

Job 38 - God's Science Quiz

II. Dialogue (Job 3:1–42:6)

(5) God confronts Job (Job 38:1–42:6)

(A) God's first speech (Job 38:1–40:5)

(a) God answers Job out of the whirlwind (38:1)

(b) God challenges Job to answer Him (38:2-3)

(c) God questions Job concerning creation (Job 38:4–39:30)

(i) Inanimate creation (38:4-38)

(a) Creation of the earth (38:4-7)

(b) Shoreline (38:8-11)

(c) Dawn and sunlight (38:12-15)

(d) Depth of the ocean (38:16-17)

(e) Dimensions of the earth (38:18)

(f) Light and darkness (38:19-21)

(g) Weather (38:22-30)

(h) Stars (38:31-32)

(i) Ordinances of the heavens (38:33)

(j) Clouds and lightning (38:34-38)

(ii) Animal world (Job 38:39–39:30)

(a) Lion (38:39-40)

(b) Raven (38:41)

Job 38

(5) God confronts Job (Job 38:1–42:6)

(A) God's first speech (38:1–40:5)

(a) God answers Job out of the whirlwind (38:1)

1 Then the **LORD** answered Job from the **whirlwind** and said,

1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said,

1 The LORD responded to Job from the whirlwind and said:

1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said,

– "...LORD" - *Yahweh*, for the first time since the prologue, God's special name is used

— The sufferer's repetitious plea that God answer him was granted (Cf. 13:22; 31:35);

having bemoaned the absence of an advocate (9:33; 16:19; 19:25) he now was confronted by God Himself! However, instead of answering questions, God asked them!

– "...whirlwind" - storm (like Elihu described, 37:21-24)

- Often seen with His coming (Sinai, Ex 19:16-20, etc.)
- The clouds protect the audience from being consumed by the divine holiness.

(b) God challenges Job to answer Him (38:2-3)

- 2 "Who is this who darkens *the divine* plan By words without knowledge?
- 2 "Who is this that darkens counsel By words without knowledge?
- 2 "Who is this who keeps darkening my counsel without knowing what he's talking about?
- 2 Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?
- 3 "Now **tighten the belt** on your waist like a man, And I shall ask you, and you inform Me!
- 3 "Now gird up your loins like a man, And I will ask you, and you instruct Me!
- 3 Stand up like a man! I'll ask you some questions, and you give me some answers!"
- 3 Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.
- Some commentators suggest that these words apply to Elihu, but at the end of the book, Job applies these words to himself (Job 42:2-6)
- God challenges Job who, by his ignorant words, has been "darkening the light" that could have come to him. [How many times have we done the same thing? We can't be listening when we are speaking! (We seem to be half-duplex, as the communications engineers would say!)]
- "...tighten the belt" - when undertaking a strenuous task such as running, working, or fighting, a man would gather up his flowing robes and tuck it into a sash-belt (Ex 12:11; 1 Kings 18:46). Equivalent to "be alert," a struggle is coming!

(c) God questions Job concerning creation (Job 38:4—39:30)

(i) Inanimate creation (38:4-38)

(a) Creation of the earth (38:4-7)

- 4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding,
- 4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding,
- 4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of my earth? Tell me, since you're so informed!
- 4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.
- God now subjects Job to a series of questions in three different areas:
 1. God's Creation
 2. God's Providential Care (& balance in nature)
 3. His Restraint of the Forces of Evil in the World

- It is astonishing to fully realize how fundamental the Creation is in Christian apologetics
- According to Gen 1 (35x in that one chapter), and these four chapters of Job, God created each thing with its own specific attributes, and the powers of reproducing "after its kind"; each with its own definite object and purpose.

God's first question is, "Were you there?"

The essence of science is observation. The scientific method requires actual measurement, experimentation, prediction, and repetition. None of this is possible in the process of origins, so all we are left with are conjectures masquerading as conclusions. One of the basic assumptions of science is "uniformitarianism": that the present is the key to the past. However, we are continually confronted with tangible evidences that our solar system has been the subject of many non-linearities, buffeting, etc.; all of which cast uniformitarian presumptions into serious doubt.

Every naturalistic or pantheistic process contradicts the basic scientific laws of the present: causality, conservation, entropy, etc. There certainly is little humility among our cosmologists. "First there was nothing; and then it exploded!" We have invented the most insulting "god" of all: nothing (needed). No one has ever solved the problem of origins. They can't explain the origin of design because they cannot explain the origin of information. If we want to know how the world began, we must get the information from the only source available: the Designer Himself.

5 Who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the measuring line over it?

5 Who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the line on it?

5 Who set its measurement? Am I to assume you know? Who stretched a boundary line over it?

5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

6 "On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone,

6 "On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone,

6 On what were its bases set? Who laid its corner stone

6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;

7 When the morning stars sang together And all the **sons of God** shouted for joy?

7 When the morning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

7 while the morning stars sang together and all the divine beings shouted joyfully?

7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the Sons of God shouted for joy?

