

“The Creator”

Names of God Study 1

Of the many names of God, The Creator is one that inspires awe and wonder. But with it comes many difficult questions, such as why would an all-powerful God make such a world in the first place? And what of our role in it? In these three passages, we see God responding to human agony and uncertainty by reminding us that His ways are not our own, that as Creator, he creates meaning as well as matter.

Isaiah 40:26-31

²⁶ Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. ²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹ but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Exodus 4:10-12

¹⁰ Moses said to the LORD, "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." ¹¹ The LORD said to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who

makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD?" ¹² Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."

John 9:1-7

¹As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. ⁴As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷"Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

Questions

1. In Isaiah 40:27, we see the familiar human cry of feeling alienated from God. Does relating to God as the Creator provide help with these feelings? What are our responsibilities to Him as the Creator?
2. Isaiah 40:28 states that The Creator “will not grow tired or weary”. What can this say to us about creation/creativity as an ongoing process and our own struggles to succeed?
3. Compare the situations in Exodus and John. What does this tell you about God’s power and purpose in creating human beings that have such weaknesses?
4. In Exodus 4:11 God tells Moses that He is the creator of deafness and muteness, and we're told in John 9:3 that physical infirmities are created so that the work of God might be displayed. Does this affect the kind of art we are able to create? Does the most effective art include things that are challenging, unsettling or that lead to questions? How does knowing God as Creator inspire you to be creative in your own life?

Discussion Guidelines: 1. Allow everyone a chance to speak. If you are bursting with ideas and tend to share a lot – great – but occasionally pause a bit before you go, sometimes the quieter ones are just waiting for their chance and they need a little space before they go. 2. Respect the opinions of others, and refrain from giving advice. 3. Keep discussion focused on the material being studied. 4. Maintain the confidentiality of personal things shared within the group.
