The YHWH Speeches (38-42)
Global Ice Age

- Secular climatologists do not have a fully-accepted model for the cause of the “Ice Age” or for the process of deglaciation.
- The popular secular theory suggests high oxygen isotope ratios in seafloor sediments ($\delta^{18}O$) can indicate times of maximum glacial extent.
- Secular climatologists require time scales of at least 100,000 years to explain the so-called “Ice Age.”

The best current explanation for the formation of the polar ice caps and glaciers is provided by a literal reading of a young earth and global Flood as described in the Bible.

- Job also describes the world as being explored during Job’s lifetime (28:3).
- Iron, copper, precious metals, gems, and minerals were being mined (Job 28:2, 4, 6).
Global Ice Age

- Human beings were engaged in great earthmoving operations (28:9), channelizing rivers and building reservoirs (28:10-11).
- Enterprises such as these probably couldn’t have been undertaken successfully without a body of scientific knowledge and engineering that survived the antediluvian world.
- Through hard work and ingenuity, the 70 nations of Genesis 10 were acclimating to the new global environment, populating the world in obedience to Gen 9:1 and subduing it in obedience to Gen 1:28.

Mapping the Globe

- The earth’s geographical features were accurately mapped from pole to pole during the post-flood period.
- Ancient world maps dating back to the 15th century have been preserved which show the Americas and Antarctica when its coasts and inland areas were free of ice.
- It is clear that instruments of navigation existed to accurately determine longitudes that were far superior to anything that existed in antiquity all the way up to the second half of the 18th century.
- One such map was prepared by the French cartographer Oronteus Finaeus (1494-1555).
We are left with strong evidence that, following the Flood, the world was settled and mapped by a highly industrious and intelligent people.

Civilizations which existed after the Flood had the capacity to travel worldwide, and were thoroughly skilled in astronomy, nautical science, mapmaking, and ship building.

These people may have been more advanced than any culture prior to the 18th century.
God’s Care Animals (Job 38:39-39:30)

*Eighteen Questions on Biology*
God asks Job 18 questions in this section. Each question is designed to illustrate a different aspect of God’s ongoing and continuous work of providing for the well-being of earth’s living creatures. God mentions five groups of two different animals. The pairing of animals underscores God’s sustaining power is not limited by kind or species.

*Ten Animals*
Ten animals are mentioned, and they are paired into groups of two for a total of five groups. Each group uses two animals to illustrate a principle related that God’s provision for the animals.

Charter of the Human Race

*Genesis 1:26-28*

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
Charter of the Human Race

Genesis 9:1-3
And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. 2 The fear of you and the terror of you will be on every beast of the earth and on every bird of the sky; with everything that creeps on the ground, and all the fish of the sea, into your hand they are given. 3 Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you, as I gave the green plant.”

Lion & Raven (38:39-41)

1. FOOD: God provides food for the lion and the raven. Neither the lion nor the raven has a sole source of food, they find it in a different place each day. Their lives and the lives of their offspring depend on a daily hunt for food. If God didn’t make that food available, they would quickly go extinct.
2. SAFE PROCREATION: The goat and the deer give birth to their offspring in precarious ways and places, yet God protects them.

Wild Donkey and Wild Ox (39:5-12)

3. INDEPENDENCE: Both the wild donkey and wild ox live in remote places where dangers abound, yet they roam about freely and behave as though they needed no security. Yet, their carefree behavior makes them vulnerable and in order for them to survive, they must be constantly protected by God.
4. PROTECTION: The ostrich and the horse are strong and fast, yet are unwise in the face of danger. At speeds up to 40 mph, the ostrich can outrun the horse. On the other hand, the war horse is unconcerned about the dangers of the battlefield.

5. PREDATOR-PREY RELATIONSHIPS: The hawk and the eagle live in habitats where food is scarce. They must kill other animals for food, and if God didn’t act to provide prey for these animals, they wouldn’t be able to survive.
God’s Care Animals (Job 38:39-39:30)

What God provides for the animal kingdom:
1. Food
2. Safe procreation
3. Independence
4. Protection (from themselves)
5. Manages predator-prey relationships

Does Scripture teach animal rights?
No, Scripture teaches man’s accountability to God for proper care of the animal kingdom, even in the context of animals sacrificed for food (Gen 1:26-28; 9:1-5, 9, 15-17; Prov 12:10; Acts 15:29).

