

Central Idea

Developing Trust

1. Summarize in your own words what each of these verses says about God's role in natural phenomena.

KJV Job 37:3 He directeth it under the whole heaven, and his lightning unto the ends of the earth. 6 For he saith to the snow, Be thou *on* the earth; likewise to the small rain, and to the great rain of his strength. 10 By the breath of God frost is given: and the breadth of the waters is straitened. 11 Also by watering he wearieth the thick cloud: he scattereth his bright cloud: 12 And it is turned round about by his counsels: that they may do whatsoever he commandeth them upon the face of the world in the earth. 13 He causeth it to come, whether for correction, or for his land, or for mercy.

KJV Psalm 147:8 Who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains. . . 16 He giveth snow like wool: he scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes. 17 He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold? 18 He sendeth out his word, and melteth them: he causeth his wind to blow, *and* the waters flow.

KJV Jeremiah 10:13 When he uttereth his voice, *there is* a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures.

KJV Jeremiah 14:22 Are there *any* among the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? or can the heavens give showers? *art* not thou he, O LORD our God? therefore we will wait upon thee: for thou hast made all these *things*.

KJV Amos 4:7 And also I have withholden the rain from you, when *there were* yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered. 8 So two *or* three cities wandered unto one city, to drink water; but they were not satisfied: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. 9 I have smitten you with blasting and mildew: when your gardens and your vineyards and your fig trees and your olive trees increased, the palmerworm devoured *them*: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.

2. a. What is your usual attitude toward the weather? Do you tend to complain about it? Thank God for it? Feel that God isn't responsible?

b. Is your attitude generally pleasing to God? Why or why not?

3. a. What is God taking responsibility for in Exodus 4:11 and Isaiah 45:7?

b. What are some possible responses to these passages?

c. Which response do you choose? Why?

4. Read John 9:1-3. Explain in your own words the reason Jesus gives for the man's blindness.

5. a. What does God teach us about the conception of children in these verses?

KJV Genesis 16:2 And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.

KJV Genesis 29:31 And when the LORD saw that Leah *was* hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel *was* barren.

KJV Judges 13:3 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou *art* barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.

KJV 1 Samuel 1:5 But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the LORD had shut up her womb.

KJV Psalm 139:13 For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.

b. If a couple is unable to have children, how can these verses help them maintain a trusting attitude toward God?

6. The idea that God claims responsibility for deadly earthquakes, droughts, blindness, and childlessness prompts sensitive people to ask questions. Certainly we can't learn much without asking questions.

a. Are there limits to the kinds of questions we should ask of God? If so, what limits? If not, why not?

b. Can we expect God to answer our questions? Why or why not?

c. What kinds of attitudes are acceptable when questioning God?

d. What kinds of attitudes are unacceptable?

e. Give some possible reasons why God leaves many of our questions unanswered.

7. a. Describe an experience in your life that caused you to doubt God's control and to ask why.
 - b. What answers did you get to your questioning?
 - c. Did anything good come from that experience. If so, what was it?
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8. How can coming to grips with the fact that God is in control of nature affect your daily life, especially your current circumstances?

Trust in Action

1. Read the book of Job in one sitting. What was God's answer to all Job's questionings? (Get a quick overview by reading chapters 1-3, 23, and 40-42)
2. Memorize Habakkuk 3:17-19
3. Get involved in some form of crisis intervention in your community (for example, emergency relief, pregnancy counseling, helping battered women or abused children, etc.)