

Some Easter Questions
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Psalm 139:1-16

God's Omnipresence and Omniscience.

¹ O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.

² You know ^[a]when I sit down and ^[b]when I rise up;

You understand my thought from afar.

³ You ^[c]scrutinize my ^[d]path and my lying down,
And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.

⁴^[e]Even before there is a word on my tongue,

Behold, O LORD, You know it all.

⁵ You have enclosed me behind and before,
And laid Your hand upon me.

⁶ *Such* knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is *too* high, I cannot attain to it.

⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit?

Or where can I flee from Your presence?

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, You are there;

If I make my bed in ^[f]Sheol, behold, You are there.

⁹ If I take the wings of the dawn,

If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,

¹⁰ Even there Your hand will lead me,

And Your right hand will lay hold of me.

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will ^[g]overwhelm me,

And the light around me will be night,"

¹² Even the darkness is not dark ^[h]to You,

And the night is as bright as the day.

Darkness and light are alike *to You*.

¹³ For You formed my ^[i]inward parts;

You wove me in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I will give thanks to You, for ^[j]I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

Wonderful are Your works,

And my soul knows it very well.

¹⁵ My ^[k]frame was not hidden from You,

When I was made in secret,

And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;

¹⁶ Your eyes have seen my unformed substance;

And in Your book were all written

The days that were ordained *for me*,

When as yet there was not one of them.

Footnotes:

- a. Psalm 139:2 Lit *my sitting*
- b. Psalm 139:2 Lit *my rising*
- c. Psalm 139:3 Lit *winnow*
- d. Psalm 139:3 Or *journeying*
- e. Psalm 139:4 Lit *For there is not*

- f. Psalm 139:8 I.e. the nether world
- g. Psalm 139:11 Lit *bruise*; some commentators read *cover*
- h. Psalm 139:12 Lit *from*
- i. Psalm 139:13 Lit *kidneys*
- j. Psalm 139:14 Some ancient versions read *You are fearfully wonderful*
- k. Psalm 139:15 Lit *bones were*

Matthew 5:17-19 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁷ Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

¹⁸ For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

¹⁹ Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:17-19 New American Standard Bible Version (NASB)

¹⁷ “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not ^[a]the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches ^[b]others *to do* the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever ^[c]keeps and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Footnotes:

- a. Matthew 5:18 Lit *one iota* (Heb yodh) or *one projection of a letter* (serif)
- b. Matthew 5:19 Gr *anthropoi*
- c. Matthew 5:19 Lit *does*

Matthew 28

Jesus Is Risen!

¹ Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. ² And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. ³ And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. ⁴ The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men. ⁵ The angel said to the women, “^[a]Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. ⁷ Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you.”

⁸ And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. ⁹ And behold, Jesus met them ^[b]and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus *said to them, “^[c]Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me.”

¹¹ Now while they were on their way, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened. ¹² And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, ¹³ and said, “You are to say, ‘His

disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.’¹⁴ And if this should come to the governor’s ears, we will win him over and ^[d]keep you out of trouble.”¹⁵ And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews, *and is to this day.*

The Great Commission

¹⁶ But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated.

¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped *Him*; but some were doubtful. ¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ ^[e]Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you ^[f]always, even to the end of the age.”

Footnotes:

- a. Matthew 28:5 Or *Stop being afraid*
- b. Matthew 28:9 Lit *saying hello*
- c. Matthew 28:10 Or *Stop being afraid*
- d. Matthew 28:14 Lit *make you free from care*
- e. Matthew 28:19 Or *Having gone*; Gr aorist part.
- f. Matthew 28:20 Lit *all the days*

Question 1: What do we do with a resurrected Jesus?

1 Corinthians 11:23-34

The Lord’s Supper

²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” ²⁵ In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.” ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

²⁷ Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. ³⁰ For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number ^[a]sleep. ³¹ But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

³³ So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. ³⁴ If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you will not come together for judgment. The remaining matters I will arrange when I come.