Summary of First Discourse (40:1-2)

• In chapters 38 and 39, God elaborates on both his creative power and His sustaining power as witnessed in physics and biology.
• Psalm 104 follows much the same outline as Job 38-39, first discussing physics (Ps 104:1-9), then biology (Ps 104:10-30), then the summary is a song of praise (Ps 104:31-35). God’s provision of feeding the animals is mentioned in Psalm 104:24-28. God mentions 10 animals in Job 38-39, Psalm 104 refers to animals 10 times, three in general and seven specific animals:
  – Wild donkeys (Ps 104:11)
  – Birds (Ps 104:12, 17)
  – Cattle (Ps 104:14)
  – Wild goats (Ps 104:18)
  – Rock badgers (Ps 104:18)
  – Lions (Ps 104:21)
  – Leviathan (104:26)
Summary of First Discourse (40:1-2)

- The point is that Job had questioned God’s work.
- It is not for man to be critical with God, if anything God has a right to be critical of His sinful creatures. In Job 40:2, God asks, “Will you contend with Shaddai?” The word “contend” (riv, רִיב) also sometimes translated “strive, agitate, clamor, complain, plead a case” evokes the legal terminology of the courtroom.
- Earlier in Job 33:13, Elihu had made the accusation against Job of “complaining” against God (33:13). It is not man’s place, but it is God’s place, to both contend against with unrighteous (1 Sam 2:10; Isa 3:13; Jer 2:9; Amos 7:4; Micah 6:1), to plead the case of His people (Isa 50:8; 51:22; Jer 50:34).
- Men are not judges of God. This sin, not moral failure, is being attributed to Job.

Job’s Humbling (40:3–5)

- Upon hearing all of this from God’s lips, Job answered in humility.
- However, Job fell short of full-blown repentance, nor was Job’s response doxological. Job’s response was one characterized by worldly sorrow, not one of full repentance (2 Cor 7:12). That type of repentance would finally come in chapter 42. But in chapter 40, Job finally realized he was in much the same predicament as his three friends. They had all run out of arguments. Job simply said,
  - I am insignificant compared with God (40:4), and
  - I have no further complaint (40:4-5)
- Job made no clear acknowledgment of faith in God’s present provisions.
- God awaited words of repentance, but didn’t hear them at this point.
- Therefore, God continued.
God’s Second Discourse (40:6–41:34)

God’s Omnipotence as Demonstrated by His Power to Protect Men from Danger (40:14-41:34)

- **Two Animals**
- YHWH specifically mentions ten animals in the first discourse, and uses the second discourse to discuss two more. That makes a total of twelve animals.
- This lengthy chapter and a half are devoted to just two animals. Both of them were created by God on the sixty day of creation, and evidently were present on the ark during the Flood, and were living in Job’s lifetime.
- It is evident from the descriptions that these two animals are now extinct. They were great and powerful creatures which defied man’s ability to control or subdue them. They may have posed a threat to the safety of the human race. Through a series of questions, God demonstrates His power over these creatures.

Behemoth (40:15-24)

One Question

- God only asks Job one lengthy question about *behemoth*. The question begins with a lengthy preface in 40:14-23, followed by the question itself in 40:24.
- *Behemoth* is the plural of *behema*, the plural of intensity.
Dinosaurs in the Bible

Terrestrial Dinosaurs

The behemoth (בְּהֵמוֹת), used only here and Ps 73:22 (behema is used 136 times). “That such dinosaurs as the Diplodocus brontosaurus lived in the Jordan River Valley as late as 2000 BC is indicated in Job 40:15-19. This is not the hippopotamus as claimed by some early theologians.”


Dinosaurs in the Bible

The behemoth (בְּהֵמוֹת) described in Job 40:15-24 was no cow or hippopotamus or crocodile or any mammal in today’s animal kingdom. He migrated between the mountains and marshlands, hid himself under shade trees, and was so powerful that he couldn’t even be water-boarded by the Jordan River (Job 40:23). These creatures could easily have been dinosaurs which Job describes in his book. Evidently, the post-Flood environment proved to be too harsh to support them. “That such dinosaurs as the Diplodocus brontosaurus lived in the Jordan River Valley as late as 2000 BC is indicated in Job 40:15-19.

Dinosaurs in the Bible

Except for a few small species living today, the dinosaurs that walked off the ark struggled to survive and have slowly become extinct over time. The American alligator is able to attain lengths of about 20 feet. Huge lizards which today abound on the Island of Komodo also bear a striking resemblance to the description found in Job 40. These are but tiny remnants of a family of creatures we commonly refer to as dinosaurs.


Dinosaurs (Job 40:15-19)

Diplodocus brontosaurus

Smithsonian (reconstructed in 1905)
Dinosaurs (Job 40:15-19)

Diplodocus brontosaurus

Dinosaurs (Job 40:15-24)

Diplodocus brontosaurus
Dinosaurs (Job 40:15-19)

**PLANT-EATERS**

Some of the largest animals ever to have lived on Earth, plant-eating dinosaurs depended on their vast size, or on their body armor, for protection against predators. They spent much of the day grazing on plants.

