

Introduction: There is an infinite difference between the Creator and people that is all encompassing. People were created to glorify God in heaven by being His representatives on earth as they care for all He created and make everything better under His guidance and in the strength He provides. We must always keep in mind that His ways and His priorities are not ours. *** Through His dealings with people from Eden, to the kingdom of Israel, to His Church, culminating in the new heavens and earth, we see numerous examples of people obsessing over things that are of vital importance to them and consistent with part of God's revelation of Himself to people; but, God always has a higher priority for people that they cannot know. *** The supreme example of this truth is the story of Job. For His own reason, namely to prove the '*adversary*' wrong about Job, the Covenant God allows Job to suffer greatly for no reason he can discern. *** Job concludes his defense of his innocence to his friends by essentially saying he has always lived his life aware of God and His high standards for people. He has been faithful to his wife, faithful in his business dealings, concerned for his servants; and, he has cared and generously provided for the poor, widow and orphan. He says he lived his life as an open book before men and God, so Job can look God in the eye, expecting Him to say 'well done' to him. *** However, the Covenant God, Yahweh, blows Job's mind with a response that does not even mention justice, or address the problem of suffering – two things Job and his friends disagreed on the most. Instead, God challenges Job to consider His majesty and sovereignty as shown in the order of His creation and His provision for it.

I. Job rests his case to his friends, confident he has lived a godly life and is suffering unjustly; Yahweh asks Job:

Who do you think you are in comparison to Me? (*Job 31:35-37; 38:1-11*)

A. Job rests his case to his friends by saying his way of life before God does not deserve the degree of punishment he is suffering. (*Job 31:35-37*)

1. Who will give to me, hearing me / Behold! My signature (of innocence) // The Almighty, He will answer me / and (he will) answer the document written by the 'man of strife'. (*Verse 35*)

I'm done: After everything Job has said to this point about his desire to stand before the just, true and almighty Creator of all, and his honest self-assessment of his behavior, he says there is nothing more to say:
I sign off on the defense of my innocence!

Almighty, answer me: He is very confident the Almighty God will side with him over the accusations written by the 'man of strife' (adversary) against him.

2. If not upon my shoulder, I will carry it / I will bind it (as) a wreath crown on me // the number of my steps, I will tell / as a prince, I will come near (to) Him. (*Verses 36-37*)

Confidence: Job has supreme confidence he has lived as God requires His people to live. He has done nothing to 'deserve' a punishment of such severe suffering. He considers himself a prince of the King.

B. Yahweh confronts Job by speaking out of a whirlwind: Do you think you can teach Me? Did you create the earth? Can you maintain order? (*Job 38:1-11*)

1. Then Yahweh answered Job from the whirlwind to say: Who is this darkening counsel / in words without knowledge? (*Verses 1-2*)

Yahweh's answer: In a prose sentence, we are told that Yahweh speaks to Job out of a whirlwind – a violent wind storm that can destroy everything in its path!

Ignorance: He immediately chastens Job for taking a dark view of Him and His wise counsel (advice) to the patriarchs. He is essentially saying Job is ignorant of Him and His ways.

2. Thou must gird up, please! as a strong man thy loins / I will ask of thee / and thou will make Me know. (*Verse 3*)

Man up: He demands that Job will respond as a virile man by pulling up his warrior belt around his strong midsection.

3. Where were thou when I founded the earth? / Thou must tell Me if thou have known (with) understanding // Who determined its measurements, because thou will know? / or who stretched on it the measuring-line // upon what were its bases sunk, or who laid (its) cornerstone? (*Verses 4-6*)

Did you design and create earth: Sarcastically confronting Job, Yahweh asks him if he was alive and with Him as He created the earth He had perfectly designed and executed to last eternally. These are questions Job did not address in his complaints about his unjustified suffering. The one who is capable of designing and making the earth as the perfect environment to sustain flourishing human life is above being questioned by those He created.

The awesome Creator answers beyond our questions

4. When to sing (as) one, the stars of the morning / and then shouted together all the 'sons of God'? (*Verse 7*)

Angels: Yahweh now informs Job that as He created the physical universe, the spiritual beings He had already created, were all singing His praises and shouting His acclaim as one for His awesome creation of earth and all life on it.

Did you know this Job?

