

# ENDURING TRIALS

A Daily Devotional Study Guide



**THE BOOK  
OF JOB**

**WEEK 8**

## *“A Master Design”*

**Study:** Job 38:39-40:2

**Reading:** --

**Memory:** Matthew 5:38

I had the tremendous privilege of being in the hospital to witness the birth of all my children. To watch those little lives come into the world was absolutely amazing. The miracle of life is inspiring and causes me to be in awe of God when I think about it. The creation of a new life is one of the greatest proofs for a Creator and is a great reminder that God has a master plan and design for His creation.

Today, we are going to see how God reminded Job of His greatness by focusing his eyes on the creation around him.

### What Does the Bible Say?

After drawing Job’s attention to the things that He controls on the earth and in the universe, God turned Job’s attention to the animal kingdom. God described how He knew everything that happened and He was in complete control over all of it. God did this by telling Job that He was the One who designed the food chain and was responsible for providing food for what the animals needed to survive. He used lions and ravens to illustrate this. Both lions and ravens were animals that survived by preying on other animals. The prey they need to survive was placed there by God for their survival and for the food chain to continue (vs 39-41).

From animals of prey, God moved to describe animals that give birth. New life is a phenomenal thing that is amazing to see and can be described as a great miracle. God was the one responsible for creating creatures to reproduce and He is the one who gives the animals the offspring that they need. The whole cycle of birth and reproduction in animals is a natural design of God. Though men have figured little ways to manipulate this, it is ultimately God who is in control (vs 1-4).

God spent much time reminding Job that He was highly responsible for the affairs of the world. His point was to remind Job that if He could take care of all the things that were going on in this world that Job would never see, He certainly could take care of him. Through this, God

described how wild donkeys dwell on their own providing for themselves without an owner to take care of them (vs 5-8). God also created the wild ox who resisted being tamed. Though he was strong and would be greatly useful in the fields, man's inability to tame him made him an unwanted animal for the farmer (vs 9-12). The Ostrich is an odd creature designed by God because it is a bird whose wings aren't big enough to allow it to fly. The eggs of an ostrich are laid on the ground with little protection allowing the eggs to easily be crushed. Even though this is the case, God has allowed the Ostrich to continue to reproduce because He has wanted to keep them alive (13-18). The horse was designed by God with natural instincts to be used in battle and other things that men need for life (vs 19-25). Eagles and hawks are also amazing creatures designed by God to perform the specific functions and plans that He desires (vs 26-30).

After explaining all of the things that He created and how He is in control, God asked Job a deeply convicting and challenging question. He asked Job how Job could find fault with the decisions God chose to make. He wanted to know how Job could argue against the Almighty when his arguments were coming from a finite mind. Tomorrow, we will see how Job responded to God (vs 1-2)

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

What do you do when you start to question God and wonder if He cares, or if He is still working in your life? God told Job what to do in times like this. He told Job to look around him. This look would reveal that God is in control of everything. This is tremendous and helpful advice to you when you get down in the dumps and struggle with your thoughts and feelings of despair. When fear or worry overwhelm you, stop and look around you! Take some time to observe the creation that God has made and be in awe of the Creator. Perhaps this means taking an afternoon off to get away by yourself to visit a park or a zoo. Perhaps just a walk in your backyard could do the trick. Take time to observe and admire God's creation to remind yourself that if He could make and control everything around you, He certainly can control your life.

### **Thought for the day**

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What point do you think God was making to Job in verses 39-40?

Who provides birds with their prey (vs 41)?

Why do you think God was asking Job these questions?

What would Job have a hard time knowing (vs 1)?

Why would it have been difficult for Job to know when a wild animal was going to give birth (vs 2-3)?

What happen not too long after wild animals give birth (vs 4)?

What point was God making?

Why do you think God brought up wild donkeys (vs 5-6)?

What is the wild donkey able to do on his own (vs 7-8)?

What animal did God use next (vs 9-12)? What was God attempting to teach Job through this?

Where do Ostriches lay their eggs (vs 13-14)? Why is this dangerous (vs 15)?

How does the mom treat her young (vs 16)? What point are verses 13-18 teaching?

What were horses used for (vs 19-25)? Why were they able to go into battle without fear?

What questions did God ask in verses 26-27? Why?

What are hawks and eagles able to do (vs 28-30)?

