

“Psalm 24 ...The Terrain of Our Existence”

yāšab יָשַׁב - The Game of Dwelling on Earth (Pt. 1)

January 7, 2024

INTRO... “Reminders & Reset Moments”

... **Do More Better** by Tim Challies [Do More of What? ...Why? ...Better/Worse?]

Reset Moments Need "EXISTENTIALISM" –

We "EXIST"!! ...along with a lot of other stuff, other living creatures (seen & unseen), and other people ...AND, we are complicated (unlike matter, plants, & animals) —We have things like "History" ... "Philosophy" ... "Science" — All Bringing Much Sought After COMMENTARY on Our Existence ...Then we also have "Intellect" ... "Emotions" ... "Affections" ... "Values" ... "Achievement" ... "Purpose" ... "Memory" ... "Hopes" — Also, bringing Much Weighty COMMENTARY on Our Existence!

...ie—We Need a STRATEGY for Our Existence in 2024

...the “Boardgame of Existence”

...Monopoly or Risk or the Game of Life (and their modern equivalents—Video games like Fortnite or Call of Duty)— They are these little “Parallel Universes” that we step into for a moment, that simply offer a “Modified Version of Our Current EXISTENCE”—(there’s goals, boundaries, opposing forces, rewards, consequences, other creatures, a ‘life-landscape’ ...and... there’s STRATEGY!!

...Introducing the Game of Existence called—yāšab יָשַׁב (yaw-shab)

— Like All Games ...it comes with instructions! ...Since you’ve never heard of this game, it’s obvious that You CAN’T JUST START PLAYING IT— You MUST Read the Instructions!

— So, as you start this year’s chapter of “yāšab” —What’s Your Strategy? WHEN It’s YOUR TURN—What are you going to do with your energy, your emotions, your relationships, your education, your money, your focus, your pathways, your choices? (You going to “get-rich-quick”, seek a short-cut, choose a safe but long route?)

...UNPACKING the Game Box

- Instructions ...Ps 24
- Game Board ...It is a map. In this game you are on a journey.





Event Key

Desert of Discouragement

Delay Difficult Despairing
Struggling **Habit** Financial-Lack
Besetting-Sin Hopeless **Sad**

Forest of Faith

New-Setting/Role Opportunity **Risk**
Endurance Obstacles Fear
Worry Sleeplessness **Health**

Gulf of Gladness

Favor Good News
Anticipation **Reward**
Wedding New (car, house, job)
Change/Relief New Baby
Salvation

Hill of Health

Pain Unknown Hospital
Declining **Weak** Confused
Afraid **Recovery** Insurance

Island of Independence

Isolated Relationship-poor Lonely
Out-of-Fellowship Not-serving
Disconnected

Plains of Plenty

Income **Inheritance** Wealth
Cars Prosperous-Career Free-time
Children Houses Clothing

Mountain of Mourning

Death (family, friend, pet) **Departure**
Distance End of a Season of Life
Depression Unmotivated
Lonely Lifestyle Loss **Job Loss**

Ocean of Options

Weekends Travel **Hobbies**
Entertainment Binging
Streaming/Scrolling **Gadgets** News
Work Shopping Social-Media
Podcasts Kids-Sports

River of Relationships

Conflicts Divorce **Friends**
Spouse **Neighbors** Children
In-laws Co-workers Step-family
Singleness Falling-n-Love Hurt
Declining-Relationship Anger
Unforgiveness Guilt

Valley of Vengeance

Past-Hurt Bitterness Resentment
Unforgiveness **Withdrawn**
Cancelled Unfair

Lake of Longing

Obsession Lust **Envy** Jealousy
Unmet-Expectations Controlling-Desires
Dreams Craving Attention
Gaming Food

Ps. 24 ...Understanding yāšab יָשַׁב

Psalms 24

Quick Game Summary: (v. 1-2) provides the Ultimate Origin of Existence (Purpose & Definition REQUIRES Origin!) ... (3-4) reveals that Life is a Journey (a storyline that unfolds over time ... (v. 3, 5-6) reveal the Ultimate Purpose (the “Success Factor”) of the Game of Life—How Does Anyone Know if They’re DOING WELL at the Game? ... (v. 7-10) reveals the Culmination & Celebration of the Game (What sits at the Center of “Winning This Game”)

