

NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOES

A study of the lives of Joseph, Jonah, and Job

Job - Chapters 38-40

Lesson 11

"The storm that Elihu had been describing in Job 37 finally broke, and God spoke to Job out of the storm. The answer to Job's problems was not an explanation about God, such as the three friends and Elihu had given, but a revelation of God. The four men had declared and defended the greatness of God but had failed to persuade Job. When God displayed His majesty and greatness, it humbled Job and brought him to the place of silent submission before God. That was the turning point." *Warren Wiersbe*

OBSERVATION: Read Job 38

1. Read Job 38 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark the personal pronouns *you/your* as they refer to *Job*.

Key Words: *God* and *Job* (if you choose to, mark the uses of the word *who* as if refers to *God*)
3. The contrasting word *but* is used in verse 11. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.

READ JOB 38

1. After the five men had finished spouting their wisdom to one another, *the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind*. He answered with a series of 77 questions. Before He asked questions, many of which He is the answer, what question did He ask in verse 2?
 - a. What are some examples you have seen in Job of *darkening counsel by words without knowledge* (masking the ways of God rather than exposing them)?

- 1.) What are your thoughts when you consider God's reaction to this type of reasoning?
2. Job had longed for an opportunity to question God. What did God say He would do? verse 3
 - a. What questions have you desired to ask God in times of pain or distress?
 - 1.) God has answered some of our own questions by revealing truths to us that we were not seeking at the time. What are some truths from God's word that maybe have not given you answers, but have taken away your questions?
3. In Job 38:4-7, God spoke of His creation comparing Himself to a master builder. Imagine the greatest builder the world has ever known being given the assignment of building the earth. List a few of God's building abilities that no man has.
 - a. What did the *morning stars* and *all the sons of God* do when God *laid the cornerstone*?
 - 1.) Considering that they *sang* and *shouted for joy*, they probably had not given God any advice as to how to create. What lesson can we learn from this?
4. In Job 38:8-11 God called Job to consider His creative powers over the sea. What did God do?
 - a. Have you ever thought about trying to *stop* a wave? Even with the best of resources, a wave could only be contained by a dam. Describe the power that can limit the ocean.
5. Scan verses 12-21 and list three questions God asked; briefly comment on them.
6. According to verse 23, what has God done with some of the *hail*?
 - a. Read Revelation 16:20,21 and record what God did with some of the *hail* that He *reserved*. Challenge: find other instances in Scripture when God used *hail* for *times of trouble*.

1.) What is your response when you read verses that compliment other verses in the Bible?

7. Reflect upon God's questions in Job 38:34. Man cannot command it to rain. What are some other things that man cannot command, yet God can?

8. What two questions did God ask in Job 38:36?

a. Record the words of Psalm 51:6.

b. Since this statement is true, why do you think Christians often lean on their own understanding, wisdom, and experience?

c. What do you cherish about the *wisdom* God gives?

OBSERVATION: Read Job 39

1. Read Job 39 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark the personal pronouns *you/your* as they refer to *Job*.

Key Words: *God* and *Job* (if you choose to, mark the uses of the word *who* as it refers to *God*)

3. The contrasting word *but* is used in verse 13. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 39

1. Man cannot create or measure as God does. He also cannot oversee creation as God does. Using the following chart, list the things God does for different creatures.

Creature

God's Knowledge, Care, Design

mountain goats, deer, bears

wild donkeys, onagers

Creature

God's Knowledge, Care, Design

wild ox

ostrich

horses

hawk

eagle

2. Read again God's comments about the *ostrich* in verses 13-18. God has *deprived* the *ostrich* of *wisdom*, yet she *waves* her seemingly useless *wings* *proudly*. What does Genesis 1:31 teach us about God's response to everything that He made?

- a. What does this tell you about the creation and design of even the *ostrich*?

3. What are your thoughts as you consider God's questions in this chapter?

OBSERVATION: Read Job 40

1. Read Job 40 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and personal pronouns *you/yourself* as they refer to *Job*.

Key Words: *God* and *Job*

3. The contrasting words *yet* and *but* occur three times in Job 40. Mark the word. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.

