

you need not fear anyone else (Mt 10:26-31)... It is not a fear that paralyzes, but one that energizes."

- 3) God added, "*To depart from evil is understanding*".
 - a) Understanding is discernment.
 - b) True wisdom also consists in the rejection of evil.
- 4) To those who fear God and depart from evil, God makes His wisdom available. He makes it available through Bible study and prayer.
 - a) God does not give His wisdom to the half-hearted. He requires that we search and dig in the Bible for it.
(Prov 2:1-6) "*My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*"
 - b) James also tells us that God gives wisdom to sincere Christians who ask for it. (Jas 1:5) "*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*"

Conclusion: By wisdom, God ALWAYS makes right and best choices. He did what was best for Job. He is doing what is best for you and me. We need to trust His wisdom. We also need His wisdom that we might have the ability to make right choices in life. You cannot mine wisdom. You cannot buy wisdom, but you can receive wisdom from God. He makes it available to all who will fear Him and depart from evil.

To fear God requires that we have a definite consciousness of His presence in our daily lives. We must spend quality time in His Word, seeking wisdom. We must turn from and flee all that offends God's holy character. I challenge you to ponder these thoughts seriously and let them change your life.

Song: His Way with Thee - 367

God's Inscrutable Wisdom

10 April 2022 PM – Job 28:1-28 – Job2022 – Scott Childs

Introduction: In the chapter before us this evening, Job asks the questions, "*Where shall wisdom be found?*" and "*Whence then cometh wisdom?*" These are good questions. One commentator states, "*But to man this wisdom [by which God made and governs all things] must remain inscrutable. To him God said: Trouble not thyself with inquiring how I govern the world; why I permit the tyrant to be victorious, or innocence and truth to be oppressed: decide not what evil I can or cannot suffer to exist in the world. This is too high for thee: let thy wisdom consist in fearing me, upon whose will all things depend.*"

Michaelis, quoted by Zuck, p.123

The word "**inscrutable**" means impossible to investigate. Job was asking questions about God's inscrutable wisdom, to which God has only revealed limited information. God is so much greater than we are that we can only grasp a tiny fraction of His person.

Transition: As we look at this chapter, I am going to borrow my main three points from Warren Wiersbe as I seek to uncover a bit of God's inscrutable wisdom.

1. You cannot mine wisdom (v.1-11)

a. Man has mined many metals and gems

- 1) Man has dug and found precious metals like silver, gold, iron and brass (v.1-2).
- 2) By searching, man has found precious things like sapphires (v.6), onyx (v.16), crystal (v.17), coral, pearls, rubies, topaz and much more (v.18-19).

b. Man has mined in incredible places

- 1) He has dug deep into the earth, looking for precious things. With lights, man has searched in deep dark mines for ore (v.3).
- 2) They have risked dangers like water in the mines to find their prized treasures (v.4).
- 3) Men find bread or food on the surface of the earth, but inside the earth, they find things that glitter and glow (v.5-6).

- 4) Birds flying over the area and the sharp eye of vultures cannot see the hidden treasures (v.7).
- 5) Fierce lions walk over it but never find it (v.8)
- 6) Man has dug deep into the earth, turning over rocks and disturbing rivers in search of treasures (v.9-11).

❖ *In all of man's digging, then and now, no one has ever found wisdom by human effort. Like finding treasures on earth's surface, we can learn general things about God from nature. (Rom 1:20) "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." Studying nature, however, cannot lead us to God's hidden wisdom.*

2. You cannot buy wisdom (v.12-22)

a. Wisdom is rare and priceless.

- 1) Man knows nothing about the price of wisdom (v.13).
- 2) He cannot find it on earth, where man lives (v.13).
- 3) The deep places and the deep blue sea do not contain wisdom (v.14).
- 4) You cannot buy wisdom with gold or silver (v.15).
- 5) Wisdom is more precious than fine gold and gems (v.16-17).
- 6) Coral and pearls of the sea do not compare to wisdom (v.18).
- 7) Precious topaz and pure gold are of less value (v.19).

b. God hid the source of wisdom from man's eyes.

- 1) Where does it come from? (v.20).
- 2) God has hid wisdom from all living creatures, including the birds of the air (v.21).
- 3) The places of destruction and death have heard of wisdom, but cannot tell man where to find it (v.22).

❖ *Not only can man not mine wisdom, he also could not buy it if he could find it. Wisdom is absolutely priceless. All the riches of the world combined could not buy one thought of wisdom. Years after Job, Solomon wrote much the same when he said, (Prov 8:11) "For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it."*

3. You can only get wisdom from God (v.23-28)

a. God understands the way to wisdom.

- 1) Only God is omnipresent and omniscient (v.24).
- 2) "Although storms appear to be without order, their elements were determined by His wise, creative genius." Zuck, p.125
 - a) God gives the wind its weight or force (v.25).
 - b) God measures the amount of water (v.25).
 - c) God rules the rain (v.26).
 - d) God directs the path of thunderbolts (v.26).
- 3) All that takes place in nature God sees, declares, prepares and searches (v.27). Nothing happens by accident or without God's direction. God is all-wise. Wisdom is part of God's innate nature.
- 4) God, by wisdom, permitted Job's terrible trials.
- 5) Though man is humanly incapable of finding wisdom himself, God has allowed us to see His wisdom in action and has provided a way for us to receive some of His wisdom.

b. God possesses the totality of wisdom (v.28).

- 1) God originated wisdom. He is its source. Wisdom reflects His character. By wisdom He designed, created, governs, and keeps all things in the universe.
- 2) God said, "*Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom*".
 - a) Defining the fear of the Lord is not an easy task. Here is one of the definitions that has helped me. "*Fearing God is recognising His sovereignty over us and respectfully desiring to please Him in all things so as not to offend Him in any way or rouse His displeasure.*"
 - b) We cannot receive God's wisdom without first fearing Him.
 - c) Solomon wrote, (Prov 9:10) "*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.*"
 - d) "The 'fear of the Lord', says Warren Wiersbe, is the fear that conquers fear (Ps.112); for if you fear God,