

The Wonders Of Creation

Job 38:12-41

Introduction

In chapters 38-41 The Lord shows up and speaks.

A series of questions are asked. In broad terms the questions can be summarized as;

Can you explain My creation?	(38:1-38)
Can you oversee My creation?	(38:39-39:30)
Can you subdue My creation	(40:6-41:34)

Another way of looking at the questions;

Do you know the sources from which the universe began?	(38:4-21)
Do you understand the systems upon which the earth depends?	(38:22-38)
Do you appreciate the specialties, by which animals are distinguished?	(38:39-39-30)

The Lord's original plan for creation was to provide a beautiful, safe, joyous environment for His creatures. Adam and Eve turned God's paradise through rebellion and sin into a place of difficulty and sometimes misery. Our world though broken and fallen still retains much beauty and mystery.

God's questions to Job concern weather patters and celestial circuits and life on this planet. Why in the world does God question Job this way? We are left with the impression that the questions are meant to humble Job and perhaps even assure Job that if the Lord—the Creator—could design and sustain the whole universe—he may be able to sustain and care for the one who trusts Him!

Some people feel they have the right to question God or threaten God or demand from God explanations!

In truth the Bible answers so many questions! Why am I here? What went wrong? How can I know God?

Consider The Days (vv.12-15)

Job 38:12–41 (NKJV)12“Have you commanded the morning since your days began, And caused the dawn to know its place,

Do we even understand the question? Job is being asked—have you ever caused the sun to rise or directed the morning to appear? Tell me what you know about the sun?

13That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, And the wicked be shaken out of it?

14It takes on form like clay under a seal, And stands out like a garment.

15From the wicked their light is withheld, And the upraised arm is broken.

Have you ever spread daylight over the earth to bring an end to the wickedness of the night? (v. 13)—or we might say—have you ever made the sun come up—in order to make the darkness or wickedness in the world disappear? Have you ever made the sun come up or the light—and placed that light in motion to show off the beautiful features of the natural wonders on the face of

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the planet (v.14) or have you ever set the light in motion to expose the haunts of the wicked? (v. 15).

The assertion is that wickedness would run wild if not for God's restraint.

I have posted pictures of the sunrise and sunset on Facebook! I don't think it's the same as making the sun rise and making the sun set.

In the 1830's the Royal Greenwich Observatory and the US Naval Observatory made more than 100 direct visual measurements of the Sun. They concluded that the Sun was shrinking (losing it's mass at about 0.1% each century or about 3-5 feet per hour. Solar eclipses seen to indicate that this shrinking has been going on for about the past 400 years. Scientists have used a number of indirect techniques to confirm the Sun is shrinking. Yet all of the tests seem to indicate a significant shrinkage far beyond what one might expect if the Sun is 5 or more billion years old. Scientists have puzzled if the Sun has been shrinking at a steady rate—its size even a few million years ago would have made life on earth impossible (Is the Sun Shrinking; by Andrew Snelling; In The Beginning; 7th ed. pp.34-35).

Consider The Vast Dimensions Of The Universe (vv.16-24)

16 "Have you entered the springs of the sea? Or have you walked in search of the depths?"

Human beings have now mapped the ocean floors—with deep caverns and mountain ranges under water. The book of Genesis says that when the Flood began "all the fountains of the deep were broken up" (Gen.7:11). The Hebrew word for broken up means to rip open or burst forth; implying great underground or subterranean waters existed below the surface of the earth when these waters 'burst forth'. Some creation scientists believe the Mid-Oceanic Ridge fissures are possibly evidence or remains of the scar which caused this water to burst forth. Walt Brown popularized what is known as the hydroplane theory. The very word ocean or 'springs of the sea' translates a word that means 'that which burst forth from the womb.

17 Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death?

Have you ever taken the journey to death's door? Do you remember Job's desire to die? To find some bit of peace in death's dark place (10:18-22). But is that such a good idea if you have never been there?

18 Have you comprehended the breadth of the earth? Tell Me, if you know all this.

You might think; I know the breadth of the earth.

The mean radius of Earth is 3,959 miles (6,371 kilometers). However, Earth is not quite a sphere. The planet's rotation causes it to bulge at the equator. Earth's equatorial diameter is 7,926 miles

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(12,756 kilometers), but from pole to pole, the diameter is 7,900 miles (12,720 km) — a difference of only 40 miles (64 km).

19“Where is the way to the dwelling of light? And darkness, where is its place,

Where does light come from? How is it possible that it can be light on side the planet and dark on the other? Do you understand the mystery of light and darkness and where they are kept?

20That you may take it to its territory, That you may know the paths to its home?

Can you measure the distance between east and west—between the horizons or as the popular songs; can you tell me just how far the east is from the west? One nail-scarred hand to the other!

21Do you know it, because you were born then, Or because the number of your days is great?

Were you born when light and darkness first appeared?

22“Have you entered the treasury of snow, Or have you seen the treasury of hail,

23Which I have reserved for the time of trouble, For the day of battle and war?

