

PTB #21: Self-Image and Wisdom From God.



C. S. Lewis

British Writer

Clive Staples Lewis was a British writer and lay theologian. He held academic positions in English literature at both Oxford University and Cambridge University. He is best known for his works of fiction, especially *The Screwtape Letters*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and *The Space Trilogy*, and for his non-fiction Christian apologetics, such as *Mere Christianity*, *Miracles*, and *The Problem of Pain*.

INTRODUCTION:

For Wisdom we naturally turn to God in His word and words of the Bible, and that leads us in this beginning of Top Topic 6, *The Wisdom of God and Man*, to get into what is called the wisdom literature of the Bible. You know it as *Proverbs*, *Ecclesiastes*, etc.

1. Self-Image and the Wisdom from God.

"Your real, new self (which is Christ's and also yours, and yours just because it is His) will not come as long as you are looking for it. It will come when you are looking for Him. Does that sound strange? The same principle holds, you know, for more everyday matters. Even in social life, you will never make a good impression on other people until you stop thinking about what sort of impression you are making. Even

in literature and art, no man who bothers about originality will ever be original whereas if you simply try to tell the truth (without caring two pence how often it has been told before) you will, nine times out of ten, become original without ever having noticed it. The principle runs through all life from top to bottom, Give up yourself, and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will save it. Submit to death, death of your ambitions and favourite wishes every day and death of your whole body in the end submit with every fibre of your being, and you will find eternal life. Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in."

— C.S. Lewis, [Mere Christianity](#)

2. During these four messages on Top Topic number 6, Wisdom of God, we will find a great concept illuminated that GOD IS THE GREAT MAKER OF HISTORY.

The Bible is so much greater than any other book for one reason that IT BOTH PLANS HISTORY, MAKES HISTORY, AND WRITES HISTORY. Even as God the Father is paramount in the making of heaven and earth, so God the Holy Spirit is tops in the long task of writing the Bible. As near as we can tell below is the subject outline of the Bible God the Holy Spirit had in mind as He engineered the writing of the Bible over a period of at least 4,000 years and 40 human authors.

Subject Outline of the Bible.

- I. The Living God of the Living
- II. Righteousness of God and Man
- III. The Composite Witness of the Bible
- IV. God, Man and the Son of Man
- V. The Resurrection
- VI. Wisdom From God**
- VII. The Gospel
- VIII. Listening More Important Than Sacrifice
- IX. What Happened to the Jews as the Chosen nation'
 - X. The Salvation of God
 - XI. The New King of Israel
 - XII. The Living God Wants Others to Live

Sorry, I can think of no other word than “magic” to use for this 12 subject topical outline of the Bible which at the same time is an approximate record of the time sequence of God’s progressive revelations in the Bible. The marvel of both a topical and Bible-book sequential outline of the Bible comes out of the way God had the Bible of Old and New Testament books written, another marvel of the way He has and continues to work in history. **{Revelation is complete, but the process of illumination goes on!}** Paul as chief editor of the New Testament, having written 14 of the 27 NT books and sponsored 3 others, was key to the manner in which God, Christ, the Spirit of Christ, and the Holy Spirit used a careful selection of quotes to be taken from the Old Testament and repeated in the NT, with explanations and further revelations based on those quotes; however, Jesus started the trend, as you will notice especially from Matthew how often He quoted from the OT and with what respect it had for it as the Word of God **{taught by God**

Himself, Jesus knew both the original source and how it was Scriptures}; also the other Apostles like Peter and John, indeed all the writers of the NT were either Apostles or had special apostolic sponsorship as John Mark and Luke did from Paul. God Himself created the consistency and harmony of the Bible itself by controlling the time, places, and events that made up the quoting of the OT in the NT, with subsequent explanations and amplifications. Of course, the consistency of the Bible as far as content and as far as method of writing is based on the consistency of the character of God Himself.

3. ‘The image of God is a foundational concept for understanding our significance and purpose. Understanding how we are made in God’s image helps us to see the basis for the dignity and purpose of our life and work.’

*Dr. Art Lindsley
December 11, 2012*

<https://tifwe.org/made-in-the-image-of-god-the-basis-for-our-significance/>

4. God and Self Images and Image of the World (World Perspectives): Here is the bottom line of what we can expect in the Bible of Wisdom from God.

All the Gospel implications of Jesus as the new foundation stone for the new remnant.

