

25b JOB

Let's resume our study now in Job chapter 38. The passage, by the way, that you had asked about was Galatians 1.4, who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil age. And that was a good observation of Patty's when we went through Galatians and studied that fourth verse of the first chapter.

And we think of our deliverance as being future when we're resurrected, but Paul points out to the Galatians as soon as he gives the greeting, and he says, Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins in order that he might deliver us out of this present evil age. And it's the word of God that is available to us through the work of Christ. We have all of those ministries of the Holy Spirit that enable us to do what Elihu has been encouraging in these four great speeches that we just studied.

Lift your gaze. Think about the things of God. Now the kind of deliverance, the kind of salvation that we enjoy was not available in Job's day.

Not to this extent, not this powerful, because we have the indwelling and the filling of the Holy Spirit. We are in union with Christ positionally and hopefully experientially. We have so many wonderful benefits that the Old Testament saints could only look forward to at the coming of the kingdom and the fulfillment of God's covenant promises.

But in every age, it has been possible to not only have faith, which Job had, not only attribute to God the glory that is his due, but to gain a perspective on life, to see human events in the context of God's greater plan of purpose, even if we don't know what that plan and purpose is. In reality, this is a different area for faith. Anybody who becomes a believer and starts living the Christian life is going to exercise faith.

If you're growing at all, you're going to start trusting God for basic things. Some of you all are familiar with Bob Thien's model of what he called the edification complex of the soul. He organized this into categories that made sense to him about starting out with being oriented to God's grace.

After you're a believer and you start learning God's word, one of the first things you have to figure out, and this is a distillation from a lot of good, solid biblical principles and passages, but the first thing you learn is to be oriented to God's grace. He said this is like a building with five floors, and the bottom floor, the ground floor, is grace orientation. As you begin to master that more and more and begin to be aware of and to rely on and trust in God's grace, you begin to move into the second area, and all of these continue to grow.

You don't get one completely finished and then start a new one discreetly. They all build on one another, but grace has to come first. You have to really be tuned to and place your faith in God's grace.

The second one he called mastery of the details of life. This is where your perspective begins to shift. Because God's grace is available, because there is a power outside of human cause and effect and human solutions, you can begin to relax in areas and in situations that we didn't used to be able to relax in.

We begin to master the details of life. We don't get so frustrated. We don't get so worried.

We don't get so impatient. We don't get so wrapped around the axle when situations arise in life because we keep turning back to God's grace. We keep remembering there is a God in heaven.

He saw this coming, and He wouldn't let it happen to me unless it had a purpose and unless He had made some kind of provision for it. Galatians 1.4, Christ gave Himself for our sins so that He might deliver us out of this present evil age. Not the future evil age.

Not come back and get us at the end times. Deliver us now. We have a now salvation.

And then Bob went on to talk, after you have mastery of the details of life, this starts getting you into the third floor area, which is relaxed mental attitude. Now you have that peace that passes understanding. It's not totally uninterrupted.

It isn't always just like you're on some kind of, what's that stuff that people take when they want to calm down? Yeah, Valium. You're not like on some kind of spiritual Valium where, oh, well I see you ran over my dog. Oh, I see my house burned down.

That's not the nature of it. But a relaxed mental attitude means you don't get tossed about and bumped from pillar to post by everything that happens. You're steady.

You're balanced. You're like a fighter. One of the first things they teach you in boxing is your stance and how to balance yourself on your feet so you can take a punch.

Have you ever seen these commercials for the shoe inserts? If you see, you haven't stayed up late enough. If you stay up late enough and you watch the infomercials, they've got these inserts for your shoes. And so the guy comes up and he says, see, you've got foot problems.

And he walks up and pushes this person on the shoulder and they stagger back. And then he says, now, stand on these, they don't even put them in the shoe, he just puts them on the floor. He says, stand on these shoe inserts and it changes your foot so that it's got the right, and now he pushes on them and they don't stagger.

