

Christ: The Wisdom and Power of God.



Message Outline

- God destroys worldly wisdom.
- The Cross of Christ foundational
- The Countercultural Move of God
- Christ the source of wisdom, power and virtue
Rather than worldly renown
- Christ the Source of Public and Private
Knowledge of God



God Destroys Worldly Wisdom

God Destroys Worldly Wisdom,
Both in That His Wisdom is More
Durable than the World's, and that
He Reveals Secret Not Otherwise Known



God Destroys Worldly Wisdom

1 Corinthians 1:18–2:16 NKJV For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

19 For it is written: "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND BRING TO NOTHING THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRUDENT..."



God Destroys Worldly Wisdom

1 Corinthians 1:18–2:16 NKJV ...20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe...



God Destroys Worldly Wisdom

Isaiah 29:9–15 NKJV Pause and wonder! Blind yourselves and be blind! They are drunk, but not with wine; They stagger, but not with intoxicating drink. 10 For the LORD has poured out on you The spirit of deep sleep, And has closed your eyes, namely, the prophets; And He has covered your heads, namely, the seers...



God Destroys Worldly Wisdom

Isaiah 29:9–15 NKJV ...11 The whole vision has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one who is literate, saying, "Read this, please." And he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed." 12 Then the book is delivered to one who is illiterate, saying, "Read this, please." And he says, "I am not literate..."



God Destroys Worldly Wisdom

Isaiah 29:9–15 NKJV ...13 Therefore the Lord said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,...



God Destroys Worldly Wisdom

Isaiah 29:9–15 NKJV ...14 Therefore, behold, I will again do a marvelous work Among this people, A marvelous work and a wonder; For the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, And the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden." 15 Woe to those who seek deep to hide their counsel far from the LORD, And their works are in the dark; They say, "Who sees us?" and, "Who knows us?"



The Cross of Christ Foundational

The Cross is Foundational, in That
it Both Repaired the Image of God
in Man, and Provided a Way for His
Spirit to Reside Fully in Humanity



The Cross of Christ Foundational

- The Cross of Christ is epistemically foundational
 - How does one step outside of the self-perspective to verify what's out there?
 - Modern philosophy from Descartes to postmodern has failed to answer this
- God has to reach us
 - The Cross
 - God's Spirit



The Cross of Christ Foundational

- The image of God in man was designed to reach for God and the external world, but was broken by the fall
- The Cross of Christ repaired the image of God in man
- Reconciliation to God opens the door for God's spirit to reach us



The Cross of Christ Foundational

1 Corinthians 1:18–2:16 NKJV ...22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God...



The Countercultural Move of God

God Typically Moves Counterculturally,
Because the World System is at War with
God, and Thinks it's Wisdom is More Robust,
and its Glory Greater Than That of The Lord



The Countercultural Move of God

1 Corinthians 1:18–2:16 NKJV ...25
Because the foolishness of God is wiser
than men, and the weakness of God is
stronger than men. 26 For you see
your calling, brethren, that not many
wise according to the flesh, not many
mighty, not many noble, are called...



The Countercultural Move of God

1 Corinthians 1:18–2:16 NKJV ...27
But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;...



The Countercultural Move of God

1 Corinthians 1:18–2:16 NKJV ...28
and the base things of the world and
the things which are despised God has
chosen, and the things which are not,
to bring to nothing the things that are,
29 that no flesh should glory in His
presence...



The Elijah Principle: A Countercultural Move of God

The Elijah Principle Describes God's Pattern of Intentionally Rigging Circumstances Against His Own People, So That His Power and Wisdom are Publicly Displayed in an Undeniable Fashion



The Elijah Principle: A Countercultural Move of God

1 Kings 18:20-40 NKJV So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. 21 And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word...



The Elijah Principle: A Countercultural Move of God

1 Kings 18:20-40 NKJV ...22 Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. 23 Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it;...



The Elijah Principle: A Countercultural Move of God

1 Kings 18:20-40 NKJV ...23 ...and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it. 24 Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God." So all the people answered and said, "It is well spoken..."



The Elijah Principle: A Countercultural Move of God

1 Kings 18:20-40 NKJV ...25 Now Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it." 26 So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon,...



The Elijah Principle: A Countercultural Move of God

1 Kings 18:20–40 NKJV ...26 ...saying, "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar which they had made. 27 And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened...."



