

# Comments About Job 38–39

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss the book of Job. There will be times when we talk about (1) a group of chapters, (2) one chapter and (3) a portion of a chapter. Today, we will discuss Job 38-39.

I hope this project encourages you to review the valuable history and lessons found in the book of Job.

## **What was Job’s sin?**

In the article on May 26 discussing Job 2:11-13, I mentioned two verses that gave succinct statements about Job’s sin.

- The servant Elihu said: “Therefore Job opens his mouth in vain; he multiplies words without knowledge” (Job 35:16).

At the end of the book of Job, God is recorded as confronting Job with two presentations—Job 38-39 and Job 40-41.

- God began his first confrontation by asking: “Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge?” (Job 32:2).

At this time, I want to add a third verse that also gives a succinct statement about Job’s sin.

- “Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? He who rebukes God, let him answer it” (Job 40:2).

## **Confronting Job**

Early in Elihu’s commentary to Job, we see him issue a challenge to Job.

*Job 33:5*—“If you can answer me, set your words in order before me; take your stand.”

When God finally talked to Job, He confronted Job twice.

*Job 38:3*—“Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.”

*Job 40:7*—“Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.”

## Series of questions

When God confronted Job, He asked a series of questions.

*Job 38:4*—"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?"

*Job 38:5*—"Who determined its measurements? . . . Who stretched the line upon it?"

*Job 38:6*—"To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone?"

*Job 38:12*—"Have you commanded the morning since your days began and caused the dawn to know its place?"

*Job 38:19*—"Where is the way to the dwelling of light?"

*Job 38:22*—"Have you entered the treasury of snow, or have you seen the treasury of hail?"

*Job 38:28*—"Has the rain a father?"

*Job 38:36*—"Who has put wisdom in the mind? Or who has given understanding to the heart?"

*Job 38:37*—"Who can number the clouds by wisdom?"

*Job 39:1*—"Do you know the time when the wild mountain goats bear young? Or can you mark when the deer gives birth?"

*Job 39:26*—"Does the hawk fly by your wisdom, and spread its wings toward the south?"

*Job 39:27*—"Does the eagle mount up at your command, and make its nest on high?"

*Job 40:2*—"Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? He who rebukes God, let him answer it."

## Job's response to first challenge

Here is Job's response to God's first challenge.

*Job 40:4-5*—"Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth. Once I have spoken, but I will not answer; yes, twice, but I will proceed no further."

Although that response may appear sufficient to many people, God proceeded to confront Job again (Job 40-41).