

You Be the Judge: Am I God or Are You?

Lesson 23 • Job 40:6–42:6

Have You Ever Thought You Could Do Someone's Job Better than Them?

Did you ever get a chance to find out?

Was your judgment correct about your capabilities being better than theirs?

God's Interrogation of Job Out of the Whirlwind (38:1–42:6)

God Speaks for the first Time and Job Speaks for the Last Time • Every Question Is a Declaration and an Invitation!

God's First Interrogation (38:1–40:2)	Are You Wise Enough to Create the Wonders of Creation and Care for the Wildness of Creation?
Job's First Answer: (40:3-5)	Job says something about WHO HE IS and REMAINS SILENT!
God's Final Interrogation (40:6–41:34)	Are You Powerful Enough to Control and Conquer Behemoth and Leviathan?
Job's Final Answer (42:1-6)	Job says something about WHO GOD IS and REPENTS of SIN!

Job 40–42 records the Lord's **second interrogation** of Job!

This time the Lord questions the wisdom of Job's judgment in the midst of his undeserved suffering.

The Lord Graciously RESUMES His Confrontation with Job! (40:6-7)

"Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm and said, Now gird up your loins like a man; I will ask you, and you instruct Me."

1. **WHEN** does the Lord resume His confrontation of Job?

- **AFTER** God's First Interrogation: *"I am large and in charge of the wonders that over your head and the wildness that is out of your control!!"* (38:1–40:2)
- **AFTER** Job's First Answer: *"I am small and in awe, so I will just shut my mouth!"* (40:3-5)

*"Silence is the first step of true contrition deeply felt."
~Lawton Talbert*

2. **WHY** does the Lord resume His confrontation of Job?

- The LORD has more of Himself that He wants to **SHOW!** This is for His **GLORY!**
- The LORD has more of Job that He wants to **CHANGE!** This is from His **GRACE!**

The Lord Graciously REDIRECTS His Challenge of Job! (40:8)

"Will you really annul My judgment? Will you condemn Me that you may be justified?"

1. The heart issue that must be challenged: Thinking God is **UNJUST** in allowing me to suffer **so much** for **so long** with **no explanation**, when I am **so blameless** before God!

"I deserved better than this and I still deserve better than this! I am right and, God, You are wrong in this!"

2. The hard line that must not be crossed: **JUDGING** God's character and wisdom in allowing undeserved suffering to enter our lives.

*There is a place for being honest about our pain and despair, but there is a point where **WE SAY TOO MUCH** and **WE CROSS THE LINE** from making **sincere questions** to **subtle insinuations** and **serious accusations** against God's character and His counsel; His wisdom and His ways; His person and His purposes!*

The Lord Graciously REVEALS His Challenge to Job! (40:9-14)

Do You Have What It Takes to Be THE Judge Over All Creation?

- 1) The Capacity to Judge like God: *Are you as **POWERFUL** as God in your strength and speech?* (v. 9)
- 2) The Character to Judge like God: *Are you as **GLORIOUS** as God in your majesty, splendor, honor, and beauty?* (v. 10)
 - You have to be able to clothe yourself with your own **ROBE OF GLORY!**
 - Go ahead reveal your inner: **SOVEREIGN** glory
ROYAL majesty
DIVINE honor
RADIANT splendor
- 3) The Capability to Judge like God: *Are you as **SUCCESSFUL** as God in executing justice?* (v. 11-14)
 - You have to not only ***be just*** but also able to **CARRY OUT** justice!
 - Go ahead and... **HUMBLE** all the proud with just a look!
BIND all the wicked in the deepest darkness!
 - Then, I will acknowledge that you are able to ... **SAVE YOURSELF** by your own strength and integrity!

You Be the Judge: Is it Wise to Criticize the Justice of God's Judgment?

Are you and I qualified to question the rightness of what the LORD allows to enter our lives and for how long?

- Our LORD has the character, the capacity, and the capability to judge what is best for our lives and work all things together for our good and His glory.
- For the LORD is able to humble all the proud, bind all the wicked, and save all who choose to trust in the judgment He carried out on His own Son, Jesus Christ, the sinless and blameless suffering Servant! On the Cross God is both the Just One and the Justifier (the One who declares sinners to be right with Him)!

