

“JOB...Wisdom for Suffering”

Wisdom Literature – Job (pt. 1)

June 22, 2025

"Often, it is the trials of life that make us feel like losers. Part of the difficulty, if we are honest, is that we do not always understand why suffering has to afflict us personally. I don't know how many times I have sat with a person struggling over a bad report from the doctor, a rough time at work, or some other intense, personal difficulty, and heard the question asked, "Why me?" Everyone else walking around, seems to be wealthy enough and healthy enough. Every cheery greeting, and every pleasantly chirping bird can feel specifically devised to torment us, since they underscore our pain. Even when we do finally admit our troubles, we can still feel mystified, stupefied, and perhaps terrified at our inability to explain them. ...we suffer, especially when a trial looks too big to handle. When it seems like just too much. Our troubles are so painful and so difficult to understand that we wonder and worry about the possibility (and maybe we even secretly relish the possibility) of losing faith in God himself, because surely God could not have had any part in this!... If these types of concerns, do not describe you right now, they will almost certainly describe you sometime; and right now they probably do describe someone you know and love.... So we need the wisdom of the book of Job." **Mark Dever**, "The Message of the Old Testament", p. 467

INTRO... “Wisdom”

Proverbs 4:1, 5-7 ¹ Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight...

⁵ Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth.

⁶ Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you.

⁷ The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight.

...This is NOT mere knowledge. It is not just the facts. ...Wisdom is “nuanced knowledge”.

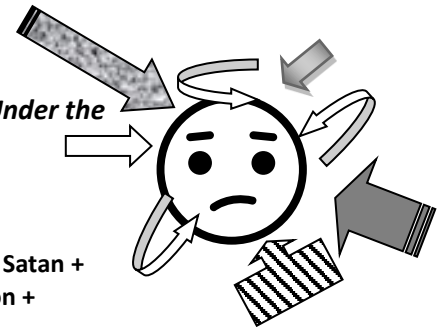
—There are Lots of Christians who aren't “OBSESSED ENOUGH” with their Walk and the Coming of the Kingdom to “GET WISDOM” ...instead, they have “unnuanced Bible Facts”

WISDOM LITERATURE—“*Insights*” into the Complexity & Perplexity of Life Under the Sun

The L.U.T.S. Vector Diagram

L.U.T.S. = Original Creation (an existence designed for God to be Present w/ man) + **Satan + Sin + Futility + Corruption** (internal & external) + **Limitations + Confusion + Redemption**

...There is “**Complexity & Perplexity**” in This Life! ...the Wisdom Literature makes a unique contribution to our L.U.T.S. ...We NEED to “hang around” these books and “overhear” their conversations. Our limited/simple views need to be “nuanced” by what we hear and observe.



Wisdom Literature's Unique Contribution to Our "Life-Interpretation-Pursuits"

"The book of Job is one of five books in the Old Testament that we call the 'Wisdom books.' ...Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. No great events occur in these five Wisdom books. They are not like the books of history... that are concerned with the history of the nation of Israel. Neither are they like the books of prophecy... that are also concerned with the history of Israel... These books do not even present any new laws as the first five books of the Bible do. ...They are not so much about the whole nation of Israel, but about individuals and our individual highs and lows. This is why Christians often find them to be their favorite part of the Old Testament; these books are more accessible. They don't require you to know a lot about the

history of Israel and God's work with his people to understand them. They are written to individuals in their individual experiences." **Mark Dever**, "The Message of the Old Testament", p. 468

"Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon are full of beautiful and expressive poetry. Trees clap their hands. Hills sing for joy. God's enemies melt like wax. And God himself rides upon the clouds. The Psalms are filled with the love and liveliness of an individual relationship with God... Proverbs guides us with its practical advice. Ecclesiastes draws us into humility and awe as it considers some of life's most difficult mysteries. As does Job." **Mark Dever**, "The Message of the Old Testament", p. 468

INSIGHTS... from Job for L.U.T.S.