1. Israel as a nation has not been able to see and hear this Gospel, nor to become part of the new remnant.
2. All of “Israel”, the new remnant, is not of the nation of Israel; but all of this “Israel”, the new remnant, shall be saved.
3. The Covenant of God with this new remnant of the new nation of “Israel”, of a few Jews and Gentiles, includes that God will take away their sins. Even as this new remnant is the real Israel, so the real Captivity and Restoration is the taking away of the bondage of this sin.
4. God the Father has pre-determined and even sworn on the fact in the Old Testament that every single knee on this earth and in history shall bow to Him, and confess that He alone is God.
5. It was predicted by the Prophet Isaiah that Gentiles would believe in the root of Jesse and David, Jesus the foundation stone.
6. The ones that God has spoken of in Isaiah and the rest of the Old Testament, those of the new remnant of the new nation of Israel, will see, hear, understand, and believe the Gospel of the foundation stone of Jesus.

I. Exegesis of Wisdom of God and Man.

In our original outline of the Bible, the Wisdom of God comes from Scripture running all the way from Proverbs 2 to that of Scripture coming from Psalm 69; and as in most exegetical outlines of the top topics, this group of OT quotes in the NT naturally outlines itself in the 4 sections of:

1. Two kinds of response and people from quotes in the book of Proverbs, which you would normally expect for wisdom from the classically called wisdom literature of the Bible;
2. Some wise and unwise responses to God, also from quotes in Proverbs, chapters 22 thru 26;
3. Making life's decisions in terms of the terminal One Day from more of the wisdom literature in Ecclesiastes and in Psalm 37-41 (while Psalms is not classically considered by scholars as Wisdom Literature, the natural outline of the Bible based on OT quotes in the NT dictates that it is); and
4. God's Eternal Wisdom rests in Christ, also from Psalms in Psalm 45 thru 69.

NOTE: Here we must see the distinction from a literal outline of the Bible according to the sequence of quotes in the OT, and a natural flow of the subject or topical outline. You can begin to realize that as you see that the literal outline consists of 3 of the Master Tables, 6-8.

Table 6: Gospel in Psalm 1-41.

Proclaimed (Old Test)	Established (Matthew)	Explained (Heb/Rom)	Reinforced (Luke)	Appendix (Mark)
Psalm 2:1,2	Insert from Acts: Acts 4:24-26			
Psalm 2:7	3:17	Hebrews 1:5	9:7	
		Hebrews 17:5		
		Romans 5:5		
Psalm 8:4-6		Romans 2:6		
Psalm 8:7			20:42	
Psalm 12:36		Hebrews 8:7		
Psalm 14:1-3		Romans 3:10		
Psalm 16:20				1:24
Psalm 18:3,4			1:67-73	
Psalm 18:25	5:7			

Psalm 18:49		Romans 15:9		
Psalm 22:1	27:46	Hebrews 5:34	22:18	15:24
Psalm 22:19	27:35			
Psalm 22:22		Hebrews 2:12		
Psalm 24:3-5	5:8			
Psalm 34:12-16	Insert from the Apostle Peter: I Peter 3:10-12			
Psalm 34:20	Insert from the Apostle John: John 19:36			
Psalm 35:19	Insert from the Apostle John: John 15:25			
Psalm 41:9	Insert from the Apostle John: John 13:18; 17:12			

Table 7: Gospel in Psalms 37-118.

Proclaimed (Old Test)	Established (Matthew)	Explained (Heb/Rom)	Reinforced (Luke)	Appendix (Mark)
Psalm 37:11	5:5			
Psalm 40:608		Hebrews 10:5		
Psalm 41:9		Hebrews 14:18		
Psalm 42:1		Hebrews 1:11		
Psalm 42:6		Hebrews 14:34		
Psalms 45:6,7		Hebrews 1:8		
Psalm 48:2	5:33ff			
Psalm 55		Hebrews 5:6		
Psalm 62:12	16:27		8:38	
Psalm 69:9		Romans 15:3		
Psalm 69:21	27:34			
Psalm 69:22		Romans 11:9		
Psalm 72:18			1:67-73	
Psalm 78:2	13:35			
Psalm 82	21:16			
Psa 89:4,26,38,48	16:18			

Psalm 91:11	4:6	Romans 4:10		
Psalm 95:7,8		Hebrews 3:15		
		Romans 4:7		
Psalm 95:7-11		Hebrews 3:7		
Psalm 102:25-33		Romans 1:10		
Psalm 104:4		Hebrews 1:7		
Psalm 104:8,9		Hebrews 1:8		
Psalm 105:8;106:10			1:67-73	
Psalm 110:1		Hebrews 1:13	12:36	
Psalm 110:4		Heb 5:6/Rom 7:21		
Psalm 111:9			1:67-73	
Psalm 117:1		Romans 15:11		
Psalm 118:22	21:42	Romans 9:33	20:17	
Psalm 118:22f				12:10,11
Psalm 118:26	21:9		23:38ff	11:9

Table 8:Gospel from Solomon.

