

**Subject: Job's Final Exam**

**Scripture: Job 40:1-5**

Everyone has had his say and now God is having His say. God didn't answer any of Job's questions but He had listened to Job and his friends and heard every word. God questions Job along three lines:

- Job, what do you know about *creating the physical world*?
- Job, what do you know about *caring for the physical world*?
- Job, what do you know about *controlling the physical world*?

Job, you obviously don't know much. So what makes you think you can run things in the moral and spiritual world? I heard about a young man who applied for a job as an engineer in a new power plant. He had no training or education for the job, but he thought he would give it a shot. On his first interview they asked him, "What does hydrodynamics mean?" He paused for a second and then said, "I guess it means I don't get the job." The great inventor Thomas Edison said, "We do not know one billionth of 1% about anything."

God reminded Job that he rules over the earth and the sea, over the sun, over light and darkness, over the planets and stars, over the snow and hail, over the clouds, the rain and the lightning. In 38:39 through chapter 41, God continues to ask Job questions about the animal world. All these questions reveal Job's ignorance and God's wisdom. Job sees how small and limited he is and how great and powerful God is.

**GOD'S CONTROL:**

1. God rules the lion and the raven (38:39-41)

Job obviously stayed clear of lions and could not possibly furnish food for them.

2. God rules over the wild goat and the deer (39:1-4)

Job doesn't know about the gestation period of these animals (how long they carry their young before giving birth). Apparently there are a lot of things Job doesn't understand.

3. God rules over the donkey (39:5-8)

Only God can provide for animals that live in the wild. The same was true for Job. God put him in his assigned place, even this terrible time of suffering.

4. God rules over the wild ox (39:9-12)

Job is not able to tame the wild ox. There was a horse riding stable that had this sign out front: "We have small horses for small folks and big horses for big folks. We have slow horses for people who want to ride slow and fast horses for people who want to ride fast. For people who have never ridden horses we have horses that have never been ridden." Only God can control an animal like the wild ox.

5. God rules over the birds (39:13-18)

The KJV mentions the peacock and the ostrich. Some translations have the ostrich and the stork. Only God can create the beautiful peacock, the stork, and the ostrich with their unique features and ways. The ostrich weighs up to 300 pounds and reaches a height of seven or eight feet. God created a bird that has wings but it can't fly. It buries its eggs in the sand where they can be trampled and crushed. It has no smarts but plenty of speed. It can outrun a horse at 40 mph. Certainly Job couldn't create such a bird or even think of making such an odd bird. H. G. Wells was visiting in the home of Henry James, an American writer, when he

noticed a large stuffed bird. Wells asked, “What’s that?” “That is a stork.” “Well, that’s not my idea of a stork.” “Perhaps not, but apparently it was God’s idea of one.”

#### 6. God rules over the horse (39:19-25)

What about the war horse? It is strong and fearless. Job can’t create or control such a powerful creature.

#### 7. God rules over the hawk and the eagle (39:26-30)

Job doesn’t understand how the hawk flies south to migrate or how the eagle climbs to great heights to build its nest in the cliff. Job is out of his league. He can’t create, control, or explain any of these great creatures. At the same time God creates, controls, provides for, and strengthens all creatures. Job should have gotten the point... if God takes care of the animals so well, isn’t He able to take care of Job?

In 40:1-2, God asks why Job would be so foolish to contend with God. The word “contend” is a legal word that means to bring a case against him. Job wanted to put God on trial and ask why he had been treated unfairly.

### **JOB’S CONFESSION:**

Job confessed that he was “vile” (of small account, insignificant). Job said: “I am humbled” (I am unable to answer). Finally Job saw God in all of His greatness and he saw himself very small in comparison. Job said, “I will hush. I’ll be silent. I won’t challenge you or question you or demand anything of you.” Job was silenced by God’s sovereignty. At one time Job thought he had all the answers but now he realizes he has none of the answers.

### **GOD’S CHALLENGE:**

The Lord again spoke out of the storm (whirlwind) and repeated what He had said before in Chapter 38.

- Job, will you try to discredit me? (40:8)– Job, will you annul or nullify my judgment? Will you condemn me in order to justify yourself? Job justified himself over and over by saying he had done no wrong. He was implying that God had done wrong.
- Job, will you try to replace me? (40:9-14) – God said, If you want to challenge my ways, then you must think you take my place. Try this job on for size. Do you have the ability? Do you have the power? Can you fill the part? Do you have the majesty and glory required? Here is a test for you, Job. Unleash your anger and humiliate the proud. Job had already accused God of neglecting to punish the wicked, so God says He is willing to turn over the responsibility to Job if he can handle it. If you can do all this Job, then I will admit that you can save yourself.

People today are still trying to do what Job did. They try to blame God and justify themselves. They try to control their own lives and take God’s rightful place. They try to save themselves (vs. 14) and pretend like they don’t need God.

What if you came face to face with God today? Would God say, “Why are you trying to discredit me and justify yourself? Why are you trying to replace me?” What if God asked you: “Why should I let you into my Heaven?” What would you say?