The Elijah Principle: A Countercultural Move of God

1 Kings 18:20–40 NKJV ...28 So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them. 29 And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention...



The Elijah Principle: A Countercultural Move of God

1 Kings 18:20-40 NKJV ...30 Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.

31 And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name..."



The Elijah Principle: A Countercultural Move of God

1 Kings 18:20-40 NKJV ...32 Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD; and he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs of seed. 33 And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood, and said, "Fill four waterpots with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood..."



The Elijah Principle: A Countercultural Move of God

1 Kings 18:20-40 NKJV ...34 Then he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time; and he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time. 35 So the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water. 36 And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice,...



The Elijah Principle: A Countercultural Move of God

1 Kings 18:20–40 NKJV ...36 ...that
Elijah the prophet came near and said,
"LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and
Israel, let it be known this day that
You are God in Israel and I am Your
servant, and that I have done all these
things at Your word..."



The Elijah Principle: A Countercultural Move of God

1 Kings 18:20–40 NKJV ...37 Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again." 38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench...



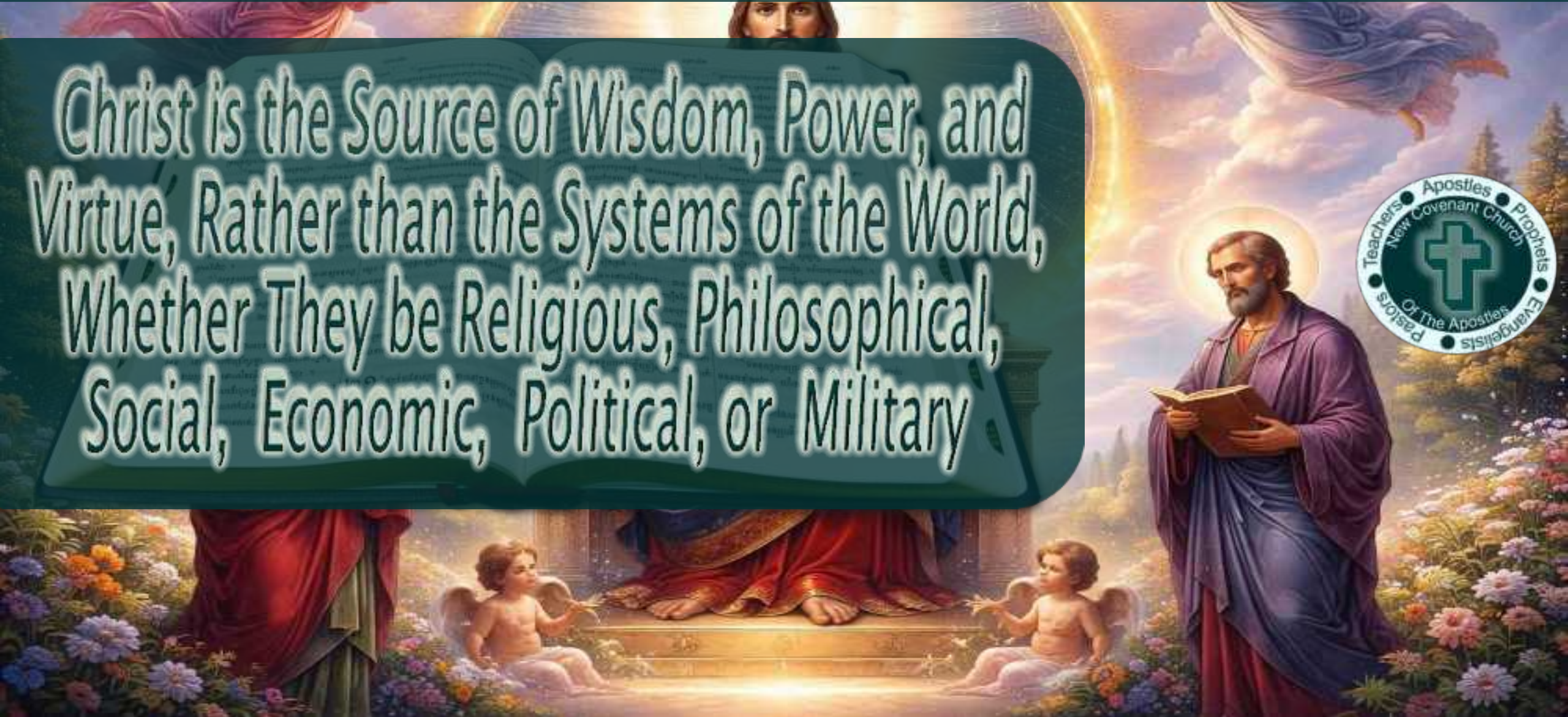
The Elijah Principle: A Countercultural Move of God

1 Kings 18:20-40 NKJV ...39 Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!" 40 And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.