What did God declare in chapter 40 verse 2?

What point was He making to Job?

# “God Is In Control”

**Study:** Job 40:3-24

**Reading:** Matthew 6:25-34

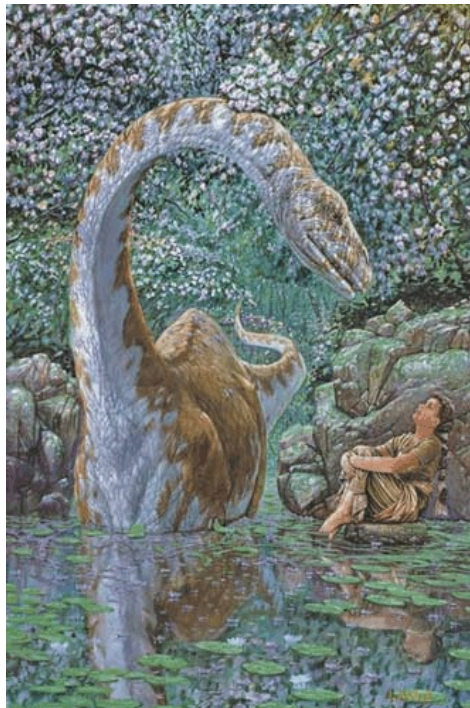
**Memory:** Matthew 5:38

## What Does the Bible Say?

After God had profoundly described His complete and absolute control of the universe, He asked Job how he had any right to question the ways of the Almighty. To this, Job responded in complete humility by declaring that he was wrong to question God. He told God that he would not speak out against Him any more, questioning His motives for allowing pain and suffering (vs 3-5).

A few times throughout the book, Job had asked for a hearing in front of God. When he received what he asked for, it didn't go at all how Job had expected it. Job wanted to present his complaints and prove his innocence, but in his hearing before God, Job had no ground to stand on because he understood his inabilities as a human. He listened to God reveal himself, as we read in the last few chapters, and now God was going to do much of the same in the next few chapters. This is why God asked Job to prepare himself like a man would for battle or hard labor because he once again was going to be put through the ringer.

God questioned Job about his limited power. Through this, God declared that He alone had a voice that was more powerful than thunder and that He is adorned with majesty, dignity, power and splendor. He also had the power to put down the mighty of the earth and to control the affairs of this world in an effortless way. God



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then told Job that when he had the power and ability to control the affairs of men, he then could have the right to question God (vs 6-14).

Verse 15 takes us into a very interesting passage in which God describes His power to control the “Behemoth.” What this creature was is not exactly clear, though it was probably some type of dinosaur. The descriptions given of this animal don't exactly fit that of any animal known to exist today. This animal was incredibly large and strong and feared few things. Though we might be able to picture some type of animal in our minds, we can't be certain as to what it looked like. What is clear is that the animal mentioned was feared by many and not able to be controlled by men, yet God had complete power over it (vs 15-24).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you sometimes get overconfident in your ability as a follower of Christ? Do you find yourself trusting in your power and strength and what you can do rather than looking to God for help? If you are honest, there are times in your life where you can look back and see how much you trusted in yourself rather than God. This is a great caution for you because when you continue to trust in yourself, you are setting yourself up for great failure and disappointment. God spent a great deal of time explaining Himself to Job because He wanted Job to understand his complete inability to know the mind of God and to know what was best for His life. He wanted Job to turn to Him in complete trust realizing that God's way was always best. This is a great lesson for you to learn as well. No matter if things are going great or if your life is miserable right now, you can't trust in yourself for anything, but must choose to completely trust in God.

## Suggestions for Prayer

- \* *Thank God because He is in complete control of your life.*
- \* *Ask God to help you to trust His plan for you.*
- \* *Praise God because He can control everything around you.*

## Thought for the day

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How did Job respond to God (vs 4-5)?

What lesson can you learn from this?

How did God answer Job (vs 6)?

Why do you think He answered out of a “whirlwind” (vs 6)?

What did God tell Job to do (vs 7)?

What do you think this meant?

What was God going to do (vs 7)?

What questions did God ask Job (vs 8-9)? What was His point?

What did God tell Job to do (vs 10-13)?

Why would Job not be able to do those things?

What point was God making to Job (vs 14)?

What did God use as an example (vs 15)?

What do you think “Behemoth” was after reading verses 16-18?