Footnotes:

1. 1 Corinthians 11:30 I.e. are dead

Mark 16:1-13

The Resurrection

¹ When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of ^[a]James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him. ² Very early on the first day of the week,

they *came to the tomb when the sun had risen.³ They were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?”⁴ Looking up, they *saw that the stone had been rolled away,^[b] although it was extremely large.⁵ Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed.⁶ And he *said to them, “Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, *here is* the place where they laid Him.⁷ But go, tell His disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you.’”⁸ They went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

⁹ [^[c]Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons.¹⁰ She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping.¹¹ When they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.

¹² After that, He appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking along on their way to the country.¹³ They went away and reported it to the others, but they did not believe them either.

Footnotes:

- a. Mark 16:1 Or *Jacob*
- b. Mark 16:4 Lit *for*
- c. Mark 16:9 Later mss add vv 9-20

Question 2: Who will roll the stone away? (Who will take care of the problems obstructing the way?) Do you have the faith to start walking when God calls?

Exodus 14

Pharaoh in Pursuit

¹Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,² “Tell the sons of Israel to turn back and camp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea; you shall camp in front of Baal-zephon, opposite it, by the sea.³ For Pharaoh will say of the sons of Israel, ‘They are wandering aimlessly in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.’⁴ Thus I will [^[a]harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will chase after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD.” And they did so.

⁵ When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled,^[b] Pharaoh and his servants had a change of heart toward the people, and they said, “What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?”⁶ So he made his chariot ready and took his people with him;⁷ and he took six hundred select chariots, and all the *other* chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them.⁸ The LORD [^[c]hardened the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and he chased after the sons of Israel as the sons of Israel were going out [^[d]boldly.⁹ Then the Egyptians chased after them *with* all the horses *and* chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and they overtook them camping by the sea, beside Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.

¹⁰ As Pharaoh drew near, the sons of Israel [^[e]looked, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they became very frightened; so the sons of Israel cried out to the LORD.¹¹ Then they said to Moses, “Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us in this way, [^[f]bringing us out of Egypt?¹² Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, [^[g]Leave us alone that we may serve the

Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”

The Sea Is Divided

¹³ But Moses said to the people, “Do not fear! ^[h]Stand by and see the salvation of the LORD which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you while you keep silent.”

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the sons of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶ As for you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, and the sons of Israel shall ^[i]go through the midst of the sea on dry land. ¹⁷ As for Me, behold, I will ^[j]harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. ¹⁸ Then the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD, when I am honored through Pharaoh, through his chariots and his horsemen.”

¹⁹ The angel of God, who had been going before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them. ²⁰ So it came between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel; and there was the cloud ^[k]along with the darkness, yet it gave light at night. Thus the one did not come near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD ^[l]swept the sea *back* by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, so the waters were divided. ²² The sons of Israel ^[m]went through the midst of the sea on the dry land, and the waters *were like* a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³ Then the Egyptians took up the pursuit, and all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots and his horsemen went in after them into the midst of the sea. ²⁴ At the morning watch, the LORD looked down on the ^[n]army of the Egyptians ^[o]through the pillar of fire and cloud and brought the ^[p]army of the Egyptians into confusion. ²⁵ He ^[q]caused their chariot wheels to swerve, and He made them drive with difficulty; so the Egyptians said, “Let ^[r]us flee from Israel, for the LORD is fighting for them against the Egyptians.”

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots and their horsemen.” ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal state at daybreak, while the Egyptians were fleeing ^[s]right into it; then the LORD ^[t]overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen, ^[u]even Pharaoh’s entire army that had gone into the sea after them; not even one of them remained. ²⁹ But the sons of Israel walked on dry land through the midst of the sea, and the waters *were like* a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ When Israel saw the great ^[v]power which the LORD had ^[w]used against the Egyptians, the people ^[x]feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in His servant Moses.

