

Job 40 God is Almighty ... 'I am vile'

review: In chapters 38 and 39, God questioned Job about the creation, spirit beings, geology, oceanography, astronomy, physics, zoology, life and death. Job was rendered speechless on all issues.

- A. It is vain to *contend with the Almighty*, [*contend*, def. - to strive against] v 1-2
- B. It is wise to confess to *the LORD* v 3-5

Job's first reply: 'Behold, I am vile' (v 4) This is a confession

G. Campbell Morgan writes:

"Job spoke these words as the outcome of the 'awakening of his naked spirit' to the sense of the awesome power of Almighty God. God had said no word to Job of his sin. God had not uttered a sentence about Job's sorrow. God had not spoken a sentence in explanation of the mysteries that enshroud him. Rather God made his glory pass before Job. God put the created universe in relationship to Himself, and made Job a spectator."

The Bible lists a roll call of men who were humbled in their encounters with God.

Moses - Exodus 3:6	Peter - Luke 5:8
Isaiah - Isaiah 6:5	Paul - Acts 9:4-6
Ezekiel - Ezekiel 1:28	John - Rev 1:

Reread Job's reply to the unveiling in verses 4 and 5.

In modern parlance : "I'm a nothing. I can't answer a single question.
I really don't count in the scheme of things.
I'm in no position to make an argument.
I'll say no more..."

The Bible's Definition :

v 4 *vile* - Phil 3:21 our earthly, mortal body with it's fallen nature = *vile body*
1 Sam 15:9 *vile is refuse which will be destroyed utterly*
1 Sam 3:13 *his sons made themselves vile ... i.e. more vile* (2 Sam 6:22)

1 Sam 3:13 is the opposite of Romans 1:17 - *faith to faith*, see Luke 17:5
The spiritual principle is stated in Galatians 6:7-8

C. It is fatal to *condemn* (v 8) *God*

v 6-14

God *demand*s all comers to 'prepare for battle' in 'the court of eternal justice'.
Isa 41:21 *Produce your cause, saith the LORD; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King*

One cannot vie with God's justice. He is righteous and holy in all his dealings. We are unrighteous and unholy in our conduct (toward Him & one another). We have a great deal to blame ourselves for, but nothing to blame God for. We cannot (and in truth, *must not*) *disannul* God's *judgment* (v 8); for it is according to truth! see Psalm 89:14
Our duty is to *condemn* ourselves, that God *may be righteous*.
David provides us with an ideal example in Psalm 51:1-4.

v 9 *Hast thou an arm like God ?*

Sceptical modern man has his great arms of science & technology, philosophy, and education - the tragic buffoons of history - have pointed out the problems of life without offering any real solutions. Disease, depression, unrest, war, hospital beds, death and funerals continue as they did centuries ago. The 500 'greatest minds' who lived in the past 4,000 years (with their combined labours and discoveries) could not do what the "arm of God" (i.e. Jesus Christ) did in one day on Calvary's cross !!

canst thou thunder with a voice like him ?

Man's loudest nuclear bomb fizzles like a 'ladyfinger' firecracker next to the voice that *spake the world into being*, Psalm 33:8-9; Psalm 29:3-9.

D. God's challenge to Job (and all men)

v 15-24

The Lord now moves to a second unveiling in which he uses great tenderness and gentle satire. He challenges Job to take the seat of government in the universe. He gives two illustrations of His purpose and power, namely : behemoth (40:15-24) and leviathan (ch. 41).

(a) Bible History -

God created land animals on day six (Genesis 1:24-25). This includes reptiles and lizards. The word dinosaur was coined in 1842 by paleontologist Richard Owen; it means 'terrible lizard'. Lizards, amphibians, reptiles, snakes, and coral are classified

as 'indeterminate growers' : i.e. they grow as long as they live. Life spans were much longer before the flood (see Gen 5). There were more small dinosaurs than large. Average size of all dinosaurs is about the size of a donkey. Noah brought two of each dinosaur kind on the ark. They were most likely brought on at a young age (~ a medium sized dog: a beagle).

Dinosaur fossil bones, formed by the flood, have been found all over the world. Most finds consist of a few bones with fragments.

Note: the better finds have around 40% of the bones of a single animal.

Reconstructions are speculative, scientists make all kinds of guesses, and often disagree. The bones don't have skin, they don't tell the color; paleontologists argue whether the animals were cold or warm-blooded.

After the flood, the ice age came and lasted for a few hundred years. Dinosaurs life span was marked cut short. The foliage dwindled in size due to real climate change. This diminished their food supply, and most dinosaurs died off. Job and his friends saw the ice age (38:29-30) and some dinosaurs. God calls his attention to *behemoth*.

Behemoth - Is God's description to Job of a sauropod (e.g. brontosaurus = 'thunder lizard') dinosaur. He is *the chief of the ways of God* (v 19). In 2001 the largest sauropod was found in Egypt ~ 90 feet long & 75 tons named : *Paralititan stromeri*

(b) spiritual appl. - A *behemoth* is any giant hindering us. Which we cannot face alone.

Lk 18:27 *The things which are impossible with men are **possible with God**.*

(c) *behemoth* = 'beast' This animal is a type of the future beast of the tribulation.

v 15 *ox* ~ Dan 4:33

v 16 *force* ~ Dan 11:38

belly ~ Rom 16:18

v 17 *cedar* ~ Ezek 31:3

v 20 *beasts* ~ 2 Pet 2:12, Jude 10

field ~ Matt 13:38

v 23 *draw up* ~ Dan 9:26, Rev 12:15

Jordan ~ Isa 9:1-2, Jer 49:19

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