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INTRODUCTION: Heading into the home stretch! Timing is good

*People assault the flinty rock with their hands  
and lay bare the roots of the mountains.*

<sup>10</sup> *They tunnel through the rock;  
their eyes see all its treasures.*

<sup>11</sup> *They search the sources of the rivers  
and bring hidden things to light.*

<sup>12</sup> *But where can wisdom be found?  
Where does understanding dwell?*

<sup>13</sup> *No mortal comprehends its worth;  
it cannot be found in the land of the living.*

<sup>14</sup> *The deep says, "It is not in me";  
the sea says, "It is not with me."*

<sup>15</sup> *It cannot be bought with the finest gold,  
nor can its price be weighed out in silver.*

<sup>16</sup> *It cannot be bought with the gold of Ophir,  
With precious onyx or sapphires....*

*Where then does wisdom come from?  
Where does understanding dwell?*

<sup>21</sup> *It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing,  
concealed even from the birds in the sky.*

<sup>22</sup> *Destruction and Death say,  
"Only a rumor of it has reached our ears."*

<sup>23</sup> *God understands the way to it  
and he alone knows where it dwells,*

<sup>24</sup> *for he views the ends of the earth  
and sees everything under the heavens.*

<sup>25</sup> *When he established the force of the wind  
and measured out the waters,*

<sup>26</sup> *when he made a decree for the rain  
and a path for the thunderstorm,*

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Job 28:9-16, 20-28

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*<sup>27</sup> then he looked at wisdom and appraised it;  
he confirmed it and tested it.*

*<sup>28</sup> And he said to the human race,  
“The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom,  
and to shun evil is understanding.” Job 28:9-15, 20-28*

## I. The “Map” is Vital!

*“But where can wisdom be found?  
Where does understanding dwell?” (vs. 12)*

“understanding” = insight

“wisdom” = mastery

Proverbs 3 *“wisdom is more precious than silver, gold and rubies”* (vss. 14-15)

*“Her ways are pleasant ways and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed”* (vss. 17-18)

Why Wisdom (The “Map”) is So Vital

Illustration: “Sliding Doors” (1998)

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## II. The “Map” is Inaccessible

*“it cannot be found in the land of the living.” (vs. 13)*

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## III. The Map Has a Location.

*“But where can wisdom be found? (vs. 12)*

*“Where then does wisdom come from?” (vs. 20)*

*“God understands” (vs. 23)*

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Two Items for Our Map

A. The Doctrine of Creation (Genesis 1)

B. The Doctrine of the Fall (Genesis 3)

*“It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing,” (vs. 21)*

Why This is Important

The Struggle of the Religious and Moral

The Struggle of Secular

IV. The Secret to the Map

*“then he looked at wisdom and appraised it;  
he confirmed it and tested it.  
And he said to the human race,*

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*“The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom,  
and to shun evil is understanding.”* Job 28:27-28

“To shun evil” = to live morally, to live according to your design

*“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”* 2 Corinthians 5:7

Walking by faith is not blind trust. It’s actually trusting God with our eyes wide-open to His love, goodness, faithfulness and power.

Illustration: Elizabeth Elliott (*from “Through Gates of Splendor”*)

*“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the  
sheep.”* John 10:11

The Good Shepherd became like one of us, sheep. He shared God’s love with us and he showed God’s love to us, even though it meant being plunged into darkness. He remained true to us in his darkness. We can remain true to him in our darkness with eyes wide opened to the love and goodness of our Shepherd!