

恭贺新禧

A YEAR OF WISDOM

THE PURSUIT OF LIFE

智慧

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THE WAY OF WISDOM

智慧

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TIGER MOMS (& DADS)



“The Roar of the Tiger Mom”

(*Time*, Jan 31, 2011)

- Mrs. Amy Chua
 - Father’s Model: discipline, name-calling
 - **Tiger Mom**: Uncompromising discipline
 - Compromise: Contextualization – **Rabbit Mom**
- “Hard work, persistence, no patience for excuses: whether Chinese or American, that sounds like a prescription for success with which it’s very difficult to argue.” (40)

MY LIFE STORY



KLOMPEN DAD

VanGemeren's Story: MODEL

- Post-War II Economy
- Faith and Reaction to **Community**
- Faith and **Commitment** to Serve
- Faith and **Character** (Type A)
- The Journey to the **Commitment** to Wisdom (Jesus Christ) was slow and faltering

A STORY FROM PROVERBS



PEER PRESSURE

Children's Perspective

• 1:10 My son, if **friends** entice you, do not give in to them. 1:11 If they say, "Come along with us; **let's make a bundle**; 1:12 let's **get rid of the competition**; 1:13 we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with **stuff**; 1:14 throw in your lot with us, and we will share a common purse" --

Parents' Perspective

• 1:10 My son, if **sinners** entice you, do not give in to them. 1:11 If they say, "**Come along with us; let's lie in wait for someone's blood, let's waylay some harmless soul**; 1:12 let's **swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit**; 1:13 we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with **plunder**; 1:14 throw in your lot with us, and we will share a common purse" --

OUTCOME

• 1:15 my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths; 1:16 for their feet rush into sin, they are swift to shed blood.

– FOLLY - 1:17 How useless to spread a net in full view of all the birds!

– TRAPPED - 1:18 These men lie in wait for their own blood; they waylay only themselves! 1:19

Such is the end of all who go after ill-gotten gain; it takes away the lives of those who get it.

A STORY: MITCH & LAMAR



JOHN GRISHAM, *THE FIRM*

LAMAR'S ADVICE TO MITCH

- “Most good lawyers can work eight or nine hours a day and bill twelve. It’s called padding. It’s not exactly fair to the client, but it’s something everybody does. . . . It’s the name of the game. . . . A lot of things are unethical. . . . We all do it. . . . So you start taking shortcuts.” (58)

JOHN GRISHAM, *THE FIRM*

LAMAR'S ADVICE TO MITCH

When you were in law school you had some noble ideas of what a lawyer should be. . . . Then after you practice for six months you realize you're nothing but hired guns. Mouthpieces for sale to the highest bidder, available to anybody, any crook, any sleezebag with enough money to pay our outrageous fees. . . .

JOHN GRISHAM, *THE FIRM*
LAMAR'S ADVICE TO MITCH

. . . The money makes up for it. It's amazing how much drudgery you can endure at two hundred thousand a year." (58-59)

JOHN GRISHAM, *THE FIRM*
LAMAR'S ADVICE TO MITCH

- AS THE STORY GOES

...

- Lamar loses his Job

- Mitch never gets the Job

FACEBOOK

A Niece: “My parents were MEAN to me when I was a kid. They made me do chores, go to church & school. They gave me a curfew, suggested I get a job and work for the things that I wanted. They insisted that I do my best at school, at my job & to take pride in my work. I grew up with morals, a good work ethic & respect for the law, and my elders. I thank God everyday for my parents.”

- Response from a Nephew: “Amen, sister, but in hindsight I think my parents should have actually been MEANER.”

AT ISSUE: THE STARTING POINT



This World
Another World

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

- "If I find in myself a desire which **no experience in this world can satisfy**, the most probable explanation is that I was made for **another world.**"



WHAT IS “THIS WORLD”?



THIS WORLD

- Community: Peer Pressure
- Commitment to
 - Competition
 - Opportunity, Money, Success
- Character
 - Chameleon-like
 - Slinky
 - Death of Integrity

CHINESE SAYINGS FROM “THIS WORLD”

- If you do not study hard when young you'll end up bewailing your failures as you grow up. 少壮不努力,老大徒伤悲
- If a son is uneducated, his dad is to blame. 子不教,父之过.
- If you have never done anything evil, you should not be worrying about devils to knock at your door. 不作亏心事,不怕鬼叫门.

WHAT IS “THE OTHER WORLD”?



THE OTHER WORLD

- Commitment to
 - Jesus Christ
 - Wisdom
- Character
 - Christ-like
 - Transparent
 - Integrity
- Community: Leadership

WISDOM FROM JOHN R. W. STOTT:
The Radical Disciple (2010)

- “If we want to live **we must die**.
And we will **be willing to die only**
when we see the glories of the life
to which death leads. This is the
radical, paradoxical Christian
perspective.” (135)

THE DOOR TO THE GARDEN OF EDEN

- In the Image of the Triune God:
 - Person
 - Meaningful Relationships
 - Soundness, Wholeness, Integrity



The World of Wisdom

- THE BOOK OF PROVERBS AS GOD'S INSTRUCTION OF "ANOTHER WORLD"





PROVERBS

ONE DOOR TO WISDOM

智慧
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WHO IS THIS DOOR? JESUS

- JESUS CHRIST

- John 10:9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. ...
10:14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me -- 10:15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father--and I lay down my life for the sheep.

HUMAN WORKS & GOD'S GRACE
HUMAN WISDOM & CHRIST'S WISDOM
THE HUNGRY GHOST & THE HOLY
GHOST

- Desire
- Competition
- Hubris (Pride)
- Fear of Others
- Religion
- Cultural Wisdom

- **Beloved**
- **Compassion**
- **Humility**
- **Fear of the Lord**
- **Relationship w.
God**
- **Divine Wisdom**

Desiring & Competitive

- **DESIRING**

- Concern with Self
- Needy and Greedy
- Empty
- Poor Self-Image

- **COMPETITION**

- Criticism
- Frustration
- Build up of Anger
- Rage

Beloved & Compassionate

- **BELOVED**

- Respect for Self & for Others
- Rich
- Full of Life
- Growing Self-Image

- **COMPASSION**

- Observing Life & People
- Patience
- God's constant Love
- Quietness

Hubris & Fear

Humility & The Fear of the Lord

- **HUBRIS (pride)**
 - Superiority
 - Restless (Anxiety)
 - Need of Recognition
- **FEAR OF OTHERS**
 - Duplicity
 - Superstition
 - Self-Respect dependent on Approval

- **HUMILITY**
 - Submission to the Lord
 - Rest
 - Dignity
- **FEAR OF THE LORD**
 - Integrity
 - Joy
 - Self-Respect

Religion & Cultural Wisdom

- **RELIGION**
 - Receiving
 - Formal Ritual
 - Not integrated with Ethics
- **Cultural WISDOM**
 - Cultural
 - Rules
 - Little Transforming Power

Relationship and Divine Wisdom

- **RELATIONSHIP with God**
 - Giving from the Heart
 - Inner Life
 - Integrated
- **DIVINE WISDOM**
 - From God
 - Individual, Situational Response
 - Transforming Power

This world: Disorder

- **Jas 3:15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. 3:16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.**

The Other World: Peace

- **Jas 3:17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace - loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 3:18 Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.**



“The most terrible poverty is loneliness and the feeling of being unloved.”

“The biggest disease today is not leprosy or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted.”

“There is more hunger in the world for love and appreciation than for bread.”

“We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty.”

THE “WHO” & “WHERE” OF WISDOM



WHO IS WISDOM? WHERE IS
WISDOM?

- God the
Father

- Jesus
Christ

- The Holy
Spirit

- In Creation
- In God's Word
- In **JESUS
CHRIST**
- In Godly People
- In **You** by God's
GRACE and by the
Spirit!



