



**DATE:** August 16  
**SCRIPTURE:** Job 28:1-28  
**TITLE:** Elijah raises the widow's son

The *Book of Job* is a perfect conclusion to our Unraveled worship series. All summer we shared stories of people's lives, plans, hopes, and dreams becoming unraveled. There is no story in our Bible that better describes the sense of loss and lamentation over unravelling than does *Job*.

Job is a man who lost everything and then struggled with his friends, his own faith, and ultimately with God. He demands answers, and the only answers he gets are deeply unsatisfying. *Job* is a work of Wisdom literature. *Job* is an attempt to dive deep into the nature of God, the nature of humanity, and the way in which the world operates.

There are great sources of Wisdom literature within our Bible. The *Psalms* and the *Book of Proverbs* contain what some describe as "Low Wisdom." For the most part, the wisdom of these books is that God rewards the righteous and punishes the wicked. Wisdom, as far as these sources are concerned, is attainable in this life with experience.

*Ecclesiastes* and *Job*, on the other hand, are books of High Wisdom. They stand in opposition to the simple notion of divine reward and punishment. Neither *Job* nor *Ecclesiastes* offer simple answers of satisfying conclusions. Wisdom in the Old Testament is often referred to as a personified woman. Wisdom is described in terms of being an eternal companion to God. One commentator compared God and Wisdom to an architect and a blueprint. God created all, but Wisdom is the plan which God used to create.

While *Proverbs* describes Wisdom as obtainable, *Job* makes the claim that Wisdom is elusive and mys-

terious. There is no easy answer to why some suffer. It is not simply a case of reward and punishment.

Job 28 is a Hymn to Wisdom that stands on its own within the wider book. It has three parts, each diving a little deeper into the mystery of Wisdom. At first described as attainable through human endeavors, in the end Wisdom is left as an open-ended and elusive, named only with the broad understanding of "Fear of God."

**For Christians then, Wisdom is both mysterious and obtainable. Wisdom is made known in the actual person of Jesus. We can learn from Wisdom by how Jesus lived and how he fed, taught, healed, forgave, and loved. Wisdom is also mysterious, as is the peace that surpasses all understanding and the grace of God that is amazing beyond words.**

In time, the Hebrew understanding of Wisdom became blended into the Greek understanding of *Logos*. With the root word *logos*, we see English words like logic. The writer of the Gospel of John described *Logos* as eternal—a co-creator with God from the beginning. Much like the Wisdom. The difference

is that John makes the radical claim that the *Logos* was made flesh in Christ. Jesus embodied the *Logos* (or wisdom).

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Growing in Wisdom and growing closer to Christ are the same endeavor. While we may yearn for easy answers when life unravels, drawing closer to Christ through prayer, Bible study, worship, fasting, and Sabbath is our best way to gain Wisdom. When life unravels, Christ is there with ties that bind us together.