Why yāšab? ...v. 1 ...explains our existence—we are those who “dwell” (yāšab) in God’s world! [yāšab: A verb meaning to sit, to dwell, to inhabit, to endure, to stay]

— **We Dwell in God’s Reality! ...in the Setting that is Created, Designed, & Sustained by GOD! ...We are “SET” (appointed, assigned) a life in this setting.**

— **Heb 12:1** *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...*

...When any of us go to answer questions about our existence ...or formulate plans for the future ...or make decisions when facing options ...or conclude that something is “Right or Wrong”/ “Good or Bad”/ “Acceptable or Unacceptable” (when we seek to construct a philosophy or factor in history or deal with memories or manage our emotions or engage our own sense of happiness or answer the questions/complaints in my heart) —We will need Ps 24:1-2!

— The Common Mindset of the Creator! —

Col 1:15-17 *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

— **These are the “Epic Bible Passages” that jump into explaining the Big Picture! The Realities that “FRAME” our Realities!** ...they put us in touch with the concept that “Our Story—is a Story Within a Story!” ...and you simply cannot make sense of your story if you detach it from the Ultimate BIG Story!

v. 16 ...In this “created world”—there are visible & invisible things! There is mystery. There are other beings and other forces besides me and those just like me.

Heb 9:11 *But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation)*

Eph 6:12 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

Gen 24:1-7 *Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. ² And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, “Put your hand under my thigh, ³ that I may make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell, ⁴ but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac.” ⁵ The servant said to him,*

"Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?" ⁶ Abraham said to him, "See to it that you do not take my son back there. ⁷ The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, 'To your offspring I will give this land,' he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.

...Long ago...There was a man named Abraham—He Played the Game of yāšab ...and there were mysterious forces at work in his existence!!

"There is more to life than meets the eye. Reality transcends what we see with our eyes and hear with our ears. Reality goes beyond sense perceptions. It is not less than what we perceive, but it is certainly more. ...Classically the Church has made an important distinction between the realm of the supernatural and the realm of the natural. Nature and supernature--two dimensions of the fullness of reality. Even within the realm of nature there is more there than meets the eye. We live in a world inhabited by micro-organisms that are invisible to the naked eye. The microscope may reveal swarms of real entities that can invade our bodies and destroy us. They exist. They are real. They are out there. But until they make us sneeze or provoke more severe discomfort, we are largely oblivious to them. ...There are other forces of nature that affect our daily lives that we see not. We do not see electricity; we do not observe gravity; we fail to observe energy. But we see the results of these things and know that they are there. In a sense we take them by faith." **R.C. Sproul**, "There's More to Life Than Meets the Eye", [Right Now Counts Forever, Vol 1, p. 149]

...You might need more than your Peloton in 2024

1 Cor 2:9-14 *But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"— ¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ... ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ... ¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*

...God has Provided Us with a SPIRITUAL MICROSCOPE!! ...As we Pack Supplies for the Journey of 2024—Where's Your Microscope and Are You Any Good at Using It? ...Or Have You Become a ONE-DIMENSIONAL Natural Minded yāšab Player??

>> The Fork in the Road of Existence has been Present from the Dawn of Creation: SEEK the Tree of Knowledge ...or... SEEK the Mysterious & Invisible God!

The Wise Apostle Paul Meets You as You Fill Your Backpack and Gather Supplies for the Journey called 2024—He says...

Eph 5:6-18 *Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not become partners with them; ⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,*
"Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."
¹⁵ *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit...*

...Do You Notice the “FORCES” at work in the game of **yāšab**? ...darkness/light ...sons of disobedience ...evil
...the wrath of God ...being filled with the Spirit
...Do You Hear The Cry to AWAKE!!—Come to Life Oh Church!! ...Look Carefully then how you walk...