

### **Why are there so many animals and birds in Job?**

Since Job lived in the ancient world before the first Scriptures were written and compiled by Moses, in chapters 38 through 41 God used creation to counsel and correct him. Though Job was the Lord's servant and mostly correct about many things, he had gone too far in some of his statements. So he needed to be reminded that the Creator gives wisdom and understanding to his creatures and he sees fit (39:17).

### **Why is the ostrich included in Job chapter 39?**

All the animals and birds in chapter 39 were well known to Job who probably lived in ancient Arabia. Perhaps the ostrich stood out in Job's memory because he had vainly chased such a great bird on horseback (38:18) and had seen many crushed ostrich eggs (39:15). Undoubtedly, Job agreed with the Creator on the ostrich acting like an ignorant but proud person, and it was probably not his favorite bird.

### **Are animals and birds sinful?**

The Fall of man brought many harmful changes to the animal world (Rom. 8:19-23) so that animals and birds no longer fulfill God's original peaceful purpose. During the future millennial reign of Christ the original order will be restored (See Isaiah 11:6-9 and the final study in this text.), but until then the ostrich will continue to act carelessly and proudly while birds of prey will continue to suck up blood (39:30). Though instinctively selfish and cruel behavior by animals and birds is not equivalent to human sin, it is the result of the Fall and helps illustrate the nature of human sin including that of Job. Thus natural ostrich behavior was and continues to be a fitting illustration of ignorance and pride.

### **Was Job really so bad?**

Job's three friends were very wrong about the cause of Job's suffering (42:7), but only three verses in the final chapter deal with their error (42:7-9). However, four chapters with 129 verses (38:1-41:34) report God dealing with Job's attitude. Regarding the truth, Job was far better than his friends. Yet as a created being it was wrong for Job to challenge the Creator as he did. Though Job was the Lord's servant (42:7, 8), he should have been more submissive and silent (40:1-5, 42:1-6). So God dealt with him about his less-than-perfect attitude. The long probing session of personal counseling in Job chapters 38 through 41, including the six verses on the ostrich in chapter 39, show that God cared deeply about the attitude, especially the humility, of his servant.

### **What is the application?**

Ideally we should not be like the ignorant yet proudly independent ostrich, but being less so in daily life must begin by admitting that we, like Job, are in fact like the ostrich. Though an individual may not boast in his or her running ability compared to others as the ostrich seemed to do (39:18), each of us naturally tries to find something in which to excel in order to boost our self-esteem. This is self-centered and wrong.