

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Job 38:4–18

Psalm 85:8-13

*I will listen to what the Lord God is saying.*  
(v8)

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our defender, storms rage around & within us & cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons & daughters from fear, & preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- Job 38:4–18

<sup>1</sup>Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind: <sup>4</sup>"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me if you have understanding. <sup>5</sup>Who determined its measurements — surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? <sup>6</sup>On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone <sup>7</sup>when the morning stars sang together & all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? <sup>8</sup>Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb? — <sup>9</sup>when I made the clouds its garment, & thick darkness its swaddling band, <sup>10</sup>and prescribed bounds for it, & set bars & doors, <sup>11</sup>and said, 'Thus far shall you come, & no farther, & here shall your proud waves be stopped?' <sup>12</sup>Have you commanded the morning since your days began, & caused the dawn to know its place, <sup>13</sup>so that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, & the wicked be shaken out of it? <sup>14</sup>It is changed like clay under the seal, & it is dyed like a garment. <sup>15</sup>Light is withheld from the wicked, & their uplifted arm is broken. <sup>16</sup>Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? <sup>17</sup>Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? <sup>18</sup>Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this."

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. How does God's response fit with Job's earlier words? *See 9:7, 16:3, 23:3-7, 33:14-17.* How does God's appearance compare to these other theophanies? *See Exodus 19:16; 1 Kings 19:12; 2 Kings 2:1; Psalm 18:12-14; Zechariah 9:14; hint: check surrounding verses for context*
2. How does *Matthew 14:27* & the following references give holy, divine encouragement? *See Matthew 17:1-7; Deuteronomy 31:6; Isaiah 41:13, 43:1, 2; John 16:33; see hint in #1*

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. God asks Job if he knows all the details, so to speak. When were a few times you felt let down or left behind by God only to find out later that more was at stake than your desires? (This doesn't mean your outcome didn't matter, merely that it was only a single part of something bigger.)
4. The world & society *right now* are the sum of all causes & effects, all choices made in the past. (This is similar to the "butterfly effect;" [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Butterfly\\_effect](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Butterfly_effect) ) How does God's response to Job show that he does indeed care & that he alone is able to account for every single one of these variables? *See Genesis 50:19-21; Romans 8:28-30; 1 Corinthians 2:9; James 1:22; 1 Peter 5:10*

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Building on #3 & #4, review the [Formula of Concord: chapter XI](#)'s discussion of election/predestination/foreknowledge. How does this more technical explanation of God's control over the events of history (& their seeming arbitrariness or randomness) help you speak more clearly to a neighbor wondering, "Why did such-and-such have to happen? Doesn't God care about me?" *Review both the Epitome XI:1-23 & the Solid Declaration XI:1-8 FC available [bookofconcord.org](#)*
6. *Romans 10:5-10* spells out the importance of the *spoken word* from us to others so that they can develop into fully devoted followers of Jesus. What things are pre-Christians asking you about Jesus and your radically transformed life? What things are you telling them about the same?

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11th Sunday after Pentecost

08.13.23

Series: Divine Mystery

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

...Of His Power

*A glimpse of God's power reassures Job- & us- of his work  
& deliverance in everyday life*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?  
Declare, if you know all this. (*v18*)

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-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

I wait for you, O Lord; in your word is my hope. (*Psalm 130:5*)

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