

# SEARCH FOR WISDOM!

## **Scripture. Job 28:12-15.**

*12 But where can wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?*

*13 Man does not know its value, Nor is it found in the land of the living.*

*14 The deep says, It is not in me ;*

*And the sea says, It is not with me.*

*15 Pure gold cannot be given in exchange for it, Nor can silver be weighed as its price.*

## **Introduction:**

Today we will see one of Job's friends, Bildad's rebuttal, but it is a very short chapter. Then we will move to Job's speech, which is a long speech, but that is his final speech! I will deal with Job's speech in two parts and finish the second part next Sunday. After Job's speech, you will not hear much of either Job or his three friends any longer! But suddenly a fourth person, Elihu comes from somewhere appears, and gives a long-winded speech for 7 chapters. I will briefly touch upon his speech, and then move to the speech of God that brings conclusion to all their arguments! I should be done with book of Job in five or six weeks.

Let us look at Bildad's short speech first, and then move to Job's final speech.

## **Job 25:1-6.**

*1 Then Bildad the Shuhite answered,*

*2 Dominion and awe belong to Him*

*Who establishes peace in His heights?*

*3 Is there any number to His troops?*

*And upon whom does His light not rise?*

*4 How then can a man be just with God?*

*Or how can he be clean who is born of woman?*

*5 If even the moon has no brightness*

*and the stars are not pure in His sight,*

*6 How much less man, that maggot,*

*and the son of man, that worm!"*

Bildad compares between God and man in this passage. Some scholars humorously classify it as the "maggot or worm theology"! The man is compared to a worm or maggot when he is compared with God. True, when we are compared to God, we are absolutely nothing. But on the other hand, we are created in the image of God. As Jesus quotes from Psalm, "ye are gods!" Psalmist tells us that we are fearfully and wonderfully made, and we are created little below the angels! Such a marvelous creation should not be reduced drastically to a worm or a maggot to bring humility within us. Man is indeed formed in the image of God, and he does still carry the fragmented rays of God's glory in him! So let us give him some respect, maven though he is prone to be sinful.

Sometimes, we try to express our humility before others, and we tend to self-deprecate or cut ourselves or reduce ourselves to a worm to prove that we are humble indeed. This is nothing but false humility. We are indeed children of God, and we will not call our own children as worms and maggots! Will we?

But the point Bildad should have made without self-deprecating the human race is that we are absolutely nothing without God in our lives!

But verse 4 is a true statement! How Can a man justify himself before God? The sinful gene is being passed onto him through his mother. Who can deliver him from this molecule structure? Thanks be to Jesus Christ, our Lord! Through His Holy Spirit, He can wash us through His blood, and give us a new birth and new life, and a new heart! We may be unclean, but when we receive Christ, we become clean indeed!

If any of you did not have that experience, can receive it right now! Just pray, Lord Jesus, I believe in your sacrificial death for my sin. Wash me, purge me through your Spirit. I commit myself to follow you all the days of my life. I surrender myself to you. When you say this prayer, and follow up through baptism, you can be sure that you are born again indeed!

### *Job 26:1-3. Job Rebukes Bildad*

*1 Then Job responded,*

*2 What a help you are to the weak!*

*How you have saved the arm without strength!*

*3 What counsel you have given to one without wisdom! What helpful insight you have abundantly provided!*

When we counsel others, it must strengthen, edify others. We must be a source of encouragement even if we must rebuke. If our counseling is all about rebuking, punishing, and hurting others with our words, it becomes a useless counseling. Job's friends did just that! There was no wisdom in their words. Their speech was not insightful.

Just like Bildad, Job also describes the majesty and awesome power of God! You have heard most of these things before. But I am bringing it again deliberately to show you some awesome discoveries!

### *Job 26:5-8.*

*5 The departed spirits tremble  
under the waters and their inhabitants.*

*6 Naked is Sheol before Him,  
and Abaddon has no covering.*

*7 He stretches out the north over empty space, and hangs the earth on nothing.*

*8 He wraps up the waters in His clouds,*

*and the cloud does not burst under them.*

This is something new. Usually, the dead inhabitants were supposed to be in a cave or buried under the ground, but here under the sea! There is nothing hidden from God. He can see under the ground, inside a cave, and even under the bottom of the sea.

**Abaddon has no covering?** Abaddon means sometimes "destruction," sometimes it means "the angel of the bottomless pit" ([Revelation 9:11](#)). <sup>11</sup>They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.), sometimes "the bottomless pit itself" ([Proverbs 15:11](#)).

Here it means the deepest depth of the bottomless pit is no secret to God,"

Verse 7 is very interesting!

<sup>7</sup>“He stretches out the north over empty space and hangs the earth on nothing.

Earth is hanging on nothing!

