Wednesday Night, Survey Service: Week 43
Job 36 – Psalm 14, Romans 5 - 9

Job 36: Elihu: God is great

Key Point:
A person can rightly understand the power and glory of God, and yet miss the humility of trusting in God rather than smugly thinking that living "right" in one's own eyes will always equal blessing.

Key Verse - Key Verse: Job 36:22 (NLT)
"Look, God is all-powerful. Who is a teacher like him?

Job 37: Elihu: Consider God's wonders

Key Point:
God is NOT impersonal, even though He IS all powerful and should be feared. Neglecting the personal nature of God and our relationship with Him can lead to disconnected legalism.

Key Verse: Job 37:14 (NLT)
"Pay attention to this, Job. Stop and consider the wonderful miracles of God!

Job 38: God: Where were you?

Key Point:
God answers to no one, and nature all around us shows the infinite knowledge and perfection of the Creator.

Key Verse - Job 38:4 (NLT)
"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you know so much.

Job 39: God: Do you know?

Key Point:
There are many things in nature we might describe, study or even domesticate for our own use – but we human beings did not design these things, but only benefit from them so God should get the glory.

Key Verse - Job 39:1 (NLT)
"Do you know when the wild goats give birth? Have you watched as deer are born in the wild?

Job 40: Behemoth

Key Point:
When we really contemplate the breathtaking majesty of the creation and how lofty and far above it God the Creator is, we should be rightly humbled that, even in our freewill, we have no place to question God.

Key Verse - Job 40:15 (NLT)
"Take a look at Behemoth, which I made, just as I made you. It eats grass like an ox.

Job 41: Leviathan

Key Point:
If human beings cannot tame or control dinosaurs, how can anyone think they can control God? God is not a tame creature that answers to our desires or commands.

Key Verse - Job 41:1 (NLT)
"Can you catch Leviathan with a hook or put a noose around its jaw?

Job 42: God restores Job

Key Point:
God is not indifferent to our suffering, but there are things going on behind the scenes that are above our pay-grade, so we need to trust God, humble ourselves to what He allows, and in the end, He will make things right.

Key Verse - Job 42:10 (NLT)
When Job prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes. In fact, the Lord gave him twice as much as before!

Psalm 1: Not in the council of the wicked

Key Point:
God will bring good out of the life of the Godly, but those who refuse to follow God will ultimately perish.

Key Verse - Psalm 1:1 (NLT)
Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.

Psalm 2: Today I've begotten you

Key Point:
God is in control of the destiny of everyone – individually and as nations – and it is God who has declared the Son to BE the Son, and the King who will humble all nations and people under His rule.

Key Verse - Psalm 2:7 (NLT)
The king proclaims the Lord's decree: "The Lord said to me, 'You are my son. Today I have become your Father.

Psalm 3: He lifts my head

Key Point:
It's okay to feel overwhelmed and helpless, but when we cry out to the Lord as our help, God will give us an assurance from the heart that we can face even overwhelming things.

Key Verse - Psalm 3:3 (NLT)
But you, O Lord, are a shield around me; you are my glory, the one who holds my head high.

Psalm 4: The Godly man is set aside for God

Key Point:
It's okay to have intense feelings, even anger, but we must remind ourselves not to sin in that anger, and remind ourselves to continue trusting God despite our feelings.

Key Verse - Psalm 4:3 (NLT)
You can be sure of this: The Lord set apart the godly for himself. The Lord will answer when I call to him.

Psalm 5: Give ear to my words

Key Point:
Lies are the mark of an ungodly person, because God is truth itself. As those who fear the Lord, we must take great care to speak the truth.

Key Verse - Psalm 5:1 (NLT)
O Lord, hear me as I pray; pay attention to my groaning.

Psalm 6: How can I praise you if I'm dead?

Key Point:
Our sin creates a burden and a distance between us and God, but we can have confidence that with repentance and humility, God will draw near to us again.

Key Verse - Psalm 6:5 (NLT)
For the dead do not remember you. Who can praise you from the grave?