- "...sons of God" - *Bene Elohim*, always used of a direct creation of God; here, angels (Cf. 1:6; 2:1; 38:7)
- In the NT we find the same term (John 1:11-12; Luke 20:36)
- This verse is also used as evidence that God created the angels at some unknown time, but before He created the earth in six days because the angels were present at creation cheering God on

(b) Shoreline (38:8-11)

- 8 "Or who enclosed the sea with doors When it went out from the womb, bursting forth;
- 8 "Or who enclosed the sea with doors When, bursting forth, it went out from the womb;
- 8 "Who enclosed the sea with limits when it gushed out of the womb,
- 8 Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb?
- 9 When I made a cloud its garment, And thick darkness its swaddling bands,
- 9 When I made a cloud its garment And thick darkness its swaddling band,
- 9 when I made clouds to be its clothes and thick darkness its swaddling blanket,
- 9 When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it,
- 10 And I placed boundaries on it And set a bolt and doors,
- 10 And I placed boundaries on it And set a bolt and doors,
- 10 when I proscribed a boundary for it, set in place bars and doors for it;
- 10 And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors,
- 11 And I said, 'As far as this point you shall come, but no farther; And here your proud waves shall stop'?
- 11 And I said, 'Thus far you shall come, but no farther; And here shall your proud waves stop'?
- 11 and said, 'You may come only this far and no more. Your majestic waves will stop here.'?
- 11 And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?
- What controls the tides within bounds? The greatest geophysical upheaval ever was the flood of Noah. The geological strata and fossil beds all over the world bear irrefutable witness to it. It was only through the specific intervention by God Himself and His providential care that those in the ark were saved.
- By another geophysical upheaval, however, He "brake up" for the flood waters a "decreed place" and they were forever "shut up" in the deep ocean beds opened up to receive them:

(c) Dawn and sunlight (38:12-15)

12 "Have you ever in your life commanded the morning, *And* made the dawn know its place,

12 "Have you ever in your life commanded the morning, *And* caused the dawn to know its place,

12 "Have you ever commanded the morning at any time during your life? 6 Do you know where the dawn lives,

12 Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; and caused the dayspring to know his place;

13 So that it would take hold of the ends of the earth, And the wicked would be shaken off from it?

13 That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, And the wicked be shaken out of it?

13 where it seizes the edge of the earth and shakes the wicked out of it?

13 That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it?

14 "It is changed like clay *under* the seal; And they stand out like a garment.

14 "It is changed like clay *under* the seal; And they stand forth like a garment.

14 Like clay is molded by a signet ring, the earth's hills and valleys then stand out like the colors of a garment.

14 It is turned as clay to the seal; and they stand as a garment.

15 "Their light is withheld from the wicked, And the uplifted arm is broken.

15 "From the wicked their light is withheld, And the uplifted arm is broken.

15 Then from the wicked their light is withheld and their upraised arm is broken.

15 And from the wicked their light is withholden, and the high arm shall be broken.

(d) Depth of the ocean (38:16-17)

16 "Have you entered the springs of the sea, And walked in the depth of the ocean?

16 "Have you entered into the springs of the sea Or walked in the recesses of the deep?

16 "Have you been to the source of the sea and walked about in the recesses of the deepest ocean?

16 Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth?

17 "Have the gates of death been revealed to you, And have you seen the gates of deep darkness?

17 "Have the gates of death been revealed to you, Or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?

17 Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Have you seen the gates of the deepest darkness?

17 Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death?

(e) Dimensions of the earth (38:18)

18 "Have you understood the expanse of the earth? Tell Me, if you know all this.

18 "Have you understood the expanse of the earth? Tell Me, if you know all this.

18 Do you understand the breadth of the earth? Tell me, since you know it all!

18 Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth? declare if thou knowest it all.

(f) Light and darkness (38:19-21)

19 "Where is the way to the dwelling of light? And darkness, where is its place,

19 "Where is the way to the dwelling of light? And darkness, where is its place,

19 "Where is the road to where the light lives? Or where does the darkness live?

19 Where is the way where light dwelleth? and as for darkness, where is the place thereof,

20 That you would take it to its territory, And discern the paths to its home?

20 That you may take it to its territory And that you may discern the paths to its home?

20 Can you take it to its homeland, since you know the path to his house?

20 That thou shouldest take it to the bound thereof, and that thou shouldest know the paths to the house thereof?

21 "You know, for you were born then, And the number of your days is great!

21 "You know, for you were born then, And the number of your days is great!

21 You should know! After all, you had been born back then, so the number of your days is great!

21 Knowest thou it, because thou wast then born? or because the number of thy days is great?

(g) Weather (38:22-30)

22 "Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, And have you seen the storehouses of the hail,

22 "Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, Or have you seen the storehouses of the hail,

22 "Have you entered the storehouses of the snow or seen where the hail is stored,

22 Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail,

23 Which I have reserved for a time of distress, For a day of war and battle?

23 Which I have reserved for the time of distress, For the day of war and battle?

23 which I've reserved for the tribulation to come, for the day of battle and war?

23 Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?