WISDOM & CREATION

A GLOBAL
&
ROYAL PERSPECTIVE

RETURN TO THE GARDEN

- **HAPPINESS**

- **Precious** - Prov 3:13 Blessed (*'ašrê*) is the man who finds wisdom (*hokmâ*), the man who gains understanding (*tebûnâ*), 3:14 for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. 3:15 She is more precious than rubies (?); nothing you desire can compare with her.
- **Life** - 3:16 Long life (*hayyîm*) is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches (*`ōšer*) and honor.
- **Pleasant & Peaceful** - 3:17 Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace.

RETURN TO THE GARDEN

- **TREE OF LIFE** - 3:18 She is a tree of life (*hayyîm*) to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed (*'ašrê*).
- **CREATION** - 3:19 By wisdom (*hokmâ*) **the LORD** laid the earth's foundations, by understanding (*tebûnâ*) he set the heavens in place; 3:20 by his knowledge (*da`at*) the deeps were divided, and the clouds let drop the dew.

RESTORATION OF RELATIONSHIPS

- **CHARACTER** - 8:6 Listen, for I have worthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right (*mêšārîm*). 8:7 My mouth speaks what is true ('*emet*, faithfulness), for my lips detest (*tô'abat*) wickedness (*reša`*). 8:8 All the words of my mouth are just (*sedeq*); none of them is crooked or perverse. 8:9 To the discerning all of them are right (*nakhoah*); they are faultless (*yāšār*) to those who have knowledge (*da`at*). ... 8:20 I walk in the way of righteousness (*sedāqâ*), along the paths of justice (*mišpāt*), 8:21 bestowing wealth on those who **love me** and making their treasuries full.

RESTORATION OF RELATIONSHIPS

- **CARING RELATIONSHIPS** - 8:17 I **love those who love me**, and those who seek me find me. ... 8:20 I walk in the way of righteousness (*sedāqâ*), along the paths of justice (*mišpāt*), 8:21 bestowing wealth on those who **love me** and making their treasuries full.

RESTORATION OF RELATIONSHIPS

- **A ROYAL RELATIONSHIP - 8:15**
By me kings reign and rulers
make laws that are just (*sedeq*);
8:16 by me princes govern, and
all nobles who rule on earth.

RESTORATION OF RELATIONSHIPS

- **A LIFE-GIVING RELATIONSHIP** - 8:32 "Now then, my sons, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways. 8:33 Listen to my instruction (*mûsār*) and be wise (hkm); do not ignore it. 8:34 Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. 8:35 **For whoever finds me finds life (*hayyîm*) and receives favor from the LORD.** 8:36 But whoever fails (*hōtē'*) to find me harms himself; all who hate me love death."



THE
“WHEN” & “HOW”
OF
WISDOM



THE “WHEN” OF WISDOM

“A journey of a thousand miles
must begin with a single step.”

千里之行,始于脚下

THE “HOW” OF WISDOM: GROWTH IN WISDOM

SEVEN *ITERATIVE* STEPS
EVERY DAY & EVERY MOMENT
&
EVERYWHERE

1. CULTIVATE A LIVING **RELATIONSHIP** WITH JESUS CHRIST

- Eph 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -- 2:9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 2:10 For **we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

1. CULTIVATE A LIVING **RELATIONSHIP** WITH JESUS CHRIST

- **Relationship: Wisdom as one's Best Friend**
 - **Prov 3:13 Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, 3:14 for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. 3:15 She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. 3:16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. 3:17 Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. 3:18 She is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed.**

1. CULTIVATE A LIVING **RELATIONSHIP** WITH JESUS CHRIST

- **Jesus (Wisdom) as one's Best Friend** - Matt 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 11:29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 11:30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

1. CULTIVATE A LIVING **RELATIONSHIP** WITH JESUS CHRIST

- **Relationship: Wisdom as one's Best Friend -**
Prov 8:12 "I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence;
I possess knowledge and discretion. 8:13 To fear
the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance,
evil behavior and perverse speech. 8:14 Counsel
and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding
and power. ... 8:17 **I love those who love me, and
those who seek me find me.** ... 8:20 I walk in the
way of righteousness, along the paths of justice,
8:21 bestowing wealth on **those who love me** and
making their treasuries full.

2. SEEK GOD'S **WISDOM IN EVERYTHING AT ALL TIMES**

- **A Life of Seeking and Finding, rather than HAVING**
 - 2:1 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, 2:2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, 2:3 and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 2:4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, ...
 - **Response to Children, Family Members, Co-Workers, etc.**
 - **Observe People**
 - **Know yourself and Observe your Reactions in all Situations**

3. RECEIVE THE INSIGHT AS TO HOW TO FEAR THE LORD

- **Fear of the Lord as a GIFT**

- 2:5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. 2:6 For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

4. ENJOY GOD'S PROTECTION AS **HIS BELOVED**

- **A Sense of Belonging and Protection -**
Prov 2:7 He holds victory in store for **the upright**, he is a shield to those whose walk is **blameless**, ... 2:8 for he guards the course of **the just** and protects the way of **his faithful ones**.
2:11 Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.

4. ENJOY GOD'S PROTECTION AS **HIS BELOVED**

- **A Sense of Communion and Community** - Prov 2:20 Thus you will walk in the ways of **good men** and keep to **the paths of the righteous**.
2:21 For **the upright** will live in the land, and **the blameless** will remain in it; 2:22 but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the unfaithful will be torn from it.

5. GROW IN CHARACTER (CHRIST-LIKE **HUMILITY**)

- **A Compassionate Lifestyle:**
Character, Integrity - 2:9 Then you will understand what is **right and just and fair--every good path.** **2:10** For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.

6. BE AN INSTRUMENT OF LIFE AND GRACE TO OTHERS (**COMPASSION**)

- **Become a Rabbit Mom/Dad** -
Prov 15:4 The tongue that brings healing is **a tree of life**, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.
- **Newton's Cradle:**



6. BE AN INSTRUMENT OF LIFE AND GRACE TO OTHERS (**COMPASSION**)

- Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, 14:18 because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men. 14:19 **Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.** 14:20 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble.

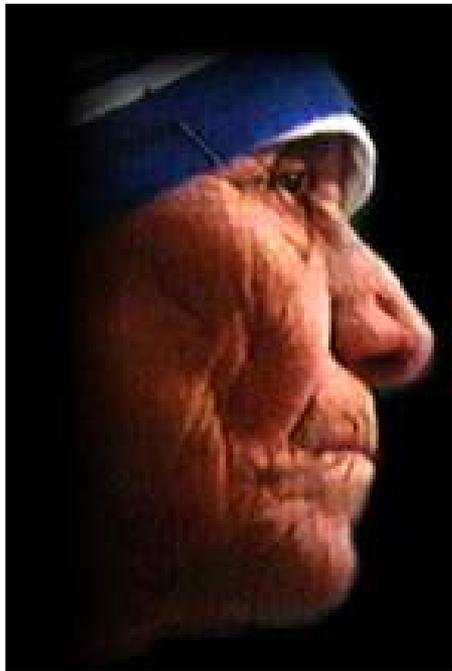
6. BE AN INSTRUMENT OF LIFE AND GRACE TO OTHERS (**COMPASSION**)

- Consider each Person as an Individual
- Respect all Ethnicities
- Respect People from the Other Gender
- Respect Children and Grandchildren as well









**“At the end of our lives,
we will not be judged by
how many diplomas we
have received, how much
money we have made or
how many great things we have done.
We will be judged by ‘I was hungry
and you gave me to eat. I was naked
and you clothed me. I was homeless
and you took me in.’”** ”

7. ACCEPT & SET **LIMITATIONS**

- **God is your Tiger Dad** - Prov 3:11
My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, 3:12 because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

7. ACCEPT & SET **LIMITATIONS**

- **Tiger Mom/Dad Discipline**
MUST lead to Wisdom - Prov 1:15 my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths; 1:16 for their feet rush into sin, they are swift to shed blood.