It's amazing. Don't try to tell me that's pre-planned or anything, I believe it. But the idea is, truly, if you're in a good boxing stance, if you're in a good, you know, any of the rest of the martial arts, the first thing they teach you is you've got to achieve a balanced stance.

I loved our personal defense classes at school. Because back then, when you're flexible and all

that, you're balanced, but you can raise your foot up and kick somebody in the chin and put your foot right back down on the deck and you have never been unbalanced. Nobody could ever knock you down in any part of that process because you've learned how to control your body and stay balanced.

This is what happens in the spiritual realm when you're oriented to God's grace and through that you gain mastery over the details of life. You are the thermostat controlling the temperature. You are not the thermometer reflecting the temperature.

Things get hot, your mercury pops through the top. It doesn't happen anymore. Now you say, calm down, you're the one keeping your head when everyone else is losing theirs.

Mastery of the details of life and from that flows relaxed mental attitude. It's amazing. You have that peace that keeps you calm.

You may not be slap happy. You may not be snapping your fingers and tapping your foot, singing a tune, but your highs and lows are moderated. It's like a damping effect where you don't get into wild highs that can't last and you get into deep lows that devastate your whole outlook on life.

You have a moderated, balanced approach. Once you have those three, then again, Bob would talk about having gotten your eyes lifted up out of the mundane circumstances of life. Now you can really focus on your spiritual life and you begin to develop capacity.

You can appreciate things that you couldn't appreciate before because you were too busy in panic mode. And so you have capacity for life. You can enjoy things.

You can be sitting in a chair, staring at a thing and just enjoying it because it's fulfilling and it conforms to your values. You can enjoy relationships. You can enjoy situations.

You find yourself not being bored because you always have something to think about that is stimulating to your thought and to your spiritual life. Capacity for life. Capacity for love.

You find that because you are no longer distracted by little things, you can appreciate big things. And you can love deeply and from the heart. And you can love based on who and what you are instead of who and what the object is.

And you have capacity for happiness. And you find that there is fulfillment and there is satisfaction that is just transcendent because it comes from spiritual life, not from the simple cause and effect that the rest of the world has to rely on. Your happiness and your love and your life are flowing out of your spiritual standing and your relationship with God and reflect that.

And it partakes of divine power and divine glory. And that leads you to what he used to call the penthouse of this building in your soul which is occupation with Christ. You begin to truly love and appreciate the Lord Jesus Christ because you can see in all of these other areas how it is he in

giving himself for our sins and being our example and in making a way to the Father through his own flesh.

He is the one that delivers us out of this present evil age. Well this is the New Testament fulfillment of what was just a shadow in the Old Testament but that's what's being presented. That's what's being shown.

And there was a form of this that was available. It was possible to be strong and of a good courage and to be not afraid. It was possible to be kept in perfect peace when your mind has stayed on God.

These are Old Testament passages that talk about they will run and not be weary. They will walk and not faint. It's not like there was no spiritual life in the Old Testament.

It just was very limited compared to the wonderful things that God has given us. And those people are going to catch up. They're coming back and they're going to get everything we've got.

And they'll be looking back at us to see how it's done. But say all of that to say this. In Job 38 when God begins to speak, the Lord answered Job, out of the world went.

Isn't this what Elihu has been talking about in his previous four speeches when he said it's in the time of trouble, it's in the darkness when the kind of person that you are comes out. Are you the kind of person who looks for your maker? Looks for the one who can give you a song in the night? Or do you shake your fist and rail against the darkness and say, why did this happen to me? Elihu says this is why God allows the darkness because it reveals the kind of person we are. Now, anyone can be good when things are good.

Jesus talked in his day about how everybody loves those who love them. Somebody's kind and nice and smiles and does all kinds of things for you, it's easy to love them. Jesus said if you want to be my disciple, love your enemies.

Do good to those who hate you. Pray for those who spitefully use you. Then you'll understand divine love because it's transcendent.