Footnotes:

- a. Exodus 14:4 Lit *make strong*
- b. Exodus 14:5 Lit *the heart of Pharaoh...was changed*
- c. Exodus 14:8 Lit *made strong*
- d. Exodus 14:8 Lit *with a high hand*
- e. Exodus 14:10 Lit *lifted up their eyes*
- f. Exodus 14:11 Lit *so as to bring*
- g. Exodus 14:12 Lit *Cease from us*

- h. Exodus 14:13 Or *Take your stand*
- i. Exodus 14:16 Lit *enter the*
- j. Exodus 14:17 Lit *make strong*
- k. Exodus 14:20 Lit *and the darkness*
- l. Exodus 14:21 Lit *caused to go*
- m. Exodus 14:22 Lit *entered the*
- n. Exodus 14:24 Lit *camp*
- o. Exodus 14:24 Or *in*
- p. Exodus 14:24 Lit *camp*
- q. Exodus 14:25 Or *removed*
- r. Exodus 14:25 Lit *me*
- s. Exodus 14:27 Lit *to meet it*
- t. Exodus 14:27 Lit *shook off*
- u. Exodus 14:28 Lit *in respect to*
- v. Exodus 14:31 Lit *hand*
- w. Exodus 14:31 Lit *done*
- x. Exodus 14:31 Or *revered*

Luke 13:22-30

Teaching in the Villages

²² And He was passing through from one city and village to another, teaching, and proceeding on His way to Jerusalem. ²³ And someone said to Him, “Lord, are there *just* a few who are being saved?” And He said to them, ²⁴ “Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. ²⁵ Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, ‘Lord, open up to us!’ then He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know where you are from.’ ²⁶ Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets’; ²⁷ and He will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.’ ²⁸ In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being thrown out. ²⁹ And they will come from east and west and from north and south, and will recline *at the table* in the kingdom of God. ³⁰ And behold, *some* are last who will be first and *some* are first who will be last.”

Genesis 12:1-9

Abram Journeys to Egypt

¹ Now the LORD said to Abram,
 “[a]Go forth from your country,
 And from your relatives
 And from your father’s house,
 To the land which I will show you;
² And I will make you a great nation,
 And I will bless you,
 And make your name great;
 And so [b]you shall be a blessing;
³ And I will bless those who bless you,
 And the one who [c]curses you I will [d]curse.
 And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

⁴ So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his

nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the ^[e]persons which they had acquired in Haran, and they ^[f]set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan. ⁶ Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the ^[g]oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanite *was* then in the land. ⁷ The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your ^[h]descendants I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him. ⁸ Then he proceeded from there to the mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. ⁹ Abram journeyed on, continuing toward the ^[i]Negev.

Footnotes:

- a. Genesis 12:1 Lit *Go for yourself*
- b. Genesis 12:2 Lit *be a blessing*
- c. Genesis 12:3 Or *reviles*
- d. Genesis 12:3 Or *bind under a curse*
- e. Genesis 12:5 Lit *souls*
- f. Genesis 12:5 Lit *went forth to go to*
- g. Genesis 12:6 Or *terebinth*
- h. Genesis 12:7 Lit *seed*
- i. Genesis 12:9 I.e. South country

Mark 16:1-13

The Resurrection

16 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of ^[a]James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him. ² Very early on the first day of the week, they *came to the tomb when the sun had risen. ³ They were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” ⁴ Looking up, they *saw that the stone had been rolled away, ^[b]although it was extremely large. ⁵ Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed. ⁶ And he *said to them, “Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, *here is* the place where they laid Him. ⁷ But go, tell His disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you.’” ⁸ They went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

⁹ ^[c]Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons. ¹⁰ She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping. ¹¹ When they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.

¹² After that, He appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking along on their way to the country. ¹³ They went away and reported it to the others, but they did not believe them either.

Footnotes:

- a. Mark 16:1 Or *Jacob*
- b. Mark 16:4 Lit *for*
- c. Mark 16:9 Later mss add vv 9-20

Question 3: Can you ever go too far? Can you ever reach that point where you aren't salvageable, where's there no hope and where you can't be fixed by God?

Acts 2:14-21

Peter's Sermon

¹⁴ But Peter, ^[a]taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: “Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words.

¹⁵ For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is *only* the ^[b]third hour of the day; ¹⁶ but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ ‘AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,’ God says,
‘THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL ^[c]MANKIND;
AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY,

AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS,
AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS;

¹⁸ EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN,
I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT

And they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ ‘AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE

AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW,
BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE.

²⁰ ‘THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS

AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD,
BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME.

²¹ ‘AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.’