Proclaimed (Old Test)	Established (Matthew)	Explained (Heb/Rom)	Reinforced (Luke)	Appendix (Mark)
Proverbs 3:12		Hebrews 12:6		
Proverbs 15:16	Insert from Apostle Paul: I Timothy 6:6			
Proverbs 26:11	Insert from the Apostle Peter: II Peter 2:22			
Proverbs 27:4	Insert from the Apostle James: James 4:5			
Ecclesiastes 12:1-3				13:24

39-6: Wisdom from God.

I. Two Kinds Response/People.

Proverbs

Let a man ask in faith and without a desire to consume it on his own lusts in order to get wisdom from God: Proverbs 2:3-6 and James 1:5.

Wisdom of God includes discipline of the LORD: Proverbs 3:12 and Hebrews 12:6.

To turn sinner from error of ways: Proverbs 10:12 and James 5:20. (1). Saves a soul from death; and

(2). Covers a multitude of sins.

Some do the deed of their father the devil: Proverbs 18:4 and John 7:38.

II. Some wise and unwise responses to God.

Those who have the knowledge of Jesus then return to worldly entanglements are like dogs returning to vomit: Proverbs 26:11 and II Peter 2:22.

To plan on tomorrow apart from the will of God is foolish: Proverbs 27:1 and James 4:13.

Rich foolishly fall into temptations and snares: Proverbs 28:20 and I Timothy 6:9.

III. Making life's decisions in terms of the terminal One Day.

Ecclesiastes

While the Prophet Solomon primarily speaks of this diminished light from aging, the consistency of the words and phrases with that of the diminished lights after the final tribulation of Jesus in Mark 13 and Matthew 24, so that as in many prophecies we naturally look for something more immediate like aging and something more distant like the final shaking of the heavens and the earth as the sun and moon will be darkened, the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven will be shaken: Ecclesiastes 12:1-3 and Mark 13:24.

Psalm 36-77

Then the meek will inherit the earth: Psalm 37:11 and Matthew 5:5.

In preparation for this new people of the new heavens and earth God has provided a body, the body of Christ, as He took away burnt offerings and sacrifices: Psalm 40:6-8 and Hebrews 10:5.

The unwise eats bread at the table of Christ while they lift up their heel against Him: Psalm 41:9 and John 13:18.

IV. God's Eternal Wisdom rests in Christ.

God the Father, Psalm 45:6,7 and Hebrews 1:8, says of God the Son:

- (1). Your throne is forever, O God;
- (2). Rule of your kingdom is righteousness; and
- (3). You loved righteousness, hated iniquity.

Some statements by Christ before made on earth:

- (1). They hated me without cause: Psalm 69:4 and John 15:25.
- (2). The reproaches of God fell on me: Psalm 69:9 and Romans 15:3.

II. Topical on Wisdom of God and Man.

1: Two Kinds Response/People.

1. Let a man ask in faith and without a desire to consume it on his own lusts in order to get wisdom from God: Proverbs 2:3-6 and James 1:5.
2. Wisdom of God includes discipline of the LORD: Proverbs 3:12 and Hebrews 12:6.
3. To turn sinner from error of ways: Proverbs 10:12 and James 5:20.
 - (1). Saves a soul from death; and
 - (2). Covers a multitude of sins.
4. Some do the deed of their father the devil: Proverbs 18:4 and John 7:38.

2: Some wise and unwise responses to God.

1. Those who have the knowledge of Jesus then return to worldly entanglements are like dogs returning to vomit: Proverbs 26:11 and II Peter 2:22.
2. To plan on tomorrow apart from the will of God is foolish: Proverbs 27:1 and James 4:13.
3. "Those who desire to be Rich" foolishly fall into temptations and snares: Proverbs 28:20 and I Timothy 6:9.

The full extent of how out of context Southern Baptist preachers have become, and by a former President of the SBC, with the obvious contradiction to a simultaneous claim for respectability of a literal Bible interpretation by this fundamentalists controlled convention, is the nerve of Jack Graham last Sunday to preach the Gospel of Wealth and Prosperity from Jeremiah 29:11; and in the message to have the dream-like gaul to cite this message as a blessing for him on the way to his success at the top of the professional Baptists pile. In the first place, Graham has never been in captivity in Babylon, which is where this remnant of God's people found themselves as the Prophet Jeremiah specifically addressed chapter 29 to the captives--and where they would be for 70 years as predicted in Isaiah [\[see the "Plight of Prophets", a Message in the Bible Studies in Jeremiah series\]](#); and furthermore how can you have a nerve to preach a Gospel of

Prosperity message to a people suffering, away from their homeland and the security and comfort they knew in Judah and Jerusalem, to a people who had recently lost so much.