Have you been where snow and hail are stored—where God keeps them until they are needed to execute justice and judgment?

24By what way is light diffused, Or the east wind scattered over the earth?

Do you know the path lightening takes or where the east winds scatter?

Consider The Rain And Ice (vv.25-30)

Since Job was having such a tough time with the mysteries of the universe maybe the Lord could lob him some soft-ball questions. Perhaps Job knew something about the more common processes on the face of the earth like rain and ice.

25“Who has divided a channel for the overflowing water, Or a path for the thunderbolt,

Who has told every lightening bolt where it should go? Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with the snow!

Or who determines where rain should fall or who charts the paths for thunderstorms?

26To cause it to rain on a land where there is no one, A wilderness in which there is no man;

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The Lord asks; how do you explain the presence of rain and the growth of grass in the vast wilderness of the continents of the world where no human beings live? How do you explain the presence of deserts and vast wastelands?

27To satisfy the desolate waste, And cause to spring forth the growth of tender grass?

28Has the rain a father? Or who has begotten the drops of dew?

Who is the father of rain and the frost that forms early in the morning?

29From whose womb comes the ice? And the frost of heaven, who gives it birth?

Who gives birth to ice and frost? The series of questions—beg another question. The Lord in effect asks Job—Do you understand the weather? But the Lord's questions themselves—seem to indicate that God designs in the weather patterns on the earth—do not always have human beings at the center of His plans. Does God use the weather to intervene in human affairs? Yes. Does God control the weather for other than human benefits? Apparently so.

30The waters harden like stone, And the surface of the deep is frozen.

Who makes water freeze as hard as stone and causes even the deepest lakes to freeze?

Why does ice float? Generally, solids are denser than liquids of the same substance. Solid lead, for instance, is denser than liquid lead. Because it is denser, it sinks.

This is not the case for water, however. Ice is less dense than water, therefore it floats. Ice is less dense than water because of a special type of chemical bonding called hydrogen bonding. A hydrogen bond is a weak bond between a hydrogen atom and an unbonded pair of electrons from another atom.

We can think of a water molecule as being in the shape of an "X" twisted so that the top half is perpendicular to the bottom half. In the center of the "X" is an oxygen atom, at the bottom tips of the "X" are two hydrogen atoms, and at the top tips of the "X" are two unbonded electron pairs from oxygen.

As you can see, water molecules are prime candidates for hydrogen bonding between each other. At warm temperatures, water molecules have a lot of energy and are able to move past and mix with each other despite the attractions between the hydrogen atoms and unbonded electron pairs. As water is cooled down, however, the molecules have less energy and hydrogen bonding takes over. The molecules form an ordered crystal through hydrogen bonding that spaces the molecules farther apart than when they were in a liquid. This makes ice less dense than water allowing it to float.

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I read the amazing story that took place in 1942. Six brand new P-38 Mustang Lightnings and two B-17 Flying Fortresses took off from a secret airfield in Greenland—for a bombing mission in Germany. The squadron was lost in a blizzard and the pilots were forced to land on a glacier. The crew was rescued nine days later; but the planes were abandoned because of the driving snow and left for the next 50 years. In 1980 two Atlanta businessmen; Richard Taylor and Patrick Epps decided to recover the planes. Twelve years and millions of dollars later they managed to retrieve one of the eight planes. It took so long because the plane had to be dismantled piece by piece and recovered from under neath 250 feet of snow. The fact that 250 feet of snow could accumulate in just 50 years demonstrates that hundreds of thousands of years are not necessary to form the polar ice caps. Instead of hundreds of thousands of years and multiple ice ages; a single catastrophic event (like the aftermath of a global flood) could explain the depths of the polar ice caps.

Both evolutionists and creationists agree that the ice age was the last major geologic event that profoundly changed the way our earth appears. Evolutionists believe dozens of ice ages over hundreds of thousands of years—explain our topography. But the evidence of a rapid accumulation over a short period of time—may serve as a better explanation.

All of the science is interesting.

I read about a panel of economists who were discussing the financial markets. The moderator asked the group “What is the greatest influence upon the world economy?” The answer was surprising; ‘the weather’. If you control the weather you can control the economies of the world.

People spend their lives trying to manage money and make their best efforts to understand markets and moods and weather—what can we control and what is beyond our control?

Consider The Stars (vv.31-33)

31 “Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, Or loose the belt of Orion?”

The Lord asks Job—can you direct the course of the stars in the skies? The Pleiades and Orion are references to star systems!

32 Can you bring out Mazzaroth in its season? Or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs?

The Mazzaroth seem to be a mention of the constellations; well known by the time of Job. The Great Bear and its cubs is a reference to the star system we know as Ursa Major.

* Mazzaroth, though sometimes in modern lexicons differently interpreted, is here used as meaning the constellations. In Job xxxviii. 32, it stands in the text of the English Bible untranslated: in the margin it is rendered "the twelve signs." Mazzaroth is a feminine or neuter plural noun, applied to separate chambers of divisions, such as the constellations. Mazaloth, a

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word with which it is sometimes identified, means a way through which any thing goes, as the sun through the zodiac, and the moon through the lunar mansions, or Manzil al Kamar, the Arabic appellation of the lunar zodiac still used in the East. It occurs in the sacred Scriptures only in 2 Kings xxiii. 5, probably in the same sense.

