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God Answers Job (II)

JOB 40:6-42:17

Introduction

1. Tonight, we come to God's final address to Job.
2. As we noticed last week in God's first address to Job . . .
 - a. He didn't give Job answers to his questions.
 - b. He didn't tell Job why He has been silent for so long.
 - c. God also didn't share with Job what has been going on between Him and Satan behind the scenes.
 - d. He didn't acknowledge Job's struggles (i.e., "I know it has been difficult for you with all you have been through.")
10. Instead, He asked Job two questions.
 - a. The first question pertained to God's creation of the inanimate world (i.e., the earth, the seas, the sun, rain, hail and frost, heavens and clouds (Job 38:1-38)
 - b. The second question focused on God's creation of various animals in God's creation, their characteristics and how He cares for them ((Job 38:39-39:30)
11. When God had finished, Job confessed that he had spoken without knowledge.
12. Now in His final address to Job (Job 40:6-41:34) God selects two of His greatest creatures — Behemoth and Leviathan — and asks Job if he can subdue them.
13. If Job can succeed in subduing them, then he would be qualified to execute judgment.

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I. God Addresses Job Again

A. GOD'S SECOND CALL TO JOB (40:6-9)

“Then the Lord answered Job out of the storm and said,

“Now gird up your loins like a man;

I will ask you, and you instruct Me.

“Will you really annul My judgment?

Will you condemn Me that you may be justified?

“Or do you have an arm like God,

And can you thunder with a voice like His?”

(Job 40:6-9, NASB95)

1. God begins His second address to Job in the way He did with His first address:

“Now gird up your loins like a man;

I will ask you, and you instruct Me.”

2. God then asks Job two questions which drive at the heart of the issue:

a. “Will you really annul My judgment? — Apparently, Job had become so carried away in defending his own righteousness that tried to void God’s judgment.

b. “Will you condemn Me that you may be justified?”

3. With His final question, God asks Job . . .

a. Do you have power comparable to Mine so that you can dispense perfect justice?

b. Do you have a voice like mine so that you can command the execution of your judgment?

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B. GOD CHALLENGES JOB TO ASSUME THE ROLE OF JUDGE (40:10-14)

“Adorn yourself with eminence and dignity,
And clothe yourself with honor and majesty.
“Pour out the overflowings of your anger,
And look on everyone who is proud, and make him low.
“Look on everyone who is proud, and humble him,
And tread down the wicked where they stand.
“Hide them in the dust together;
Bind them in the hidden place.
“Then I will also confess to you,
That your own right hand can save you.”

(Job 40:10–14, NASB95)

1. With these words God is saying, “Job, if you think you can do a better job than Me, then take over!”
2. “When you can humble the proud, tread down the wicked, and bury them in the dust, then I will confess that you can save yourself.”

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II. Behemoth

A. HIS STRENGTH AND POWER (40:15-18)

“Behold now, Behemoth, which I made as well as you;
He eats grass like an ox.
“Behold now, his strength in his loins
And his power in the muscles of his belly.
“He bends his tail like a cedar;
The sinews of his thighs are knit together.
“His bones are tubes of bronze;
His limbs are like bars of iron.”

(Job 40:15–18, NASB95)

1. Some read God's description of Behemoth and want us to think that his is an imaginary creature.
2. However, God reminded Job that Behemoth was a part of His creation, just, as real as Job himself.
3. Others read God's description of Behemoth and suggest that it is either the hippopotamus or the elephant.
4. However, there are aspects of Behemoth which do not describe either the elephant or the hippopotamus.
5. Neither of them can be described as bending or moving their tail like a cedar.
 - a. The cedars described in Scripture are noted for their height, strength and majesty.
 - b. The tails of the elephant and hippopotamus are tiny.
6. The description better applies to a dinosaur which very likely existed in Job's day but is now extinct.

4a

B. HIS HABITS (40:19-24)

“He is the first of the ways of God;
Let his maker bring near his sword.
“Surely the mountains bring him food,
And all the beasts of the field play there.
“Under the lotus plants he lies down,
In the covert of the reeds and the marsh.
“The lotus plants cover him with shade;
The willows of the brook surround him.
“If a river rages, he is not alarmed;
He is confident, though the Jordan rushes to his mouth.
“Can anyone capture him when he is on watch,

With barbs can anyone pierce his nose?"