**BRACHIOSAURUS**

This massive plant-eater was 82 feet (25 m) long, and weighed 75 tons (76 tonnes). Its long neck enabled it to reach vegetation that was too high up for other dinosaurs.

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Dinosaur Soft Tissue Research

Mark Armitage
Leviathan (41:1-34)

Twenty Seven Questions
• God asks Job a total of 27 questions about Leviathan.

Amphibious Dinosaurs
• The sea monsters tannain (תַּנִּין), also translated “serpent, dragon,“), sometimes closely identified with leviathan (לִוְיָתָן) in Job 41.

• Tannain is mentioned in Gen 1:21; Ex 7: 29:3; 32:2; Ps 91:13; Jer 51:34; Job 7:12; Ps 74:13; Isa 27:1; 51:9; Ps 148:7. Isaiah 27:1 & 51:9 translate tannain “dragon”

Leviathan (41:1-34)

“His snorting throws out flashes of light; his eyes are like the rays of dawn. Firebrands stream forth from his mouth; sparks of fire shoot out. Smoke pours from his nostrils as from a boiling pot over a fire of reeds. His breath sets coals ablaze, and flames dart from his mouth. Strength resides in his neck; dismay goes before him. The folds of his flesh are tightly joined; they are firm and immovable. His chest is hard as rock, hard as a lower millstone. When he rises up, the mighty are terrified, they retreat before his thrashing. The sword that reaches him has no effect, nor does the spear or the dart or the javelin.”

Reference: Dragons: Legends & Lore of Dinosaurs, Bodie Hodge & Laura Welch (eds), Bill Looney (illustrations) (Green Forest, AR: Master Books), 2014.

Legends from Around the Globe

• Sin & Satan (the serpent), Gen 3:1; Rev 20:2
• Arabic: tah-neen, Hebrew: tanniyn, leviathan,

Reference: Dragons: Legends & Lore of Dinosaurs, Bodie Hodge & Laura Welch (eds), Bill Looney (illustrations) (Green Forest, AR: Master Books), 2014.
Legends from Around the Globe

• Red Dragon of Wales on Welsh Flag
• Dates back to 829 AD, the battle standard of King Arthur and other Celtic leaders.

Legends from Around the Globe

• Native American Thunderbird
• Flying reptile with glowing scales.
Legends from Around the Globe

• Nebuchadnezzar Ishtar Gate Dragon
• 575 BC – Pergamon Museum, Berlin

Legends from Around the Globe

• Chinese Dragon
• As old as antiquity ~ thousands of years.
• The only 1 of 12 in the zodiac that is extinct.
Legends from Around the Globe

• Head of a human, haunches of a lion, wings of a bird.
• Deadly versions appear in Oedipus and other mythology.

Legends from Around the Globe

• Komodo Dragon
• 200 lb, 10 ft long carnivore
Implications of Behemoth & Leviathan

• Forces too powerful for man to control.
  – Simply animals created by God.

• Spiritual implications
  – Revelation 20:2, “And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.”
  – Who is going to deliver you from the domain of Satan and the demons on judgment day?

Summary of God’s Second Discourse

• YHWH’s incomparable wisdom displayed in the creation of the earth shuts the mouth of anyone who thinks himself wise.
• No matter how chaotic Job’s life appeared to be, he was still under the wise control of YHWH. If YHWH is wise enough to order the creation, sustain all physical processes throughout the cosmos, and manage life on earth, then He is wise enough to order the path of one life.
• Job had forgotten his place in God’s world, and was forcefully reminded by Him. The time of suffering in Job’s life was not a legitimate cause for him to question God’s motives and control.
• YHWH does not speak to Job from the whirlwind to console Job in his suffering. Rather, He is shredding any legitimacy of Job’s impugning His character and wisdom, and showing His supreme and incomparable wisdom and care for His creation.
Job’s Repentance (42:1–6)

- Job put his hand over his mouth.
- Even though comforted, he despised himself.
- Job had failed to embrace God’s wisdom and gave up on trying to figure it out.
  - “I repent (nacham נחם) in dust and ashes.”
  - Hebrew lexicon: change of heart, seek comfort in God.

The Verdict (42:7–9)

7 It came about after the LORD had spoken these words to Job, that the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, because you have not spoken of Me what is right as My servant Job has.  
8 "Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, and go to My servant Job, and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves, and My servant Job will pray for you. For I will accept him so that I may not do with you according to your folly, because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has."  
9 So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did as the LORD told them; and the LORD accepted Job.