Until Galileo time, people thought that the earth was flat. Scripture talks about four corners of earth. But here Job is talking about earth is hanging on nothing! Remarkable scientific statement two thousand plus years ago!

Another fantastic scientific data in verse 8.

The clouds are collections of vapors. They contain moisture, or vapor, which ascends from the earth, and which is held in suspension when in small particles in the clouds; as, when a room is swept, the small particles of dust will be seen to float in the room. When these small particles are attracted, and form masses as large as drops, the air will no longer sustain them, and they fall to the earth.

Just imagine, a whole pond can evaporate and go up as vapor and can be stored in those clouds. But when it becomes rainfall it can create streams and ponds! Amazing creation of God, and great observation by Job!

**Job 26:11-14.**

*11 The pillars of heaven tremble and are amazed at His rebuke.*

*12 He quieted the sea with His power, and by His understanding He shattered Rahab.*

*13 By His breath the heavens are cleared; His hand has pierced the fleeing serpent.*

*14 Behold, these are the fringes of His ways; and how faint a word we hear of Him! But His mighty thunder, who can understand?”*

The pillars of Heaven tremble - That is, the mountains, which seem to bear up the heavens. Mount Atlas was represented as one of the pillars of heaven.

We have come across Rahab the sea monster, and He shattered it! The fleeing serpent is the cluster of stars in the sky that looks like a dragon!

We know very little of our creator. The science reveals so much about the awesome power of God. Not all can understand God's power! Only a fool would say that there is no God.

We can see a glimpse of Job's integrity in the following passage. We will come across more later next Sunday.

*Job. 27:3-6.*

*3For as long as life is in me,*

*and the breath of God is in my nostrils,*

*4My lips certainly will not speak unjustly,*

*Nor will my tongue mutter deceit.*

*5 Far be it from me that I should declare you right; Till I die I will not put away my integrity from me.*

*6 I hold fast my righteousness and will not let it go. My heart does not reproach any of my days.*

Job claims that his lips will not say anything unjustly and his tongue will not utter any deceit. Job vows that he will never sacrifice his integrity for any reason. I wish, our modern society would make a vow like that. All we see is lying lips everywhere. Integrity is such a hard commodity to find. I cherish the friendship of those who walk in integrity, and who refrain from any deceptive conversation! Just like Job, we must hold fast our righteousness and we should not let it go at any time. He will not let his conscience rebuke him at any time. If our heart condemns us, we have done something wrong. We must examine ourselves and confess! Let us hold onto integrity until we go down the grave. We become very comfortable with each other when we have integrity as our common denominator. Even if we become vulnerable, such people will not take advantage of us. There are only two kinds of people. The ones with integrity, and the ones who do not. I will distance far away from those who do not have integrity at all. Hold onto your integrity at any cost! Your integrity is everything. People should be able to trust us and be comfortable with us all the time. Integrity is the one that makes it happen.

Punishment for the wicked!

*Job. 27:13-17.*

*13 This is the portion of a wicked man from God, and the inheritance which tyrants receive from the Almighty.*

*14 Though his sons are many, they are destined for the sword; and his descendants will not be satisfied with bread.*

*15 His survivors will be buried because of the plague, and their widows will not be able to weep.*

*16 Though he piles up silver like dust, and prepares garments as plentiful as the clay,  
17He may prepare it, but the just will wear it, And the innocent will divide the silver.*

This passage seems to contradict what Job was talking about the wicked in earlier chapters. His friends were saying the same about the wicked throughout their conversation. But Job vehemently contradicted this position and said that wicked indeed

prosper and there is not much trace of God punishing them in his life? But now he seems to switch his tune totally in this passage, and agrees with his friends concerning the wicked? So what is going on here? I will take it this way: we all tend to contradict ourselves at times! We tend to forget what we spoke earlier, and we may say something else. We may have to take it that way in this circumstance.

In chapter 28, Job brings a detailed analysis about wisdom. Also, we can learn about mining in those days!

Here Mining for gold is compared with wisdom!

*Job. 28:1-4.*

*1 Surely there is a mine for silver, and a place where they refine gold.*

*2 Iron is taken from the dust, and copper is smelted from rock.*

*3 Man puts an end to darkness, and to the farthest limit he searches out the rock in gloom and deep shadow.*

*4 He sinks a shaft far from habitation, Forgotten by the foot; They hang and swing to and fro far from men.*

When I talk about mining, I tend to feel claustrophobic. I do not like to be in the narrow passages of any caverns, no matter how beautiful they are! Any story that talks about people stuck in a hole below the ground would suffocate me! I carefully avoid such attractions. In Jerusalem, there is a place called Hezekiah's tunnel. I avoided it like a plague even though I have been to Jerusalem three times!

