



THE CROSS *and* CROWN

“No Cross, No Crown”

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I think the first time that I was blown away by Scripture in my private devotions was in high school, when I read Job 26. The chapter contains the sort of praise and adulation that I would've expected to find in the Psalms, yet there it was in Job, the words of a man who'd lost everything he valued and who spent all day, every day covered in painful sores. In the middle of all this, Job bears witness to a God whose works are so surpassingly vast that we know only “the outer fringe of his works; how faint the whisper we hear of him! Who can understand the thunder of his power?”



Thousands of years later, we know so much more about the sheer magnitude of God's creation than Job could've imagined. We have sent probes deep into space, beyond our galaxy, and to depths of the ocean, where creatures live under a weight of water that would crush human skeletons in an instant. We have peeked into the world of the infinitesimal, exploring the tiniest sub-particles of atoms. Every exploration teaches the same lesson: There's so much more depth yet to be uncovered.

I share with my father-in-law a frustration over the way that the word “awesome” has lost its value. If an outfit or a car can be awesome, then what word are we to use to describe a universe that is made up of an unimaginable number of planets and stars that are so much larger than Earth that they defy belief? And what does it mean to say that their Creator is awesome, when we use that word to describe a song or a sandwich?

In some sense, though, perhaps it's fitting that we have to keep coming up with new vocabulary to describe the greatness of our God, given that each day reveals new evidence of his majesty. Let's spend time contemplating him, his greatness and the enormity of his presence. Like Job, we may be suffering, overwhelmed and in despair. What better time for us to remind ourselves that God is greater! God is good! Whatever else happens, one thing is constant: God, our rock, stands firm forever! He is greater than the storm, and he is always nearby.

Remember to extol his work, which people have praised in song. How great is God—beyond our understanding! The number of his years is past finding out.

(Job 36:24,26; Note that this quote is not from Job but from his friend, Elihu.)

Thanks for Praying!

We're fresh off a week of prayer, to kick off our "Pray in May" emphasis. It's good to know that you're praying alongside us! Please continue to lift up:





- our summer camp and other upcoming ministries,
- wisdom for reaching our Tioga-Nicetown neighbors, and
- workers with a passion for our mission.



We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join with you in praying for, please let us know. (We will only publish your requests in this newsletter with your permission.)

We really do love hearing from you! Every message and phone call helps us keep going!

 PO Box 15191 Philadelphia, PA 19130
 17 th & Tioga Streets (3501 N 17 th Street) Philadelphia, PA 19140
 Church/Academy Office: (215) 226-1000
 Welcome@ResLife.AG

* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or write us, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know, or subscribe to it at crossandcrown.online/subscribe !

Did you know?

The Sun is large enough to fit 1.3 million Earths, but it's only considered a medium-sized star. Three billion Suns would fit inside the largest known star, VY Canis Major.

In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.

(Psalm 19:4,6)



Highway Mission Tabernacle ♦ Resurrection Life Church ♦ PO Box 15191 Philadelphia, PA 19130
Welcome@ResLife.AG ♦ Church: (215) 226-1000 ♦ Otis: (215) 266-5976
HighwayTabernacle.org ♦ ResLife.AG ♦ Sunday services at Noon: ResLife.stream

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