7. ACCEPT & SET **LIMITATIONS**

- Wisdom's Discipline
 - Prov 2:12 Wisdom will save you from the ways of
 - wicked men, from men whose words are perverse, 2:13 who leave the straight paths to walk in dark ways, ...
 - Prov 2:16 It will save you also from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her seductive words, ...
 - Wise People

7. ACCEPT & SET LIMITATIONS

• Mutual Submission - Eph 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 5:22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 5:24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ... 5:28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 5:29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church -- 5:30 for we are members of his body.

7. ACCEPT **LIMITATIONS**

- DISCIPLINE YOURSELF, not just your Children.
 - Recognize the Difference between False Guilt and True Guilt
 - Help them to see God's Wisdom in you
 - Know the Freedom in Christ
 - Seek Christ's Wisdom (Perspective)

7. ACCEPT **LIMITATIONS**

- God has two Kinds of Children
 - NOBLE or WISE - 2 Tim 2:20 In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes
 - IGNOBLE or FOOLISH - and some for ignoble.
- **USEFUL CHILDREN: WISDOM** - 2 Tim 2:21 If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

7. ACCEPT **LIMITATIONS**

- Counsel to Timothy
 - Redirection - 2 Tim 2:22 **Flee the evil desires of youth,**
 - God's Perspective - ... and **pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.**

Heb 5:8 Although he was a son, **he learned obedience from what he suffered** 5:9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him

- Cultivate a Living **Relationship** with Jesus Christ (MODEL)
- Seek God's **Wisdom**
- Begin to Understand the **Fear of the LORD**



APPLICATIONS



APPLICATIONS

- 1. Cultivate being **a Citizen of “The Other World”**
 - See yourself as being IN CHRIST: **GRACE**
 - Grow in Godly Wisdom (begin with Prov 1-9) and See the Evidence of Christ’s Grace in your LIFE
 - Lead your Child to Christ/Wisdom first and give **RULES** that lead to **BIBLICAL WISDOM**
 - Commitment
 - Character
 - Community

APPLICATIONS

- 2. Contextualize **the Tiger Mom/Dad**, allowing for Grace in your Relationships: **THE RABBIT MOM/DAD**



APPLICATIONS

3. Be **HOLISTIC**

- Look for Growth in the Love for the Lord Jesus Christ, for Character, and for Evidence of Wisdom in
 - Your SELF
 - Your Marriage
 - Your Children and Grandchildren
- In Addition to their Success with Math, Reading, Academics, and in their Professional Life

APPLICATIONS

4. **Accept** yourself, your Children, and Grandchildren. Do NOT just Criticize.

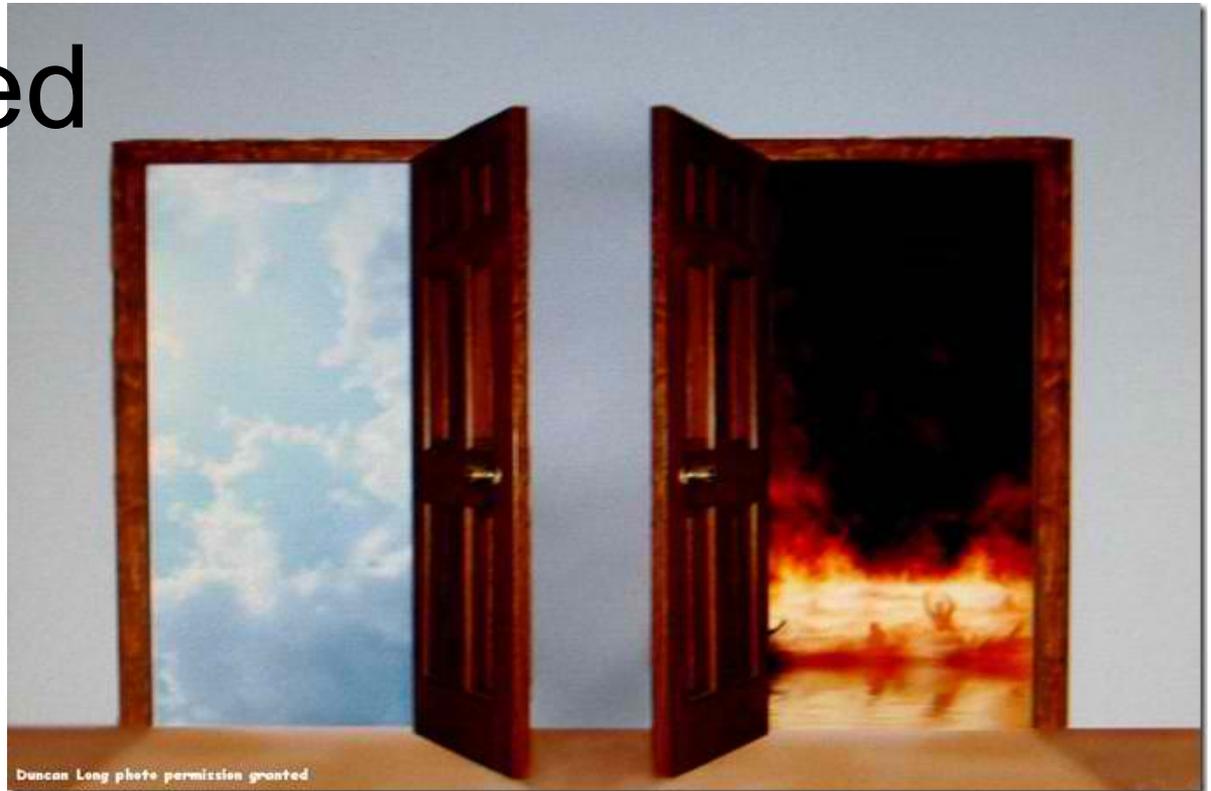
REMEMBER

- REMEMBER
 - The Lord Jesus
 - Your Family
 - Biblical Wisdom
 - Life and the Future
 - LIFE WITHOUT GUILT

REMEMBER

- REMEMBER

The Door to Folly cannot be easily closed



REMEMBER

- REMEMBER

- A Reaction you have set in Motion will continue and cannot be easily stopped.



Loving Christ (Wisdom) from Generation to Generation

by Tao Te Ching, Lao Tzu

What is well planted will not be torn
up.

What is well kept will not escape.

Whosoever leaves their memory to
their children will not fade away.

Whosoever moulds their person, their
life becomes true.

Whosoever moulds their family, their
life becomes complete.

Whosoever moulds their community,
their life will grow.



YOUR TURN

ASK ANY QUESTION
SEEKING GOD'S WISDOM
FOR YOUR LIFE
(and for your children)



Heb 5:8 Although he was a son, **he learned obedience from what he suffered** 5:9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him

- Cultivate a Living **Relationship** with Jesus Christ (MODEL)
- Seek God's **Wisdom**
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A STUDENT COMMENT

- The wisdom books have changed my approach to the study of Scripture and the character of my life. I have been challenged to be more open-minded in dealing with others. I have been too critical of those around me and I realize I have not modeled God's wisdom in my life (but I'm trying to now!). I was not transforming those around me for the glory of God, but putting up judgmental walls.

受苦

JOB

WISDOM
&
SUFFERING

“The spontaneous gifts of Heaven are of high value; but the strength of perseverance gains the prize.”