What was this creature a prime example of (vs 19)?

What did God cause the mountains to do (vs 20)?

What do verses 21-22 show about the wisdom of God in creation?

What would not bother Behemoth (vs 23)?

What were men not able to do (vs 24)?

Why do you think God used Behemoth as an example?

## ***“Not Having To Know Why”***

**Study:** Job 41:1-34

**Reading:** Romans 9:14-24

**Memory:** Matthew 5:38

**W**hen my children were little, I think the words that my wife and I used most were “Yes” and “No.” As you can imagine, and probably remember from when you were a child, one of the most common words that a child says is “Why?” Though we tried our best to teach our children to trust us when we told them what we thought was best, they were human and wanted to know exactly why mommy and daddy won’t let them do something. Sometimes, the answer was obvious, while other times we just didn’t feel like explaining the reason for what we chose to do. Many of those times that we didn’t explain were because we knew that the reason would be too hard for their little minds to understand.

Today, we are going to see that God wants us to trust Him without always having to know why. We need to trust that He loves us and that He is at work doing what is best for us.

### **What Does the Bible Say?**

After describing how He had power over the mighty animal called “Behemoth,” God went on to describe another animal that is unknown to us today described as “Leviathan.” Many suggestions have been given as to what this animal might have been. Some believe that it was a crocodile because they don’t think any type of Dinosaur or sea creature could have existed during the days of Job. Others think that God was describing a mythical creature. We can not know for sure and will not know until we get to heaven, though my opinion is that the creature described here was an actual animal that has gone extinct.

The Leviathan was not an animal that could be caught or tamed. Many had tried to kill this animal, but it was very hard to kill. Anyone who tried to catch and capture this animal would have a very difficult time and was in for an experience that they would never forget. To rise up and fight against the Leviathan would be crazy because it was a no win situation for the person who tried. The point in describing this

animal was that if man didn't have the ability to capture, tame and control this animal, his futile attempts to try to control God were a complete waste of time and energy. God doesn't owe man anything and those who do things for Him expecting Him to give them favors in return have a complete misunderstanding of God (vs 1-11).

God continued to talk about this animal for the rest of the chapter, describing it as having a type of spine covered skin and a large powerful jaw. He also described it by saying that fire came out of its mouth causing him to be greatly feared. The Leviathan was the most dreaded and feared creature of that time and no one wanted to come into contact with one because of the great fearful reputation of the animal. Instead of being controlled by men, this animal controlled people because of the fear that he caused in their minds. The point that God was getting across was that men don't have control of their lives, God does (vs 12-34).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Though the description of the Leviathan might be hard to grasp and fully understand, the point to the lesson today was very clear. God wanted Job and wants you to ask yourself who you think you are when you fight against God or question His ways. You as a creation of the Creator have no right to argue with God or question why He allowed something to happen in your life. This doesn't mean that you have to fully understand why He does what He does, nor does it mean that you shouldn't question why in order to learn the lessons He wants you to learn. The questioning that we don't have a right to do is the questioning that brings about complaining or discontentment. It is the questioning that comes out of self-righteous thinking that we deserve something in return for all that we have done for God. God is not a God to be bartered with. He is a God this is meant to be served and obeyed, understanding His great love for us. You do not have to fully know the reason why, you simply need to trust and obey.

## **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* *Praise God because He alone is in complete control.*
- \* *Ask God to help you obey without having to always know why.*
- \* *Thank God for the peace that He gives you in life when you simply choose to trust Him and obey His Word.*

What creature does God talk about in chapter 41?

What do verses 2-5 reveal about Leviathan (vs 2-5)?

What were people not able to do (vs 6-8)?

What does verse 9 reveal about the man who hoped to tame Leviathan?

What question did God ask in verse 10?

What did God reveal about Himself (vs 11)?

What did verse 12 reveal about the power and size of Leviathan?

What were men not able to do (vs 13-14)?

What do you think verses 15-17 reveal about this creature?

What came out of its mouth (vs 18-21)?

What do you think verses 22-24 are meant to reveal?

What was the attitude of men towards this creature (vs 25)?

What were men not able to do (vs 26)?

What does verse 27 reveal about the power of Leviathan?

What were men not able to do (vs 28-29)?

How is the belly of Leviathan described (vs 30)?

What do you think verse 31 means?

What did he have the ability to do (vs 32)?

