

A Study of the Wisdom Literature

(OT Survey Lesson 280—Job 38-42)

Introduction: When God spoke from the whirlwind, he corrected Job's challenging attitude by a series of questions that call attention to God's greatness and power. Job responded in humility and repentance, seeing in God's appearance not only His greatness but also His great love.

Lesson aim: To show that God's greatness is sufficient grounds to worship Him and to never question how he governs His world.

God's first speech and Job's response—Job 38:1-40:5

1. In what way did God appear to Job? (38:1-3) How did the Lord describe him? What did He challenge Job to do?
2. What power does God discuss in v. 4-11? How does God picture His power in v. 12-15?
3. What areas does God know about that Job could not know? (38:16-18) For what are the snow and hail reserved in their "storehouses"? (38:19-24)
4. What weather phenomena does God describe? (38:25-30) What else does God control? (38:31-33)
5. What can God do that Job could not do? (38:24-38) For what animals did God say He made provision? (38:29-41)
6. God revealed that He knew and controlled the reproductive cycles of what animals? (39:1-4) What wild animals did God say man can not make to serve him? (39:5-12)
7. What bird does not have wisdom in regard to her young? (39:13-18) Why is it this way?
8. Describe the features of the horse that God has created in them (39:19-25) What features of the hawk are mentioned? (39:26-30)

9. All these questions are really intended to make Job realize what point? (40:1-2)
10. How did Job respond to this barrage of questions?

God's second speech and Job's response—Job 40:6-42:6

1. Was the Lord through asking questions to Job? (40:6-7) With what question does God make clear Job's error in addressing God as he had? (40:8)
2. What question did God give to make Job recognize his weakness? (40:9) What challenge did He give him? (40:10-13) What did God say He would do when Job demonstrated this power? (40:14)
3. Examine the details of the "Behemoth" in v. 15-24. What creature do you think the Lord is describing? Why does God point Job's attention to this creature?
4. What other creature is mentioned in 41:1-34? Describe his features. For what reason does God invite Job's attention to this creature? (41:10-11)
5. What did this series questions cause Job to realize even more? (42:1-2) What admission did Job make about himself? (42:3)
6. How had this experience changed Job's viewpoint? (42:5) What did he purpose to do?

Job's righteousness is vindicated—Job 42:7-17

1. How did God feel about Job's friends and what they had said? (42:7-9) What did he require them to do? Who was to offer this sacrifice?
2. In what proportion did God restore Job's material possession? (42:10) How did Job's family and acquaintances react to his restored position? (42:11)
3. Describe the blessings of Job's later life (42:12-15) How long did Job live? (42:16-17) How did the writer describe his life?