

## Does God do a Dodge and a Disney?

Job Chapters 38-42

Job 38.1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: <sup>2</sup>“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? <sup>3</sup>Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. <sup>4</sup>“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. <sup>5</sup>Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? <sup>6</sup>On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, <sup>7</sup>when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? <sup>8</sup>“Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, <sup>9</sup>when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, <sup>10</sup>and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, <sup>11</sup>and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed’ <sup>12</sup>“Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, <sup>13</sup>that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it?

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Job 40.1 And the LORD said to Job: <sup>2</sup>“Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty? He who argues with God, let him answer [the question]!” <sup>3</sup>Then Job answered the LORD and said: <sup>4</sup>“Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth. <sup>5</sup>I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but I will proceed no further.” <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: <sup>7</sup>“Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. <sup>8</sup>Will you even put me in the wrong? Will you condemn me that you may be in the right? <sup>9</sup>Have you an arm like God, and can you thunder with a voice like his? <sup>10</sup>“Adorn yourself with majesty and dignity; clothe yourself with glory and splendor. <sup>11</sup>Pour out the overflowings of your anger, and look on everyone who is proud and abase him. <sup>12</sup>Look on everyone who is proud and bring him low and tread down the wicked where they stand. <sup>13</sup>Hide them all in the dust together; bind their faces in the world below. <sup>14</sup>Then will I also acknowledge to you that your own right hand can save you. <sup>15</sup>“Behold, Behemoth, which I made as I made you; he eats grass like an ox. <sup>16</sup>Behold, his strength in his loins, and his power in the muscles of his belly. <sup>17</sup>He makes his tail stiff like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are knit together. <sup>18</sup>His bones are tubes of bronze, his limbs like bars of iron. <sup>19</sup>“He is the first of the works of God; let him who made him bring near his sword! <sup>20</sup>For the mountains yield food for him where all the wild beasts play. <sup>21</sup>Under the lotus plants he lies, in the shelter of the reeds and in the marsh. <sup>22</sup>For his shade the lotus trees cover him; the willows of the brook surround him. <sup>23</sup>Behold, if the river is turbulent he is not frightened; he is confident though Jordan rushes against his mouth. <sup>24</sup>Can one take him by his eyes, or pierce his nose with a snare? <sup>41.1</sup>“Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook or press down his tongue with a cord? <sup>2</sup>Can you put a rope in his nose or pierce his jaw with a hook? <sup>3</sup>Will he make many pleas to you? Will he speak to you soft words? <sup>4</sup>Will he make a covenant with you to take him for your servant forever? <sup>5</sup>Will you play with him as with a bird, or will you put him on a leash for your girls?

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Job 42.1 Then Job answered the LORD and said: <sup>2</sup>“I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. <sup>3</sup>“*Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?*” Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. <sup>4</sup>“*Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me.*” <sup>5</sup>I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; <sup>6</sup>therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.” <sup>7</sup>After the LORD had spoken these words to Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite: “My anger burns against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. <sup>8</sup>Now therefore take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves. And my servant Job shall pray for you, for I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly. For you have not spoken of me what is right.

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Job Chapters 38-42

- GOD DOESN'T ANSWER JOB'S QUESTIONS – Is this a massive dodge?
- JOB GETS GOOD STUFF IN THIS LIFE IN THE END ANYWAY – Is this a Disney ending?
  - The tension of the book
  - A note on poetry!
  - It is in fact a great ending
    - Job and constructive theology (remember ch19)
- GOD'S FIRST ANSWER - A look at the design of God's world (38.1-5)
  - praise (38.7)
  - control - containment of evil (38.12-13)
  - provision (38.39-41)
  - complexity
    - Why doesn't God mention humanity's place within this complex world?
- GOD'S SECOND ANSWER - I'll answer your question if you answer mine (Jesus Matt 21.42)
  - Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty? (40.6-14)
    - How the non-answer is an answer - Job and constructive theology
  - Behemoth is a model for Job (40.23)
    - not frightened in turbulent times
    - not overwhelmed when unable to breath
  - Leviathan is a model of God (41.1-5)
    - will he make a covenant with you to be your servant?
    - will he be put on a leash for your girls to play with?
      - you can't stand before him – so what makes you think you can stand before me
      - you've met one who is the King over every son of pride!
- THE DISNEY ENDING - is ch 42 a bit lame?
- If the book is about breaking the reward/retribution theology – does ch42 undermine that?
  - What would Job say? (1.21) Job didn't do good, he just didn't do evil.
  - Job's restoration is linked to his prayer (42.10) Job's stuff is never about him, but Satan
  - Why isn't Elihu mentioned?
  - The book of Job establishes patterns of right relationship with God
    - Knowledge of, and adherence to, God's word
    - Job the priest – who offers acceptable prayers and sacrifice for sinners
    - So how does Job's reward fit?
- WHAT IS JOB THE BOOK ABOUT? - It's not really about suffering but how you handle it!
  - Perseverance
  - Knowing God and using your brain
  - Earthly reward & retribution theology is smashed
  - Righteousness and restoration
- WHAT ABOUT YOU?
  - Perseverance
  - Knowing God
  - Reward & retribution
  - Righteousness and restoration