What does verse 33 say about this creature?

What was the final point made about this creature (vs 34)?

# “Complete Restoration”

**Study:** Job 42:1-17

**Reading:** Ephesians 4:26-32, Matthew 18:15-35

**Memory:** Matthew 5:38

## What Does the Bible Say?

When God had finished revealing His power and greatness to Job, Job realized that he had been wrong. Job clearly understood now that God’s plan and ways can’t be thrown off by anyone and that God has the right to do as He pleases. This was revealed when Job repeated the question that God had asked him in Job 38:2. Job answered the question by confessing that he had talked about eternal things as if he had great knowledge, but since He was only a man, he couldn’t have the complete mind and thoughts of God (vs 1-3).

Job again quoted God in verse 4 in which God had told Job that He was the one who was going to do the questioning (38:3). God did do the questioning and after that Job’s only response was humility and repentance. Before this, Job had understood God but still didn’t understand exactly how He worked. After hearing God explain Himself and His power, Job could clearly see and understand that God was in control and that He was working throughout this event, even though Job was still suffering. Job realized the only thing he could do now was admit he was completely wrong and seek for forgiveness which the Lord was ready and willing to give. It must be noted that Job’s repentance and turning came before God restored anything in his life. This confession was Job giving into God and saying that He was willing to suffer like he had been for the rest of his life if that was what God desired because God knew what was best (vs 4-6).

God then turned His attention towards the first three friends of Job. He rebuked them for not dealing with the situation in the right way and revealing a God to Job that wasn’t the true God. As part of their repentance, they were to go to Job with a burnt offering and ask him to sacrifice it for them. This would show not only their need to make things right with God, but also their need to correct things with Job. This had vindicated Job of the earlier suffering he had faced when they had accused him of living in sin. The men did as God commanded and they were forgiven of their sins (vs 7-9).

After Job had willingly sacrificed for his friends, God began to restore the health and fortunes of Job. His family once again came and fellowshiped with him, bringing him financial gifts and expressing their sympathy for the trials that he had been facing. Job went on to live for 140 more years. In that time, he had 10 more children and was able to see them grow and have children of their own – four generation’s worth. His wealth was double of what it had been before the disasters struck and God blessed him abundantly (vs 10-17).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you try to barter with God and make deals in order to get out of the difficulties and situations you are in? Perhaps you try to barter with God to get those special things that you have always wanted. Maybe you have said something like, “If you do this for me God, then I will do this for you.” This is not the attitude that God desires. He wants your obedience and loyalty no matter what is happening in your life. Yes, God did restore Job’s wealth and fortune but not as a tradeoff for Job’s obedience. Job humbled himself and repented, fully expecting to face his trials for the rest of his life. God used this time in Job’s life to bring him to the place of complete repentance and total acceptance of His plan rather than Job’s plan. The point is that Job repented not to get something in return, but because He realized his error and complete worthlessness before an almighty God.

Another thing worth noting is that Job forgave his friends even though they had hurt him deeply in the most tragic time of his life. This was part of the repentance process. God didn’t restore Job until after this outward sign of inward repentance was displayed by offering a sacrifice for his friends. This is a reminder and lesson to you about true repentance. It is not just saying I’m sorry, but it showing humility and a total willingness to forgive others as God has forgiven you.

## Thought for the day

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What did Job state about God's abilities (vs 2)?

What did Job say he had done (vs 3)?

What does this reveal about our understanding as humans?

What did Job recount (vs 4)?

\*\*\**God has asked Job to listen to him and answer some questions in chapter 38.*

What did Job say was different about His understanding of God (vs 5)?

How do you think circumstances in life can help you to view God in a whole different way?

What was Job's response to God (vs 6)?

What did God say to Eliphaz (vs 7)?

What can you learn from this?

What were they instructed to do (vs 8)?

What was the result (vs 9)?

When did God restore the fortunes of Job (vs 10)?

What valuable lesson can you learn from this?

What was the result of the restoration (vs 10-11)?

What did God do for Job (vs 12)?

Why do you think we are given the names of Job's three daughters (vs 15)?

\*\*\**All the names had to do with beauty in the days of Job.*

What was Job able to do (vs 16-17)?

#### MEMORY VERSES

*Matthew 5:20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. 23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. 26 Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. 27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. 31 "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' 32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. 33 "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' 34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil. 38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'*