

**Prophet**  
***Job 38:1-7***

Then  
the LORD answered Job  
out of the whirlwind:

<sup>2</sup> 'Who is this  
that darkens counsel  
by words without knowledge?

<sup>3</sup> Gird up your loins like a man,  
I will question you,  
and you shall declare to me.

<sup>4</sup> 'Where were you  
when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me,  
if you have understanding.

<sup>5</sup> Who determined  
its measurements  
—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

<sup>6</sup> On what were its bases sunk,  
or who laid its cornerstone

<sup>7</sup> when the morning stars  
sang together

and all the heavenly beings  
shouted for joy?

**Epistle**  
***Hebrews 5:1-10***

Every high priest chosen from among mortals  
is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf,  
to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.

<sup>2</sup>He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward,  
since he himself is subject to weakness;  
<sup>3</sup>and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins  
as well as for those of the people.

<sup>4</sup>And one does not presume to take this honour,  
but takes it only when called by God,  
just as Aaron was.

<sup>5</sup> So also Christ did not glorify himself  
in becoming a high priest,  
but was appointed by the one who said to him,  
'You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you';  
<sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place,  
'You are a priest for ever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.'

<sup>7</sup> In the days of his flesh,  
Jesus offered up prayers and supplications,  
with loud cries and tears,  
to the one who was able to save him from death,  
and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

<sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son,  
he learned obedience through what he suffered;  
<sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect,  
he became the source of eternal salvation  
for all who obey him,  
<sup>10</sup>having been designated by God  
a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

**Gospel**  
**Mark 10:35-45**

35 James and John,  
the sons of Zebedee,  
came forward to him  
and said to him,

‘Teacher,  
we want you to do for us  
whatever we ask of you.’

<sup>36</sup>And he said to them,  
‘What is it  
you want me to do for you?’

<sup>37</sup>And they said to him,  
‘Grant us to sit,  
one at your right hand  
and one at your left,  
in your glory.’

<sup>38</sup>But Jesus said to them,  
‘You do not know  
what you are asking.

Are you able to drink the cup that I drink,  
or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?’

<sup>39</sup>They replied, ‘We are able.’

Then Jesus said to them,  
‘The cup that I drink  
you will drink;  
and with the baptism with which I am baptized,  
you will be baptized;

<sup>40</sup>but to sit at my right hand or at my left  
is not mine to grant,  
but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.’

<sup>41</sup>When the ten heard this,  
they began to be angry  
with James and John.

<sup>42</sup>So Jesus called them  
and said to them,

‘You know  
that among the Gentiles  
those whom they recognize  
as their rulers  
lord it over them,  
and their great ones  
are tyrants over them.

<sup>43</sup>But it is not so  
among you;

but whoever wishes  
to become great  
among you  
must be your servant,

<sup>44</sup>and whoever wishes  
to be first  
among you  
must be slave of all.

<sup>45</sup>For the Son of Man  
came not to be served  
but to serve,  
and to give his life  
a ransom for many.’

## Reading Wisdom this Week

This is the 'theophany' promised 2 weeks ago  
after over 30 chapters of 4-way debate,  
Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar with Job,  
(plus Elihu's interruption)  
God speaks from a whirlwind

I suspect that most of us 'read' Job as RCL does:  
The opening fable, the theophany, and the 'happy ending'  
It's like a Wikipedia blurb – school notes  
Our eyes skip over the rest

I've been reading Robert Alter's 2019 translation  
Presumed to record audio reading  
Which would be better read in 5 voices – anybody?  
Meanwhile, here's a link:

<http://www.hereticslikeus.com/2024/10/reading-job-in-robert-alter-translation.html>

When a person really is sidelined, derailed  
They've got time for Job to inform or express experience  
Do we fear it will build self-defeating spirals,  
defying Cognitive Behavioural Therapy?

2006, 'Humbled Christians', I took a shot at Job 38:

<http://www.billbrucewords.com/2006/10/humbled-christians-job38-mark10.html>

## Reading the Epistle this Week

The lectionary jumps to Hebrews 5,  
Developing 'priesthood' of Christ, Jesus, Son  
Compare and contrast Aaron and Melchizedek

By the time this book is written,  
The Second Temple is razed by Romans  
The end of 1000 years of Jerusalem temple cult

In our subculture, purity/sacrifice piety is strange –  
Remember, we're the WEIRD ones  
(Western, Educated, Industrial, Rich, Democratic)

What was lost to diaspora in 70CE,  
And how does construing Jesus this way fill the gap  
For their lost tradition – and for ours?

This may be familiar to college kids,  
undergrad anthropology or comparative religion,  
Mircea Eliade's 'Sacred and Profane'

It's valuable in study and pastoral conversation,  
But I don't have much traction in preaching it  
(open to suggestions!)

2018 'Third Side Thinking'

<http://www.billbrucewords.com/2018/10/third-side-thinking.html>

## **Reading the Gospel this Week**

It appears that I've enjoyed this theme,  
Taking down the overconfidence of James and John,  
In transitional ministries:

We just got the 3<sup>rd</sup> passion prediction,  
The sons of Zebedee (not their mom as in Matthew) ask  
Mark's Jesus asks back in a formula repeated next to Blind Bart

What do we want, ask, and get from Jesus?  
Ask James and John – or the other 10 of the 12  
Is it just vanity, or 'command and control' status?

Who and what do we serve,  
And what are the consequences,  
Amplifying the passion prediction?

2012 'Steering and Sharing'

<http://www.billbrucewords.com/2012/10/steering-and-sharing.html>

2009 'Oh, Yeah?'

<http://www.billbrucewords.com/2009/10/oh-yeah.html>

2006 'Humbled Christians' (as noted for Job)

<http://www.billbrucewords.com/2006/10/humbled-christians-job38-mark10.html>

2003 'No Problem'

<http://www.billbrucewords.com/2003/10/no-problem.html>