Notice how love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, pray for those who spitefully use you is counterintuitive. It doesn't follow the Newtonian physics of cause and effect that people think drive this life. Well, I should be good to those who are good to me.

I should love those who love me. I should pray for those who are praying for me. It doesn't make any sense to do something that doesn't have a return.

It's not going to produce a physical effect like you would expect. But Jesus gave that example because it reflects this idea. So when the Lord answers Job out of the whirlwind, the whirlwind, the tempestuous storm is the last place you would expect answers that are going to bring order

out of chaos and are going to bring light in darkness.

We tend to think, how can I learn about God when everything is going haywire? I remember this being explained to me in seminary. And I've told you this before. We used to have the Minarth Meyer Clinic here in Dallas.

And Paul Meyer and what's his name, Minarth, are still floating around doing Christian counseling and prescribing medications for all kinds of Christians. And Frank Minarth came and taught our class on counseling. And he said, here's the deal.

And I'm paraphrasing and summarizing what we learned in that course. He said, basically, there's a lot of people in the world who are too screwed up to learn about God. They've got too many problems.

There's too many hardships and too many distractions and there's too many things going on. What we do is prescribe them the Valium. Prescribe them, and he listed off all of these different things.

And we calm them down to the point that they can then learn about God. The book of Job teaches just the opposite. God is going to speak in the whirlwind.

God is going to teach those who really want to seek Him and know Him in the darkness. Remember the picture that Job mentioned and that Elihu alludes to, when he said, you remember that gold that's down in the dark parts of the earth? And you go down there and there's a risk of cave-in and it's kind of scary and you have to go down and mine that gold and get it out of a dark place. That's where the gold comes from.

Because it's not found in the normal experiences of secular life. So God answers Job out of the whirlwind and he says, who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge? It's a lack of perspective. It's a wrong view.

It's not a lack of faith. It's not a lack of righteousness even. It's a lack of perspective.

So God says, prepare yourself like a man. And this in the Hebrew is in the King James you find closer to the Hebrew original. Gird up your loins.

If you remember the kind of guard that they used to wear in the ancient world, they had these sort of long flowing robes. And if you wanted to go chase down a criminal or catch a goat that got away or whatever, or go fight a battle, you couldn't go doing anything very active in these entangling muffling garments. And so what would they do? They would take their robe and twist it and tuck it into itself.

And that was called girding up your loins. You'd gather the excess and basically tie it in a knot and get it out of the way so you could use your legs and run or climb or fight or whatever it is you

had to do. So they called it girding up the loins.

Get yourself ready to do some serious activity here. This is not for looks. This is for practice.

This is for real. Gird up your loins like a man. I will question you and you shall answer me.

And what did Job say back in chapter 9 and chapter 18 and all those other places? If I could stand before God, I would question Him and He would answer me. Now God has appeared in the whirlwind and God's doing the questioning and Job is going to do the answering. And this is the shift in perspective, isn't it? In Job's view, as faithful and as upstanding a man as he is, and as good a man as he is, he still has something to learn.

And no matter how close to perfection we think we're becoming, we still have things to learn, don't we? We have knowledge that will inform us and give us a point of view and a perspective. I will question you and you shall answer me. Now, how does God's revelation to Israel, when He reveals Himself and says, I am Yahweh, this is my personal name, let me tell you about myself.

Here's my resume. What does Moses give the people of Israel to introduce their God to them? What's the first book in the law? Genesis. What's the first chapter in the book of Genesis? In the beginning, God created.

God is introduced always as the all-powerful, all-knowing Creator. You can't get two centimeters into knowledge of life and knowledge of what's going on if you don't recognize that God is the Creator. So naturally, if Satan is going to throw a culture and a society and a civilization off track, what's the first thing he's going to attack? Got to get that Creator business off the table.

That's a non-starter. That's the path to God, is acknowledging Him as Creator. We've got to find a way to get that sidelined.

Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? This is God's starting point with Israel. This is God's starting point with us. This is God's starting point with Job.

