

Sunday Morning Worship January 18

Jan 19, 2026

Summary

The Outskirts of God's Ways: Sovereignty Beyond Our Understanding

Scripture References

Job 26:1-14; Colossians 1:15-23; Psalm 24:1; Psalm 19:1; Proverbs 25:2; Matthew 10:28; Job 2:11; Job 4:15; Genesis 1

Introduction

- Worship focused on the matchless grace of God, culminating in songs that exalt Christ as our only hope.
- Congregational prayer sought God's glory, healing for the broken, and illumination by the Spirit.
- Pastor located the sermon within Job's final reply to his friends—just before God Himself speaks—highlighting mankind's failed wisdom versus God's absolute sovereignty.

Key Points / Exposition

1. The System That Cannot Save (Job 26:1-4)

- Job's sarcasm (“How you have helped…”) exposes the bankruptcy of his friends' works-based theology.
 - Their tidy cause-and-effect worldview offers only condemnation, not comfort.
 - Mocking tone reveals they came to confront, not console (cf. Job 2:11).
- Question of the spirit behind their counsel (v. 4, linking to the eerie “spirit” of Job 4:15) hints at demonic misuse of truth.
- True saving wisdom must strengthen the weak, not deepen their despair (cf. Christopher Ash).

2. Sovereignty Displayed from Sheol to the Sky (Job 26:5-13)

- v. 5-6 – God rules the unseen realm: Sheol and Abaddon lie naked before Him.
 - Jonathan Edwards: God is present in hell by justice, absent by favor.
 - Paul Washer: Hell is hell because God is there in full wrath.

- v. 7-10 – Cosmic governance:
 - “Hangs the earth on nothing” & “binds the waters” mirror Genesis 1 creation acts.
 - Clouds restrained recall the flood's waters held back (Noahic echo).
- v. 11-13 – He both sustains and shakes creation:
 - Mountains (“pillars of heaven”) tremble at His rebuke—order can be upended at His word.
 - Rahab/sea-monster crushed—symbol of chaos/Satan overcome.
 - Lesson: God's sovereignty is not limited to maintaining order; He disrupts it to subdue evil and fulfill redemptive purposes.

3. The Whisper and the Thunder—Our Limited Perception (Job 26:14)

- All described power is merely the “outskirts” of God's ways—a faint whisper compared to the thunder of His full might.
- Scripture parallels:
 - Psalm 19:1 – creation proclaims His glory, yet reveals only a fraction.
 - Proverbs 25:2 – God's glory is to conceal; it is royal glory to search out.
- Anticipation of greater shaking at the cross: darkness at noon and an earthquake that herald Christ's victory over chaos.

Major Lessons & Revelations

- Works-righteous systems crumble under real suffering; only God's sovereign grace rescues.
- God's rule extends to realms we fear most—death, hell, and cosmic chaos—affirming nothing is outside His authority.
- Created order is servant, not master; God can maintain or overturn it to accomplish redemptive ends.
- Human understanding grasps but a whisper; humility and worship are fitting responses.

Practical Application

- Examine personal theology: does it leave room for unexplained suffering and unmerited blessing?
- Resist shrinking God to predictable patterns; surrender to His sovereign will.
- In trials, run first to the character of God—not explanations—seeking peace in His rule.
- Cultivate holy curiosity: search Scripture to know the concealed depths of God's wisdom.

- Comfort sufferers with gospel hope, not moral math; speak words that strengthen weak arms.

Conclusion & Call to Response

- The sermon urged believers to proclaim God as He is—infinately sovereign, gracious, and wise—rather than the manageable deity of human preference.
- Listeners were invited to trust Christ, bowing before the God whose ways are higher, and to find rest in His unsearchable wisdom.

Prayer

- Thanksgiving for God's self-revelation and unchanging character.
- Petition for the lost to repent, rebels to submit, and broken hearts to be bound up.
- Request for deeper hunger to know God through His Word and Spirit, embracing mystery with faith.

References & Resources

- Hymns: “Marvelous Grace,” “Jesus Is Alive,” “All I Have Is Christ,” “He Will Hold Me Fast,” “All Glory Be to Christ.”
- Quotes: Jonathan Edwards' sermons on hell; Paul Washer on God's presence in judgment.
- Commentator cited: Christopher Ash, “Out of the Storm.”