

Foundations Devotional

• FOR THE WEEK OF AUG 9 - AUG 15 •

MONDAY // JOB 38-39

Last week's reading ended with Job 1-2, which describes the suffering God allowed Job to endure as a way for God to be glorified. In chapters 3-37, Job wrestled with his despair both privately and in the company of friends. In Job 38, God finally speaks. His words to Job were a reminder that the One Job questioned was the Almighty Creator and Sustainer of the universe. Job's story reveals that God is in control, His ways are best, and everything exists to bring glory to Him.

TUESDAY // JOB 40-42

After being reminded of God's holiness and power, Job could do nothing but confess his sins, turn back to God, and renew his trust in the Lord. He humbly said, "I ... repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6). In the face of God's holiness, we are reminded that apart from Him, we are nothing but dust from the ground, and to dust we will return (Gen. 2:7). Yet through Job's experience, we are reminded that God gives physical life through His very breath, and He gives spiritual life through the death and resurrection of His Son. These are gifts we do not deserve, and they motivate us to imitate Job's practice of confession and repentance, continually removing anything from our hearts, thoughts, and lives that keeps us from trusting God in all things.

WEDNESDAY // GENESIS 11-12

Through Noah's family, the earth was repopulated after the flood, and Genesis 11 states that people shared a common language and a common goal—making a name for themselves. As had happened twice before in Genesis 3-10, people who were created by God to glorify Him put their efforts toward glorifying themselves instead. And yet again, humanity's sin brought God's judgment. But despite the people's continued sinfulness, we see God's covenant love for humanity through the promise He made with Abram in Genesis 12—a promise to bless all the people of the earth through Himself. This promise ultimately found its fulfillment in Jesus Christ, who descended through the genealogical line of Abram, and through whom all people have access to the grace and redemption of God.

THURSDAY // GENESIS 15

God promised to make Abram into a great nation, but Abram and his wife were childless. While Abram waited for God to fulfill His promise, years went by and still no children came. Then God spoke to Abram again, this time making an even more specific promise that Abram would have a son, which would then lead to offspring as numerous as the stars. Genesis 15:6 says that despite the prolonged years of barrenness, Abram believed God, and that belief made him righteous, or put him in a right relationship with God. Likewise, when we believe the gospel—the death and resurrection of Jesus for our salvation—God considers us righteous, too.

FRIDAY // GENESIS 16-17

In Genesis 16, the focus shifts from Abram to his wife, Sarai. All they knew of God's promise was that they would have an heir, so Sarai took the initiative to provide that heir herself by using Hagar, her servant, as a surrogate mother. Sarai's actions revealed a lack of trust in God's ability to provide. God alone was the engineer of Abram and Sarai's destiny, and their attempts to go about it without God paled in comparison to the grandeur of His plan. Once more in Genesis 17, God reminded Abram that He would be the one to bless them, He would give them the promised son, Isaac, He would make their descendants as numerous as the stars, and He would receive all of the glory. God's faithfulness and ability to do what He says overcomes all of our flaws and uncertainties.

WEEKEND

Finish up any you haven't done from above!