I laid the foundations of the earth. Now, whose presence is important at this earth foundation laying event? God says, I was there. I didn't see you there.

I believe I laid the foundations of the earth and I looked around and I saw no Job in front of me, no Job behind me, no Job above me, no Job below me. Job, I just don't think you were there. Where were you? Here I was, doing something big.

And you did not exist. This is a perspective shifter. This is a paradigm changer.

The first question God asks, by the way, if you count them in these two long speeches of God, there are 50-something questions in here, kind of depending on whether you count them as run-on questions or two different ways of asking the same question, but there's 50-something

questions in here. God asks, how many answers do you see Job giving? Lord, I'm sitting here and I'm shutting up, is basically his answer. But God asks him these questions, why? Good teaching asks questions.

There are seldom a lesson that goes by where I don't ask you all some questions. Just because I know that when I have been challenged to address an issue and I've been asked questions, it forces us to think, doesn't it? Questions force us to try to... The great thing about lectures is you can kind of sit there and sooner or later the person who's monologuing is going to answer whatever rhetorical questions they raise. If you just sit there and look sage, they'll say, so where was Job when God laid the foundations? And you say... And pretty soon I say, well, he wasn't there.

You say, see there, that wasn't hard. But good teaching challenges you to put together the information. The girls hardly ever come to me for help with their homework because when they do, then they say, Dad, I can't solve this problem.

I immediately start asking them questions. Well, what are your knowns? What does it say in your book when you have a problem of this size? So what did you do when you subtracted on both sides? And I've run Elizabeth through this time after time. And as I continue to ask questions, and we get down to about the third step in solving this simultaneous equation, she says, oh, I see.

And I have not given her any answer. I have just asked questions that forced her to examine the evidence. And she finds... And this is a much, I think, a much more effective way of learning because you have built it yourself.

You have grappled with it. You have finally gotten the puzzle pieces to fit in the right way. Now it makes sense.

If I just point to it and say, well, you see right here, you didn't multiply all the way through the equation right there. Oh, well, thanks. Well, I'm going to get that same question several more times.

That's why God asks questions. First thing God says to humanity after the fall, after Eve and then Adam eat the fruit, first thing God says, why are you where you are? To which he already knows the answer, but it's a question for man's benefit. It does every sense.

Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me if you have understanding. Now, it almost seems as though God is being a little bit hard on Job here, almost like he's mocking him a bit. But it helps if you could see this in the original because he says, tell me if da'at you have.

Who is this who darkens counsel with words and no knowledge? Da'at. If you have da'at, if you think I'm being hard on you saying you're darkening the counsel without da'at, if you've got da'at,

you can tell me where you were when I was laying the foundations of the earth. This is the knowledge that gives perspective.

So that's why God phrases the question in this way because he says you're darkening counsel by putting out these words that are uninformed. If you have information, then you'll be able to tell me where you were. Well, you were just a gleam in the back of God's omniscient eye when he was laying the foundations of the earth.

Who determined its measurements? This is fascinating. If you've ever studied the book by Hugh Ross on the crater in the cosmos, we went through that in our fundamental study some years ago, looking at the constants in the universe, the distances between the nucleus and the surrounding cloud of particles in atoms, the placement of our solar system, the placement of our sun in the galaxy so that we don't have nearby stars ripping the solar system apart, and yet we are close enough that a lot of other interstellar matter is swept out of the way. I mean, if the electrical charge on electrons was off by a certain amount, we'd have never gotten anything but hydrogen in the whole universe.

It would just be a big bang full of nothing but hydrogen. And all of these things had to be finely tuned and exactly balanced. And these things that seem to be determined by nothing, there's no reason that a physicist can give why the speed of light is 186,000 miles a second.

They don't know why it's that fast. Why not faster? Why not slower? Nobody knows, but it's a constant within the limits. Depending on the different kinds of physics, they've got Newtonian physics, they've got quantum physics, now they're coming out with, I don't know, tubular physics or something.