(Job 40:19-24, NASB95)

1. When God says that the Behemoth is "the first of the ways of God," the Hebrew word for first refers to size, mass, weight, force or strength.
2. Whereas a hippo weights three to four tons, and an elephant weighs five to seven tons, a dinosaur known as the Argentinosaurus weighed 80-100 tons.
3. The femur in another dinosaur known as the Apatosaurus was as tall as a six-foot man.
4. Neither the hippo nor the elephant lie down in the reeds and the marsh.
 - a. The hippo seeks deeper water.
 - b. The elephant goes into the forest during the heat of day.
5. Several of our brethren with Apologetics Press argue that this was most likely some type of dinosaur which is now extinct.
6. God's point in His description of the Behemoth is that this is such a massive and powerful creature that . . .
 - a. No one can "capture him when he is on watch" (v. 24).
 - b. Only "his maker (God) can bring near his sword" (v. 19) in order to bring Him down.

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III. Leviathan

A. AN UNCONQUERABLE CREATURE (JOB 41:1-11)

"Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook?

Or press down his tongue with a cord?

"Can you put a rope in his nose

Or pierce his jaw with a hook?

“Will he make many supplications to you,
Or will he speak to you soft words?
“Will he make a covenant with you?
Will you take him for a servant forever?
“Will you play with him as with a bird,
Or will you bind him for your maidens?
“Will the traders bargain over him?
Will they divide him among the merchants?
“Can you fill his skin with harpoons,
Or his head with fishing spears?
“Lay your hand on him;
Remember the battle; you will not do it again!
“Behold, your expectation is false;
Will you be laid low even at the sight of him?
“No one is so fierce that he dares to arouse him;
Who then is he that can stand before Me?
“Who has given to Me that I should repay him?
Whatever is under the whole heaven is Mine.”

(Job 41:1-11, NASB95)

1. As with the Behemoth, translators have also struggled with the identity of the Leviathan.
2. The Hebrew word which is translated as Leviathan is found six times in five verses in the Old Testament (Job 3:8; 41:1; Psalm 74:14, 104:26; Isaiah 27:1 (2)).
3. Many of our Bibles and commentaries will identify this creature as the salt water crocodile, but again too many items utilized by God in His description of this creature do not fit.
3. God begins by describing the inability of man to capture Leviathan.

4. However, crocodiles have been hunted for thousands of years.
5. Notice what God has said of him:
 - a. He cannot be captured by fishhook (v. 1).
 - b. Weapons are ineffective against him (v. 7).
 - c. No human can tame him (v. 8).

5a

B. HIS MIGHTY STRENGTH (JOB 41:12-17)

“I will not keep silence concerning his limbs,
Or his mighty strength, or his orderly frame.
“Who can strip off his outer armor?
Who can come within his double mail?
“Who can open the doors of his face?
Around his teeth there is terror.
“His strong scales are his pride,
Shut up as with a tight seal.
“One is so near to another
That no air can come between them.
“They are joined one to another;
They clasp each other and cannot be separated.”

(Job 41:12-17, NASB95)

1. His body is impenetrable (vv. 13-17).
2. His teeth are sharp (v. 14).
3. His back is made of rows of shields so closely joined together that nothing can penetrate his skin (vv. 15-17).

5b

C. THE FEAR SOME FIRE HE BREATHES (JOB 41:18-21)

“His sneezes flash forth light,
And his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning.
“Out of his mouth go burning torches;
Sparks of fire leap forth.
“Out of his nostrils smoke goes forth
As from a boiling pot and burning rushes.
“His breath kindles coals,
And a flame goes forth from his mouth.”

(**Job 41:18-21, NASB95**)

1. This creature breathes fire.
2. He causes water to boil.
3. Is this impossible to believe?
 - a. An electric eel can produce 500 volts of static electricity that can kill a grown human being.
 - b. A bombardier beetle can fire a chemical “bomb” that explodes from its body at 212 °F.

5c

C. HIS IMPREGNABLE ARMOR (JOB 41:22-24)

“In his neck lodges strength,
And dismay leaps before him.
“The folds of his flesh are joined together,
Firm on him and immovable.
“His heart is as hard as a stone,
Even as hard as a lower millstone.”

