

READING: Job 38:1–7, 34–38; 39:1–2, 9–11, 19–20; 40:1–14; 42:1–6

A reading from Job.

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:

²"Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

³Gird up your loins like a man,

I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

⁴"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵Who determined its measurements — surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone

⁷when the morning stars sang together

and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

³⁴"Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,

so that a flood of waters may cover you?

³⁵Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go

and say to you, 'Here we are'?

³⁶Who has put wisdom in the inward parts,

or given understanding to the mind?

³⁷Who has the wisdom to number the clouds?

Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens,

³⁸when the dust runs into a mass

and the clods cling together?

"Do you know when the mountain goats give birth?

Do you observe the calving of the deer?

²Can you number the months that they fulfill,

and do you know the time when they give birth,

⁹"Is the wild ox willing to serve you?

Will it spend the night at your crib?

¹⁰Can you tie it in the furrow with ropes,

or will it harrow the valleys after you?

¹¹Will you depend on it because its strength is great,

and will you hand over your labor to it?

¹⁹"Do you give the horse its might?

Do you clothe its neck with mane?

²⁰Do you make it leap like the locust?

Its majestic snorting is terrible.

And the LORD said to Job:

²"Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty?

Anyone who argues with God must respond."

³Then Job answered the LORD:

⁴"See, I am of small account; what shall I answer you?

I lay my hand on my mouth.

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- ⁵I have spoken once, and I will not answer;
twice, but will proceed no further."
⁶Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:
⁷"Gird up your loins like a man;
I will question you, and you declare to me.
⁸Will you even put me in the wrong?
Will you condemn me that you may be justified?
⁹Have you an arm like God,
and can you thunder with a voice like his?
¹⁰"Deck yourself with majesty and dignity;
clothe yourself with glory and splendor.
¹¹Pour out the overflowings of your anger,
and look on all who are proud, and abase them.
¹²Look on all who are proud, and bring them low;
tread down the wicked where they stand.
¹³Hide them all in the dust together;
bind their faces in the world below.
¹⁴Then I will also acknowledge to you
that your own right hand can give you victory.

Then Job answered the LORD:

- ²"I know that you can do all things,
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
³'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?'
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.
⁴Hear, and I will speak;
I will question you, and you declare to me.'
⁵I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees you;
⁶therefore I despise myself,
and repent in dust and ashes."

GOSPEL: John 6:51–57

- ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."
⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me.