



BAND of BROTHERS

ALL SERIES 2024 – WEEK 11

Job 38-42: Now My Eyes See You

*“I had only heard about you before,
but now I have seen you with my own eyes.”*
– Job 42:5 ESV

- **A right knowledge of God...**

...clarifies our **perspective**
...and solidifies **our hope**

- Job gets his wish

“As for me, I would speak directly to the Almighty. I want to argue my case with God himself.” – Job 13:3 NLT

“God might kill me, but I have no other hope. I am going to argue my case with him. But this is what will save me—I am not godless. If I were, I could not stand before him.” – Job 13:15-16 NLT

“I have prepared my case; I will be proved innocent. Who can argue with me over this?” – Job 13:18-19 NLT

- **An audience of five**

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:

“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

Dress for action like a man;

I will question you, and you make it known to me. – Job 38:1-3 ESV

- For 35 chapters 5 men have...

...spouted their personal opinions
...debated the nature and character of God
...attempted to explain evil & suffering
...and displayed their arrogance & ignorance

- Now God addresses them all
 - Especially Elihu (the last one to speak)
 - God has heard enough
 - Their assumptions are incorrect
 - Their opinions are misguided
 - Their views about Him are wrong

- Gird up your loins!
"You better roll up your sleeves!"
"Put on your big boy panties!"
"Get ready to rumble!"

- Job was about to go mano y mano with God

"God is telling Job to prepare himself since he must now face in a contest of words not the inept, blustering Elihu or even the more sagacious three friends, but God himself." – Duane A. Garrett, *Job: Evangelical Exegetical Commentary*

*"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.
Who determined its measurements—surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?
On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" – Job 38:4-7 ESV*

- *"Tell me, O wise one!"*
 - You and your friends **know everything!**
 - You must be **omniscient**
 - What do you need Me for?

- **Put up or shut up!** – Job 38:12, 16-18
 - Job has been demanding **answers**
 - He wants his suffering **explained**
 - But there is far more he doesn't know
 - The **majesty** of God
 - The **might** of God
 - The **mysteries** of God
 - God points out His handiwork
 - The Earth's foundation – 4-6

- The oceans – 8-11
- The dawn – 12-15
- The underworld – 16-18
- The source of light – 19-21
- The elements – 22-30
- The heavens – 31-33
- The weather – 34-38
- The animal kingdom – 39-41

- **God’s sovereign, providential plan – Job 39:1-3**

- God uses the animal kingdom as an example

Mountain lion	Ostrich
Ravens	Horse
Mountain goat	Hawk
Wild donkey	Eagle
Wild ox	

- God cares for them all
 - He sees that they are fed
 - He oversees their breeding
 - He orchestrates their growth
 - He establishes their boundaries
 - He controls their behaviors
 - He instilled their dispositions
 - He determined their purpose
 - He dictated their distinctiveness

“To manage such creatures requires a wisdom that is deeper than any possessed by humans and that that is even counterintuitive. God enables beasts to survive without wisdom in a world that is exceedingly harsh in its natural state and that is made worse by the violence of human civilization.”
 – Duane A. Garrett, *Job: Evangelical Exegetical Commentary*

- **I’ve said enough! – Job 40:1-5**

- Job is left speechless
- His God is greater than he realized
 - God’s wisdom is unfathomable
 - God’s sovereignty is undeniable
 - God’s care for creation is non-debatable
 - God’s providence is unquestionable

- **Everybody wants to be God – Job 40:6-9**

- But no one is up to the challenge
 - We lack experience, knowledge, & power
 - We can’t even manage our own lives
 - We’re insufficient to rule and reign
 - But we’re quick to critique and criticize God

“Humans are rationale beings with moral understanding, ‘the knowledge of good and evil.’ Unfortunately, **this gives us the delusion that we are ‘like God’** (Gen. 3:5). We have the sense that we understand the world’s troubles and the solution to those troubles better than we really do.” – Duane A. Garrett, *Job, Evangelical Exegetical Commentary*