Footnotes:

- a. Acts 2:14 Or *being put forward* as spokesman
- b. Acts 2:15 I.e. 9 a.m.
- c. Acts 2:17 Lit *flesh*

Romans 10:1-13

The Word of Faith Brings Salvation

¹Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for *their* salvation. ²For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. ³For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. ⁴For Christ is the ^[a]end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

⁵For Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is ^[b]based on law shall live ^[c]by that righteousness. ⁶But the righteousness ^[d]based on faith speaks as follows: “DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, ‘WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?’ (that is, to bring Christ down), ⁷ or ‘WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).” ⁸But what does it say? “THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART”—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, ⁹^[e]that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, ^[f]resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, ^[g]resulting in salvation. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE ^[h]DISAPPOINTED.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same *Lord* is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; ¹³ for “WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.”

Footnotes:

- a. Romans 10:4 Or *goal*

- b. Romans 10:5 Lit *out of, from*
- c. Romans 10:5 Lit *by it*
- d. Romans 10:6 Lit *out of, from*
- e. Romans 10:9 Or *because*
- f. Romans 10:10 Lit *to righteousness*
- g. Romans 10:10 Lit *to salvation*
- h. Romans 10:11 Lit *put to shame*

Luke 24:1-12

The Resurrection

¹But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. ²And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; ⁵and as *the women* were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, *the men* said to them, “Why do you seek the living One among the dead? ⁶He is not here, but He has ^[a]risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, ⁷saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.” ⁸And they remembered His words, ⁹and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the *mother* of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles. ¹¹But these words appeared ^[b]to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he **saw* the linen wrappings ^[c]only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.

Footnotes:

- a. Luke 24:6 Or *been raised*
- b. Luke 24:11 Lit *in their sight*
- c. Luke 24:12 Or *by themselves*

Question 4: How many of us are seeking the living one among the dead? (Are we looking for happiness and fulfillment through our possessions, houses, cars, money, fortune, fame, drugs, sex, etc?)

Ecclesiastes 3:11-22

God Set Eternity in the Heart of Man

¹¹He has made everything ^[a]appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, ^[b]yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.

¹²I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and to do good in one’s lifetime;

¹³moreover, that every man who eats and drinks sees good in all his labor—it is the gift of God.

¹⁴I know that everything God does will remain forever; there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing to take from it, for God has *so* worked that men should ^[c]fear Him. ¹⁵That which is has been already and that which will be has already been, for God seeks what has passed by.

¹⁶Furthermore, I have seen under the sun *that* in the place of justice there is wickedness and in the place of righteousness there is wickedness. ¹⁷I said ^[d]to myself, “God will judge both the righteous man and the wicked man,” for a time for every ^[e]matter and for every deed is there. ¹⁸I said ^[f]to myself concerning the sons of men, “God has surely tested them in order for them to see that they are but beasts.” ¹⁹For the fate of the sons of men and the fate of beasts ^[g]is the same. As

one dies so dies the other; indeed, they all have the same breath and there is no advantage for man over beast, for all is ^[h]vanity. ²⁰ All go to the same place. All came from the dust and all return to the dust. ²¹ Who knows that the breath of man ascends upward and the breath of the beast descends downward to the earth? ²² I have seen that nothing is better than that man should be happy in his activities, for that is his lot. For who will bring him to see what will occur after him?

Footnotes:

- a. Ecclesiastes 3:11 Lit *beautiful*
- b. Ecclesiastes 3:11 Or *without which man*
- c. Ecclesiastes 3:14 Or *be in awe before Him*
- d. Ecclesiastes 3:17 Lit *in my heart*
- e. Ecclesiastes 3:17 Or *delight*
- f. Ecclesiastes 3:18 Lit *in my heart*
- g. Ecclesiastes 3:19 Lit *and they have one fate*
- h. Ecclesiastes 3:19 Or *futility*

Acts 20:25-35

²⁵ “And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face. ²⁶ Therefore, I ^[a]testify to you this day that I am ^[b]innocent of the blood of all men. ²⁷ For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. ²⁸ Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you ^[c]overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He ^[d]purchased ^[e]with His own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. ³² And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build *you* up and to give *you* the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or clothes. ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my *own* needs and to the men who were with me. ³⁵ In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Footnotes:

- a. Acts 20:26 Or *call you to witness*
- b. Acts 20:26 Lit *pure from*
- c. Acts 20:28 Or *bishops*
- d. Acts 20:28 Lit *acquired*
- e. Acts 20:28 Lit *through*

John 20:19-29

Jesus among His Disciples

¹⁹ So when it was evening on that day, the first *day* of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and *said to them, “^[a]Peace *be* with you.” ²⁰ And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ So Jesus said to them again, “Peace *be* with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them and *said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, *their sins* ^[b]have been forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they have been retained.”

