

WEEK FIVE INTRODUCTION

The majority of this week's reading arises from the closing scenes of Job. It is easy to come to the Lord's response to Job in chapter 38 confused and weary. This sensation may in fact be one of the important points of the book. Experiencing the book involves more than just reading. Coming to chapter 38 brings hope of a resolution, of some fact to stand on. Yet, God's response to Job does not provide an answer to "why?" The Lord brings a series of questions that demonstrate His absolute sovereignty over all of creation. Job's consolation is the Lord Himself. Job states in 42:5, "now my eyes have seen you." Act II Scene 2 burst forth in this week's reading after the closure to Job in the drama of Exodus. The Lord initiates His plan to deliver His people from the stronghold of Egypt.

KEY SCRIPTURE

God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. God saw the Israelites, and God knew.

– Exodus 2:24-25

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Look at Job 28:23-28. What do these verses say about God and His wisdom? How would you define wisdom? What does the phrase "the fear of the Lord" mean and how does that make us wise?

In 30:16, Job says, "Now my life is poured out before me, and days of suffering have seized me." When was the season of greatest suffering in your life? How did that suffering shape the relationships in your life? How did it shape your relationship with God? Reflect upon Hebrews 5:8-9. Describe Jesus' suffering and the outcome of His suffering. How can Jesus' suffering transform your own?

The Lord's voice in chapter 38 breaks the pattern of dispute. Notice He answers Job's concerns with questions of His own. He repeatedly begins questions with "who." Why do you think God is concerned with Job answering the "who" question rather than answering the "why" question Himself? Why do you think God prioritizes Person over Purpose? How might seeking God's person over everything else shift your perspective?

What is the situation in Exodus 1? What has happened to the people of Israel?

According to Exodus 1:17, the Hebrew midwives "feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt had told them." What was Pharaoh's command? What were the midwives risking in their choice to disobey Pharaoh and obey God? Consider Acts 5:29. What is the great allegiance of the Christian? What consequences could come from "obeying God rather than men"?

Chapter 3 describes God's dramatic calling of Moses. What motivates the Lord to action? How does He describe Moses' mission (see Ex. 3:7-10)? How does the Lord reveal Himself? How does He describe Himself?

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

-Proverbs 9:10

How will you learn "the fear of the LORD"? How will you pursue wisdom this week?