THE ISSUE IN JOB: SUFFERING

含辛茹苦

hán xīn rú kǔ

to suffer every possible torment



JOB



**THE GROWTH OF
CHARACTER IN SUFFERING**

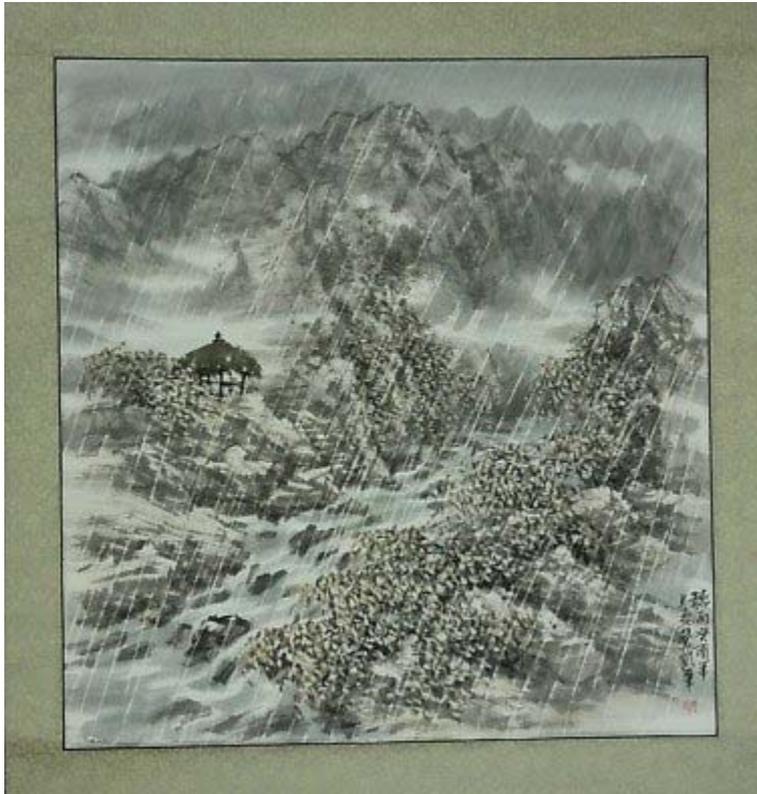
STRUCTURE

- **Prosaic Prologue** (1:1-2:13)
- **DIALOGUES** (Chs. 3-27)
 - **Job's Initial Speech** (3)
 - **Three Cycles Of Dialogue** (4-27)
 - **Cycle I:**
 - **Eliphaz** (4-5) **And Job** (6-7)
 - **Bildad** (8) **And Job** (9-10)
 - **Zophar** (11) **And Job** (12-14)
 - **Cycle II:**
 - **Eliphaz** (15) **And Job** (16-17)
 - **Bildad** (18) **And Job** (19)
 - **Zophar** (20) **And Job** (21)
 - **Cycle III:**
 - **Eliphaz** (22) **Job** (23-24)
 - **Bildad** (25) **And Job** (26-27)

STRUCTURE

- **Wisdom Poem: Where Can Wisdom Be Found? (Ch 28)**
- **Job's Speeches, Chs 29-31**
- **Elihu Speeches, Chs 32-37**
- **God's Speeches And Job's Responses, 38:1-42:6**
- **Prosaic Epilogue, 42:7-17**

JOB AND HIS THREE FRIENDS



ELIPHAZ

BILDAD

ZOPHAR

JOB'S CHARACTER, 1:1-2:13

- **JOB AS A WISE MAN**

- RIGHTEOUS (1:1)
- *TāM*-CHARACTER AS MUCH AS WAY OF LIFE
- FAITHFULNESS (1:20-21; 2:10)

- **TESTS**

- GOD'S ASSESSMENT OF JOB'S FAITH (1:8; 2:3)
- THE CHALLENGE FROM THE ADVERSARY (NOT SATAN):
 - LINK OF FAITH AND PROSPERITY (1:9-11; 2:5)
 - ISSUE: JOB'S RELIGIOUS INTEGRITY AND GOD'S JUSTICE

- **TRAGEDIES**

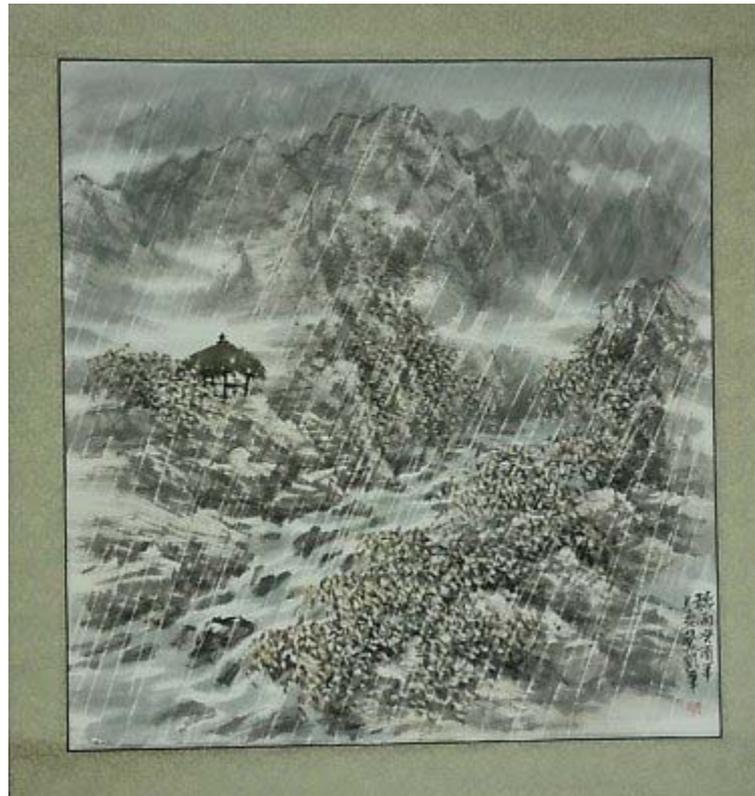
- SABAEANS (DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY), FIRE, CHALDEANS, WINDSTORM, SICKNESS
- END OF WEALTH, CHILDREN, AND HEALTH
- LIFE OF PAIN AND SUFFERING

- **JOB'S RESPONSE: SILENCE AND ACCEPTANCE**

Job's Three Friends

- **ELIPHAZ** - JOB NEEDS TO REPENT: 22:21 "Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you. 22:22 Accept instruction from his mouth and lay up his words in your heart. 22:23 If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored: If you remove wickedness far from your tent (vv. 21-28)
- **Bildad** – All People are like Worms: 25:5 If even the moon is not bright and the stars are not pure in his eyes, 25:6 how much less man, who is but a maggot--a son of man, who is only a worm!"
- **Zophar** - LAW OF IMMEDIATE RETRIBUTION: ... 20:23 When he has filled his belly, God will vent his burning anger against him and rain down his blows upon him. 20:27 The heavens will expose his guilt; the earth will rise up against him. ... 20:29 Such is the fate God allots the wicked, the heritage appointed for them by God."

CHANGES IN THE CHARACTER OF JOB



William P. Brown, *Character in Crisis: A Fresh Approach to the Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament*. Eerdmans, 1996.

- **PROLOGUE**

- Patient Job
- Self-restraint in Speech and in Emotions
- Near Stoic
- Concerned with Personal Honor within Family and Community
- Submissive to God

- **DIALOGUES**

- Bold Tenacity
- Brutal Honesty
- Righteous Anger
- Flagrant Self-assertion
- Ethos of Grievance and Victimization
- Submissive to God

JOB'S LONELINESS

- **ABANDONED BY GOD** - 6:4 The arrows of the Almighty are in me, my spirit drinks in their poison; God's terrors are marshaled against me. . . . 16:7 Surely, O God, you have worn me out; you have devastated my entire household. 16:8 You have bound me--and it has become a witness; my gauntness rises up and testifies against me. 16:9 God assails me and tears me in his anger and gnashes his teeth at me; my opponent fastens on me his piercing eyes.
- **ABANDONED BY PEOPLE** - 16:10 Men open their mouths to jeer at me; they strike my cheek in scorn and unite together against me. 16:11 God has turned me over to evil men and thrown me into the clutches of the wicked.

