



Quiet Walk

THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD; AND THE FIRMA- MENT SHOWS HIS HANDY WORK

(PSALM 19:1)

BY MARIA MANSOUR

David the psalmist wrote such an amazing psalm about the wondrous work of God, He reveals to us the beauty of the creation and the wisdom of its creator, that we are often too busy to discover it ourselves. We are living, but until when? We are laughing, but for how long? We are rich, but is it always? Our busy life, that is full of problems and afflictions, tends to blind our eyes from seeing the Lord's wondrous work. We think that our problem is the worst and that there are no solutions to it or any answer from God that will comfort us. Job was in the same situation like us, busy in his own affliction. He was just waiting to talk to God and defend himself in front of Him. However, when God answered Job, it was a different story. Let us learn together from Job the Righteous, after all, he did not get that title for nothing!

When Job was busy looking for God in order to defend himself, Our Lord had another plan. He wanted to teach Job how to trust in Him by showing him some secrets of His creation and how everything does work according to the will of God for those who love Him. If we read together Chapter 38 from the book of Job, we will find that God answered Job's request and appeared to him in the mighty strong wind, as He previously appeared to Moses. "Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind" (Job 38:1). First, God started preparing Job's heart by sending him the mighty winds to calm his pride and self-righteousness, to make him aware of the presence of God, and to prepare Job to hear His voice.

"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?" (Job 38:4-7)

Since Job claimed to know everything and that he could answer God in everything (Job 33:32). God asked him a series of questions about the earth's creation and its essence to teach him how to be humble. Job lived on this earth for years and years

but did he ever know the secrets of its creation, or was he there when God created the earth? God here uses the imagery of someone who is building a house to resemble the creation of the earth; first He took the necessary measurements needed to lay the foundation and then began building a strong house. The magnificence of God's works appears when He created the earth stable on a good foundation with a corner stone so it does not fall from space. All of this was done while the angels "morning stars" singing songs of 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!'" (Job 38:8-11)

God proposed another question for Job about the oceans and the seas; it is a question that challenges Job, since he does not know the depth of the sea or what it encloses. Our Lord's creation of the sea is like a baby being birthed and clothed with garments; so was the sea surrounded with clouds as its garments and darkness as its swaddling band. However, this strong child gets so angry when just the wind hits it that it can destroy cities and create fear in human hearts. Even though science is now able to explain some of the ocean's secrets, human beings still cannot control the ocean nor avoid its destruction. Here, the wondrous and tender mercies of God tell us that just by a command from Him, He sets gates and doors to the sea for our protection so that it cannot pass its borders. All those mighty winds, unlimited space of water, and thick darkness that cause fear in human hearts are just like a small baby that God can control anytime and anywhere. After all those wondrous works, don't you think that God can take care of your life too?

"Have you commanded the morning since your days began, And caused the dawn to know its place, That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, And the wicked be shaken out of it? It takes on form like clay under a seal, And stands out like a garment. From the wicked their light is withheld, and the upraised arm is

broken.” (Job 38:12-15)

Job questioned why the light also shines upon the wicked (Job 24:13-17). This might be a question that we ask in our life when there is unfairness, so why does God shine his light upon those who do not fear Him? God created this world for everyone and we choose how we live and whether we expect a blessing or a curse from God. Sometimes, we take God’s position on judging people on their actions, even judging God himself for his reasoning. Here God asks Job if He created the light for Job only or if it rises by Job’s command. Our Lord explained to Job that He is the light of the world and that the only light for the wicked is darkness. Through God’s light it will be revealed to us the wickedness of those people as it happened to Satan and his army. “Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.” (Luke 1:78)

“Have you entered the springs of the sea? Or have you walked in search of the depths? Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death? Have you comprehended the breadth of the earth? Tell Me, if you know all this.” (Job 38: 16-18)

Since Job claimed to know everything, God asked him about the location of the source of the springs of the sea. Does he know where it is hidden and what is in its depths? If Job does not know what is hidden in the sea, how would he know the will of God the creator? The ancient people believed that the place of death is under the seas and earth. But, they claimed their uncertainty since no one from the dead told them where the door to death is located. God asked Job, since he claimed to be knowledgeable, to tell Him where to find that door. Then God tried to make it even easier on Job since he had not been to Hades before, but rather asked him again about the earth – since Job lived on it. During that time no one had traveled around the earth and earth was still thought to be flat, so would Job know as he claimed?