(Job 41:22-24, NASB95)

5d

D. THE FEAR HE CAUSES (JOB 41:25-34)

“When he raises himself up, the mighty fear;
Because of the crashing they are bewildered.
“The sword that reaches him cannot avail,
Nor the spear, the dart or the javelin.
“He regards iron as straw,
Bronze as rotten wood.
“The arrow cannot make him flee;
Slingstones are turned into stubble for him.
“Clubs are regarded as stubble;
He laughs at the rattling of the javelin.
“His underparts are like sharp potsherds;
He spreads out like a threshing sledge on the mire.
“He makes the depths boil like a pot;
He makes the sea like a jar of ointment.
“Behind him he makes a wake to shine;
One would think the deep to be gray-haired.
“Nothing on earth is like him,
One made without fear.
“He looks on everything that is high;
He is king over all the sons of pride.””

(Job 41:25–34, NASB95)

1. When he raises up, the mighty are afraid (v. 25).
2. Not a single weapon can harm him (vv. 26, 28-29).
3. No creature on earth is like him (v. 33).
4. Water does not boil when crocodiles pass through the sea (v. 31)
5. He is king over all the other creatures (v. 34).

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IV. The Final Chapter

A. JOB'S CONFESSION (JOB 42:1-6)

“Then Job answered the Lord and said,
“I know that You can do all things,
And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.
‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’
“Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand,
Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.”
‘Hear, now, and I will speak;
I will ask You, and You instruct me.’
“I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear;
But now my eye sees You;
Therefore I retract,
And I repent in dust and ashes.””

(Job 42:1-6, NASB95)

1. Job readily admitted that his attitude and words had hidden God's plan.
2. God's ways were too high and incomprehensible for Job.
3. Job asked God to inform him in those matters in which he was ignorant.
4. You and I may read a great truth, but until we have experienced it firsthand we do not fully comprehend it.

6a

B. GOD'S DISPLEASURE WITH JOB'S FRIENDS (JOB 42:7-9)

“It came about after the Lord had spoken these words to Job, that the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, because you have not spoken of Me what is right as My servant Job

has. "Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, and go to **My servant Job**, and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves, and **My servant Job** will pray for you. For I will accept him so that I may not do with you according to your folly, because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as **My servant Job** has." So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did as the Lord told them; and the Lord accepted Job."

(Job 42:7-9, NASB95)

1. God was angry with Job's three friends because they had not spoken the truth about Him.
2. However, in His mercy, He offered them the opportunity for restoration.
3. They were to take "seven bulls and seven rams" to Job so that he could offer them up on their behalf.
4. Job would then pray for them and God would accept his prayer on their behalf.
5. Notice that four times God refers to Job as His servant.

6b

C. JOB'S FORTUNES RESTORED (JOB 42:10-17)

"The Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends, and the Lord increased all that Job had twofold. Then all his brothers and all his sisters and all who had known him before came to him, and they ate bread with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the adversities that the Lord had brought on him. And each one gave him one piece of money, and each a ring of gold. The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had 14,000 sheep and 6,000 camels and 1,000 yoke of oxen and 1,000 female donkeys. He had seven sons and three daughters. He named the first Jemimah, and the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. In all the land no women were found so fair as Job's daughters; and their father gave them inheritance

among their brothers. After this, Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons and his grandsons, four generations. And Job died, an old man and full of days." (*Job 42:10-17*, NASB95)

1. God restored all the fortunes of Job and increased all that he owned twofold:
 - a. In place of the 7,000 sheep he lost, he gained 14,000.
 - b. His 3,000 camels were replaced with 6,000.
 - c. Instead of 500 yoke of oxen, he now had 1,000.
 - d. His 500 female donkeys were replaced with 1,000.
2. He and his wife had ten more children — seven sons and three daughters.
3. His daughters were more fair than all the women in the land.
4. Job lived another 140 years (perhaps 210 total).
5. During that time, he saw sons, grandsons, great grandsons and great great grandsons.

Conclusion

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1. I want you to notice the last statement in the book which bears Job's name: "And Job died, an old man and full of days" (*Job 42:17*).
2. Permit me to share with you something I read in book by Charles Swindoll on the book of Job

"There's a Jewish proverb that says, "For the ignorant, old age is winter; for the learned, it is a harvest." As age stacks up, you will find that because you have kept yourself alert and alive, you will continue to see life through new eyes. Step up! Stay engaged in life! Don't succumb to feelings of self pity! "As soon as you feel too old to do a thing, go out and do it. As soon as you feel critical, say something kind in a kindly way. As soon as you feel neglected, send a cheery note to a friend."