

Job 39

Read Job chapter 39: The scriptures tell us that the things God has made are examples of his intellect and planning. Psalm 19:1 tell us that the heavens declare his glory and the skies proclaim his work. In this chapter God uses **the animal kingdom** to teach Job a few things. Solomon also used ants, badgers, rabbits, bears, foxes and lions to teach us about ourselves. Some animals are known for wisdom while others are known for their stupidity. Regardless, God makes a means of survival for all. It is all to his glory.

God is equally in control at the universe level, the level of nature, and under the microscope. Job needs to see this to give him perspective in his own situation. This chapter is a reminder that God purposefully has put different beasts in different settings (just like us). God has equipped different animals with greater and lesser abilities; with corresponding grace and compensating instincts (like us). To the stupid animals he gives an instinctual substitute to perpetuate their species. There are some birds and whales that cross the globe every year to reunite in a specified locality to breed. God controls these living things; but we cannot control anything.

For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth." (Romans 9:17)

Job is transfixed on his personal losses; and he has lost track of the bigger picture.

We tend to place all of our focus on what is wrong. We worry that things are out of control in our lives. God continues to show Job that he unaware of the things that God is in control of. Whatever evil is unleashed in our lives is to God's glory. Can we live with that inconvenience? Can being a walking illustration of God's grace (in the face of personal loss) be enough for us? There are necessary processes that that Job is completely unaware of. What we call mysteries; God has ordained and closely and precisely manages. The book of Job records a lot of Job's frustrations; but is that the message to us? I don't think so. The book of Job teaches us that God controls Satan's rebellions like a little child who thinks that he is getting away with something. Even evil circumstances move us to a better

place. For example it was my diminished immunity from Valley Fever and Mononucleosis that caused me to start a lifetime habit of jogging and exercise.

There are reasons that we are not too intelligent. More awareness without faith is scary. Albert Einstein became depressed over the futility of this world's situations. We just expect that the orbit of earth will not change. Chapter 38 described how God is the creator of our planet which is uniquely-prescriptive for human life. From creation he has set boundaries for the sea, and also for the daylight cycles. The specific intricacies and mechanisms are not understood by Job. There are **intentional designs** to the oceans, the forces behind our weather and atmospheric conditions.

God did not just set up auto-pilot natural laws. He is very involved at every level. God fully understands the ongoing activities and controls over the celestial bodies and universe.

We are equally in need of the perfect gravitational pull and oxygen content as we are for annual rainfall. And yet we only fear the things that fluctuate and expose our vulnerability. All of these things combined sustain plant and animal and human life. The examples of God's cradle for mankind are endless. Our life cannot be continued without the force of the moon on our oceans and tides. Our location relative to the sun is precisely where it has to be for human existence. Our oxygen and nitrogen air content are maintained within a very limited range that can support human life.

In chapter 39 God gets even more specific to demonstrate the degree of control and intention he has over all things which surround Job every day. He describes the mysteries and hidden mechanisms of wildlife gestation, weaning, and necessary patterns for existence among animals which have no understanding. It is our understanding that causes us to worry more than the animals. The tree of knowledge was set as a boundary for a reason. What we do not know is left to God's protection.

He describes the wild donkey as a demonstration of how he keeps the willfully obstinate alive. Hormones and pheromones are an intoxicant to breed for the animal life that literally forces them to reproduce and continue their kind on this planet.

God has settings, boundaries, temperaments and preferences in animals; which can teach us about ourselves. Perhaps this is not a random selection of examples. Different animals are known for their: strength, awareness, drive, etc... There are a number of Biblical examples where God compares man to a wild donkey.

The ox knows his owner, and the ass knows his master's crib: but Israel does not know, my people do not consider. (Isaiah 1:3)

The wild donkey is a good illustration for mankind. He/she will pursue its mate when it is in heat like we will chase our lusts. A wild donkey will not comply willingly to its master. It will leave his home to look for green grass. **We get in trouble when we try to change our environment, instead of our character.** God may be politely saying that our knowledge is limited because our choices and decision making is poor. The more options we are aware of only increases our odds to rebel. He puts boundaries and protections around us; like a special-needs child. The strength of a wild beast is not something that we can harness or use to our advantage. Likewise the Jews tried to put their trust in Egypt and Babylon with unrealistic expectations.

Satan pointed out that God was protecting Job on every side:

Haven't you put a hedge around him, and his house, and around all that he has on every side. You have blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. ((Job1:10)

Certain things are taken care of for us. Job is struggling with his own set of circumstances; and he's drawing global conclusions. The ostrich and the donkey are like the servant who does not follow instructions. It is not our level of control over things that determines our outcomes.

The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither bread to the wise...(Ecclesiastes 9:2)