“Where is the way to the dwelling of light? And darkness, where is its place, That you may take it to its territory, That you may know the paths to its home? Do you know it, because you were born then, Or because the number of your days is great?” “Have you entered the treasury of snow, Or have you seen the treasury of hail, Which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war? By what way is light diffused, or the east wind scattered over the earth?” (Job 38: 19-24)

God posed several questions for Job to answer, but He used the earth, light, darkness, the seas, and the snow to make His point simple. Furthermore, God spoke in parables to help Job understand, “And with many such parables He spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it.” (Mark 4:33)

“Who has divided a channel for the overflowing water; Or a path for the thunderbolt, To cause it to rain on a land where there is no one, A wilderness in which there is no man; To satisfy the desolate waste, And cause to spring forth the growth of tender grass? Has the rain a father? Or who has begotten the drops of dew? From whose womb comes the ice? And the frost of heaven, who gives it birth?” (Job 38:25-29)

The question here is about the rain, does the human being have any control on the rain, where it drops and how much? God explained that for those rains there are channels controlled by Him, sometimes there will be enough rain to water the ground and other times it might cause hurricanes that drown the earth. All of these are controlled by God who not only takes care of human beings, but also every living creature on the face of the earth, even the drop of dew is counted so it won’t harm anyone.

Then God again assures us that He is the father of all creatures and that He controls everything, even the small drops of dew. He is the source of those wondrous and amazing creatures. “He sends out His command to the earth; His word runs very swiftly.” (Psalm 147:15)

Wouldn’t God then be able to control your problems??

“Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, or loose the belt of Orion? Can you bring out Mazzaroth in its season? Or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs? Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you set their dominion over the earth? “Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, that an abundance of water may cover you? Can you send out lightnings, that they may go, and say to you, ‘Here we are!’? Who has put wisdom in the mind? Or who has given understanding to the heart?” (Job 38:31-36)

The cluster of the Pleiades are the seven sisters of stars, and Mazzaroth is a plural name for the Hebrew term Mazzel that means lots of light in the sky. So what does this have to do with us? God created the sun to light our day and the moon and stars for the night; everything has its season determined by God. They were set to help mankind achieve the order that God has created for them, working in the morning until the dawn of the sun and time for rest. “He appointed the moon for seasons; the sun knows its going down. You make darkness, and it is night” (Psalm 104:19, 20). Then God reveals the weakness of the human being for not having the ability to have dominion over nature and creation, not because He is injustice but rather out of His love for us, He wants us to be humble. “The LORD lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked down to the ground” (Psalm 147:6).

“Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can pour out the bottles of heaven, when the dust hardens in clumps, and the clods cling together? “Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, when they crouch in their dens, or lurk in their lairs to lie in wait? Who provides food for the raven, when its young ones cry to God, and wander about for lack of food?” (Job 38:37-41)

God teaches us about the formation of a good soil for planting and the unity of His creation to help form it. He describes to us how the rain is counted according to the amount of dust needed to mix them together, and then how the sun rises to solidify them to form natural soil. Not only does our awesome God take care of the earth, rain, stars, soil and so on, but he also takes care of the animals and their creation. He feeds the lions in their dens and the birds of the air and the ravens in their nests. God asked Job if he would provide food for the lion or any other animal on a daily basis. God has chosen the lion, which the humans fear, and the ravens, which the humans hate, to show that even though no one takes care of them, God does not forget them but brings them their food. So don’t you think that God can take care of you, after all He takes care of the animals, even the dangerous ones?

When Job saw the awesome creation of God His magnificent work and realized that everything was created in order and with specific measurements, which is hard for human beings to understand due to their limited knowledge, he humbled himself in front of the Lord. When he humbled himself in front of the Lord, God blessed him and gave him twice as much as he used to have. God also rewarded him for the loss of his children by giving him children of such beauty that it was known in the land that there were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job. That is the reward of those who trust in the Lord. Isn’t it time my brethren to trust in the Lord the creator of all things? The one and only one that can take care of all your needs: spiritually, physically, emotionally, and mentally. “He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, but he who trusts in the LORD will be prospered.” (Proverbs 28:25).