Here the author talks about people searching for precious metal through the cut rocks in gloom and deep shadow! The entire passage is very difficult to understand because no one knows for sure how the mining was done in those days!

They cut through the rock, they insert a shaft inside that hole, and people hang and swing to and fro from that shaft like monkeys? Also, the hole of the shaft brings tiny bit of sun ray into the deep crevices! The purpose of this passage is to show how hard people must work and take tremendous risk in order to bring your precious jewelry! Why do people risk their precious life for shiny objects of life? Not worth it! Women, do we have to encourage this kind of hard labor? I hope you all settle for imitation gold!

*Job. 28: 5-8.*

*5 The earth, from it comes food, And underneath it is turned up as fire.*

*6 Its rocks are the source of sapphires, and its dust contains gold.*

*7 The path no bird of prey knows, Nor has the falcon's eye caught sight of it.*

*8 The proud beasts have not trodden it, Nor has the fierce lion passed over it.*

It is interesting to note that there is fire underneath the rock, probably they are volcanic rocks, and deep inside are the hidden jewels of sapphire and gold. No animal or birds may have ever set foot in that underground places.

Job. 28: 9-11.

*9 He puts his hand on the flint; He overturns the mountains at the base.*

*10 He hews out channels through the rocks, And his eye sees anything precious.*

*11 He dams up the streams from flowing,  
And what is hidden he brings out to the light.*

Man works so hard to dig through mountain. He sifts through it slowly, and ultimately, he overturns the whole mountain! That is a lot of hard work! He hews through the rock and makes tunnels to see if there is any precious stone. He controls the water below those rocks also. It just shows that the gold you wear does not come out that easy. One has to cut through a whole mountain to gather few pounds of gold. It is very complicated, one has to be brave, highly skilled, perseverant, willing to take very high risk, and must work extremely hard to go into this kind of mining business!

Seeking wisdom is also like that! It takes a lot of hard work and seeking!

Job 28:12-15.

*12 But where can wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding? 13 Man does not know its value, Nor is it found in the land of the living.*

*14 The deep says, It is not in me ;  
And the sea says, It is not with me.*

*15 Pure gold cannot be given in exchange for it, Nor can silver be weighed as its price.*

Many people do not care to seek wisdom. They just enjoy their foolish path of pleasure. Wisdom of God is a precious gift to seek. The deep will not have it. The sea will not have it either. Wisdom cannot be bought

as an exchange for gold or silver. Solomon tried to find wisdom in pleasures, in labor, in death and life in this world. But they were all mere illusion! (Ecclesiastes)

Job 28:20-23.

*20 Where then does wisdom come from? And where is the place of understanding?*

*21 Thus it is hidden from the eyes of all living. And concealed from the birds of the sky.*

*22 Abaddon and Death say, With our ears we have heard a report of it.*

*23 God understands its way,  
And He knows its place.*

Where does the wisdom come from then? It certainly comes from God as a perfect gift from heaven. Spirit of wisdom comes through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

James 1:5."If any of you lack wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

James also explains how wisdom helps one acquire other forms of virtue, "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." James 3:17

King Solomon did not ask for any material wealth. He asked for wisdom and understanding! Paul wants us to seek spiritual wisdom of God and not the foolish earthly wisdom.

**Job 28: 24-28.**

*24 For He looks to the ends of the earth, and sees everything under the heavens.*

*25 When He imparted weight to the wind, and meted out the waters by measure,*

*26 When He set a limit for the rain, and a course for the thunderbolt,*

*27 Then He saw it and declared it; He established it and also searched it out. 28 And to man He said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; And to depart from evil is understanding.”*

God's wisdom can be seen in the intricacy of His creative power. We can see that in a blade of grass. We can see it in the human cells, we can see it in the sky, the stars, the planets, we can see in the animals, and of course in the human beings, who are the pinnacle of all creation!

Whatever God calls you to do, put your 100% effort. We must dig out the nuggets of Word of God everywhere and cherish it. Like the gold miner, dig deep and study the scripture and gain wisdom and understanding!

Spirit of God is that wisdom! Jesus is our wisdom, righteousness, peace and joy. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding.

What can we learn from these passages today?

Conclusion:

1. Be a good, encouraging counselor. Let us not be like Bildad.
2. Remember, we are absolutely nothing. But we are everything in Christ! We are not worms anymore! We are daughters and sons of the most high God!
3. There is nothing hidden before God! He sees everything! We cannot hide from God! Adam tried, Jonah tried, but they were exposed.
4. Do not compromise your integrity for any reason!
- 5: search for wisdom at any cost. Work hard at it. It requires very hard work, and skill.

Ask God for the wisdom. He will give us!

Wisdom of God and integrity is everything in our lives. I'll continue the thought of integrity next week.

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