²⁴ But Thomas, one of the twelve, called ^[c]Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples were saying to him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I

see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ [d] After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus *came, the doors having been [e] shut, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace *be* with you.” ²⁷ Then He *said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.” ²⁸ Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus *said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed *are* they who did not see, and *yet* believed.”

Footnotes:

- a. John 20:19 Lit *Peace to you*
- b. John 20:23 I.e. have previously been forgiven
- c. John 20:24 I.e. the Twin
- d. John 20:26 Or *A week later*
- e. John 20:26 Or *locked*

Question 5: Is this real? Are You sure? Is this what You really want me to do?

2 Corinthians 2

Reaffirm Your Love

¹ But I determined this [a] for my own sake, that I would not come to you in sorrow again. ² For if I cause you sorrow, who then makes me glad but the one whom I made sorrowful? ³ This is the very thing I wrote you, so that when I came, I would not have sorrow from those who ought to make me rejoice; having confidence in you all that my joy would be *the joy* of you all. ⁴ For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; not so that you would be made sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have especially for you.

⁵ But if any has caused sorrow, he has caused sorrow not to me, but in some degree—[b] in order not to say too much—to all of you. ⁶ Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which *was inflicted* by the majority, ⁷ so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort *him*, otherwise such a one might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸ Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm *your* love for him. ⁹ For to this end also I wrote, so that I might [c] put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things. ¹⁰ But one whom you forgive anything, I *forgive* also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, *I did it* for your sakes in the presence of Christ, ¹¹ so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

¹² Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and when a door was opened for me in the Lord, ¹³ I had no rest for my spirit, not finding Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I went on to Macedonia.

¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. ¹⁵ For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; ¹⁶ to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things? ¹⁷ For we are not like many, [d] peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.

Footnotes:

- a. 2 Corinthians 2:1 Or *as far as I am concerned*
- b. 2 Corinthians 2:5 Lit *so that I not be burdensome*

- c. 2 Corinthians 2:9 Lit *know the proof of you*
- d. 2 Corinthians 2:17 Or *corrupting*

John 21:15-17

The Love Motivation

¹⁵ So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus *said to Simon Peter, “Simon, *son* of John, do you ^[a]love Me more than these?” He *said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I ^[b]love You.” He *said to him, “Tend My lambs.” ¹⁶ He *said to him again a second time, “Simon, *son* of John, do you ^[c]love Me?” He *said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I ^[d]love You.” He *said to him, “Shepherd My sheep.” ¹⁷ He *said to him the third time, “Simon, *son* of John, do you ^[e]love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you ^[f]love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I ^[g]love You.” Jesus *said to him, “Tend My sheep.

Footnotes:

- a. John 21:15 Gr *agapao*
- b. John 21:15 Gr *phileo*
- c. John 21:16 Gr *agapao*
- d. John 21:16 Gr *phileo*
- e. John 21:17 Gr *phileo*
- f. John 21:17 Gr *phileo*
- g. John 21:17 Gr *phileo*

Job 38

God Now Speaks to Job

¹Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said,

²“Who is this that darkens counsel
By words without knowledge?

³“Now gird up your loins like a man,
And I will ask you, and you instruct Me!

⁴“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell *Me*, if you ^[a]have understanding,

⁵Who set its measurements? Since you know.
Or who stretched the line on it?

⁶“On what were its bases sunk?
Or who laid its cornerstone,

⁷When the morning stars sang together
And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

⁸“Or *who* enclosed the sea with doors
When, bursting forth, it went out from the womb;

⁹When I made a cloud its garment
And thick darkness its swaddling band,

¹⁰And I ^[b]placed boundaries on it
And set a bolt and doors,

¹¹And I said, ‘Thus far you shall come, but no farther;
And here shall your proud waves stop’?

