

Saturday, August 31

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Job 37:1 - 39:30

37 **1** “My heart pounds as I think of this. It trembles within me. **2** Listen carefully to the thunder of God’s voice as it rolls from his mouth. **3** It rolls across the heavens, and his lightning flashes in every direction. **4** Then comes the roaring of the thunder— the tremendous voice of his majesty. He does not restrain it when he speaks. **5** God’s voice is glorious in the thunder. We can’t even imagine the greatness of his power. **6** “He directs the snow to fall on the earth and tells the rain to pour down. **7** Then everyone stops working so they can watch his power. **8** The wild animals take cover and stay inside their dens. **9** The stormy wind comes from its chamber, and the driving winds bring the cold. **10** God’s breath sends the ice, freezing wide expanses of water. **11** He loads the clouds with moisture, and they flash with his lightning. **12** The clouds churn about at his direction. They do whatever he commands throughout the earth. **13** He makes these things happen either to punish people or to show his unfailing love. **14** “Pay attention to this, Job. Stop and consider the wonderful miracles of God! **15** Do you know how God controls the storm and causes the lightning to flash from his clouds? **16** Do you understand how he moves the clouds with wonderful perfection and skill? **17** When you are sweltering in your clothes and the south wind dies down and everything is still, **18** he makes the skies reflect the heat like a bronze mirror. Can you do that? **19** “So teach the rest of us what to say to God. We are too ignorant to make our own arguments. **20** Should God be notified that I want to speak? Can people even speak when they are confused? **21** We cannot look at the sun, for it shines brightly in the sky when the wind clears away the clouds. **22** So also, golden splendor comes from the mountain of God. He is clothed in dazzling splendor. **23** We cannot imagine the power of the Almighty; but even though he is just and righteous, he does not destroy us. **24** No wonder people everywhere fear him. All who are wise show him reverence. ”

38 **1** Then the LORD answered Job from the whirlwind: **2** “Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorant words? **3** Brace yourself like a man, because I have some questions for you, and you must answer them. **4** “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you know so much. **5** Who determined its dimensions and stretched out the surveying line? **6** What supports its foundations, and who laid its cornerstone **7** as the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? **8** “Who kept the sea inside its boundaries as it burst from the womb, **9** and as I clothed it with clouds and wrapped it in thick darkness? **10** For I

locked it behind barred gates, limiting its shores. **11** I said, 'This far and no farther will you come. Here your proud waves must stop!' **12** "Have you ever commanded the morning to appear and caused the dawn to rise in the east? **13** Have you made daylight spread to the ends of the earth, to bring an end to the night's wickedness? **14** As the light approaches, the earth takes shape like clay pressed beneath a seal; it is robed in brilliant colors. **15** The light disturbs the wicked and stops the arm that is raised in violence. **16** "Have you explored the springs from which the seas come? Have you explored their depths? **17** Do you know where the gates of death are located? Have you seen the gates of utter gloom?**18** Do you realize the extent of the earth? Tell me about it if you know!**19** "Where does light come from, and where does darkness go? **20** Can you take each to its home? Do you know how to get there? **21** But of course you know all this! For you were born before it was all created, and you are so very experienced! **22** "Have you visited the storehouses of the snow or seen the storehouses of hail? **23** (I have reserved them as weapons for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war.) **24** Where is the path to the source of light? Where is the home of the east wind? **25**"Who created a channel for the torrents of rain? Who laid out the path for the lightning? **26** Who makes the rain fall on barren land, in a desert where no one lives? **27** Who sends rain to satisfy the parched ground and make the tender grass spring up? **28** "Does the rain have a father? Who gives birth to the dew? **29** Who is the mother of the ice? Who gives birth to the frost from the heavens? **30** For the water turns to ice as hard as rock, and the surface of the water freezes. **31** "Can you direct the movement of the stars— binding the cluster of the Pleiades or loosening the cords of Orion? **32**Can you direct the constellations through the seasons or guide the Bear with her cubs across the heavens? **33** Do you know the laws of the universe? Can you use them to regulate the earth? **34** "Can you shout to the clouds and make it rain? **35** Can you make lightning appear and cause it to strike as you direct? **36** Who gives intuition to the heart and instinct to the mind?**37** Who is wise enough to count all the clouds? Who can tilt the water jars of heaven **38** when the parched ground is dry and the soil has hardened into clods? **39** "Can you stalk prey for a lioness and satisfy the young lions' appetites **40** as they lie in their dens or crouch in the thicket? **41** Who provides food for the ravens when their young cry out to God and wander about in hunger?