JOB'S PRAYER FOR JUSTICE

- **WITNESS** - 16:19 Even now my witness (*`ēd*) is in heaven; my advocate is on high. 16:20 My intercessor is my friend {20 Or <My friends treat me with scorn>} as my eyes pour out tears to God; 16:21 on behalf of a man he pleads (*sahadî*) with God as a man pleads for his friend.



SHIFT: JOB 28

FROM THE PURSUIT OF A LOCAL
APPROACH TO JUSTICE AND
RETRIBUTION
TO
THE PURSUIT OF WISDOM

WISDOM IS TRANSCENDENT

- Job 28:1 "There is a mine for silver and a place where gold is refined. 28:2 Iron is taken from the earth, and copper is smelted from ore. 28:3 Man puts an end to the darkness; he searches the farthest recesses for ore in the blackest darkness. 28:4 Far from where people dwell he cuts a shaft, in places forgotten by the foot of man; far from men he dangles and sways. 28:5 The earth, from which food comes, is transformed below as by fire; 28:6 sapphires come from its rocks, and its dust contains nuggets of gold.

WISDOM IS TRANSCENDENT

- 28:7 No bird of prey knows that hidden path, no falcon's eye has seen it. 28:8 Proud beasts do not set foot on it, and no lion prowls there. 28:9 Man's hand assaults the flinty rock and lays bare the roots of the mountains. 28:10 He tunnels through the rock; his eyes see all its treasures. 28:11 He searches the sources of the rivers and brings hidden things to light.

WISDOM IS TRANSCENDENT

- 28:12 "But where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell? 28:13 Man does not comprehend its worth; it cannot be found in the land of the living. 28:14 The deep says, 'It is not in me'; the sea says, 'It is not with me.' 28:15 It cannot be bought with the finest gold, nor can its price be weighed in silver. 28:16 It cannot be bought with the gold of Ophir, with precious onyx or sapphires.

WISDOM IS TRANSCENDENT

- 28:20 "Where then does wisdom come from? Where does understanding dwell? 28:23 God understands the way to it and he alone knows where it dwells, 28:24 for he views the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens. 28:25 When he established the force of the wind and measured out the waters, 28:26 when he made a decree for the rain and a path for the thunderstorm, 28:27 then he looked at wisdom and appraised it; he confirmed it and tested it.

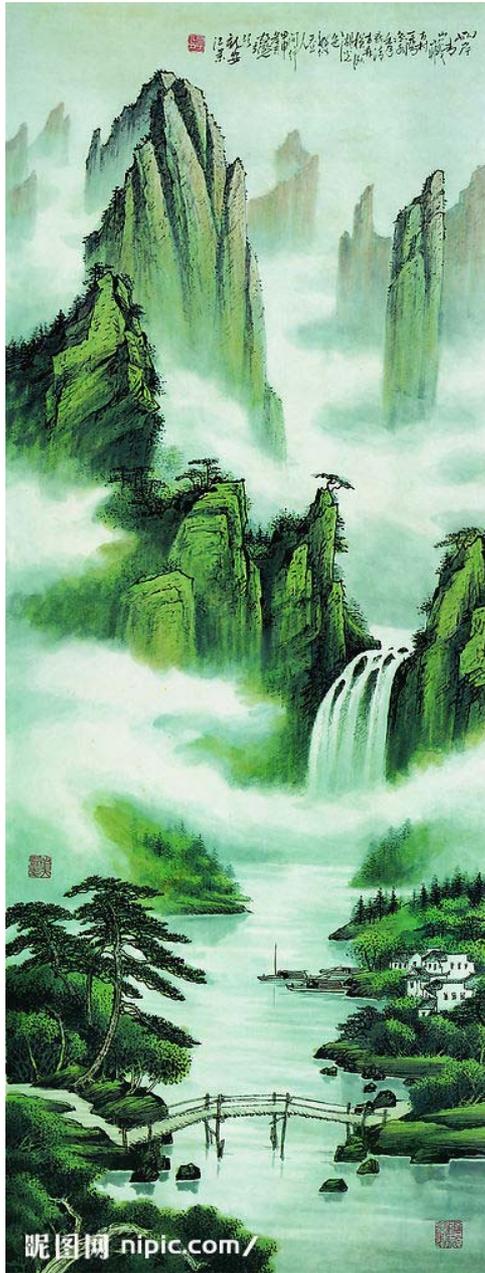
WISDOM IS TRANSCENDENT

28:28 And he said to man,
`The fear of the
Lord--that is
wisdom, and to
shun evil is
understanding.'"



ELIHU (32-37)

GOD IS MARVELOUS IN HIS CREATION - :26 How great is God--beyond our understanding! The number of his years is past finding out. 36:27 "He draws up the drops of water, which distill as rain to the streams; 36:28 the clouds pour down their moisture and abundant showers fall on mankind. 36:29 Who can understand how he spreads out the clouds, how he thunders from his pavilion? 36:30 See how he scatters his lightning about him, bathing the depths of the sea. 36:31 This is the way he governs the nations and provides food in abundance. 36:32 He fills his hands with lightning and commands it to strike its mark. 36:33 His thunder announces the coming storm; even the cattle make known its approach.



GOD SPEAKS

**JOB, DO YOU
REALLY
UNDERSTAND???**

GOD SPEECHES (38:1-42:6)

- **EPIPHANY** - 38:1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm.
- **TWO SPEECHES AND TWO RESPONSES,**
 - **FIRST SPEECH, 38:1-40:2**
 - **QUESTIONS REGARDING CREATION - 38:8**
"Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, 38:9 when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, 38:10 when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, 38:11 when I said, 'This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt'?"

GOD SPEECHES (38:1-42:6)

- THE PROBLEM OF THE OSTRICH - 39:13 "The wings of the ostrich flap joyfully, but they cannot compare with the pinions and feathers of the stork. 39:14 She lays her eggs on the ground and lets them warm in the sand, 39:15 unmindful that a foot may crush them, that some wild animal may trample them. 39:16 She treats her young harshly, as if they were not hers; she cares not that her labor was in vain, 39:17 for God did not endow her with wisdom or give her a share of good sense. 39:18 Yet when she spreads her feathers to run, she laughs at horse and rider.
 - Meaning?
 - GOD UNDERSTANDS
 - WHO CAN UNDERSTAND?

GOD SPEECHES (38:1-42:6)

- JOB'S RESPONSE, 40:3-5
 - HOW CAN I RESPOND? - 40:4 "I am unworthy--how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth.
 - I HAVE SPOKEN TOO MUCH - Job 40:5 I spoke once, but I have no answer--twice, but I will say no more."

GOD SPEECHES (38:1-42:6)

- **SECOND SPEECH**, 40:6-41:26
 - JOB IS A MERE MORTAL - 40:7 "Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. 40:8 "Would you discredit my justice? Would you condemn me to justify yourself? 40:9 Do you have an arm like God's, and can your voice thunder like his? 40:10 Then adorn yourself with glory and splendor, and clothe yourself in honor and majesty.
 - EXAMPLES OF MYSTERY FROM NATURE
 - BEHEMOTH (HIPPOPOTAMUS), 40:15-24
 - LEVIATHAN (CROCODILE), 40:25-32

GOD SPEECHES (38:1-42:6)

