### Job

## Chapter 40

1Then Jehovah God replied to Job, asking:  
  
 2‘Are you judging the One who’s so mighty…  
 And when someone scolds God, must He reply?’  
  
  
3So Job thought about this and then he asked the Lord:  
  
 4‘But, why must I stand here and beg…  
 Being scolded and disciplined by God?  
  
 ‘No, I’m nothing at all,  
 And yes, I’ve heard all that You said;  
 So what answer can I give in reply?  
  
 ‘Now... I’ll cover my mouth with my hands,  
 5For I’ve spoken and I’ll say no more.’  
  
  
6Then the Lord once again spoke to Job from out of the clouds, saying:  
  
 7‘Now, wrap up your waist and act like a man;  
 Then, I’ll ask you, and you must reply!  
  
 8‘Should you undo My decisions?  
 And do you think it was Me who sent these [bad] things?  
 Or that you’d have to prove yourself righteous to Me?  
  
 9‘Is your arm like the arm of Jehovah?  
 Is your voice like His… Can it thunder?  
 10If so, lift yourself in stature and might,  
 And clothe yourself with glory and honor;  
 11Then, send out [His] [angelic] messengers in rage  
 To humble those who are proud,  
 12And to bring an end to the haughty…  
 Right now, cause the godless to rot!  
 13Hide them together inside of the ground,  
 And with dishonor, then cover their faces!  
 14For, surely you know that your right hand can save!  
  
  
[Editor note: It’s our opinion that many of the following verses have been somewhat corrupted (in both the Hebrew and Greek texts), making much of what follows is disjointed and unclear.  
  
We feel that part of the reason for this is that those who sang, copied, and translated this song, simply didn’t understand its cryptic message… That the ‘beast’ or ‘dragon’ in Job is a fictional animal representing the evil spirit who was bringing these woes upon Job.  
  
Such fictional, composite animals were common in the ancient world – the most famous one being the Sphinx in Egypt. Composite animals took features from different mammals, birds, and reptiles to create a super-animal, with each feature representing a different ability or trait. They were most commonly used to represent gods and spirits, such as the Egyptian gods.  
  
This cultural practice was very familiar to ancient people, but was entirely forgotten in later periods, leading people to misinterpret the ‘dragon’ as just another description of some unidentified animal, or even an extinct creature, like a dinosaur. However, what’s described fits the common ancient practice of creating a composite, mythological creature, to represent a powerful spirit.  
  
If true, this would explain why, later at Job 41:9, God remarks that Job can’t see the ‘dragon’ – because it wasn’t really an animal at all, but the spirit creature introduced in Job chapter 1.  
  
We’re not dogmatic about this point, we may be wrong. However, it’s important to tell you this, since it’s influenced how we’ve translated the remaining chapters.]  
  
  
   
  
15‘Now, notice the ‘dragon’ who’s standing beside you;  
 He eats the same grass as the ox.  
 16Yes, behold the strength in his loins,  
 And the power in the navel of his belly.  
  
 17‘He makes his tail tall like a cypress,  
 And his nerves are all closely entwined.  
 18His sides are like something that’s made out of brass,  
 And his spine is much like cast iron.  
  
 19‘He’s the beginning of the things [that I] shaped,  
 And he was made to be mocked by My [angelic] messengers.  
  
 20‘When he climbs upon chiseled mountains,  
 He brings joy to those four-footed beasts  
 That within Tarsos dwell.  
  
 21‘He sleeps under all kinds of trees…  
 By the papyrus, reeds, and bulrushes.  
 22In his shadow, [rest] birds in the trees,  
 Who unknowingly sway in [his branches].  
  
 23‘When storms come, he pays no attention;  
 For, he trusts that it runs to the JorDan,  
 And from there, it flows into his mouth.  
  
 24‘When he’s on watch, who can take him?  
 But if, in a snare, you could catch him,  
 Would you drill [a hole] through his nose?