

## WISDOM LITERATURE # 7

## 'GOD'S WISDOM SURPASSES OURS'

Read Job 38: 1-5 & 42:1-6 & Romans 11:33-36



'Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!' (Romans 11:33) We could all, I suspect, say amen to that, but let's remind ourselves of some of the glimpses, even insights, God has provided for us through his Word.

There is a beautiful picture of God's wisdom in **James 3:17** which could be summarised as holy, peaceful, gentle, marked by love and humility.

**Yes, humility. Have you considered this characteristic of God before? What biblical examples are there?** Proverbs 1:7 says, 'The fear

of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom', so awe, respect and humility before God, fully accepting our own smallness and limitations, is the essential start point if we are to receive His wisdom.

The vastness and immeasurable depths of his wisdom and knowledge is for many believers best considered and displayed through His act of creation; it is both beyond magnificent and our understanding (Proverbs 3:19-20, Psalm 104:24-25 and 139:13-16, Isaiah 45:12, Romans 1:20). The all-knowing Creator established the physical laws that hold the cosmos together, the properties of amazing complexity and delicate balance of ecosystems on earth that allows life in all its richness to exist. Consider the complexities of the human body; the DNA genetic codes, the nervous system transmitting signals in split seconds, proteins and acids within finely tuned and co-ordinated, every human and all created life being unique. **This is wisdom far beyond human capacity. Which particular aspect of creation speaks to you? How and why?**

Why does understanding God's wisdom matter? It should firstly give us confidence in God's plans and purposes; He is working all things for His glory and our welfare (Jeremiah 29:11-13). It is glimpsing His greatness, His flawless plans, His great love for all He has created, that should inspire the praise and worship that is our duty and our desire. God's great wisdom plan was primarily displayed in the coming of Jesus Christ as God in human flesh, appearing at precisely the right time in human history (Galatians 4:4) to offer forgiveness and restoration of relationship with Him (Romans 10:9-11). **Would you say God is always willing to share His wisdom with us? If so, how?**

Placing our confidence in the goodness of God's plans and purposes should motivate us to grow in God's wisdom. Divine wisdom is obtained by studying the scriptures, and through prayer and reflection. Through these ways, the Holy Spirit nudges us (or sometimes stronger!) towards the right direction, and leads to outcomes that run parallel with His plan. We need to remember that we look to God first, and not when we have made a decision and only seek his endorsement of our own plan. The Bible teaches us that seeking God's wisdom ushers in a myriad of blessings, leading to peace and fulfilment, positively transforming every aspect of our lives. **We should share God's wisdom. How do we do this?**

**Prayer:** *Enter into my mind, Lord, guide and direct my thoughts. Be before me when I speak, be beside me when I act, be within me when I listen, that I might possess the wisdom born of love, for you are love. Amen* (adapted from a prayer of Frank Topping)