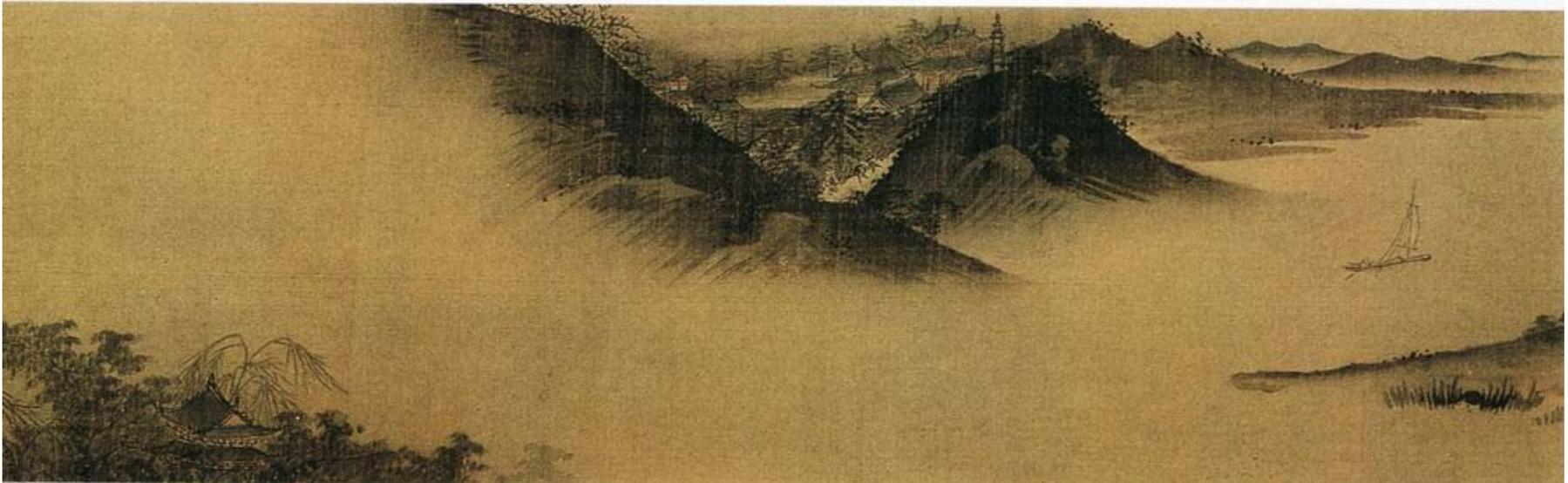
- **Job's Response**, 42:1-6
 - Many Interpretations Of 42:6 - “Therefore I Despise Myself And Repent In Dust And Ashes.”
 - He repents
 - He submits himself to Yahweh’s Wisdom, See **TANAKH**, “Therefore, I Recant And Relent, Being But Dust And Ashes.”

ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM OF PAIN?

- No Simplistic Answer
- The Universe Reveals Yahweh's Wisdom
 - Natural Order: Co-existence Of Chaos And Order
 - Moral Order: Search For Order
- Job Must Find His Counterpart In Creation, Not In God. After all, he is a mere Creature



QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION



A VOICE FROM THE PAST

- I have made a movement from "knowing" (as an engineer by training) to "feeling" and "being." I knew the content of the books of Job and Eccl before, but now they feel like old friends. I can go to them and feel the tensions that are inherent in the questions that they raise. I now empathize more with non-Christians who follow Qoheleth into cynicism and despair. I can quietly sit now with my wife who is suffering under a heavy problem. I don't have to provide a simple solution. I can BE with her as she struggles.

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QOHELETH

**LIFE UNDER THE SUN:
EVERYTHING IS
ABSURD**

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ASPECTS OF
QOHELETH

ABSURDITY
SKEPTICISM
JOY



ABSURDITY & SKEPTICISM

- **SEARCH FOR COMPREHENSIVE WISDOM**
 - **ABSURDITY** -1:13 I devoted myself to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under heaven. What a heavy burden God has laid on men! 1:14 I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.
 - **LIMITATIONS** - 1:15 What is twisted cannot be straightened; what is lacking cannot be counted.

JOY

- **FOOD** – 9:7 Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for it is now that God favors what you do.
- **RELAXATION** - 9:8 Always be clothed in white, and always anoint your head with oil.
- **SOCIAL RELATIONS** - 9:9 Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun-- all your meaningless days. For this is your lot in life and in your toilsome labor under the sun.
- **WORK** - 9:10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.

THREE CONCERNS

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1. GOD'S BEAUTY & HUMAN LIMITATIONS

- A TIME FOR ...
- 3:1 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:
- 3:2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- 3:3 a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,
- 3:4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- 3:5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain,
- 3:6 a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- 3:7 a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- 3:8 a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

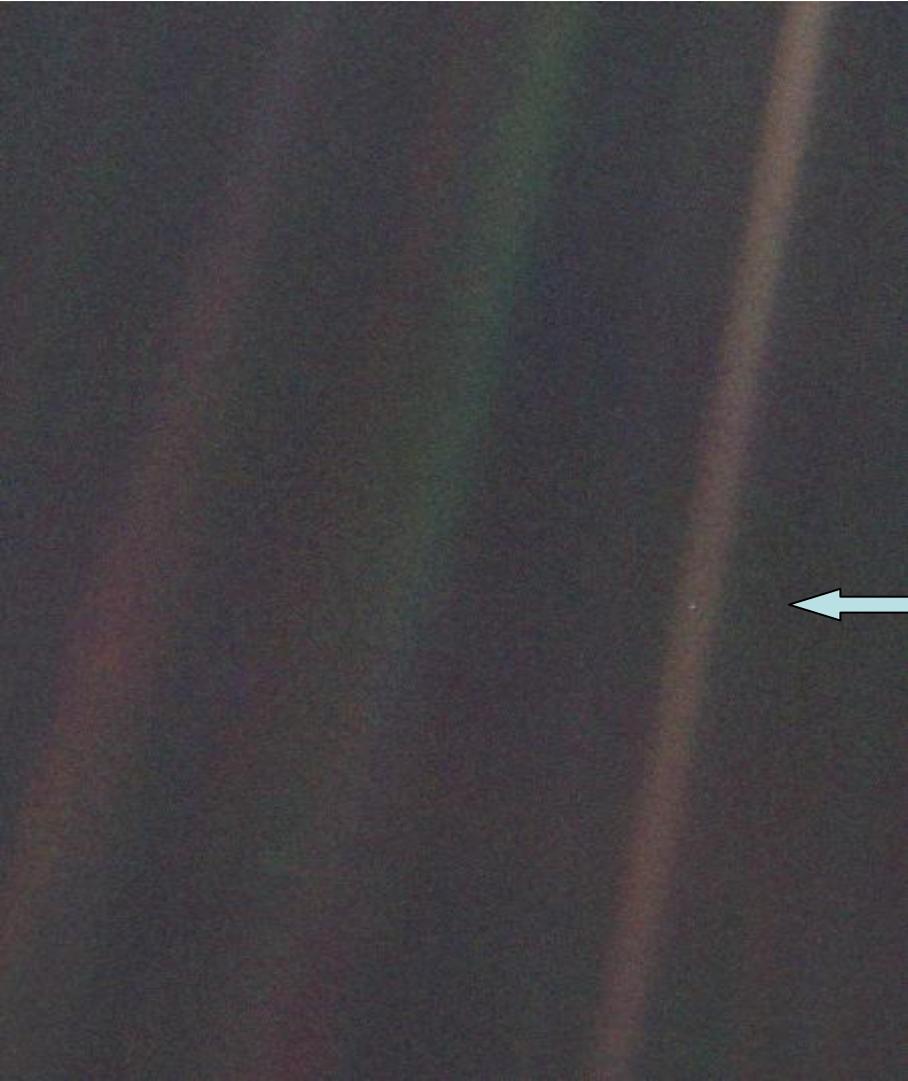
1. GOD'S BEAUTY & HUMAN LIMITATIONS

–**God's Beauty**– 3:9 What does the worker gain from his toil?
3:10 I have seen the burden God has laid on men. 3:11 **He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men;** yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

1. GOD'S BEAUTY & HUMAN LIMITATIONS

– Human LIMITATIONS – 3:14 I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him. 3:15 Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account.