Homiletical Idea: *The awesome Creator answers beyond our questions.* (#2)

5. Then he covered with doors, the sea / when it burst forth, from the womb it went out // when I made clouds its garment / and thick darkness its (baby wrapping) band // then I broke on it my decree / and set bars and doors //

Then I said: to here, thou will come, and not more / and here will be stopped thy proud waves? (*Verses 8-11*)

Sea: Because the sea is so vast and deep, it can be very dangerous when storm winds are on it. But by His rhetorical questions, Yahweh is saying to Job that from the time He created the sea He has put limits on it as if it were merely an infant to Him. Furthermore, it must obey all His commands so that strong storm waves cannot overwhelm the shore line He established.

Bottom line: Putting it all together, Yahweh is forcing Job to understand that he knows nothing of how the awesome Creator God made the world including oceans and weather!

Application: We must learn from God's answer to Job that the earth's grandeur, the power of the water in the seas, and the order of everything on earth, means Creator God is majestic and wonderful; so, we should never seek to justify ourselves before Him in our ignorance about Him, or question what He does or allows. (Do not stop seeking God, but seek Him open to Him.)

The awesome Creator answers beyond our questions

II. David sings praises to Yahweh his God for His greatness displayed in all He created; and, he sings praise for God's wise works in all living creatures on land and sea. (Psalm 104:1-4, 24-26)

A. David praises God for His awesome majesty displayed in light, wind and fire. (Psalm 104:1-4)

1. Thou must bless, soul of me, Yahweh / Yahweh, my God, Thou are very great / in glory and majesty, Thou have been clothed // covering (Thyself) (with) light (as) with garment / stretching out the heavens like (tent) curtain. (Verses 1-2)

Praise God for His greatness: With his mind, heart and deep desires, David praises his God, Yahweh, for His exceeding greatness; and, he pictures God as being figuratively clothed with glory and majesty.

Light: He uses a synonym for clothing to describe God as being covered in light (1 Timothy 6:12-16).

And he also uses a figure of speech to describe God protecting the earth from above with a curtain.

2. (He is) laying the beams in the waters, of His chambers / (He is) making thick clouds His chariot. (Verses 3a-b)

Evaporated water: Clouds are evaporated water. If these waters are clouds above the seas, then God is not making His home under water, but is building His roof just under clouds. (The New Living Translation says 'rafters of Your home in rain clouds). Then, God could use the thick clouds just above His house when He figuratively rides in His chariot to observe what is happening over the earth's surface. **Note:** We cannot help personifying God. This is one reason why He came to earth as the God-Man: Jesus!

3. He is walking on the wings of the wind (spirit) / He is making His messengers (angels) winds (spirits) / His ministers (are) fire flaming. (Verses 3c-4)

Wind and fire: Wind is also spirit, neither is visible to people. Yahweh rides on the wings of cherubs, who are spiritual beings. So this could be describing how God uses the spirit beings, who were His first living Creation, as He watches over His physical creatures.

B. David continues to praise God for His works of wisdom on land and sea, and in all living creatures, both great and small. (Psalm 104:24-26)

1. How many (are) Thy works / all them in wisdom, Thou have made. (Verses 24a-b)

Works of wisdom: David praises God for His creative works, done with wisdom (Proverbs 8:22-31). Yahweh has made everything to be good, beautiful and true. His wisdom is far above human wisdom (James 3:17).

2. Has been filled, the earth, (with what) Thou created (creatures). (Verse 24c)

Creatures: This would be animals on earth, including birds that fly. And it could also include people.

3. There (is) the sea, great and wide / where creeping things (are) innumerable. (Verses 25a-b)

Great sea, creeping things: David goes from life on the land to life in the sea. Here the creeping things are probably the wide variety of species that can live underwater and crawl on the floor of the sea, usually near the shore, like crabs.

4. Living animals, small and great. (Verse 25c)

Land life: Perhaps David has returned to land life, but in context he may still be describing sea life.

5. There ships will go / sea monster (Hebr. Leviathan), which Thou formed to play in it. (Verse 26)

Ships and sea-monster: 'Leviathan' is 'sea monster': consider another Psalm (74:14), Job (41:4; 3:8?) and Isaiah (27:2 – twice). It is paired with ships to indicate that due to its great size, it was a danger to ships on the sea. This Psalm is a perfect complement to Yahweh's answer to Job.

Application: We must pray we will be given eyes to see and understand the majesty of God as displayed in all His creation and creatures by how He works in them according to His perfect wisdom.

By His wisdom, God's creation is majestic

Conclusion: Job rests his case to his friends, confident he has lived a godly life and is suffering unjustly. Yahweh asks Job: Who do you think you are, in comparison to Me? David sings praises to Yahweh his God for His greatness, displayed in all He created. Then he sings praise for God's wise works in all living creatures on land and sea.

The awesome Creator answers beyond our questions