Christ the Source of Wisdom, Power and Virtue Rather Than Worldly Renown

Christ is the Source of Wisdom, Power, and Virtue, Rather than the Systems of the World, Whether They be Religious, Philosophical, Social, Economic, Political, or Military



Christ the Source of Wisdom, Power and Virtue Rather Than Worldly Renown

1 Corinthians 1:18–2:16 NKJV ...30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— 31 that, as it is written, "HE WHO GLORIES, LET HIM GLORY IN THE LORD..."



Christ the Source of Wisdom, Power and Virtue Rather Than Worldly Renown

1 Corinthians 1:18–2:16 NKJV ...2:1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling...



Christ the Source of Wisdom, Power and Virtue Rather Than Worldly Renown

1 Corinthians 1:18–2:16 NKJV ...2:4
And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God...



Christ the Source of Public Knowledge of God

Christ is the Source of the Public Knowledge of God,
by Virtue of the Incarnation Providing an Intersection
Between the Human Mind and the Divine Mind, Without
Entangling the Human and Divine Natures



Christ the Source of Public Knowledge of God

1 Corinthians 1:18–2:16 NKJV ...2:6
However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory,...



Christ the Source of Public Knowledge of God

1 Corinthians 1:18–2:16 NKJV ...2:8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written: "EYE HAS NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NOR HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN THE THINGS WHICH GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM..."



Christ the Source of Public Knowledge of God

1 Corinthians 1:18–2:16 NKJV ...2:10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God...



Searching the Unsearchable

- The Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 1 Corinthians 2:10
- The deep things of God are unsearchable (Job 5:9, Psalms 145:3, Proverbs 25:3, Isaiah 40:28, Romans 11:33, Ephesians 3:8)
- How can the Holy Spirit search the Unsearchable



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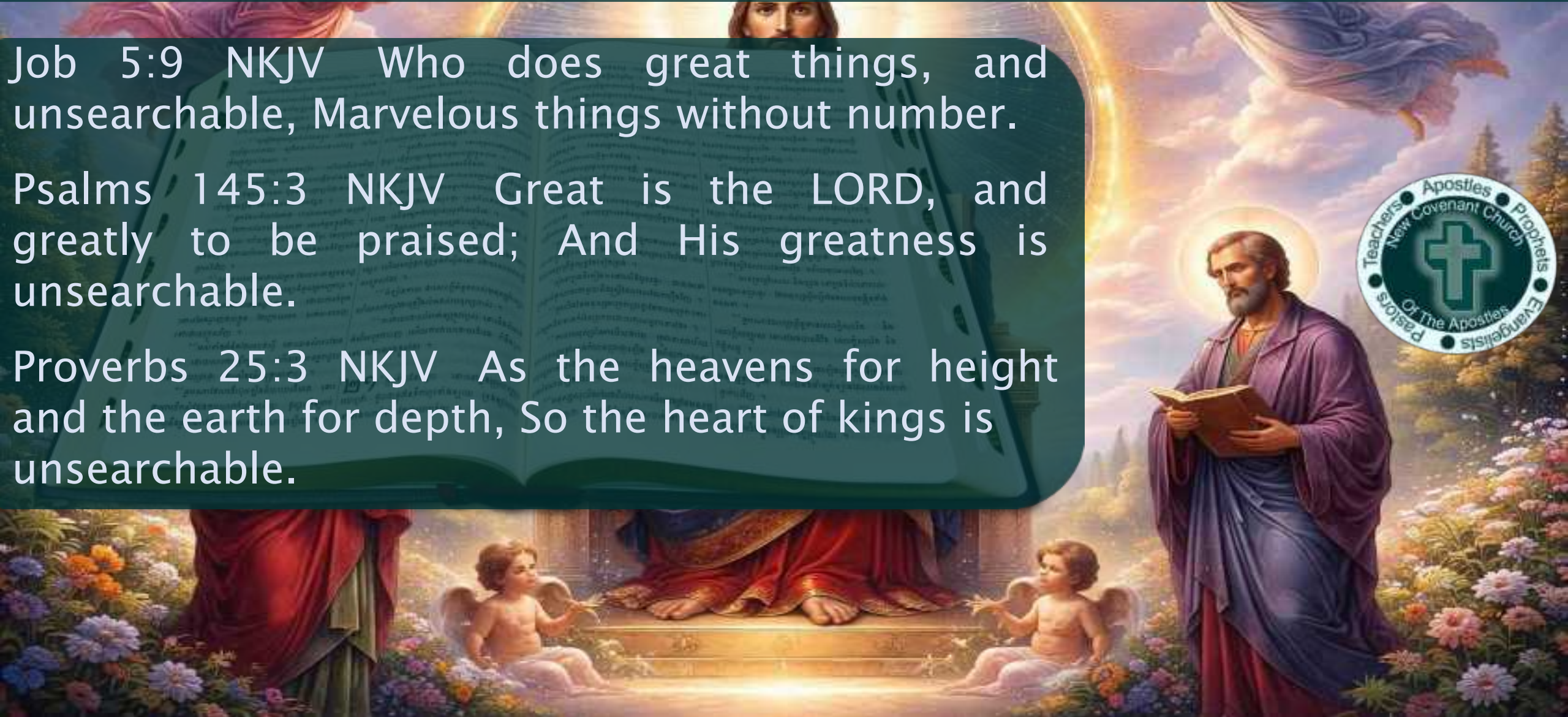