"being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."
Romans 3:24-26

- God is God and we are not! Let's trust His judgment in allowing undeserved suffering to enter our lives.

"Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right." 1Peter 4:19

Next Time: Monsters, Myths, Metaphors, and the Majesty of God
God Challenges Job to Consider Capturing Behemoth and Try Taming Leviathan

Job is humbled into silence but he has not yet repented of what he has been saying!

FIRST SPEECH: God has asked: **WHO ARE YOU, JOB?**

Job has seen something about himself: I AM UNWORTHY to speak / correct / answer / judge / correct you, O LORD!

SECOND SPEECH: God will ask: **WHO AM I, JOB?**

Job will see something about God and finally repent!

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The Lord Graciously REVEALS His Challenge to Job! (40:9-41:34)

1. Just Try Being “Judge Job” for a Day: *“Or do you have an arm like God and can you thunder with a voice like His?”*
- 2.. Consider Capturing Behemoth: *“Behold now, Behemoth, which I made as well as you...Behold now...”*
3. Try Taming Leviathan: *“Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook?”*

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Is God Greater than Your Worse Nightmare?

*What is your greatest fear? • What monster frequents your nightmares?
What evil lurks beneath your anxieties?*

Consider Capturing Behemoth: *“Behold now, Behemoth, which I made as well as you...Behold now...”*

Try Taming Leviathan: *“Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook?”*

Stop and Consider Behemoth: “Behold now, Behemoth, which I made as well as you...Behold now...”

Try and Capture Leviathan: “Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook?”

Who or what are these creatures?

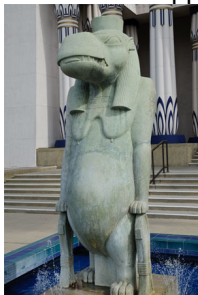
1) Monster Animals

Cable show “River Monsters” described as... Hosted by biologist and extreme angler Jeremy Wade, Animal Planet’s River Monsters gives viewers a close-up look at legendary freshwater beasts that lurk in murky waters across the globe. Each week, Wade navigates a different waterway in search of the legendary, man-eating aquatic creatures that fill local folklore. At each location he uses first-hand accounts from witnesses and his own observations to debunk the myths and find out why the deadly species attack humans in the first place.

2) Mythological Gods

Some see these as Canaanite or Egyptian gods that often start out as animals and then begin to be worshipped and feared as gods!

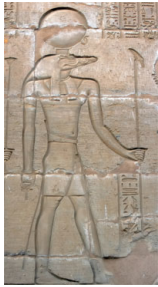
Egypt had a god that was a man with the head of hippo! Only the Pharaoh with his divine status was allowed to hunt the hippo!



Tawaret is the goddess of hippos. While the Egyptians were scared of male hippos, they saw the

female hippo goddess Tawaret as a gentle protector. She looked after pregnant women especially, and is often depicted with a swollen belly. Like Bes, she could scare off evil spirits.

They also worshipped the crocodile!



The god of crocodiles was both respected and feared. Crocodiles were strong creatures. In ancient Egypt, an entire city was named after them: Crocodilopolis, and Sobek had a temple with a lake full of crocodiles. However, crocodiles were fearsome predators, and many Egyptians were killed each year if they got too near the river. Sobek was pictured as a crocodile-headed man. His sweat was said to have created the rivers of the world.

3) Metaphorical Evil

Magnificent Evil = Maleficent!

Creature	Literal Meaning	Monster Animal	Mythological God	Metaphorical Evil	Meaning for Job
Behemoth 40:15-24	Plural "beasts" = "The Super Beast" "The Mega Monster"	Hippo, Elephant, Rhino, Dinosaur	Mot the Canaanite God of Death	Power of Death	Can you capture the power of death?
Leviathan 41:1-34		Crocodile, Whale, Dinosaur	The Fire-Breathing Dragon Seven-headed Sea Monster	Pride of the Devil	Can you conquer the pride of the Devil?

Bigger issue is WHY?



ILLUST> A MOMENT OF SILENCE WOULD BE MOST WELCOME! See Christopher Ash

QUOTE> KIDNER QUOTE See Christopher Ash