He gives him double the sheep, double the camels, double the servants and double the kids
 - Hold on – he is only given 10 kids, oh but understand how many did he have originally – 10 and now he has 20
 - Because Job's kids are not gone – they were waiting for him in heaven
- And if you have lost a love one in the Lord – but comforted that person is not gone – they are very much alive
 - Double the possession, double the family – blessings, blessings, blessings

And the lesson for you and me is this

- We will always be faced with that we don't understand
 - But do we trust God enough that He is able?
 - Then let go, let go of the worry, let go of the complaining, let go of the desire to put God on trial
 - Let God be God and you, you will not always get double back, but you will be blessed!!!