

No. 35      Lessons on Loyalty From the Book of Job (Symposium)  
              -What the Animal Creation Teaches Us

[PLEASE NOTE: This talk includes a video]

WHY DID JEHOVAH DISCUSS ANIMAL CREATION WITH JOB? (4 min.)

Loyalty to Jehovah is built on unselfish love for him and is strengthened by deep appreciation for his qualities (*it-2* 280)  
Job was outstandingly loyal, but his trials caused him to lose the proper perspective and become self-absorbed (Job 1:8)

By focusing excessively on establishing his own righteousness, he lost sight of Jehovah's qualities (Job 32:2; *it-2* 81)  
Jehovah discussed animal creation in order to adjust Job's thinking; the examples Jehovah used emphasized that he has the wisdom and power to care for his creations

When we face trials, we could become self-absorbed, losing sight of Jehovah's qualities

A study of animal creation can adjust our thinking, deepening our admiration for Jehovah, reassuring us that he will care for us, and strengthening our desire to remain loyal to him (Mt 6:26)

ANIMAL CREATION STIRS ADMIRATION (5 min.)

What facts about animal creation can stir admiration for Jehovah?

Consider just some of the examples mentioned in Job 39-41

[Read Job 39:5, 6] Jehovah has equipped wild donkeys to thrive in habitats where humans struggle to survive

In Africa, they live where temperatures rise to 122 degrees Fahrenheit (50°C)

In Tibet, they live at an altitude of 15,000 feet (4,500 m) and eat sharp grass that would lacerate the mouths of other animals (*g82* 12/22 21-22)

Australian wild donkeys can inhibit perspiration when dehydrated and survive water loss equal to 30 percent of their body weight

By contrast, a loss of 12 to 15 percent would kill many other mammals (*g01* 4/8 19)

[Read Job 39:1, 19, 27; 40:15, 18; 41:1, 2] Jehovah mentions the horse; the eagle; Behemoth, likely the hippopotamus; and Leviathan, likely the crocodile (*it-1* 280-281, 352; *it-2* 240)

What have researchers learned about these creations that can stir our admiration for Jehovah?

Please watch the following video documentary that highlights Jehovah's wisdom and power

VIDEO (9 min.)

WHAT LESSONS DO WE LEARN? (5 min.)

Jehovah's wisdom as evident in physical creation is far superior to man's wisdom

Likewise, the wisdom evident in Jehovah's moral guidance is far superior to the ideas of imperfect humans

Never would we want to exalt our wisdom over God's! (Pr 3:5, 6)

Jehovah's power is demonstrated in the physical might of the animals he has made, many of which are vastly stronger than humans

Never should we question whether Jehovah uses his power wisely and fairly when executing his judgments (Job 40:1-4)

As evident in the way that he dealt with Job, Jehovah loves those who are loyal to him, and he will use his wisdom and power to reward them

[Read James 5:11]

How can animal creation stir our loyalty to God?

What we learn from animal creation reminds us that Jehovah's wisdom and power are far superior to man's, motivating us to listen to his counsel and loyally support his judgments

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THE BOOK OF JOB? (2 min.)

From the preceding talks, we learned two key lessons:

- (1) All servants of Jehovah will have their loyalty to him tested  
Satan may directly attack us by means of persecution  
He may use false friends and other subtle methods to undermine our faith
- (2) Nothing Satan does can break our loyalty  
We strengthen our loyalty by meditating on Jehovah's wisdom and power that are evident in the forces of nature and in brilliantly designed animal life  
We prove our loyalty by trusting that Jehovah's ways are always right

May what we learn from the book of Job move us to remain loyal and praise Jehovah continually (Ps 145:10)

TO BE COVERED IN 25 MINUTES

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