

Creation Sabbath

Responsive Scripture Reading

Leader: And now, finally, God answered Job from the eye of a violent storm. He said:
"Why do you confuse the issue?
Why do you talk without knowing what you're talking about?
Pull yourself together, Job!
Up on your feet! Stand tall!
I have some questions for you [and everyone here],
I want some straight answers.

Where were you when I created the earth?
Tell me, since you know so much!
Who decided on its size? Certainly you'll know that!
Who came up with the blueprints and measurements?
How was its foundation poured,
and who set the cornerstone,
While the morning stars sang in chorus
and all the angels shouted praise?
And who took charge of the ocean
when it gushed forth like a baby from the womb?
That was me! I wrapped it in soft clouds,
and tucked it in safely at night.
Then I made a playpen for it,
a strong playpen so it couldn't run loose,
And said, 'Stay here, this is your place.
Your wild tantrums are confined to this place.'
"And have you ever ordered Morning, 'Get up!'
told Dawn, 'Get to work!'
So you could seize Earth like a blanket
and shake out the wicked like cockroaches?
As the sun brings everything to light,
brings out all the colors and shapes,
The cover of darkness is snatched from the wicked—
they're caught in the very act!

"Can you catch the eye of the beautiful Pleiades sisters,
or distract Orion from his hunt?
Can you get Venus to look your way,
or get the Great Bear and her cubs to come out and play?
Do you know the first thing about the sky's constellations
and how they affect things on Earth?

"Can you get the attention of the clouds,
and commission a shower of rain?
Can you take charge of the lightning bolts
and have them report to you for orders?
What Do You Have to Say for Yourself?

"Who do you think gave weather-wisdom to the ibis,
and storm-savvy to the rooster?
Does anyone know enough to number all the clouds
or tip over the rain barrels of heaven
When the earth is cracked and dry,
the ground baked hard as a brick?

All: Lord, you have been our home
since the beginning.
Before the mountains were born
and before you created the earth and the world,
you are God.
You have always been, and you will always be.
Psalm 90:1-2 New Century Version

Leader: The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the skies announce what his hands have made.
Day after day they tell the story;
night after night they tell it again.
They have no speech or words;
they have no voice to be heard.
But their message goes out through all the world;
their words go everywhere on earth.
Psalm 19:1-4 New Century Version

All: My whole being, praise the Lord.
Lord my God, you are very great.
You are clothed with glory and majesty;
you wear light like a robe.
You stretch out the skies like a tent.
You build your room above the clouds.
You make the clouds your chariot,
and you ride on the wings of the wind.
You make the winds your messengers,
and flames of fire are your servants.
you built the earth on its foundations
so it can never be moved.
My whole being, praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord.
Psalm 104 :1-5, 35b NCV

Leader: You are worthy, O Lord,
To receive glory and honor and power;
For You created all things,
And by Your will they exist and were created.
Revelation 4:11 NKJV

All: In the beginning you made the earth,
and your hands made the skies.
They will be destroyed, but you will remain.
They will all wear out like clothes.
And, like clothes, you will change them
and throw them away.
But you never change,
and your life will never end.
Our children will live in your presence,
and their children will remain with you.
Psalm 102:25-26 NCV

Leader: Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth,
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,
and there was no longer any sea.

I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.
And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
"Now the dwelling of God is with men,
and he will live with them.
They will be his people,
and God himself will be with them
and be their God.
He will wipe every tear from their eyes.
There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain,
for the old order of things has passed away."
Revelation 21:1-4 *NIV*

**All: He who was seated on the throne said,
"I am making everything new!"
Then he said, "Write this down,
for these words are trustworthy and true."
Revelation 21:5 *NIV***