

Introduction: I have always loved history. It seems to me that every generation thinks that things are more out of control, or chaotic, than in their parents' generation and when they were children. Paradoxically, because of advances in knowledge, technology and wealth, each generation has the tools to live a more comfortable life. *** However, one of the flaws of human nature is to focus on the 'horizontal'. This is what the author of Ecclesiastes described as life 'under the sun' twenty-nine times (from 1:3 to 10:5)! There is great danger in this, especially for those living comfortable lives; most of all for people in the United States. We have become a consumer driven culture, accumulating so many things that become clutter. Jesus told a parable warning against this lifestyle (Luke 12:15-21). *** The truth is that everyone will experience difficulty when it is least expected (Ecclesiastes 9:10-12). When all our comfort and safety is lost, what will we do? *** When people forget God, how great and wonderful He is, it is only a matter of time before disaster comes upon them (Isaiah 17:10-14; Haggai 1:2-11). *** Even though Job was called 'blameless, upright and God-fearing' by the covenant God Yahweh (Job 1:8), he went through unimaginable suffering that caused him to forget how wonderful God is. It took God speaking to him out of a whirlwind to get him to regret what he said in his difficult suffering (Job 38:1ff). *** In our Psalm, we heard how experienced sailors became so desperate in a whirlwind storm at sea that they finally cried out to Yahweh in their distress (Psalm 107:25-28). *** Now, let's examine our texts with this in mind.

I. Yahweh asks Job: Who brings rain for plants to grow; and, if he can make the 'sea monster' his pet?

(Job 38:25-27; 41:1-8)

A. Yahweh asks Job: Who brings rain on the land to produce new plant growth. (Job 38:25-27)

1. Who has divided to the flood of the watercourse / and a way to the lightning of thunder ... (Verse 25)

Extreme storms: Yahweh is asking Job if he can make a loud downpour that that will light up the sky as the rain overflows the stream banks!

2. ... to bring on land without (a) human / on the wilderness with no mankind ... (Verse 26)

Without people: Yahweh makes rain fall on any terrain if no person of any kind is living there ... (Matthew 5:44).

3. ... to satisfy desolate and ruined (soil) / to make to put forth the sprout of green plants? (Verse 27)

Only God: Only Yahweh can make seeds to grow into produce fit for people. He can do this without people, or he can allow a team of people to produce food from the earth (1 Corinthians 3:4-6).

Application: We must know only God makes plants grow; and, He does not need human help. However, He wants to use us to willingly and joyfully do what He asks us to do to bear fruit for Him (John 15:9-17).

B. Yahweh asks Job: are you able to make the 'sea monster' your pet? (Job 41:1-8)

1. Will thou draw out *leviathan* with (a) fishhook? / And, with a rope will thou press down his tongue? //

Will thou put a bulrush-ring in his nose? / And, with a thorn will thou pierce his jaw? (Verses 1-2)

Control of 'sea monster': Yahweh is challenging Job, or any human, to control a huge 'sea monster' with tools made from resources of the earth. The answer is Job cannot control the huge 'sea monster'.

2. Will he make many pleas to thee? / If he will speak to thee softly? // Will he make a covenant with thee? / Will thou take him to (be) servant forever? (Verses 3-4)

'Sea monster's' response: Is there any way Job could cause the 'sea monster' to fear him and to beg him in a small voice? Will the 'sea monster' make a deal with Job to serve him always? No and no!

3. Will thou play with him as with a bird? / And, will thou put him on a leash for thy girls? (Verse 5)

Pet bird: Beyond controlling and 'breaking' the 'sea monster', Yahweh now challenges Job to make him into a family pet!

4. Will trade partners bargain over him? / Will they divide him up among merchants? (Verse 6)

Merchant traders: Is there any way that Job and his businessman friends could turn an easy profit from renting out the services of the 'sea monster'? These are ridiculous questions with obvious answers.

5. Can thou fill his skin with darts (harpoons)? / And, his head with fish spears? (Verse 7)

Not able to kill: With this question, Yahweh is making it clear to Job that he could never harm His *leviathan*, let alone kill him!

6. Thou must put on him thy hands! / Thou must remember the battle, thou will no more do. (Verse 8)

Not fight twice: Using the word Rachel used for her first son Yoseph, 'he will add', Yahweh says if Job were able to obey His command to fight the 'sea monster' bare-handed, he would never think to add anything more to his battle sores from the first battle, by doing it again! Only God can control *leviathan*. He is more powerful than the people He created, so Job must yield himself to the hands of the Creator who formed him from clay (Jeremiah 18:1-17).

Application: We must all recognize God as our awesome Creator and not resist or fight Him; but, we must yield to Him as clay yields to the potter.

II. Job answers and expresses his regret as he repents; sailors are like Job when storms cause them to cry out to God.

(Job 42:1-6; Psalm 107:23-30)

A. Job answers Yahweh by quoting His questions, then expresses his regret while repenting. (Job 42:1-6)

1. Then Job answered to Yahweh, and then he said: I have known that all things Thou will do / and will not be thwarted Thy purpose. (Verses 1-2)

Acknowledges Yahweh's power: Job responds to Yahweh's overwhelming and humbling questions by saying he has always known Yahweh has the power to do anything He desires to do; and, no people will ever successfully resist and overthrow the plans He has willed (or purposed) to do!