Read Job 40

1. As the months of Job's distress passed, it seemed to Job that God was neither watching or caring about what was happening to him. He longed for a chance to challenge God for the way He was treating him. What two things did God accuse Job of doing in verse 1?
2. Rather than *correct* God, Job responded in humility. Write his words as recorded in verses 3-5.
 - a. Considering the previous two chapters, what do you think God said that caused Job to realize his *vileness* and no longer want to *contend* with God as he had before?
3. What two questions did God ask Job in verse 8?
 - a. Record the words of Isaiah 14:27.
 - 1.) Ponder the words of God. Which ones would you choose to annul?
 - a.) How does this challenge you when you are tempted to doubt His ways?
 - b. List some synonyms for the word *condemn*.
 - 1.) Record the words of Romans 3:4.
 - a.) Throughout Job's questioning of God, it could be said that he seemed more concerned with the defense of *his own* integrity rather than God's. How does this challenge you when you are tempted to think you are right and God is wrong?
4. Reflect upon God's invitation to Job to pass judgment on others in verses 9-13. God had challenged Job's *knowledge, his wisdom, and his power*. Here God provokes Job to sit in God's seat of judgment and right the wrongs of the earth. Many of us have flippantly said we would like that privilege. What mistakes might you make if you were in that place?
5. Job 40 closes with God's call to Job to *look now at the behemoth*. It is not known what the *behemoth* was. What can we know about this creature from Job 40?

a. God seemed to question Job that if he could not control a creature like the *behemoth*, what right did he have to sit in God's seat? Write the last phrase of verse 19.

1.) Job apparently understood that the *behemoth* was unapproachable by all but God. Why do you think God used the example of this mighty creature in His questioning of Job?

REVIEW: Job 38-40

1. What is your impression of God's response to Job?

2. Why do you think this revelation of God quieted Job's questions when his friends' explanation about God failed?

3. Job's response in Job 40:5 was to say, *I will proceed no further*. Take a moment and *proceed further*, not with challenges for God, but with praise by listing a few things that you have discovered about His power and care.

*O LORD, how manifold are Your works!
In wisdom You have made them all.
The earth is full of Your possessions--
- Psalm 104:24*

Observation Worksheet

Job 38

¹ Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: ² "Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge? ³ Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. ⁴ "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. ⁵ Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶ To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, ⁷ when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? ⁸ "Or who shut in the sea with doors, when it burst forth and issued from the womb; ⁹ when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band; ¹⁰ when I fixed My limit for it, and set bars and doors; ¹¹ when I said, 'This far you may come, but no farther, and here your proud waves must stop!' ¹² "Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, ¹³ That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? ¹⁴ It takes on form like clay under a seal, and stands out like a garment. ¹⁵ From the wicked their light is withheld, and the upraised arm is broken. ¹⁶ "Have you entered the springs of the sea? Or have you walked in search of the depths? ¹⁷ Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death? ¹⁸ Have you comprehended the breadth of the earth? Tell Me, if you know all this. ¹⁹ "Where is the way to the dwelling of light? And darkness, where is its place, ²⁰ that you may take it to its territory, that you may know the paths to its home? ²¹ Do you know it, because you were born then, or because the number of your days is great? ²² "Have you entered the treasury of snow, or have you seen the treasury of hail, ²³ which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war? ²⁴ By what way is light diffused, or the east wind scattered over the earth? ²⁵ "Who has divided a channel for the overflowing water, or a path for the thunderbolt, ²⁶ to cause it to rain on a land where there is no one, a wilderness in which there is no man; ²⁷ to satisfy the desolate waste, and cause to spring forth the growth of tender grass? ²⁸ Has the rain a father? Or who has begotten the drops of dew? ²⁹ From whose womb comes the ice? And the frost of heaven, who gives it birth? ³⁰ The waters harden like stone, and the surface of the deep is frozen. ³¹ "Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, or loose the belt of Orion? ³² Can you bring out Mazzaroth in its season? Or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs? ³³ Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you set their dominion over the earth? ³⁴ "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, that an abundance of water may cover you? ³⁵ Can you send out lightnings, that they may go, and say to you, 'Here we are!?' ³⁶ Who has put wisdom in the mind? Or who has given understanding to the heart? ³⁷ Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can pour out the bottles of heaven, ³⁸ when the dust hardens in clumps, and the clods cling together? ³⁹ "Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, ⁴⁰ when they crouch in their dens, or lurk in their lairs to lie in wait? ⁴¹ Who provides food for the raven, when its young ones cry to God, and wander about for lack of food?

