



# Daily Reflections

**September 28, 2016**

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## Scripture

### **Job 9:1-16**

Job answered his friends and said:  
I know well that it is so;  
but how can a man be justified before God?  
Should one wish to contend with him,  
he could not answer him once in a thousand times.  
God is wise in heart and mighty in strength;  
who has withstood him and remained unscathed?  
He removes the mountains before they know it;  
he overturns them in his anger.  
He shakes the earth out of its place,  
and the pillars beneath it tremble.  
He commands the sun, and it rises not;  
he seals up the stars.  
He alone stretches out the heavens  
and treads upon the crests of the sea.

He made the Bear and Orion,  
the Pleiades and the constellations of the south;  
He does great things past finding out,  
marvelous things beyond reckoning.  
Should he come near me, I see him not;  
should he pass by, I am not aware of him;  
Should he seize me forcibly, who can say him nay?  
Who can say to him, "What are you doing?"  
How much less shall I give him any answer,  
or choose out arguments against him!  
Even though I were right, I could not answer him,  
but should rather beg for what was due me.  
If I appealed to him and he answered my call,  
I could not believe that he would hearken to my words.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

Job is surrounded by three friends who follow a form of thinking which holds that "bad things happen to bad people." The friends see Job's complaint of innocence as futile. While Job agrees that going up against God is a seemingly impossible task because God is huge, nevertheless, complaining to God about his innocence is something he feels compelled to do because he believes that God is just. Little does Job realize what he is about to receive from God.

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## **Food for your Journey**

What is the answer to Job's anguished questions, his wrestling with the harsh realities of evil and suffering? God's response, when it finally comes, is less than satisfying. The Lord simply overpowers Job with divine authority, answering the afflicted man's questions with further questions ("Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?" -- 38:4).

For Christians, the answer to Job's question of why God permits suffering comes only in the New Testament: "Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death -- even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:5-8).

The answer to Job's question comes not in words at all, but in the form of a Word: and that Word is love.

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## **Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, Even though at times I feel alone, I am never really alone. You are always with me in good and bad times. May I always remain close to You. Amen.