* Frances Rolleston: Notes;

The astronomer looks at the vast complex of the universe and wonders at just how small we are. God questions Job and his inability to control the stars, their orbits, the constellations, or determine their influence over the earth!

Spurgeon with poetic insight says; “If inclined to boast of our abilities, the grandeur of nature may soon show us how puny we are. We cannot move the least of the twinkling stars, or quench so much as one of the beams of the morning. We speak of power, but the heavens last us to scorn. When the Pleiades shine forth in spring with vernal joy we cannot restrain their influences, and when Orion reigns aloft, and the year is bound in winter’s fetters (chains), we cannot relax the icy bands. The seasons revolve according to the divine appointment, neither can the whole race of men effect a change therein. Lord, what is man?”

Indeed. But we question God’s wisdom. We question God’s judgment. We question God’s goodness.

33Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you set their dominion over the earth?

Or “Do you know the laws of the heavens? Can you set up God’s dominion over the earth?”

In the book “A Closer Look At the Evidence Richard and Tina Kleiss write;

As astronomers look far out into the universe with increasingly more powerful telescopes, they observe the rapidly moving galaxies often cluster tightly together. If these galaxies started out as a single point of matter (as we have been taught by the big bang theory) they should be evenly dispersed by now. For galaxies to remain tightly clustered would be the same as throwing a handful of rocks at a target 20 feet away and having every one of the rocks hit the exact center of the target. This never happens because the individual rocks spread out as they travel different trajectories at different speeds. It is only right after they leave your hand that they will all be in close proximity.

The same is true of these clusters. If they have been moving through space for billions of years, they should not be in tight clusters but widely spread apart. This is one of the huge problems which many scientists doubting the validity of the big bang theory. The galaxies within clusters are so close together, they could not have been flying apart for very long. The visible mass of these clusters is much too small to hold galaxies together by gravity. They can only be in close proximity because they were recently created (see May 31; and they cite; In the Beginning; 7th Ed. p. 35; Creation Ex Nihilo Mag. Vol. 20; No. 3; June-August 1998; pp.42-44).

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34“Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, That an abundance of water may cover you?

Can you tell the sky to rain or not rain? The Lord points out Job’s ignorance and impotence. The Lord alone controls the storms and rain and lightening and thunder.

35Can you send out lightnings, that they may go, And say to you, ‘Here we are!’?

36Who has put wisdom in the mind? Or who has given understanding to the heart?

37Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can pour out the bottles of heaven,

38When the dust hardens in clumps, And the clods cling together?

William MacDonald:

Obviously, anyone who can question the wisdom and power of God should be able to bring down rain by shouting to the clouds, and command lightening so that it obeys instantly! Can Job tell God how the mind operates, how man gets wisdom and understanding in all these areas? No man has the wisdom to number the clouds, to say nothing of the particles of moisture by which they are formed. And no one can determine the time when the rain falls on arid ground that has been hardened into clumps and clods” (see p. 536).

Consider The Animals (vv.39-41)

39“Can you hunt the prey for the lion, Or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,

The Lord invites Job to consider the animals. A dozen or so animals will be mentioned; lion, raven, goat, onager, deer, donkey, ox, ostrich, horse, locust, hawk and eagle. All living. All different. All fearfully and wonderfully made. Lions and ravens are animals that need help in finding food for their young. Lions wait to ambush their prey. Ravens tend to forage for seeds. In both cases God cares for them.

But to the casual observer they look like they are on their own.

40When they crouch in their dens, Or lurk in their lairs to lie in wait?

41Who provides food for the raven, When its young ones cry to God, And wander about for lack of food?

Who indeed provides food for the raven? The implication is that if God can hear the cries of big birds (or little birds like sparrows) can God hear and provide for His own people help in time of need?

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In the brief time God questions Job God points to the inanimate creation (rain, ice, weather, earth, sun, stars) and animate creation (animals and humans).

We are back to the fundamentals; did life begin by random processes or intelligent design?

Conclusion

Does the passage invite the reader to make inquiry into the mysteries of the universe? Does the passage provide answers to those mysteries? Or is the passage inviting the reader to beware of placing the Almighty God of the Bible into a neat little package that satisfies the finite mind?

We are given the slightest glimpse into Isaiah 55:8 where God says “My thoughts are not your thoughts nor my ways your ways”.

God is inviting us to take glimpse of his greatness, mystery, authority, wonder, majesty, to provide a foundation to consider his greatness, and wisdom and glory.

We want answers. God invites us to see Himself. Do you remember when Phillip said to Jesus, “Lord, show us the Father, and we shall be satisfied” (John 14:8).

Has your vision blurred? Do you find it hard to see God in a world that is marred by sin and broken by rebellion?