THE EARTH – from Voyager I, from a distance of 3.7 billion miles



- <http://blogs.discovery.com/earth/2009/04/pale-blue-dot.html>

2. DIVINE ORDER & HUMAN INJUSTICE

- **Human Injustice** - 3:16 And I saw something else under the sun: In the place of judgment--wickedness was there, in the place of justice--wickedness was there.
- **Divine Judgment** - 3:17 I thought in my heart, "God will bring to judgment both the righteous and the wicked, for there will be a time for every activity, a time for every deed."

2. DIVINE ORDER & HUMAN INJUSTICE

- **HUMAN INHUMANITY** - 4:1 Again I looked and saw all the oppression that was taking place under the sun: **I saw the tears of the oppressed--and they have no comforter; power was on the side of their oppressors--and they have no comforter.** 4:2 And I declared that the dead, who had already died, are happier than the living, who are still alive. 4:3 But better than both is he who has not yet been, who has not seen the evil that is done under the sun.

2. DIVINE ORDER & HUMAN INJUSTICE

–**ENVY** - 4:4 And I saw that all labor and all achievement spring from man's envy of his neighbor. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. 4:5 The fool folds his hands and ruins himself. 4:6 Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind.

2. DIVINE ORDER & HUMAN INJUSTICE

–**GREED** - 4:7 Again I saw something meaningless under the sun: 4:8 There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. *There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth.* "For whom am I toiling," he asked, "and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?" This too is meaningless--a miserable business!

3. DIVINE POWER AND HUMAN EPHEMERAL AND ELUSIVE EXISTENCE

- **GOD AND HUMANS** - 6:10 Whatever exists has already been named, and what man is has been known; **no man can contend with one who is stronger than he.**
 - **QUESTION 1: WORDS** - 6:11 The more the words, the less the meaning, and how does that profit anyone?
 - **QUESTION 2: MEANING OF LIFE** - 6:12 For who knows what is good for a man in life, during the few and meaningless days he passes through like a shadow? Who can tell him what will happen under the sun after he is gone?



QOHELETH

THE WINTER OF LIFE:

A PERSPECTIVE ON DEATH AND DYING

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THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER

- **LIGHT AND DARKNESS - 11:7**
Light is sweet, and it pleases the eyes to see the sun. 11:8 However many years a man may live, let him enjoy them all. But let him remember the days of darkness, for they will be many. Everything to come is meaningless.

THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER

- **YOUTH** - 11:9 Be happy, young man, while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you to judgment. 11:10 So then, banish anxiety from your heart and cast off the troubles of your body, for youth and vigor are meaningless.

THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER

- The certainty of the end (11:7-12:8)
 - The end of life (Longman and most interpreters)
 - The end of humanity (Seow)



THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER

- The fear of the Lord is important - "Now all has been heard; **here is the conclusion of the matter**: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole [duty] of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment (כִּי אֶת-כָּל-מַעֲשֵׂה הָאֱלֹהִים יִבְּא (בְּמִשְׁפָּט), including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil." (vv. 13-14)

THE APOLOGETIC VALUE OF QOHELETH

- Humans
 - Ephemeral: Life is short
 - Toil
 - Joy
 - Elusive: Life is full of risks
 - Spread the risk
 - Joy



THE APOLOGETIC VALUE OF QOHELETH

- HUMANS AND JESUS CHRIST
 - Common Ground: Suffering
 - Jesus Christ Has Entered Into Our World And Was Also Subject To Suffering
 - Jesus Lived Under The Sun
 - Jesus Also Died
 - Jesus Christ Is The Only Hope Of Humanity

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QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION



SONG OF SONGS

THE BEAUTY
OF
HUMAN LOVE

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QUOTE FROM THE PAST

- The lecture on the Song of Songs has transformed my inner life. In the past, I viewed imagination as a hindrance to living in the knowledge of godly wisdom. Thank God that has changed! I now feel the freedom and experience the joy of holding my imagination captive to enjoy my commitment to my wife more fully. This has removed my self-righteous Stoicism from our marriage and has opened the floodgates to pure, romantic intimacy to be delighted in with my wife as we distance ourselves from others to maintain commitment to each other.

SONG OF SONGS



THE CENTERFOLD OF THE
BIBLE



SONG OF SONGS

THE JOY OF
LOVE

SONG OF SONGS: THREE THEOLOGICAL ASPECTS

1. LOVE: Return to The Garden
Of Eden
2. LOVE: Commitment, Intimacy,
And Distance
3. Love As Eros - Imagination

LOVE IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

MOUNTAIN & GARDEN IMAGES



Iain McGilchrist, *The Master and his Emissary: the Divided Brain and the Making of the Western World*. Yale University Press, 2009.

- BODY

- Movement toward Senses

- Value of embodied World

- SPIRIT

- Story opens us up to

- The “Other:” the “Other World” – God, Spouse, Child

- We need “other than material values to live by” (442)

- ART

- Beauty

- Pathos

- Awe



A Chinese Poem

- I want to be your friend forever and ever

When the hills are all flat
and the rivers run dry

When the trees blossom in winter
and the snow falls in summer,
when heaven and earth mix -
not till then will I part from you.

LOVE IS NOT A RELIGIOUS ACT. IT IS A RETURN TO THE GARDEN OF EDEN

- **JOURNEY FROM THE MOUNTAIN
RETREAT TO THE GARDEN - 4:8** Come with me from Lebanon, my bride, come with me from Lebanon. Descend from the crest of Amana, from the top of Senir, the summit of Hermon, from the lions' dens and the mountain haunts of the leopards. ... 4:11
Your lips drop sweetness as the honeycomb, my bride; milk and honey are under your tongue. The fragrance of your garments is like that of Lebanon.

LOVE IS NOT A RELIGIOUS ACT. IT IS A RETURN TO THE GARDEN OF EDEN: Gazelle, Lilies

- IMAGES

- LIKE A MOUNTAIN GAZELLE - 2:8

Listen! My lover! Look! Here he comes, leaping across the mountains, bounding over the hills. 2:9 My lover is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look! There he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, peering through the lattice.

LOVE IS NOT A RELIGIOUS ACT. IT IS A RETURN TO
THE GARDEN OF EDEN: Gazelle, Lilies

–LIKE A LILY - 2:16 My lover is mine and I am his; he browses among the lilies. 2:17 Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, turn, my lover, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the rugged hills. {17 Or <the hills of Bether>}

RETURN TO THE GARDEN OF EDEN:

The Lily & the Apple Tree

– LIKE LILIES AND TREES

- **ROSE, LILY** - 2:1 I am a rose (crocus) of Sharon, a lily of the valleys. 2:2 Like a lily among thorns is my darling among the maidens.
- **Apple Tree** - 2:3 Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest is my lover among the young men. I delight to sit in his shade, and his fruit is sweet to my taste. 2:4 He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his banner over me is love. 2:5 Strengthen me with raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am faint with love. 2:6 His left arm is under my head, and his right arm embraces me.

RETURN TO THE GARDEN OF EDEN: Sensuality

–GARDEN – 4:12 You are a garden locked up, my sister, my bride; you are a spring enclosed, a sealed fountain. ... 4:15 You are a garden fountain, a well of flowing water streaming down from Lebanon.

RETURN TO THE GARDEN OF EDEN:

Sensuality

- FRUITS, SPICES: 4:13 Your plants are an orchard of pomegranates with choice fruits, with henna and nard, 4:14 nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with every kind of incense tree, with myrrh and aloes and all the finest spices. ...
4:16 Awake, north wind, and come, south wind! Blow on my garden, that its fragrance may spread abroad. Let my lover come into his garden and taste its choice fruits.

RETURN TO THE GARDEN OF EDEN: **Caution**

- **CAUTION** - 2:7 Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.

RETURN TO THE GARDEN OF EDEN: RENEWAL OF LIFE

- **RENEWAL OF NATURE & OF LOVE:** 2:10
My lover spoke and said to me, "Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come with me.
2:11 See! **The winter is past;** the rains are over and gone. 2:12 Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. 2:13 The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me."

