

“Wisdom... for the Depths of Life”

Wisdom Literature

July 13, 2025

INTRO ...Wisdom Lit. = Job, Ps, Pr, Ecc, SS

A Life Address - The Depths!

Psalms 130 My Soul Waits for the Lord. A SONG OF ASCENTS.

- ¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!
- ² O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
- ³ If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?
- ⁴ But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.
- ⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; [after my 15+ min/day]
- ⁶ my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.
- ⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.
- ⁸ And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

...There is "L.U.T.S." here at this address:

- **There is human emotion/feeling at this address:** "crying out from the depths" ... "pleas for mercy" ... "longing and waiting for the morning" ... "hope"
- **There are Theologically concepts here (at this address):**
 - ...Theo. of iniquities ...Theo. Of forgiveness ...Theo. Of covenant love (hesed) ...Theo. Of redemption ...Theo. Of The Fear of God
 - These are defined by God—Not culture or individuals!** ...My sin, forgiveness, God's persistent love, God's redemptive plot, the posture of "the fear of God"—None of these are available to me to define or frame or bend!!
- **There is human/divine exchange:** "I cry to you, O Lord" ... "let your ears be attentive... hear my pleas" ... "I wait for the Lord" (like the watchmen for the morning)

"Out of the depths" ...*this is a Real and a Curious Address in Life!! ...It is not your everyday setting of delays, difficulties, disappointments, and inconveniences—nor is it a 'flesh-wound'. It is abiding/long-lasting and emotionally disruptive! It is "felt" but it is felt at an unusually deep level!! ...We would do well to recognize that such a place exists in us!! (Lest we be surprised when its nerve endings get touched!) ...L.U.T.S. Can take you to locations and experiences that reach down into a place in you that you didn't know existed!*

An Exchange With God from Out of the Depths

...The wisdom literature (particularly the Psalms) are filled with this—"Human Exchanges with God from Some DEEP Situation" ...**2 Questions:** (1) What Does Man Sound Like? ... (2) What Does God Sound Like?

Job – “Out of the Depths!” ...we know of Job's Depths (Job 1, 2)

Job 3:20-26

- ²⁰ "Why is light given to him who is in misery, and life to the bitter in soul,
²¹ who long for death, but it comes not, and dig for it more than for hidden treasures,
²² who rejoice exceedingly and are glad when they find the grave?
²³ Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden, whom God has hedged in?
²⁴ For my sighing comes instead of my bread, and my groanings are poured out like water.
²⁵ For the thing that I fear comes upon me, and what I dread befalls me.
²⁶ I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest, but trouble comes."

- **That's "The Depths"! ...**

...Solomon knew of these depths ...**Ecc 2:17** So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind.

...Paul knew of them in the midst of his ministry! ...**2Cor 1:8** For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death.

- **The Depths are filled with Complexity and Hard Questions!** ...**Ecc 7:23-29** ²³ All this I have tested by wisdom. I said, "I will be wise," but it was far from me. ²⁴ That which has been is far off, and deep, very deep; who can find it out? ²⁵ I turned my heart to know and to search out and to seek wisdom and the scheme of things, and to know the wickedness of folly and the foolishness that is madness. ...²⁷ Behold, this is what I found, says the Preacher, while adding one thing to another to find the scheme of things—²⁸ which my soul has sought repeatedly, but I have not found... ²⁹ See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.

"Scheme" - ḥešbôn: *A masculine noun meaning planning, a reason for things. It indicates an understanding, a grasping, or a knowledge of the scheme of things* (CWSB Dictionary) ...Solomon's fancy way of saying: "WHY is this happening to me?"

"At times, God does graciously allow us to see how he has used a difficult situation for our good. And surely we should thank him for the consolation such moments of understanding afford. But there is danger in assuming that he must give us such understanding. What will follow is a counterfeit trust, a trust in our own abilities to figure out all of God's purposes within any particular trial, rather than a trust in God and in his character as he has finally revealed it in Jesus Christ on the cross. A counterfeit trust in God might work for some things, but it will not finally work. The only one who is worthy of our trust is not ourselves; nor is it our own clever ability to figure out life's knotty questions; it is God himself." **Mark Dever**, "The Message of the Old Testament", p. 478

Job 23:2-5

- ² "Today also my complaint is bitter; my hand is heavy on account of my groaning.
³ Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his seat!
⁴ I would lay my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments.
⁵ I would know what he would answer me and understand what he would say to me.

...v. 4 ...Like Job... we are undoubtedly looking for God to "EXPLAIN OUR SITUATION"!! (to Answer—WHY??—to understand "the scheme of things")

...v. 5 ... What will God say in such a moment of exchange?

What Will God Say to Us—in the Depths?

Job 38:1-3

...This passage feels "Ominous" —It feels like God is trying to put us in touch with Our SMALLNESS & LIMITATION ...&... His VASTNESS & INFINITUDE!!

- Don't lose these moments in Scripture! ...One of the Greatest Problems (perhaps the greatest) is that "We're Out of Our Place"! ...**One of the greatest things God can do for us—is to "Put Us In Our Place"!!**
- Remember the scene at Mt. Sinai! ...God descends in "BIGGNESS" and man retreats in smallness from His Presence. ...and then God explains why he did that —**Ex 20:20**. "*Moses said to the people, 'Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.'*"

?? >> **What's the epicenter of human sin? ...Human BIGNESS!!** (Self-importance, Self-Sufficiency, Selfishness!) ...Where does Human "Bigness" come from?—"GOD SMALLNESS"!! ...The "Fear of God" is about God retaining his place of ULTIMATENESS!!

Matt 10:28-31 ²⁸ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Job 38:4-11 ...Insights from ENGINEERING!

Job 38:12 ...Insights on the Existence of Time

Job 38:17-18 ...Insights on Death & Deep Darkness

Job 38:25-28 ...Insights from Weather & Agriculture

Job 38:31-33 ...Insights from Astronomy

Job 38:39-41 ...Insights from Zoology

Job 40:1-14 ...

...v. 1-4 ...Job... You have ventured out of your pay-grade!

Notice/Insight: The Problem of being "Wrong-Sized"!! ...Job needs help with being 'smaller'—v. 4 ... "*Behold, I am of small account; what do I know??*"

...v. 6-11 ...God breaks out his "Glory" (the substance/character of which He is) ... "a thundering voice" ... "majesty" ... "dignity" ... "glory" ... "splendor" ... "anger" ... followed by his Righteous Management of the Proud and Unrighteous!

Job 42:1-6 ...Perspective Restored—in the Depths!

...Man is "Crying Out" (sometimes from "The Depths")!! ...**What is it that he needs?**

- He does Not need to have life's Complexity Explained to Him!!

"At times, God does graciously allow us to see how he has used a difficult situation for our good. And surely we should thank him for the consolation such moments of understanding afford. But there is danger in assuming that he must give us such understanding. What will follow is a counterfeit trust, a trust in our own abilities to figure out all of God's purposes within any particular trial, rather than a trust in God and in his character as he has finally revealed it in Jesus Christ on the cross." **Mark Dever**, "The Message of the Old Testament", p. 478

- **What Knowledge is DEEP ENOUGH to Penetrate "The Depths" of Our Lives?**

Jer 9:23-24 ²³ Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Eph 1:16-23 ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

Ps 63:1-8 ...My soul thirsts for YOU!!