But it's all just the blindfolded guy feeling the elephant. It's different models trying to explain a single reality that God defined. Right here.

Who determined the measurements of the Earth? The mass of the Earth? The fact that the Earth is going to have a moon? You know what a great thing it is that there's a moon up there? Stirring the tides, turning over the ocean beds so that life is renewed. If we had no moon, there would be no life on this planet. Life as we know it could not and would not exist without the moon.

The lunar tidal influences make this planet go. The Van Allen radiation belt. Now, I don't see God mentioning that to Job.

I think he'd have had a tough time. But they might have occasionally seen some northern lights. What about that? If you've seen the, what's that thing called? The red storm or the perfect, what was that thing called? Magnetic storm, yeah.

There's a documentary on PBS, Magnetic Storm. If you watch that thing and see what all that Van Allen radiation belt does. And how our magnetic shield knocks out so much of the harmful

stuff that is spewed out by the sun.

And you look at the model and the stuff is flowing around us. It's like this force field around us that knocks out all this harmful cosmic radiation. God put that there.

Who determined its measurements? How strong is the magnetic field going to be? There's a giant engine inside the core of the earth. All that molten magma spinning. It's like an electromagnet that you spin in a field to generate electricity.

Well, there's this circulation inside the planet that generates the magnetic field. God determined those measurements. It's not too strong and it's not too weak.

The components in the atmosphere. The composition of the earth's crust. All of these things.

Who determined its measurements? Surely you know. What's the word in Hebrew for who? Me. Who is he? He is she.

Me is who. It's like a little circle. Well, these sentences are just peppered with me.

Me-san, ma-de-a and so on. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know. And this is te-da.

It's from the same verb that da'at comes from. Or who stretched the measuring line upon it? Who was big enough to take this great big... Of course, Joe may not have really understood that he was on a giant ball of dirt there. But the earth is huge.

Nobody could reach the horizons. You could walk and walk and walk and never get to the edge. They knew the earth was huge.

They knew that there were people from weeks and months caravan distance away. And people beyond that that those people knew. And people that those people talked to all the way over to the Chinese.

Who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? This, in the modern day, is the equivalent of asking what started the Big Bang? What is outside the Big Bang? If the Big Bang has been going on for 14.5 billion years, well, the edges of the universe have been spanning out at the speed of light. So what's outside of that? What's it expanding into? They say, well, we've got an expanding universe. We've got the red shift and the Doppler effect and thermal spots and all the rest of it.

Fine. There's an edge somewhere. If it started the Big Bang, so what's beyond the edge? Well, that's what God's saying here.

To what are the foundations of the earth attached? What is it set on? Remember earlier Job said he hangs the earth on nothing? Who laid its cornerstone? Now, this is symbolic. This is

metaphoric language. People know that there's not an actual cornerstone and an actual foundation to the earth.

But these suggest, you know, who got the thing started? Where did the materials come from? If you lay a cornerstone, you quarried it from somewhere. Well, if this is the earth, where's the quarry? Where'd you get that cornerstone? Verse 7. When the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy. We talked about this on Tuesday this week, where there is a civilization already in place when this universe starts.

When God laid the foundation of this earth, determined the measurements, stretched the line upon it, fastened the foundations and laid its cornerstone, there were sons of God shouting for joy. And morning stars singing together. Now, these are not literal morning stars.

This is a synonymous distich, as they say in Hebrew poetry. First line is amplified and illuminated by the second. The morning stars are the sons of God.

Singing together is shouting for joy. Two different lines saying the same thing. And you get information when you recognize this, because it tells us, as is often the case, that stars are used in Scripture to refer to the angelic hosts.

They are uncountably numerous. They differ in brightness. They differ in glory.

Paul points this out in the New Testament. David says, when I look up in the sky and I see the moon and the stars, I think, what is man that you're mindful of him? Or the son of man that you visit him, you have made him a little lower than the angels. David knew this.

