

The Glory of God in Creation

(4) Friday Job 40:1-14 God answers Job

In this section God answers Job but not before he demands and answer from Job.

Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? He that reproveth God let him answer it.

Job 40:2

How proud and foolish are we to presume to know better than God! We are so small, limited and dependent compared to him. After God has reminded Job of his greatness, Job can only respond by declaring himself vile, for his mistrusting and presumptuous talk. He acknowledges that he has no answer for God and that he will put his hand over his mouth so as not to speak words without knowledge. He acknowledges that he has spoken before, more than once, but that now he has learned his lesson and will not speak like that again.

It is said the Lord answered Job, 'out of the whirlwind'. Sometimes God answers his people in terrible corrections, loud and violent as a whirlwind, but always in righteousness. Job has been humbled but more must be said and we all must be made fully aware by God of our sins, so we may be able to be ashamed and repent. It is a kindness by God that he speaks to us like this, and he speaks in many ways. It has been said, 'God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.' God demands of Job to give an account of himself as we all must give account to God. He tells him to brace himself like a man.

The next group of verses are profound. God essentially says to Job that if Job were a being mighty in power, above all, then he would be worthy of glory and beauty and would have every right to lay the proud low. In fact it would be wrong not to. But God has made it obvious that man is anything but mighty, but is instead a vile creature wallowing in sin, then God who is mighty must firstly bring glory to himself and secondly bring the proud down and pour out wrath on wicked rebels who stand against him.

V8 Will you think nothing of God's perfect judgement and complain and accuse God of wrong doing in order to excuse your own sins? As it says in Ezekiel 18:25

Yet ye say the way of the Lord is not equal (fair). Hear now, O house of Israel; is not my way equal? Are not your ways unequal?

Do we have an arm like God to do perfect, righteous acts? Do we have a voice to speak mightily with right words? V14 is a key verse for us, for it says if we are like him we can save ourselves. However, if with that pride which caused Satan's fall, we act in self-righteousness, there is not salvation just condemnation. The clear inference is that we are not like God in word, deed, power and righteousness. Therefore we are

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all in desperate need of a Saviour and it is only God who is great enough to save us. That is why Jesus Christ, the second person of the Godhead (the Creator of the world), had to come and work salvation to deliver us. We must see this and accept it for ourselves individually. Then God's 'right hand' will graciously pluck us from the punishment for our sins, like a stick from a burning fire.