

## God Questions Job About Creation (c. 2200 BC)

Job 38:1–38

### Yahweh's Introductory Challenge—"I will question you..."

- 1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said,
- 2 Who *is* this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?
- 3 Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.

### Creation of the Earth

- 4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.
- 5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?
- 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?

### The Sea

- 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 the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddling-band for it,
- 10 And brake up for it my decreed *place*, and set bars and doors,
- 11 And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?

### The Rotation of the Earth

- 12 Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; *and* caused the dayspring to know his place;
- 13 That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it?
- 14 It is turned as clay *to* the seal; and they stand as a garment.
- 15 And from the wicked their light is withholden, and the high arm shall be broken.

### The Underworld

- 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 opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death?
- 18 Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth? declare if thou knowest it all.

### Light and Darkness

- 19 Where *is* the way *where* light dwelleth? and *as for* darkness, where *is* the place thereof,
- 20 That thou shouldest take it to the bound thereof, and that thou shouldest know the paths *to* the house thereof?
- 21 Knowest thou *it*, because thou wast then born? or *because* the number of thy days *is* great?

### The Weather

- 22 Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail,
- 23 Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?
- 24 By what way is the light parted, *which* scattereth the east wind upon the earth?
- 25 Who hath divided a watercourse for the overflowing of waters, or a way for the lightning of thunder;
- 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 desolate and waste *ground*; and to cause the bud of the tender herb to spring forth?
- 28 Hath the rain a father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew?
- 29 Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it?
- 30 The waters are hid as *with* a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen.

### The Stars

- 31 Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?
- 32 Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?
- 33 Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth?

### The Clouds

- 34 Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee?
- 35 Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we *are*?
- 36 Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart?
- 37 Who can number the clouds in wisdom? or who can stay the bottles of heaven,
- 38 When the dust groweth into hardness, and the clods cleave fast together?

## God Questions Job About the Animals (c. 2200 BC)

Job 38:39–39:30

### Lions and Ravens

38:39 Wilt thou hunt the prey for the lion? or fill the appetite of the young lions,  
 40 When they couch in *their* dens, *and* abide in the covert to lie in wait?  
 41 Who provideth for the raven his food? when his young ones cry unto God, they wander for lack of meat.

### Mountain Goats

39:1 Knowest thou the time when the wild goats of the rock bring forth? *or* canst thou mark when the hinds do calve?  
 2 Canst thou number the months *that* they fulfil? or knowest thou the time when they bring forth?  
 3 They bow themselves, they bring forth their young ones, they cast out their sorrows.  
 4 Their young ones are in good liking, they grow up with corn; they go forth, and return not unto them.

### Wild Donkeys

5 Who hath sent out the wild ass free? or who hath loosed the bands of the wild ass?  
 6 Whose house I have made the wilderness, and the barren land his dwellings.  
 7 He scorneth the multitude of the city, neither regardeth he the crying of the driver.  
 8 The range of the mountains *is* his pasture, and he searcheth after every green thing.

### Wild Oxen

9 Will the unicorn be willing to serve thee, or abide by thy crib?  
 10 Canst thou bind the unicorn with his band in the furrow? or will he harrow the valleys after thee?  
 11 Wilt thou trust him, because his strength *is* great? or wilt thou leave thy labour to him?  
 12 Wilt thou believe him, that he will bring home thy seed, and gather *it into* thy barn?

### Ostriches

13 *Gavest thou* the goodly wings unto the peacocks? or wings and feathers unto the ostrich?  
 14 Which leaveth her eggs in the earth, and warmeth them in dust,  
 15 And forgetteth that the foot may crush them, or that the wild beast may break them.  
 16 She is hardened against her young ones, as though *they were* not hers: her labour is in vain without fear;  
 17 Because God hath deprived her of wisdom, neither hath he imparted to her understanding.  
 18 What time she lifteth up herself on high, she scorneth the horse and his rider.

### Horses

19 Hast thou given the horse strength? hast thou clothed his neck with thunder?  
 20 Canst thou make him afraid as a grasshopper? the glory of his nostrils *is* terrible.  
 21 He paweth in the valley, and rejoiceth in *his* strength: he goeth on to meet the armed men.  
 22 He mocketh at fear, and is not affrighted; neither turneth he back from the sword.  
 23 The quiver rattleth against him, the glittering spear and the shield.  
 24 He swalloweth the ground with fierceness and rage: neither believeth he that *it is* the sound of the trumpet.  
 25 He saith among the trumpets, Ha, ha; and he smelleth the battle afar off, the thunder of the captains, and the shouting.

### Hawks

26 Doth the hawk fly by thy wisdom, *and* stretch her wings toward the south?  
 27 Doth the eagle mount up at thy command, and make her nest on high?  
 28 She dwelleth and abideth on the rock, upon the crag of the rock, and the strong place.  
 29 From thence she seeketh the prey, *and* her eyes behold afar off.  
 30 Her young ones also suck up blood: and where the slain *are*, there *is* she.

## God Questions Job About the Behemoth and the Leviathan (c. 2200 BC)

Job 40–41

### Concluding Challenge

40:1 Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said,  
 2 Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct *him*? he that reproveth God, let him answer it.

### Job Recognizes His Lack of Knowledge and Power, and Does Not Presume to Answer God

3 Then Job answered the LORD, and said,

4 Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth.  
5 Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: yea, twice; but I will proceed no further.

