

## **The Creator Interrogates the Creature**

'The Michaels family owned a small farm in Canada just yards away from the North Dakota border. Their land had been the subject of a minor dispute between the United States and Canada for generations. Mrs. Michaels, who had just celebrated her ninetieth birthday, lived on the farm with her son and three grandchildren. One day her son came into her room holding a letter. "I just got some news, Mom", he said. "The government has come to an agreement with the people in Washington. They've decided that our land is really part of the United States. We have the right to approve or disapprove of the agreement. What do you think?" "What do I think?" his mother said. "Jump at it! Call them right now and tell them we accept! I don't think I could stand another one of those Canadian winters!"

As if moving a boundary line a few yards one way or another will make any difference in the weather! On the other hand, if someone brings up a "Canadian winter", don't we somehow think it's colder and worse than a "mere" North Dakota winter? So, in that sense, it does make some sense. Because our minds deceive themselves for no real reason other than because we just want to believe one thing or another! Which is yet another way of describing what Job's three friends had been droning on about for

nearly all those 33 chapters. From their perspective, because Job had once been so obviously and abundantly blessed by God with such prosperity and wonderful family, and now having lost it, the only possible reason to explain his current pitiful and horrifying state was that Job had to have committed some terrible sin or sins and so offended God that God had been left with no choice but to punish Job by taking away everything Job possessed, with the notable, glaring example of these “friends”, as well as his, at this point, nearly worthless wife, and his house. He still had his house, such as it was when he couldn’t even live in it, there being no more servants to maintain and keep it clean.

But all the friends were acting as character assassins, both of Job and of God Himself, by insisting that God was punishing Job, all the time when God was doing nothing of the sort. Do we not do just the same, all too often? And, as we saw last week, by the seemingly interminable verbiage of the human friends having gone on for 33 chapters, God could stand it no more. In fact, it was God’s mercy to “butt in” at this point. For imagine Job’s state of mind. The longer the friends went on and on, the greater his own suffering, both emotionally, mentally, and physically! God needed to interrupt these meaningless diatribes, if for no other reason than to relieve faithful Job’s sufferings!

So God began to question Job, but for the real instruction of the friends who had maligned God’s holy name and character! He began by asking Job fundamental questions about the cre-

ation. Of course, neither he nor any human could ever answer, even if given all of eternity to formulate responses, any of God's questions. For we simply do not know. As creatures, we are part and parcel of this creation. As God designed it and us to be. We're joined at the hip, so to speak. He is the creator and designer of it and us. Thus, it is literally impossible for us to ever begin to answer any of the questions God poses to Job and his friends. Indeed, God's questions are so deep and profound that for many of them we can't even understand what He's getting at at all! Since we can make neither heads nor tails of so many of God's questions here in Job 38 and following, we make futile attempts to wrap our minds around them by classifying them as allegorical or metaphorical phrases that don't really mean what they say. But, if we have learned anything from our purposeful, serious study of the Holy Bible's many other books, we know that God means what He says. The only problem is our limited, faulty, hamstrung-by-sin, understanding.

This is why our Lord Jesus spoke in parables. Because the parables painted a mental picture of things. And even if the true depths of meaning of one of His teachings could not be understood by the surface meaning of the parable's words, yet the spiritual import was impressed upon the hearts and minds of the people who had faith in Christ Jesus! Haven't you also ever gotten the true import or meaning of a thing deep inside without really understanding anything about it?

God's extended monologue runs for four chapters. Not really long compared to the 33 chapters of mostly claptrap of Job's friends! Here are God's personal words of pure truth. And these words of God are almost as if they were parables in themselves. For truly they describe, beginning in chapter 38, the very creation of all things, the heavens and the earth. As His questions pile on, God goes into more and more detail, as if starting from the farthest reaches of the cosmos and coming down ever closer to the earth. Then to the creatures of the earth, from large to small and back again. Yet the ways God here describes things make little sense to our modern-day minds. Even so, the way He describes these things and processes is the most accurate and meaningful way He can which even in the slightest, can be comprehended by our mortal and creaturely minds. God would never even try to explain these things to any of the myriad animal life on our planet, but only to us. Because He has made us in His Own image, and breathed in us of His Own Spirit of Life, that we would have true, sentient life, above and beyond all the rest of creation. Only we humans are born with the slightest bit of an ability to comprehend "eternity" and understand the things of God.

While outside of the opening chapters of Genesis, there are glimpses here and there in the Psalms and elsewhere of the ways and hows of God's creating work resulting in our world and cosmos, it is only here in Job that we get a fuller picture of some of the "mechanisms" of God's creating power and process. Here we

can glimpse how many of the major features of the created order came to be and are maintained. These divine images and word pictures are often in stark contrast to what we've been taught in school and hear everyday from our media. So much so that unless we can set aside in our minds all those things we were taught and still daily hear, these precious words He has put down in permanent writing for us all to read and study, become little more than gibberish to us. As fanciful, fairytale, mythological, imaginary conceptions we tend to relegate most everything we read here in these chapters of Job, and also elsewhere in the Bible, too, when the imagery seems to defy all the ways we define and analyze our physical world.

For example, we've often heard that our genes, our DNA sequences, determine who we are as people, what we look like, how we process emotions, how we relate to others, etc. People pushing the gay agenda have for years claimed that there is a "gay gene" that predisposes people to want to engage in this sinful lifestyle, and therefore, their lifestyles cannot be then classified as unnatural. Well, such a gene has never been found, and I can tell you, it never will be. But imagining even if there was, just because there is means nothing, because God is perfectly able to change genes any which way He wants. And this is how God in Holy Spirit through His infinite glorious power can alter our beings and our bodies. Like clay in a potter's hands, if we allow our loving God's hands to caress us, He will smooth out all our imperfec-

tions, heal all the dents, bruises and wounds we've suffered through the years of our lives, and remake us into the perfect creations, the perfect creatures He always intended us to be.

Let's look at just a few of the details in God's questions. In 38:7, God mentions that the "morning stars sang" and "the sons of God shouted for joy" when God created the earth. That clearly tells us that the angels and heavenly beings were created before the earth was. What about verse 19 talking about light and darkness? Unlike what we're taught in school and what we observe in our universe, light is more than just what we've defined! Indeed it is stored in a place, as is darkness as well, for darkness is more than just the absence of light. We "saw" exactly that when the plague of darkness struck Egypt just prior to the Israelites being delivered from slavery. The same goes for the storehouses of many other things that we lump together and call weather phenomena. What about the hailstones? Yes, the matter to create the hailstones that will fall to earth during the tribulation has already been made and they're just waiting when they will be cast onto the earth at God's command! Truly all these things we've "discovered" by our chicken scratches of science we think as just "normal" processes. Yet God is in control of all of them. Nothing is left to chance. If that's the case, is it not exactly the same with you and me and everything in our lives? If you love God, then you'll welcome Holy Spirit's directing, as He gradually opens our understanding and perception to see how the world really is.