Yes, the message of comfort and security in Jeremiah, as so often in the other Prophets, refer to a short-live time of national prosperity later; but primarily to an elongated time of welfare for eternity on the new earth. And above all it applies to a very specialized and small group, "one from every city and two from every family" and comparable to the only 7000 during the time of Elijah who God had reserved **{alias, to whom God had selectively provided Security}** for Himself, that has always been part of the plan of God to get a few from each generation to re-populate the immigration on the new earth, what one might call "A Specialized Security of the Believer for a Remnant of the Remnant. **{See the book of Malachi for more on the remnant of the remnant.}**" Always, in Old and New Testaments, you must in all intellectual honesty, and like Graham representatively on the fundamentalists fails weekly to do, distinguish between the larger group of the "called" of God's people and the much smaller--say in the category of two from every family and one from every city--group of the "chosen" of God's people. In other words, the classical doctrine of Baptists, "The Security of the Believer", is true; but if you are intellectual honest about it, and about the Bible on it in the total context, you will read in there that the Security of the Believer is only for a very specialized group of the called of God's people.

3: Making life's decisions in terms of the terminal One Day.

1. After tribulation the sun and moon will be darkened, the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven will be shaken: Ecclesiastes 12:1-3 and Mark 13:24.
2. Then the meek will inherit the earth: Psalm 37:11 and Matthew 5:5.
3. In preparation for this new people of the new heavens and earth God has provided a body, the body of Christ, as He took away burnt offerings and sacrifices: Psalm 40:6-8 and Hebrews 10:5.
4. The unwise eats bread at the table of Christ while they lift up their heel against Him: Psalm 41:9 and John 13:18.

4: God's Eternal Wisdom rests in Christ.

1. God the Father, Psalm 45:6,7 and Hebrews 1:8, says of God the Son:
 - (1). Your throne is forever, O God;
 - (2). Rule of your kingdom is righteousness; and
 - (3). You loved righteousness, hated iniquity.
2. Some statements by Christ before made on earth:
 - (1). They hated me without cause: Psalm 69:4 and John 15:25.
 - (2). The reproaches of God fell on me: Psalm 69:9 and Romans 15:3 come back to the 4 figures of baptism of I Peter 3, I would compare it to persons thinking that their head is above water--that they are treading water or float okay, I think we have enough background from the predictions of the Writing Prophets, to go into the real thing that

happened during the time of Christ and of His apostles, in particular we will focus around the Apostle Peter and the book of I Peter as found in 3:18-22. Can I read it one more time, this time in the total context; and as I do so please look for the 4 figures of baptism: world baptism, the baptism of Christ, baptism of self, and water baptism.

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the day of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. There is also an antitype which now saves us, namely baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.” (I Peter 3:18-22 NJKV)

5: To the Nations -- Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and Isaiah

We must distinguish between these four major Writing Prophets. If God called Jeremiah to be a Prophet to the nations, and He did, how is it that Daniel, Ezekiel, and Isaiah also had much to say about the destiny of the nations, yet were not called Prophets to the nations; or were they?

First, the call of Jeremiah, the priest, to be a Prophet.

“I have appointed thee a prophet unto the nations....I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow....Take this cup of wine of wrath at my hand, and cause all the nations to whom I send thee to drink it.” (Jeremiah 1:5;1:10; and 25:15)

Our problem is that nowhere are we told that Jeremiah actually visited other nations, except Egypt near the end of his ministry. Somehow we know that Jeremiah delivered these messages to the 21 nations that are named after 25:27, since he tells us in 25:27 that he did take the cup at Jehovah's hand and caused all those 21 nations to drink of it. He must have either visited these nations or wrote down the messages and sent them to the nations to read. Is there the possibility that he did some of the work through Ezekiel and Daniel. Ezekiel and Daniel were already captives to the North. Ezekiel was taken captive to Babylon in 598 B.C. where he like Jeremiah preached the destruction of Judah and Jerusalem. Daniel was taken captive earlier, in 605 B.C., the first year of Nebuchadnezzar invasion of Syria and Palestine. While Jeremiah and Ezekiel were both priests, Daniel was a statesman and governor. Ezekiel was called to be a Prophet five years after with King Jehoiachin he was taken captive to Babylon.