2. 'Who (is) this hiding counsel without knowledge?' / Therefore, I have uttered and I will not understand / Things (being) wonderful for me and I will not know. (*Verse 3*)

Quotes Yahweh's opening words: Job quotes Yahweh's first challenging question to him (Job 38:2). Job's answer is that he now realizes the words he had spoken proved he will never understand Yahweh; and, Yahweh's deeds are too wonderful for him to fully know!

3. 'Thou must hear, please, and I will indeed speak / I will ask of thee and thou must make Me know'. (*Verse 4*)

Quotes Yahweh again: This time Job quotes a demand Yahweh made of him twice (Job 38:3; 40:7)!

4. To hear (in) the ear, I had heard of Thee / and now my eye has seen Thee! (*Verse 5*)

Only heard, now have seen: It was one thing for Job to hear stories about what Yahweh did, and words He had spoken to his ancestors; but, now Job has seen the Almighty Yahweh in an awesome wind-storm theophany, and he is 'blown away' and humbled.

5. Therefore, I despise (myself) / and I have 'repented' (regretted) upon dust and ashes. (*Verse 6*)

Repents: The word Job uses is not the usual word meaning to turn away from ways that are not pleasing to God, and to then turn to God and His ways, that is: to change direction. Yahweh Himself said that Job was blameless in his ways (Job 1:8). What Job is saying is that because Yahweh showed him His absolute power over everything, he regrets the words he had spoken while sitting on ashes in his affliction (Job 2:8), and also regrets his attitude.

Realization of God's power over weather and great creatures results in repentance

Often of Yahweh: When used of Yahweh it means to regret an action out of pity for people. In the days of Noah, when the thoughts of people were wicked, He regretted He made mankind (Genesis 6:5-7). Again, when Saul repeatedly disobeyed His word through Samuel, He regretted He had made Saul king (1 Samuel 15:1-19). Positively, it can mean Yahweh will 'have compassion' on His people after they repent and return to Him (Joel 2:12-18). Whenever people recognize God's power, and that He regrets with compassion how they are acting, they will turn to Him in repentance.

Realization of God's power over weather and great creatures results in repentance

Typical repent: Repentance usually means to recognize my sinful behavior, words and attitudes, and turn from them to Him to be forgiven and restored to His favor. Solomon prayed that when God's people went into captivity for continually refusing to put Yahweh first in everything, if they returned to him they would be restored from captivity (1 Kings 8:46-51).

And, the best paragraph on the benefit of repentance is when Yahweh spoke through Ezekiel for His people to turn away from all their offenses: to repent and live (Ezekiel 18:30-32)! Realize God's wonderful power!

Realization of God's power over weather and great creatures results in repentance

Application: We must realize God's greatness in everything, and our own human weakness, so we will be moved to repent: to regret our ways and submit to the Lord Jesus Christ.

- B. Sailors know Yahweh can use a storm to move His people to cry out to Him. (*Psalms 107:23-30*)

1. Those going down the sea in ships / those doing business in great waters // They surely saw the works of Yahweh / His wonders in the deep. (*Verses 23-24*)

More wonders of God: Job confessed he needed to know more of the wonders of Yahweh.

Here, the psalmist tells us sailors who live on the great deep sea waters have surely seen His wonders!

2. He spoke, and then He made to stand the tempest wind (whirlwind) / Then were lifted up wave heaps // They will go up to heaven, they will go down to the depths / in their trouble, their soul melted away. (*Verses 25-26*)

Sea storm deflating: We can only begin to imagine the peaks and troughs of the water waves stirred up by the tempest, and how it felt to be a sailor on a ship constantly going to great heights and depths in a matter of seconds.

All we need to know is that the sailor's souls flowed out of them!

3. They will stagger and shake as one drunk / all their wisdom will be ended (swallowed up) // Then they cried to Yahweh in their trouble. (*Verses 27-28a*)

When at end of self: It is so typical of human nature that it takes an extreme demonstration of Yahweh's supreme power to destroy people to bring them to cry out to Him for help. This crying out should be the continual practice of all His people.

4. And from their distress, He brought them out // He caused the tempest wind (whirlwind) to be calm / then were stilled the wave heaps. (*Verses 28b-29*)

He is able to calm the storm: As with Job, sailors were shown Yahweh's great power over the most extreme weather after they cried out to Him and He saved them by bringing them out of the tempest.

Yahweh can calm a tempest and save His people

5. Then they were glad because they will have quiet / then He brought them to the haven of their desire. (*Verse 30*)

Joy: There is always gladness and joy when the Covenant God delivers His people to a safe haven.

And from there they can show their gratitude to Him by discerning and doing His will, without waiting for things to get out of control again on the seas.

Application: We must fully understand God's power over weather and powerful beasts so we will always ask Him to guide us into profitable work for Him, even before things get out of control.

Conclusion: Yahweh asks Job: Who brings rain for plants to grow; and, if he can make the 'sea monster' his pet?

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