#### Yahweh Continues to Question Job

6 Then answered the LORD unto Job out of the whirlwind, and said,  
7 Gird up thy loins now like a man: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.

#### God's Justice

8 Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous?  
9 Hast thou an arm like God? or canst thou thunder with a voice like him?  
10 Deck thyself now *with* majesty and excellency; and array thyself with glory and beauty.  
11 Cast abroad the rage of thy wrath: and behold every one *that is* proud, and abase him.  
12 Look on every one *that is* proud, *and* bring him low; and tread down the wicked in their place.  
13 Hide them in the dust together; *and* bind their faces in secret.  
14 Then will I also confess unto thee that thine own right hand can save thee.

#### The "Behemoth"

15 Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee; he eateth grass as an ox.  
16 Lo now, his strength *is* in his loins, and his force *is* in the navel of his belly.  
17 He moveth his tail like a cedar: the sinews of his stones are wrapped together.  
18 His bones *are as* strong pieces of brass; his bones *are* like bars of iron.  
19 He *is* the chief of the ways of God: he that made him can make his sword to approach *unto him*.  
20 Surely the mountains bring him forth food, where all the beasts of the field play.  
21 He lieth under the shady trees, in the covert of the reed, and fens.  
22 The shady trees cover him *with* their shadow; the willows of the brook compass him about.  
23 Behold, he drinketh up a river, *and* hasteth not: he trusteth that he can draw up Jordan into his mouth.  
24 He taketh it with his eyes: *his* nose pierceth through snares.

#### The "Leviathan"

41:1 Canst thou draw out leviathan with an hook? or his tongue with a cord *which* thou lettest down?  
2 Canst thou put an hook into his nose? or bore his jaw through with a thorn?  
3 Will he make many supplications unto thee? will he speak soft *words* unto thee?  
4 Will he make a covenant with thee? wilt thou take him for a servant for ever?  
5 Wilt thou play with him as *with* a bird? or wilt thou bind him for thy maidens?  
6 Shall the companions make a banquet of him? shall they part him among the merchants?  
7 Canst thou fill his skin with barbed irons? or his head with fish spears?  
8 Lay thine hand upon him, remember the battle, do no more.  
9 Behold, the hope of him is in vain: shall not *one* be cast down even at the sight of him?  
10 None *is so* fierce that dare stir him up: who then is able to stand before me?  
11 Who hath prevented me, that I should repay *him*? *whatsoever is* under the whole heaven is mine.  
12 I will not conceal his parts, nor his power, nor his comely proportion.  
13 Who can discover the face of his garment? *or* who can come *to him* with his double bridle?  
14 Who can open the doors of his face? his teeth *are* terrible round about.  
15 *His* scales *are his* pride, shut up together *as with* a close seal.  
16 One is so near to another, that no air can come between them.  
17 They are joined one to another, they stick together, that they cannot be sundered.  
18 By his sneezing a light doth shine, and his eyes *are* like the eyelids of the morning.  
19 Out of his mouth go burning lamps, *and* sparks of fire leap out.  
20 Out of his nostrils goeth smoke, as *out* of a seething pot or caldron.  
21 His breath kindleth coals, and a flame goeth out of his mouth.  
22 In his neck remaineth strength, and sorrow is turned into joy before him.  
23 The flakes of his flesh are joined together: they are firm in themselves; they cannot be moved.  
24 His heart is as firm as a stone; yea, as hard as a piece of the nether *millstone*.  
25 When he raiseth up himself, the mighty are afraid: by reason of breakings they purify themselves.  
26 The sword of him that layeth at him cannot hold: the spear, the dart, nor the habergeon.  
27 He esteemeth iron as straw, *and* brass as rotten wood.  
28 The arrow cannot make him flee: slingstones are turned with him into stubble.  
29 Darts are counted as stubble: he laugheth at the shaking of a spear.

30 Sharp stones *are* under him: he spreadeth sharp pointed things upon the mire.  
 31 He maketh the deep to boil like a pot: he maketh the sea like a pot of ointment.  
 32 He maketh a path to shine after him; *one* would think the deep *to be* hoary.  
 33 Upon earth there is not his like, who is made without fear.  
 34 He beholdeth all high *things*: he *is* a king over all the children of pride.

## God Restores the Fortunes of Job (c. 2200 BC)

Job 42

### Job Humbles Himself Before Yahweh

1 Then Job answered the LORD, and said,  
 2 I know that thou canst do every *thing*, and *that* no thought can be withholden from thee.  
 3 Who *is* he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.  
 4 Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.  
 5 I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.  
 6 Wherefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes.

### God Is Angry With Job's Friends

7 And it was *so*, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me *the thing that is right*, as my servant Job *hath*.  
 8 Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you *after your folly*, in that ye have not spoken of me *the thing which is right*, like my servant Job.  
 9 So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite *and* Zophar the Naamathite went, and did according as the LORD commanded them: the LORD also accepted Job.

### God Restores the Fortunes of Job

10 And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.  
 11 Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold.  
 12 So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.  
 13 He had also seven sons and three daughters.  
 14 And he called the name of the first, Jemima; and the name of the second, Kezia; and the name of the third, Kerenhappuch.  
 15 And in all the land were no women found *so fair* as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren.  
 16 After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, *even* four generations.  
 17 So Job died, *being* old and full of days.

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