QUALITIES OF GARDEN LOVE



- Body & Spirit
- Equality and Diversity
- Dignity and Intimacy
- Happy Intoxication
- Renewal of Life

Chinese Love Poem: Back to Nature

- *cold wind*
- *there is **a cold wind** rising at 3 a.m., and here i am on this furtive pavement of men, haunting the night for you.*
- *for months, **the wine** spilled upon your thigh was sweet against my tongue, and i am now shaking and shaking to learn more of you.*

Chinese Love Poem: Back to Nature

- *i think i saw your feet yesterday morning by the curb;
i know the curve of your heels,
but the sun was rising,
and i was a cold creature shuffling by the road,
hiding among litters of leaves.*
- *i was afraid you would forget me,
like the words you forget when you read,
or the clock you forget when you glance at it
to check the time.*
- *your face contains for me an entire dream,
full of secrets of **the sea**
i long to drink.*
- *among this assembly of **crickets**,
i think of the centuries i've spent waiting for you
in **the tropics, in bodies of captains, sailors,
pirates.***

LOVE INVOLVES **CONSTANCY**,
INTIMACY, BUT ALSO

DISTANCE

LOVE INVOLVES **CONSTANCY**,
INTIMACY, BUT ALSO DISTANCE – 8:6-7.

- **COMMITTED LOVE: CONSTANCY** -- 8:6
Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm;
 - for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave.
 - It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame.
 - 8:7 Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away.
- If one were to give all the wealth of his house.

The Power of Love

- **From I Ching**

When two people are at one
in their inmost hearts,
they shatter even **the strength of iron or
bronze.**

And when two people understand each
other
in their inmost hearts,
their words are sweet and strong,
like **the fragrance of orchids.**

LOVE INVOLVES COMMITMENT, *INTIMACY*, BUT ALSO DISTANCE

- **INTIMACY: A BED IN NATURE** - 1:16
How handsome you are, my lover! Oh,
how charming! And our bed is verdant.
1:17 The beams of our house are
cedars; our rafters are firs.

LOVE INVOLVES COMMITMENT, INTIMACY, **BUT ALSO *DISTANCE***

• **PRESENCE AND ABSENCE**

- A DREAM - 5:2 I slept but my heart was awake. Listen! My lover is knocking: "Open to me, my sister, my darling, my dove, my flawless one.
- PREPARATIONS - My head is drenched with dew, my hair with the dampness of the night." 5:3 I have taken off my robe--must I put it on again? I have washed my feet -- must I soil them again?
- PRESENCE - 5:4 My lover thrust his hand through the latch-opening; my heart began to pound for him. 5:5 I arose to open for my lover, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with flowing myrrh, on the handles of the lock.

LOVE INVOLVES COMMITMENT, INTIMACY, **BUT ALSO *DISTANCE***

- ABSENCE - 5:6 I opened for my lover, but my lover had left; he was gone. My heart sank at his departure.
- SEARCH - I looked for him but did not find him. I called him but he did not answer.
- DISGRACE - 5:7 The watchmen found me as they made their rounds in the city. They beat me, they bruised me; they took away my cloak, those watchmen of the walls!
- LONGING - 5:8 O daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you--if you find my lover, what will you tell him? Tell him I am faint with love.

Chinese Poem on Distance

- Outside the railings
chrysanthemums are sad,
And **orchids** are shedding tears of dew.
The silk curtains hang light and cool,
A pair of **swallows** flying off.
The bright moon knows not the sorrow
Of departure and solitude,
Its slanting rays piercing the vermilion portals
Till dawn breaks.

Last night the west wind withered
the emerald leaves.
Alone, I mounted the stairs
To look down the endless road.
I wanted to write but had not elegant notepaper.
And **the rivers are wide, and the mountains so high**,
I do not know where to locate you.

槛菊愁烟兰泣露。罗幕
轻寒，燕子双飞去。
明月不谙离别苦，斜
光到晓穿朱户。
昨夜西风凋碧树。独
上高楼，望断天涯路
。
欲寄彩笺无尺素，山
长水阔知何处？

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LOVE INVOLVES COMMITMENT,
INTIMACY, BUT ALSO DISTANCE

- Theological And Eschatological
Significance

- Human Love does not KEEP us in
the Garden of Eden
- Humans Need A Greater, More
Permanent Love

QUALITIES OF GARDEN LOVE

- RETURN TO THE GARDEN
 - Body & Spirit
 - Equality and Diversity
 - Dignity and Intimacy
 - Happy Intoxication
 - Renewal of Life
- LOVE
 - Constancy
 - Intimacy
- DISTANCE
- IMAGINATION



LOVE AS EROS: IMAGINATION

Chinese Quote: “Love is of all passions the strongest, for it attacks simultaneously the head, the heart and the senses.”

LOVE AS EROS: FEMALE IMAGINATION

- RHETORICAL QUESTION - 5:9 How is your beloved better than others, most beautiful of women? How is your beloved better than others, that you charge us so?

LOVE AS EROS: FEMALE IMAGINATION

- ANSWER

- **FROM THE HEAD DOWN** - 5:10 My lover is radiant and ruddy, outstanding among ten thousand. 5:11 His head is purest gold;
- **AESTHETIC PERSPECTIVE** - his hair is wavy and black as a raven. 5:12 His eyes are like doves by the water streams, washed in milk, mounted like jewels. 5:13 His cheeks are like beds of spice yielding perfume. His lips are like lilies dripping with myrrh.

LOVE AS EROS: FEMALE IMAGINATION

- **SOLIDITY** - 5:14 His arms are rods of gold set with chrysolite. His body is like polished ivory decorated with sapphires. 5:15 His legs are pillars of marble set on bases of pure gold. His appearance is like Lebanon, choice as its cedars.
- **SWEETNESS** - 5:16 His mouth is sweetness itself; he is altogether lovely. This is my lover, this my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.

LOVE AS EROS: MALE IMAGINATION

- **FROM THE BOTTOM UP** - 7:1 How beautiful your sandaled feet, O prince's daughter! Your graceful legs are like jewels, the work of a craftsman's hands.
7:2 Your navel is a rounded goblet that never lacks blended wine. Your waist is a mound of wheat encircled by lilies.

LOVE AS EROS: MALE IMAGINATION

- **TO THE HEAD** - 7:3 Your breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle. 7:4 Your neck is like an ivory tower. Your eyes are the pools of Heshbon by the gate of Bath Rabbim. Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon looking toward Damascus. 7:5 Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel. Your hair is like royal tapestry; the king is held captive by its tresses.

LOVE AS EROS: MALE IMAGINATION

- **FROM THE FOOT OF THE TREE** - 7:6 How beautiful you are and how pleasing, O love, with your delights! 7:7 Your stature is like that of the palm, and your breasts like clusters of fruit. 7:8 I said, "I will climb the palm tree; I will take hold of its fruit." May your breasts be like the clusters of the vine, the fragrance of your breath like apples, 7:9 and your mouth like the best wine. May the wine go straight to my lover, flowing gently over lips and teeth.

LOVE AS EROS: IMAGINATION

- **IMAGINATION**

- BLESSING

- CURSE



QUALITIES OF GARDEN LOVE

- RETURN TO THE GARDEN
 - Body & Spirit
 - Equality and Diversity
 - Dignity and Intimacy
 - Happy Intoxication
 - Renewal of Life
- LOVE
 - Constancy
 - Intimacy
 - DISTANCE
- IMAGINATION

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION



For Further Reading

- William P. Brown, *Character in Crisis: A Fresh Approach to the Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.
- R. E. Murphy, *The Tree of Life*. Eerdmans, 2002
- [Derek Kidner, *The Wisdom of Proverbs, Job & Ecclesiastes*](#). IVP, 1985.