When I look up at the stars, I think about the angels. And the stars are so much higher than man. The angels are so much higher than man.

That's what I think about when I look up at the heavenly hosts. What is man? He's so puny. He's so tiny.

He's so insignificant compared to these glorious hosts that have been there eternally. Where were you when this took place? And who did it? Now this, by the way, is a fascinating question. And at the risk of, once again, treading into untrodden realms, it's a good question that I don't mean to be disrespectful here.

When God asks a question, it's always a good question. But it's a good question for us to ponder. Who did determine the measurements? Who did the actual work of laying these foundations? Because God spoke, as we know from Genesis 1, and things happened.

And we generally understand that to mean God said, let there be light and matter and energy and whatever else was required. Light happened by fiat. God spoke it into existence.

And we tend to look at the originating creator-designer and the end result, and we see nothing in between. But there is evidence to indicate, and we'll be looking at it here in some of our upcoming studies, that the Bible does give us a hint of what some of those intermediate agencies are, and that the sons of God were involved. We know for a fact from John 1 that Jesus Christ, and we know from Genesis 1 that God the Holy Spirit, are intermediate between God the Father speaking and these things happening.

There is a chain of causation, and there seem to be more than one or two links in that chain. The Bible generally just says, look, God spoke it and it happens. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

How is God's will done in heaven? Does God speak things and they just happen by fiat? Or does he speak instructions to angels who carry them out? Look at the book of Revelation. Time for the events of the tribulation to take place. What happens? Voice comes out of the heavenly temple.

Angels emerge, and they carry out God's instructions and God's will. There are angels holding back the winds. There are angels who implement various kinds of judgments on the earth.

And there are intermediate causes. It isn't a great stretch of the imagination. And we're going to see that it's actually suggested, at least, in some areas of Scripture, that angels were intermediate agents involved in creation.

It takes nothing away from God's agency. But, in a way, it's very fascinating, at least to me, because look at the fossil record and the oft-claimed length of time and graduation of events that seems to be represented in the fossil record. Well, if you're working in a week, measured on the heavenly clock, and certain things God says, let the earth bring forth, and designated workers go down and make that happen.

Let the earth bring forth the herb-yielding seed, and let it reproduce after its kind. That's the marching order. Hand out the design.

You give the five-paragraph order. You give the blueprint or whatever model you want to use for that. And so, there are sentient, vastly intelligent, and superiorly empowered creatures who go engineer that stuff and make it happen.

Let the seed bring forth, and let them reproduce after their kind, and these things are implemented. And it's a sequence. The fossil record says a sequence.

People say millions of years, hundreds of thousands of years. Well, fine. That's on an earth clock.

Angels don't keep time on an earth clock. They're coming to work in this universe from a place where they've got a different clock. And if that's the clock measuring the week, then it's kind of silly to say, and when we cover this in more detail, I'll mention some interesting relationships.

You can use Einstein's equations on relativity and the studies that physics people have done, astrophysicists have done over the last hundred years, and the rate of expansion, based on the observations of the Big Bang and the cooling and the warming and all the rest of the things they've observed with Hubble and so on, they have a rate of expansion from the time of the Big Bang to the last 14.5 billion years measured in our time. If an observer outside of that, using Einstein's relativity equations, if you were on the outside, there is a logarithmic scale where one day would cover like 12 billion years. The second day would cover like a billion and a half years.

Maybe the first day is like 10 billion years, and then it's 2 billion years, and then it's 1 billion years, and then it's 500,000 years, and then it's shorter and shorter. As it sort of slows down, it catches up. Interestingly, the scientific estimates of when various things took place in terms of life development on this planet match almost exactly with the day clock that runs outside the bubble of the Big Bang.

Almost exactly. I'll give you that information in detail later on, but here's the point. God brings this up.

I mean, this isn't a total tangent, it's a little bit of a tangent, but it's not a total tangent, because God brings it up. What does He say to Job? Now, think about this. Job is still sitting in the ash heap.