The Unsearchable is Unsearchable Because it is Infinite

Job 5:9 NKJV Who does great things, and unsearchable, Marvelous things without number.

Psalms 145:3 NKJV Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable.

Proverbs 25:3 NKJV As the heavens for height and the earth for depth, So the heart of kings is unsearchable.



The Unsearchable is Unsearchable Because it is Infinite

Isaiah 40:28 NKJV Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

Romans 11:33 NKJV Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!



The Unsearchable is Unsearchable Because it is Infinite

Ephesians 3:8 NKJV To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,



Searching the Infinite

➤ Counting or traversing to infinity through a series of finite steps is impossible

➤ Is it possible to comprehend the entire set

All Numbers

1 2
3 000



Searching the Infinite

➤ The gospel is given to allow us to access Christ and set parameters

➤ Jesus Christ, via Holy Spirit, reveals deep things of God

Christ
Deep
Things of
God



Christ the Source of Public Knowledge of God

1 Corinthians 1:18–2:16 NKJV ...2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual...



Christ the Source of Public Knowledge of God

1 Corinthians 1:18–2:16 NKJV ...2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one...



Christ the Source of Public Knowledge of God

1 Corinthians 1:18–2:16 NKJV
...2:16 For "WHO HAS KNOWN
THE MIND OF THE LORD THAT
HE MAY INSTRUCT HIM?" But we
have the mind of Christ.



Knowledge Ungrounded in Calvinism and Gnosticism

- Gnosticism and Calvinism, Gnosis is ultimately private
 - How can Sophia enlighten anyone in an evil world.
 - In Calvinism, election is arbitrary, without rational basis

Gnosticism	Private Divine Spark → Knowledge → Transformation
Calvinism	Private Knowledge → Regeneration → Faith → Transformation
Biblical Christianity	Cross → Preaching public knowledge → Faith → private knowledge → Regeneration → Transformation



The Cross Grounds Public and Private Knowledge of God

- In Biblical Christianity, Gnosis is public
 - Creation in the image of original nexus between God and Man (Broken, man can know about God)
 - Cross reconciles God and Man, recreating the nexus (the redeemed can intimately know God)

Gnosticism	Private Divine Spark → Knowledge → Transformation
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Scripture References

1 Corinthians 1:18–2:16,
Ephesians 3:8, Isaiah 29:9–15, Job 5:9,
1 Kings 18:20–40, Psalms 145:3,
Proverbs 25:3, Isaiah 40:28, Romans 11:33,



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