It is clear from the call of Ezekiel to be a Prophet recorded in Ezekiel 1,2 that Ezekiel was called to be a Prophet only to Israel in Exile. The call begins with in the first chapter a vision from God.

“Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking (Ezekiel 1:29)...And he said to me, 'Son of man, stand upon your feet, and I will speak with you.' And when he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me upon my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. And he said to me, 'Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels, who have rebelled against me; they and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day. The people also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them; and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.' And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that there has been a prophet among them.” (Jeremiah 2:1-5 RSV)

What a ministry as a Prophet, to Israel a nation of rebels who may not listen to him, and that the bottom line of his ministry is that the people must know that there is a prophet of God among them.

The beginning of Daniel is more historical than a call to be a Prophet like Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

“In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god. Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, youths without blemish, handsome and skilful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to serve in the king's palace, and to teach them the letters and language of the Chaldeans....Among them were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah.” (Daniel 1:1-4,6 RSV)

I think herein we have found a way that some of Jeremiah's messages to the nations could get at least to the Chaldeans. As we know from the history of Daniel in Chaldea, Daniel became a leader in the palace of the kings.

6: Messages to Five Nations.

Also Jeremiah 27 tells us of how the messages got to five kings of the 21.

“In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, 'Thus says the LORD to me: 'Make for yourselves bonds and yokes, and put them on your neck, and send them to the king of Edom the king of Moab, the king of the Ammonites, the king of Tyre, and the king of Sidon, by the hand of the messengers who come to Jerusalem to Zedekiah king of Judah.” (Jeremiah 27:1-3 NJKV)

It is interesting that the word came to Jeremiah as to what to do at the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim, but it was to actually happened during the reign of Zedekiah.

Following the commission of Jeremiah of how to get messages to five of the nations, God gives the message.

(1). The Great Maker of History explains Who He Is.

a. LORD of hosts, the God of Israel.

b. Creator of earth, man, and animals.

c. By His power and His arm that is active in history, this God has given the works of His Creation to whomever it seemed proper to Him. (Wow, what a Great Maker of History!)

(2). God tells them that He has given all these lands over into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon who is His Servant. (Jeremiah 27:5)

NOTE: Hopefully in this context and the verse of Jeremiah 27:5, our concept and knowledge of progressive revelation in the Bible leads us to see how early in ancient history God let Himself be known, not only as the God of Israel, but also as the LORD of Hosts, alias the God of all nations and the Universe.

"I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are on the ground, by My great power and by My outstretched arm, and have given it to whom it seemed proper to Me." (Jeremiah 27:5)

And if you fail to see the control of God in human history and among nations operating here undeniable, then I feel sorry for you. Either you have a severe problem with intellectual honesty, or you have failed to comprehend this Scripture and many others which teach God as always and ever at work in human history.

a. All nations shall serve him, his son, and his grandson

b. The end of this reign is determined as "until the time of his land comes".

c. God will punish the nation that will not serve the king of Babylon with sword, famine, and pestilence.

d. A warning not to listen to your nation's prophets, your diviners, dreamers, soothsayers, and sorceress who tell you not to serve the king of Babylon.

e. The nations that serve the king of Babylon, God will let them remain in their own land to till it and live in it.

These same words were spoken to King Zedekiah of Judah, also to the priests and the people., "Until the Time of His Land Comes", no doubt a phrase that we have never heard and perhaps never read in the Bible; however, which not only implies but states: (1) God sets the lands of the nations, past and present; (2) God determines the time in history that a nations will rise and fall. The implications of this phrase and this scriptural context are awesome: it implies, yes demands, that the same God who determined in detail all the nations and their boundaries will do the same today for the United States and their neighbors. It would far harder to prove that God dealt that with nations in the Sixth Century B.C., then stopped. In fact, we cannot possible believe that as we know that

another Prophet about to be considered in this chapter, Daniel, prophesied concerning the Greek and Roman nations as well as the everlasting kingdom of Christ.

Edom? At first, it may confuse us to find that the promise is also to Edom as well as the other close neighbors of Judah, for we know that hundreds of years ago, the Prophet Obadiah, 840 B.C. recorded for God the prediction of the destruction of Edom, to the extent that the nation would disappear. Now, here in Jeremiah during the reign of the last king of Judah, Zedekiah (597-587 B.C.), it is finally in the patience and work of God to be executed. Jeremiah 49:7-22 is almost identical to Obadiah, and the message of complete destruction the same.

“As when Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighbor cities were overthrown, says the LORD, no man shall dwell there, no man shall sojourn in her.” (Jeremiah 49:18 RSV)