Psalm 7: Into his own trap

Key Point:
While it may seem like a delay to us, God is preparing His justice for the day of retribution, and we can be certain that the wicked will not get away with their self-absorbed schemes.

Key Verse - Key Verse: Psalm 7:15 (NLT)
They dig a deep pit to trap others, then fall into it themselves.

Psalm 8: How majestic is your name

Key Point:
The creation declares the glory of God, and while we may seem insignificant in comparison to the universe, God has granted us the dignity of His image and dominion over creatures greater in strength.

Key Verse - Psalm 8:1 (NLT)
O Lord, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth! Your glory is higher than the heavens.

Psalm 9: the needy won't be forgotten

Key Point:
There is a hell, and those who are downtrodden today, but put their trust in God, can rest assured that God will judge the wicked in the end.

Key Verse - Psalm 9:18 (NLT)
But the needy will not be ignored forever; the hopes of the poor will not always be crushed.

Psalm 10: The wicked think foolishly

Key Point:
Since our sense of timing is different than how God guides history, it may seem that God is far away while wicked men get away with murder, but God will take action at the right time.

Key Verse - Psalm 10:4 (NLT)
The wicked are too proud to seek God. They seem to think that God is dead.

Psalm 11: Trust God, don't run

Key Point:
Sometimes well-meaning advice can be laced with unbelief and might provoke you to fear, but we need to remember that God exists, He is in control, He will make things right concerning those who hate him, and He WILL uphold those who seek Him.

Key Verse - Psalm 11:1 (NLT)
I trust in the Lord for protection. So why do you say to me, "Fly like a bird to the mountains for safety!

Psalm 12: God's word is like refined silver

Key Point:
It seems like Godly people are fast disappearing, devolving into people who just flatter one another, but in contrast, the words of God are pure truth.

Key Verse - Psalm 12:6 (NLT)
The Lord's promises are pure, like silver refined in a furnace, purified seven times over.

Psalm 13: Life sucks but I trust God

Key Point:
Faith is a deliberate choice to praise God in the midst of our worst feelings. Joy is looking to the promise of God despite our present circumstances.

Key Verse - Psalm 13:5 (NLT)
But I trust in your unfailing love. I will rejoice because you have rescued me.

Psalm 14: The fool says "there's no God"

Key Point:
Our natural inclination is to reject God because of our corruption, but only a fool refuses to acknowledge God's existence.

Key Verse - Psalm 14:1 (NLT)
Only fools say in their hearts, "There is no God." They are corrupt, and their actions are evil; not one of them does good!

Romans 5: Christ died for us

Key Point:
Being saved is an act of God's grace that we receive by faith alone, in Jesus alone. The law merely shows the impossible distance between our actions and God's standards, so that we can truly worship God for His grace.

Key Verse - Romans 5:8 (NLT)
But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Romans 6: The wages of sin

Key Point:
We are more than just legally set free from sin. We identify with the risen Jesus, so we need to consciously surrender ourselves to living for Him, not giving in to our sinful nature; and the more we do this, the more this righteousness leads to holiness.

Key Verse - Romans 6:23 (NLT)
For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 7: The struggle with sin

Key Point:
If we look to ourselves, our own ability to keep rules, or personally perform as "law keepers," then our struggle with sin will be unsuccessful because we are self-focused. The solution is to look to Jesus rather than rule keeping.

Key Verse - Romans 7:25 (NLT)
Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.

Romans 8: Set your mind on the right things

Key Point:
Our salvation does not give us a license to sin. The law shows God's character and standards, but being free from the law and not condemned, we can live for Christ from the heart. The Spirit will empower this freedom until the final day we are glorified with the Lord.

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Key Verse - Romans 8:5 (NLT)
Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit.

Romans 9: God is sovereign

Key Point:
Salvation is purely God's prerogative and ONLY received by faith. None of us, Jew or Gentile, deserve salvation, so God can apply it as He wishes, to whom He wishes, and He can allow the rebels to rebel if He wishes – and who can say He is wrong?

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Key Verse: Romans 9:18 (NLT)
So you see, God chooses to show mercy to some, and he chooses to harden the hearts of others so they refuse to listen.