24 "Where is the way that the light is divided, *And* the east wind scattered on the earth?

24 "Where is the way that the light is divided, *Or* the east wind scattered on the earth?

24 Where is the lightning diffused or the east wind scattered around the earth?

24 By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the east wind upon the earth?

25 "Who has split open a channel for the flood, And a way for the thunderbolt,

25 "Who has cleft a channel for the flood, Or a way for the thunderbolt,

25 "Who cuts canals for storm floods, and paths for the lightning and thunder,

25 Who hath divided a watercourse for the overflowing of waters, or a way for the lightning of thunder;

26 To bring rain on a land without people, *On* a desert without a person in it,

26 To bring rain on a land without people, *On* a desert without a man in it,

26 to bring rain upon a land without inhabitants, a desert in which no human beings live,

26 To cause it to rain on the earth, where no man is; on the wilderness, wherein there is no man;

27 To satisfy the waste and desolate land, And to make the seeds of grass to sprout?

27 To satisfy the waste and desolate land And to make the seeds of grass to sprout?

27 to satisfy a desolate and devastated desert, causing it to sprout vegetation?

27 To satisfy the desolate and waste ground; and to cause the bud of the tender herb to spring forth?

28 "Does the rain have a father? Or who has fathered the drops of dew?

28 "Has the rain a father? Or who has begotten the drops of dew?

28 "Does the rain have a father? Who fathered the dew?

28 Hath the rain a father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew?

29 "From whose womb has come the ice? And the frost of heaven, who has given it birth?

29 "From whose womb has come the ice? And the frost of heaven, who has given it birth?

29 Whose womb brings forth the ice? Who gives birth to frost out of an empty sky,
29 Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it?

30 "Water becomes hard like stone, And the surface of the deep is imprisoned.
30 "Water becomes hard like stone, And the surface of the deep is imprisoned.
30 when water solidifies like stone and the surface of the deepest sea freezes?
30 The waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen.

(h) Stars (38:31-32)

31 "Can you tie up the chains of the Pleiades, Or untie the cords of Orion?
31 "Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades, Or loose the cords of Orion?
31 "Can you bind the chains of Pleiades or loosen the cords of Orion?
31 Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?

32 "Can you bring out a constellation in its season, And guide the Bear with her satellites?
32 "Can you lead forth a constellation in its season, And guide the Bear with her satellites?
32 Can you bring out constellations in their season? Can you guide the Bear with her cubs?
32 Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?

(i) Ordinances of the heavens (38:33)

33 "Do you know the ordinances of the heavens, Or do you establish their rule over the earth?
33 "Do you know the ordinances of the heavens, Or fix their rule over the earth?
33 Do you know the laws of the heavens? Can you regulate their authority over the earth?
33 Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth?

(j) Clouds and lightning (38:34-38)

34 "Can you raise your voice to the clouds, So that an abundance of water will cover you?
34 "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, So that an abundance of water will cover you?
34 "Can you call out to the clouds, so that abundant water drenches you?
34 Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee?

35 "Can you send flashes of lightning, so that they may go And say to you, 'Here we are'?
35 "Can you send forth lightnings that they may go And say to you, 'Here we are'?

35 Can you command the lightning, so that it goes forth and calls to you, 'Look at us!'
35 Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we are?

36 "Who has put wisdom in the innermost being, Or given understanding to the mind?
36 "Who has put wisdom in the innermost being Or given understanding to the mind?
36 "Who sets wisdom within you, or imbues your mind with understanding?
36 Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart?

37 "Who can count the clouds by wisdom, And pour out the water jars of the heavens,
37 "Who can count the clouds by wisdom, Or tip the water jars of the heavens,
37 Who has the wisdom to be able to count the clouds, or to empty the water jars of heaven,
37 Who can number the clouds in wisdom? or who can stay the bottles of heaven,

38 When the dust hardens into a mass And the clods stick together?
38 When the dust hardens into a mass And the clods stick together?
38 when dust dries into a mass and then breaks apart into clods?
38 When the dust growtheth into hardness, and the clods cleave fast together?

(ii) Animal world (Job 38:39—39:30)

(a) Lion (38:39-40)

39 "Can you hunt the prey for the lioness, Or satisfy the appetite of young lions,
39 "Can you hunt the prey for the lion, Or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,
39 "Can you hunt prey for the lioness to satisfy young lions
39 Wilt thou hunt the prey for the lion? or fill the appetite of the young lions,

40 When they crouch in *their* hiding places, *And* lie in wait in *their* lair?
40 When they crouch in *their* dens *And* lie in wait in *their* lair?
40 when they crouch in their dens and lie in ambush in their lairs?
40 When they couch in their dens, and abide in the covert to lie in wait?

(b) Raven (38:41)

41 "Who prepares feed for the raven When its young cry to God, *And* wander about without food?
41 "Who prepares for the raven its nourishment When its young cry to God *And* wander about without food?

41 Who prepares food for the raven, when its offspring cry out to God as they wander for lack of food?"

41 Who provideth for the raven his food? when his young ones cry unto God, they wander for lack of meat.