Job 39

¹ "Do you know the time when the wild mountain goats bear young? Or can you mark when the deer gives birth? ² Can you number the months that they fulfill? Or do you know the time when they bear young? ³ They bow down, they bring forth their young, they deliver their offspring. ⁴ Their young ones are healthy, they grow strong with grain; they depart and do not return to them. ⁵ "Who set the wild donkey free? Who loosed the bonds of the onager, ⁶ whose

home I have made the wilderness, and the barren land his dwelling? ⁷ He scorns the tumult of the city; He does not heed the shouts of the driver. ⁸ The range of the mountains is his pasture, and he searches after every green thing. ⁹ "Will the wild ox be willing to serve you? Will he bed by your manger? ¹⁰ Can you bind the wild ox in the furrow with ropes? Or will he plow the valleys behind you? ¹¹ Will you trust him because his strength is great? Or will you leave your labor to him? ¹² Will you trust him to bring home your grain, and gather it to your threshing floor? ¹³ "The wings of the ostrich wave proudly, but are her wings and pinions like the kindly stork's? ¹⁴ For she leaves her eggs on the ground, and warms them in the dust; ¹⁵ she forgets that a foot may crush them, or that a wild beast may break them. ¹⁶ She treats her young harshly, as though they were not hers; her labor is in vain, without concern, ¹⁷ because God deprived her of wisdom, and did not endow her with understanding. ¹⁸ When she lifts herself on high, she scorns the horse and its rider. ¹⁹ "Have you given the horse strength? Have you clothed his neck with thunder? ²⁰ Can you frighten him like a locust? His majestic snorting strikes terror. ²¹ He paws in the valley, and rejoices in his strength; he gallops into the clash of arms. ²² He mocks at fear, and is not frightened; nor does he turn back from the sword. ²³ The quiver rattles against him, the glittering spear and javelin. ²⁴ He devours the distance with fierceness and rage; nor does he come to a halt because the trumpet has sounded. ²⁵ At the blast of the trumpet he says, 'Aha!' He smells the battle from afar, the thunder of captains and shouting. ²⁶ "Does the hawk fly by your wisdom, and spread its wings toward the south? ²⁷ Does the eagle mount up at your command, and make its nest on high? ²⁸ On the rock it dwells and resides, on the crag of the rock and the stronghold. ²⁹ From there it spies out the prey; -its eyes observe from afar. ³⁰ Its young ones suck up blood; and where the slain are, there it is."

Job 40

¹ Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said: ² "Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? He who rebukes God, let him answer it." ³ Then Job answered the LORD and said: ⁴ "Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth. ⁵ Once I have spoken, but I will not answer; yes, twice, but I will proceed no further." ⁶ Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: ⁷ "Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me: ⁸ "Would you indeed annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me that you may be justified? ⁹ Have you an arm like God? Or can you thunder with a voice like His? ¹⁰ Then adorn yourself with majesty and splendor, and array yourself with glory and beauty. ¹¹ Disperse the rage of your wrath; look on everyone who is proud, and humble him. ¹² Look on everyone who is proud, and bring him low; tread down the wicked in their place. ¹³ Hide them in the dust together, bind their faces in hidden darkness. ¹⁴ Then I will also confess to you that your own right hand can save you. ¹⁵ "Look now at the behemoth, which I made along with you; he eats grass like an ox. ¹⁶ See now, his strength is in his hips, and his power is in his stomach muscles. ¹⁷ He moves his tail like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are tightly knit. ¹⁸ His bones are like beams of bronze, his ribs like bars of iron. ¹⁹ He is the first of the ways of God; only He who made him can bring near His sword. ²⁰ Surely the mountains yield food for him, and all the beasts of the field play there. ²¹ He lies under the lotus trees, in a covert of reeds and marsh. ²² The lotus trees cover him with their shade; the willows by the brook surround him. ²³ Indeed the river may rage, yet he is not disturbed; he is confident, though the Jordan gushes into his mouth, ²⁴ though he takes it in his eyes, or one pierces his nose with a snare.