



A YEAR
with
GOD
Daily Devotional

DAY 14



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DAY FOURTEEN

Job 38 - 39

Where Were You?

For thirty-seven chapters, Job has been asking God to speak. He has cried out, accused, defended, mourned, and waited. His friends have filled the silence with bad theology. Elihu has filled it with better theology. And all of it - all of it - has been the sound of human beings trying to speak about God from the outside. And then the whirlwind comes.

***God does not answer Job's questions. He asks His own.
And the questions He asks are not designed to
humiliate Job - they are designed to expand him.***

Chapter 38 opens with four of the most electric words in all of Scripture:

"Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm."

- Job 38:1

Out of the storm. Not after it. Not once it was calm and safe and quiet. Out of the storm, while the wind was still moving, while the thunder was still rolling - God spoke. He did not wait for Job to compose himself. He came into the chaos and opened His mouth.

God has never waited for your life to be calm before He speaks into it. He speaks out of the storm. He is speaking right now, in the middle of whatever is swirling around you.

His first question is worth sitting with for a long time:

“Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation?

Tell me, if you understand.”

- Job 38:4

Where were you? It is not a taunt. It is a reorientation. Job has been arguing his case as though he and God were peers — as though the gap between them were merely one of information, and if God would just explain Himself, Job could evaluate the explanation and decide if it was satisfactory. God's question cuts through all of that. You were not there. You do not have the vantage point you think you have.

- The problem was never that Job lacked enough information. The problem was that he forgot how small a part of the story he could see.

And then God asks question after question after question. Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Where is the way to the dwelling of light? Have you entered the storehouses of the snow? Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades? Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons? Do you know the laws of the heavens? Can you set up dominion over the earth?

The questions tumble over each other like waves. And Job cannot answer a single one. Not one. He cannot explain how the morning stars sing. He cannot tell you where the gates of death are. He has never walked in the recesses of the deep. He does not know how the light divides itself, or how the east wind is scattered across the earth.

God is not diminishing Job. He is showing him the size of the story he is a part of. A story so vast, so intricately ordered, so breathtakingly governed - that what Job can see from where he stands is not even the beginning of it.

Chapter 39 continues the interrogation but moves from the cosmos to the creatures. God asks Job about the mountain goat giving birth on the cliff. About the wild donkey that roams free across the salt flats, laughing at the city, scorning the driver's shout. About the wild ox - will it consent to serve you? About the ostrich who abandons her eggs in the sand, who is cruel to her young, who was deprived of wisdom by God but given swiftness enough to outrun a horse.

The hawk. The eagle. The war horse - and this passage on the war horse is one of the most stirring descriptions in all of literature:

“Do you give the horse its strength or clothe its neck with a flowing mane? It laughs at fear, afraid of nothing;”

- Job 39:19,22

God is painting a picture of a creation that is wild and untameable and magnificent and strange — and none of it was designed for Job's convenience or understanding. The mountain goat does not give birth for Job's benefit. The wild donkey does not run for his pleasure. The eagle does not nest in the crag to make a theological point. They exist because God made them, and God sustains them, and God delights in them.

You are not the centre of the story. That is not an insult. It is a liberation. Because if you are not the centre, then the weight of holding everything together is not yours to carry. The One who clothes the horse's neck with a mane is the same One who holds your life in His hands.

Job has been asking God to explain Himself. And God has responded not with an explanation but with an invitation - an invitation to see how large the world is, how intricate the design, how thorough the governance, and how small and safe and held a single human being is inside all of it.

God is not finished speaking. But Job is already beginning to change.

Speak this over yourself today:

God speaks out of the storm, not after it.

I am not the centre of the story — and that is a relief.

*The One who governs the stars and the sea
has never for one moment lost hold of me.*

TOMORROW - Day 15 Job 40–42

*God asks Job one final question. And Job's answer - just a few
quiet words - is the turning point of the entire book. Then comes
the ending. And the ending will surprise you. Come back
tomorrow.*

Day 14 of 365



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