God's Mighty Power

¹² "Have you ^[c]ever in your life commanded the morning,
And caused the dawn to know its place,
¹³ That it might take hold of the ends of the earth,
And the wicked be shaken out of it?
¹⁴ "It is changed like clay *under* the seal;
And they stand forth like a garment.
¹⁵ "From the wicked their light is withheld,
And the uplifted arm is broken.

¹⁶ "Have you entered into the springs of the sea
Or walked ^[d]in the recesses of the deep?
¹⁷ "Have the gates of death been revealed to you,
Or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?
¹⁸ "Have you understood the ^[e]expanse of the earth?
Tell *Me*, if you know all this.

¹⁹ "Where is the way to the dwelling of light?
And darkness, where is its place,
²⁰ That you may take it to its territory
And that you may discern the paths to its ^[f]home?
²¹ "You know, for you were born then,
And the number of your days is great!
²² "Have you entered the storehouses of the snow,
Or have you seen the storehouses of the hail,
²³ Which I have reserved for the time of distress,
For the day of war and battle?
²⁴ "Where is the way that the light is divided,
Or the east wind scattered on the earth?

²⁵ "Who has cleft a channel for the flood,
Or a way for the thunderbolt,
²⁶ To bring rain on a land without ^[g]people,
On a desert without a man in it,
²⁷ To satisfy the waste and desolate land
And to make the ^[h]seeds of grass to sprout?
²⁸ "Has the rain a father?
Or who has begotten the drops of dew?
²⁹ "From whose womb has come the ice?
And the frost of heaven, who has given it birth?
³⁰ "Water ^[i]becomes hard like stone,
And the surface of the deep is imprisoned.

³¹ "Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades,
Or loose the cords of Orion?
³² "Can you lead forth a ^[j]constellation in its season,
And guide the Bear with her ^[k]satellites?
³³ "Do you know the ordinances of the heavens,
Or fix their rule over the earth?

³⁴ "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,
So that an abundance of water will cover you?

³⁵ “Can you send forth lightnings that they may go

And say to you, ‘Here we are’?

³⁶ “Who has put wisdom in the innermost being

Or given understanding to the ^[1]mind?

³⁷ “Who can count the clouds by wisdom,

Or tip the water jars of the heavens,

³⁸ When the dust hardens into a mass

And the clods stick together?

³⁹ “Can you hunt the prey for the lion,

Or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,

⁴⁰ When they crouch in *their* dens

And lie in wait in *their* lair?

⁴¹ “Who prepares for the raven its nourishment

When its young cry to God

And wander about without food?

Footnotes:

- a. Job 38:4 Lit *know understanding*
- b. Job 38:10 Lit *broke My decree on it*
- c. Job 38:12 Lit *from your days*
- d. Job 38:16 Or *in search of*
- e. Job 38:18 Or *width*
- f. Job 38:20 Lit *house*
- g. Job 38:26 Lit *man*
- h. Job 38:27 Or *growth*
- i. Job 38:30 Lit *hides itself*
- j. Job 38:32 Heb *Mazzaroth*
- k. Job 38:32 Lit *sons*
- l. Job 38:36 Or *rooster*

James 2:14-26

Faith and Works

¹⁴ What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can ^[a]that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, ^[b]be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that? ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it has no works, is ^[c]dead, *being* by itself.

¹⁸ But someone ^[d]may *well* say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” ¹⁹ You believe that ^[e]God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. ²⁰ But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? ²² You see that faith was working with his works, and ^[f]as a result of the works, faith was ^[g]perfected; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,” and he was called the friend of God. ²⁴ You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵ In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶ For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

Footnotes:

- a. James 2:14 Lit *the*

- b. James 2:16 Or *warm yourselves and fill yourselves*
- c. James 2:17 Or *dead by its own standards*
- d. James 2:18 Lit *will*
- e. James 2:19 One early ms reads *there is one God*
- f. James 2:22 Or *by the deeds*
- g. James 2:22 Or *completed*

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