He's still got ten burial mounds where his children lie. He's still lost all of his camels and his yokes of oxen and his she-donkeys and all the rest of it. All of his servants destroyed out there.

His wife is still back there mumbling and throwing crockery around in the tent. And God comes, and now this big storm blows up. And he's got these three friends who don't understand him, and he's ticked off and frustrated with them.

Elihu has spoken. Now comes God speaking out of the whirlwind, and He's talking to Job. And Job was all wound up to say, Lord, look at me.

How did this happen? I've been faithful. I've offered sacrifices. What's going on? And instead, God speaks, and what's the first thing God says? He doesn't say, Job, I was talking to Satan, and here's what we had to do.

And what does God say? What are you doing talking out of your hat? What are you doing talking in the dark here when you don't have the knowledge to make a pronouncement about what's fair and what's not? Where were you when I created? Where were you when I laid the foundations? Where were you when I did things that are well before your time? There was a whole other civilization before you, Job. Stars sang together. Sons of God shouted for joy before you ever came along.

What does all of this suggest? There is a vast, grand, sweeping picture that Job has not even

considered. He's looking at this little bubble of his experience. And it's understandable.

It's natural. We all do it. We are myopic.

We see what's right in front of our face. We tend to look at the immediate. We tend to think in those physical terms, cause and effect.

I did this and now I'm being punished. We just have this small, earthbound, mundane, short-term, instant gratification kind of a view. God says, look, step back.

Step way back. Step way, way, way, way, way back. Step back to when I was still laying the foundation of the earth.

You weren't a part of that. There's this big sweeping thing going on that you weren't even there for. Where were you? When the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy.

Well, God told Job to brace himself, gird up his loins, and get ready for action. So, the morning stars that we see mentioned here were mentioned way back in Job 3 when Job first cranked up the ninth verse of his first speech when he was saying, oh, may the day perish and may everybody be cursed and boo that I was ever conceived and born and so on. And in verse 9 of chapter 3, he said, may the stars of the morning of my birthday, the day of my birth, may the stars of its morning be dark, may it look for light but have none and not see the dawning of the day.

And look at the difference. In Job's perspective, in verse 9 of chapter 3, the day that I was born, blood out all the stars, take them up, obliterate, may the whole thing be dark. And God says, look, you've got it just totally backwards here.

The morning stars and the sons of God were singing for joy on the day that I, God, laid the foundations of the earth and you're not an issue in that. All you can see is yourself and the day of your birth. What I'm looking at is the day of the birth of the universe, the day of the birth of the world, when my previous creation was all surrounding it and looking at it.

So it's a shift in viewpoint. It's a shift in perspective. And what's it based on? Knowledge.

You have to know that God is creator. You have to know that there was a pre-existing civilization. You have to know the nature of God's power and the nature of his design.

You have to have observed it and meditated on it and have that in your soul. This is what we need, day by day, if we want to lift our gaze out of the mundane and toward the divine. If we want to lay up for ourselves treasure in heaven instead of worrying about treasure on earth, it has to be done through the knowledge of God.

This is why we come to Bible class. This is why we work through these passages. Because this

information, this knowledge has the power, as nothing else has, to raise us and deliver us out of this present evil age.

It's ours through Christ. Well, we've got to pause here for a week or so. When we come back, we will resume in verse 8. And God is going to tell us some things about the creation of the earth, about the creation of the world, that seem to just be poetic extrapolations and poetic embellishments.

And in fact, there are very important theological points that are being suggested by each one of these statements. And that's what we'll look at when we resume next time. But let's close here in a word of prayer.

Father, thank you for your grace and your faithfulness toward us and your revelation of yourself in the word, and especially through the Lord Jesus Christ. We pray that we can absorb these truths, that God the Holy Spirit will impress them on our hearts, so that we can live a supernatural life from a divine perspective, a divine point of view. And in so doing, we will reflect the glory of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

We ask it in his name. Amen.