**Job 38-39** - May 23rd

The Lord Speaks

**38**Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm. He said: **2**“Who is this that obscures MY plans with words without knowledge? **3**Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer ME. **4**“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand. **5**Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? **6**On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone **7**while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?

**8**“Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, **9**when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, **10**when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, **11**when I said, ‘This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt’? **12**“Have you ever given orders to the morning, or shown the dawn its place, **13**that it might take the earth by the edges and shake the wicked out of it? **14**The earth takes shape like clay under a seal; its features stand out like those of a garment. **15**The wicked are denied their light, and their upraised arm is broken.

**16**“Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep?
**17**Have the gates of death been shown to you? Have you seen the gates of the deepest darkness? **18**Have you comprehended the vast expanses of the earth? Tell me, if you know all this. **19**“What is the way to the abode of light? And where does darkness reside? **20**Can you take them to their places? Do you know the paths to their dwellings? **21**Surely you know, for you were already born! You have lived so many years! **22**“Have you entered the storehouses of the snow or seen the storehouses of the hail, **23**which I reserve for times of trouble, for days of war and battle?
**24**What is the way to the place where the lightning is dispersed, or the place where the east winds are scattered over the earth? **25**Who cuts a channel for the torrents of rain, and a path for the thunderstorm, **26**to water a land where no one lives, an uninhabited desert, **27**to satisfy a desolate wasteland and make it sprout with grass? **28**Does the rain have a father? Who fathers the drops of dew? **29**From whose womb comes the ice? Who gives birth to the frost from the heavens **30**when the waters become hard as stone, when the surface of the deep is frozen? **31**“Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades? Can you loosen Orion’s belt? **32**Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons or lead out the Bear with its cubs? **33**Do you know the laws of the heavens? Can you set up God’s dominion over the earth? **34**“Can you raise your voice to the clouds and cover yourself with a flood of water? **35**Do you send the lightning bolts on their way? Do they report to you, ‘Here we are’? **36**Who gives the ibis wisdom or gives the rooster understanding? **37**Who has the wisdom to count the clouds?  Who can tip over the water jars of the heavens **38**when the dust becomes hard and the clods of earth stick together? **39**“Do you hunt the prey for the lioness and satisfy the hunger of the lions **40**when they crouch in their dens or lie in wait in a thicket? **41**Who provides food for the raven when its young cry out to God and wander about for lack of food?

**39**“Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you watch when the doe bears her fawn? **2**Do you count the months till they bear? Do you know the time they give birth? **3**They crouch down and bring forth their young; their labor pains are ended.
**4**Their young thrive and grow strong in the wilds; they leave and do not return.

**5**“Who let the wild donkey go free? Who untied its ropes? **6**I gave it the wasteland as its home, the salt flats as its habitat. **7**It laughs at the commotion in the town; it does not hear a driver’s shout. **8**It ranges the hills for its pasture and searches for any green thing. **9**“Will the wild ox consent to serve you? Will it stay by your manger at night?
**10**Can you hold it to the furrow with a harness? Will it till the valleys behind you?
**11**Will you rely on it for its great strength? Will you leave your heavy work to it?
**12**Can you trust it to haul in your grain and bring it to your threshing floor?

**13**“The wings of the ostrich flap joyfully, though they cannot compare with the wings and feathers of the stork. **14**She lays her eggs on the ground and lets them warm in the sand, **15**unmindful that a foot may crush them, that some wild animal may trample them. **16**She treats her young harshly, as if they were not hers; she cares not that her labor was in vain, **17**for God did not endow her with wisdom or give her a share of good sense. **18**Yet when she spreads her feathers to run, she laughs at horse and rider.

**19**“Do you give the horse its strength or clothe its neck with a flowing mane?
**20**Do you make it leap like a locust, striking terror with its proud snorting? **21**It paws fiercely, rejoicing in its strength, and charges into the fray. **22**It laughs at fear, afraid of nothing; it does not shy away from the sword. **23**The quiver rattles against its side, along with the flashing spear and lance. **24**In frenzied excitement it eats up the ground; it cannot stand still when the trumpet sounds. **25**At the blast of the trumpet it snorts, ‘Aha!’ It catches the scent of battle from afar, the shout of commanders and the battle cry. **26**“Does the hawk take flight by your wisdom and spread its wings toward the south? **27**Does the eagle soar at your command and build its nest on high? **28**It dwells on a cliff and stays there at night; a rocky crag is its stronghold. **29**From there it looks for food; its eyes detect it from afar. **30**Its young ones feast on blood, and where the slain are, there it is.”