

Job 38:1-11 *The Lord Reveals His Omnipotence to Job*

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: “Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? Now prepare yourself like a man. I will question you, and you shall answer Me. “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell *Me*, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened?

Or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? “Or who shut in the sea with doors, when it burst forth *and* issued from the womb; When I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band; When I fixed My limit for it, and set bars and doors; When I said, ‘This far you may come, but no farther, and here your proud waves must stop!’

How wonderful that God, the Creator, would take the time to converse with His created. (In Isaiah 1:18, God says to Isaiah, “Come let us reason together ... “)

That’s just what I see here ... a GOD Who is prepared to reason ... He wants relationship and conversation with us.

Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 *Thanksgiving to the LORD for His great works of deliverance*

His mercy endures forever. Let the redeemed say so!

Wow! This Psalm verses 23-32 completely describes the effects the oceans and sea have on men on ships and in boats. The waves go up and they come down again, making it difficult to walk or even stand. Verse 27 KJV says; they reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, **and** are at their wits’ end. Imagine that!?

That brings us right to the gospel reading and gives a full description of where the disciples were at that moment.

Mark 4:35-41

Jesus has requested they go over to the ‘other side,’. He was tired after ministering to the multitudes and needed a rest. (Humanity needs rest). Off they go with ‘other little boats,’ which tells me this is not a great sea vessel they’re in. It’s a fishing boat. These are seasoned fishermen who know the waters. However, ‘a great windstorm arose.’ Here, in Newfoundland, we are familiar with ‘wind.’ You can’t see it but, it can cause great turmoil and there’s nothing you can do except, batten down the hatches. I have a sense this was one of those ‘Suddenly(s)’ that we often come across in the scriptures.

For some reason, their fear caused them to wonder if Jesus even cared! As Pastor reflected on last week. We sometimes in our circumstances, get so overwhelmed that we ask, “God, where are You, are You real, do You care, have You left me?”

Jesus brings peace. Everything is calm. The passage doesn't say He rebuked them, but instead it says, *He said* to them, “Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?”

Maybe He was frustrated and saddened by it. They've just come from a time of witnessing His miracles and a time of teaching. And then this.

Verse 41 reads; And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, “Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!” (A statement not a question). Perhaps they're beginning to come to terms with the fact that He may really be the long-awaited Messiah ... ministry continues when they reach the other side.

2 Corinthians 6:1-13 *Marks of the Ministry*

Paul the Apostle writes: **Do not receive the grace of GOD in vain.** I see this as telling us not to let the grace of GOD be wasted. **Now is the day of salvation.** We give no offence in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things, we commend ourselves as ministers of God ... Paul then lists off all things.

In all of these passages the grace of GOD is prevalent from the Job passage through the Psalm to the Gospel and summed up in Paul's writing.

In all of these passages we see a GOD, who wants relationship and concourse with His creation. His “Gift and Grace” continuously flowing throughout our lives.

Thank You, LORD, once again for mercy, grace, and love continuously flowing through Your word. Amen.