39 1 "Do you know when the wild goats give birth? Have you watched as deer are born in the wild? **2** Do you know how many months they carry their young? Are you aware of the time of their delivery? **3** They crouch down to give birth to their young and deliver their offspring. **4** Their young grow up in the open fields, then leave home and never return. **5** "Who gives the wild donkey its freedom? Who untied its ropes? **6** I have placed it in the wilderness; its home is the wasteland. **7** It hates the noise of the city and has no driver to shout at it. **8** The mountains are

its pastureland, where it searches for every blade of grass. **9** “Will the wild ox consent to being tamed? Will it spend the night in your stall? **10** Can you hitch a wild ox to a plow? Will it plow a field for you? **11** Given its strength, can you trust it? Can you leave and trust the ox to do your work? **12** Can you rely on it to bring home your grain and deliver it to your threshing floor? **13** “The ostrich flaps her wings grandly, but they are no match for the feathers of the stork. **14** She lays her eggs on top of the earth, letting them be warmed in the dust. **15** She doesn’t worry that a foot might crush them or a wild animal might destroy them. **16** She is harsh toward her young, as if they were not her own. She doesn’t care if they die. **17** For God has deprived her of wisdom. He has given her no understanding. **18** But whenever she jumps up to run, she passes the swiftest horse with its rider. **19** “Have you given the horse its strength or clothed its neck with a flowing mane? **20** Did you give it the ability to leap like a locust? Its majestic snorting is terrifying! **21** It paws the earth and rejoices in its strength when it charges out to battle. **22** It laughs at fear and is unafraid. It does not run from the sword. **23** The arrows rattle against it, and the spear and javelin flash. **24** It paws the ground fiercely and rushes forward into battle when the ram’s horn blows. **25** It snorts at the sound of the horn. It senses the battle in the distance. It quivers at the captain’s commands and the noise of battle. **26** “Is it your wisdom that makes the hawk soar and spread its wings toward the south? **27** Is it at your command that the eagle rises to the heights to make its nest? **28** It lives on the cliffs, making its home on a distant, rocky crag. **29** From there it hunts its prey, keeping watch with piercing eyes. **30** Its young gulp down blood. Where there’s a carcass, there you’ll find it.”

2 Corinthians 4:13 - 5:10

4 13 But we continue to preach because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, “I believed in God, so I spoke.” **14** We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you. **15** All of this is for your benefit. And as God’s grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory. **16** That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. **17** For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! **18** So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

5 1 For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands. **2** We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing. **3** For we will put on heavenly bodies; we will not be spirits without bodies. **4** While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it's not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life. **5** God himself has prepared us for this, and as a guarantee he has given us his Holy Spirit. **6** So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. **7** For we live by believing and not by seeing. **8** Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord. **9** So whether we are here in this body or away from this body, our goal is to please him. **10** For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.

Psalm 44:9 - 26

44 9But now you have tossed us aside in dishonor. You no longer lead our armies to battle. **10** You make us retreat from our enemies and allow those who hate us to plunder our land. **11** You have butchered us like sheep and scattered us among the nations. **12** You sold your precious people for a pittance, making nothing on the sale. **13** You let our neighbors mock us. We are an object of scorn and derision to those around us. **14** You have made us the butt of their jokes; they shake their heads at us in scorn. **15**We can't escape the constant humiliation; shame is written across our faces. **16** All we hear are the taunts of our mockers. All we see are our vengeful enemies. **17** All this has happened though we have not forgotten you. We have not violated your covenant. **18** Our hearts have not deserted you. We have not strayed from your path. **19** Yet you have crushed us in the jackal's desert home. You have covered us with darkness and death. **20** If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread our hands in prayer to foreign gods, **21** God would surely have known it, for he knows the secrets of every heart. **22** But for your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep. **23** Wake up, O Lord! Why do you sleep? Get up! Do not reject us forever. **24** Why do you look the other way? Why do you ignore our suffering and oppression? **25** We collapse in the dust, lying face down in the dirt. **26** Rise up! Help us! Ransom us because of your unfailing love.

Proverbs 22:13

22 13 The lazy person claims, “There’s a lion out there! If I go outside, I might be killed!”