- The false pride of fallen men
 - Our knowledge is finite and far from complete
 - We can’t comprehend the **natural** world
 - Let alone the **supernatural**
 - Our hubris knows no bounds
 - And we are blind to our own ignorance
- Now for something completely different!
 - Behold **Behemoth** and **Leviathan!**
 - God introduces 2 fanciful creatures
 - Like nothing we’ve ever seen
 - They are out of the ordinary
 - They transcend the natural world
 - God is making a point

*“Behold, Behemoth,
which I made as I made you;
he eats grass like an ox.
Behold, his strength in his loins,
and his power in the muscles of his belly.”* – Job 40:15-16 ESV

- bahāmôt** – (plural) – beasts
- This is **not** a hippo, elephant, or rhino
 - It appears to be a **composite** image
 - A creature that transcends the natural world

*“Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook
or press down his tongue with a cord?
Can you put a rope in his nose
or pierce his jaw with a hook?”* – Job 41:1-2 ESV

- livyātān** – (plural) - sea monster, dragon
- This is **not** a crocodile or dinosaur
 - It is like nothing else in creation
 - Remember who is talking: God
 - He is describing never-before-seen creatures

- If Job can’t understand the **seen world**...
...he’ll never comprehend the **unseen one**
- This is all symbolic language
- God is sovereign over **all creation**

- ...the **visible** and the **invisible**
- ...the **natural** and **supernatural**
- God is accentuating His **greatness**

In that day the Lord with his hard and great and strong sword will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan the twisting serpent, and he will slay the dragon that is in the sea. – Isaiah 27:1 ESV

And I saw **a beast** rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. And **the beast** that I saw was like **a leopard**; its feet were like **a bear's**, and its mouth was like **a lion's** mouth. And to it **the dragon** gave his power and his throne and great authority. – Revelation 13:1-2 ESV

And they worshiped **the dragon**, for he had given his authority to **the beast**, and they worshiped **the beast**, saying, "Who is like **the beast**, and who can fight against it?" – Revelation 13:3 ESV

Then I saw **another beast** rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like **a dragon**. It exercises all the authority of the **first beast** in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the **first beast**, whose mortal wound was healed. – Revelation 13:11-12 ESV

"On earth **there is not his like**,
a creature without fear.
He sees everything that is high;
he is king over all the sons of pride." – Job 41:33-34 ESV

"Leviathan is not an ox, a crocodile, a whale, a human, or even a sea monster. **He is the embodiment of all evil**, introduced at the beginning of the book as Satan....**Leviathan represents all the evil and injustice Job has railed against**, and the fundamental concern remains whether God is just and wise in his governance of the world." – Duane A. Garrett, *Job, Evangelical Exegetical Commentary*

- **A new and improved view of God**

Then Job answered the LORD and said:

*"I know that you can do all things,
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?'
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.
'Hear, and I will speak;
I will question you, and you make it known to me.'*

*I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees you;
therefore I despise myself,
and repent in dust and ashes.” – Job 42:1-6 ESV*

- He had **heard** about God
...through word of mouth
- Now, he had **seen** God
...with his mind's eye
- He had been given a **revelation of God**

“Now that he has faced God and heard God's 'theology,' he realizes that his former declarations were badly confused, and he declares himself to have been in the wrong.” – Duane A. Garrett, *Job, Evangelical Exegetical Commentary*

- **A happy ending?**

And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends. And the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. – Job 42:9-10 ESV

And the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning. – Job 42:12 ESV

And after this Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, four generations. And Job died, an old man, and full of days. – Job 42:16-17 ESV

- Job gets restored
- But his questions go unanswered
- As do ours
 - Evil still exists
 - Suffering still takes place
 - Satan remains alive and active
 - Sin remains a constant problem
 - But God remains on His throne
 - And His plan remains firmly in place
 -

- **Discussion questions**

What do you think is the difference between hearing about God and actually seeing Him?
What could this look like in your life?

Why did God spend so much time questioning Job and exposing his ignorance and impotence?

What has been your greatest takeaway from this study? How has it changed your view of God??