Initial Insights:

- The book of Job is the Inspired Word of God—(Remember 2Tim 3:16)
- Job offers insights on Human Suffering—But your understanding of suffering needs the entire Bible. ...God has given us a book! He has revealed Himself, Our Lives, Our Relationship to Him in many, many ways
...Rom 8:28... & ...Rom 8:32 ...is needed to interpret L.U.T.S.

The Job Story — Scenes:

- A Good Man Experiences Drastic Suffering
- Human Conversations— Clashing, Confusion, & Counsel
- Heaven & Earth Perspectives
- An Insight—Not an Answer

Job 1:1-5 ¹ There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. ² There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. ³ He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east. ⁴ His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵ And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.

...These are Important Details about This Man! (Inspired & Included by God) ...Why? ...There's something about these "characteristics" that need to provide us with some kind of "INSIGHT"

Job 1:13-22 ¹³ Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁴ and there came a messenger to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, ¹⁵ and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." ¹⁶ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you." ¹⁷ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." ¹⁸ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁹ and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and

struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

²⁰ Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. ²¹ And he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.”

²² In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

...That’s SCENE 1

Job 2:11-13 ¹¹ Now when Job’s three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They made an appointment together to come to show him sympathy and comfort him. ¹² And when they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him. And they raised their voices and wept, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads toward heaven. ¹³ And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

...The Setting of SCENE 2 ...From Chap 3 – 31 ... A Conversation to Comprehend Calamity! [Is Job a book on Suffering or a Book about BAD HUMAN INSIGHTFULNESS??]

“JOB’S COUNSELORS” (These guys are infamous!)

...These guys model for us—“UNNUANCED KNOWLEDGE”!! ...The Tyranny of “Over-Simplified-Personal-Opinions”—Dressed in Religious Words!

Job 4:1-9

...The Human Heart’s Oversimplified Doctrine of “Karma”

...But, the Bible DOES SAY...

Pr 13:21 “Disaster pursues sinners, but the righteous are rewarded with good.”

Pr 22:8 Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity

Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

...How do you Read the “Whole Counsel of God” and come up with some sort of “LITMUS TEST”??

...What about Ecc 2:12-17 ...or Ecc. 6:13-14 ...or Ecc 9:1-3

INSIGHT! ...So, in my L.U.T.S.—I SHOULD be guided by Wise Insights—“he who walks with the wise will become wise, but the companion of fools suffers harm” ...But... This is a “General Insight”—NOT a Static RULE!

Job 42:7-8

INSIGHT!—Be Careful that You Don’t Construct Your Very Limited Theology Out of Your Personality or Limited Understanding!

SCENE 3 ... Heaven & Earth

INSIGHT! ...God has Reasons that We Don’t Know of

"Above all, perhaps, the book of Job teaches us that we do not possess all the facts. ...how much did Job know about the dialogue between God and Satan? ...Job's comforters don't

appear to know anything about it. ...Nowhere in the whole book do we read that Job has access to this knowledge." **Mark Dever**, "The Message of the Old Testament", p.474

INSIGHT!...*Earth has Forces that We Don't See*

Job 1:6-12 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. ⁷ The LORD said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." ⁸ And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" ⁹ Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? ¹⁰ Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." ¹² And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

INSIGHT! ...*Satan (demonic forces) are Present and at Work in this world!*

...Without This Insightful Passage ...we might conclude that Job's Calamities are simply the result of Crime ...Bad weather ...Structural Failure of a House!

Lk 22:31-32 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail.

...the activity of Satan informed Jesus intercessory prayer life!

1 Pet 5:8-9 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

...Peter learned sobriety from Jesus about the Devil! ...Peter could have gained an insight into the association between Satan & Suffering—from JOB!

2 Cor 2:5-11 Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. ⁶ For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, ⁷ so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸ So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. ⁹ For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. ¹⁰ Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, ¹¹ so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

...this Insight informed Paul's understanding of Human Relationships and Unseen Consequences! ...How the church manages sin, forgiveness, and restoration is something that Satan can "touch"

Eph 4:26-27 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil.

***I need Wisdom Literature to "Inform my Mental Reflexes", to "Build-Up in My Bloodstream".
...to Balance & Influence my Counsel/Ministry to others!***