





# *life coming apart at the seams?*

Trusting in God's  
goodness when  
life seems to be  
falling apart.



*Studies from the life of Job.*

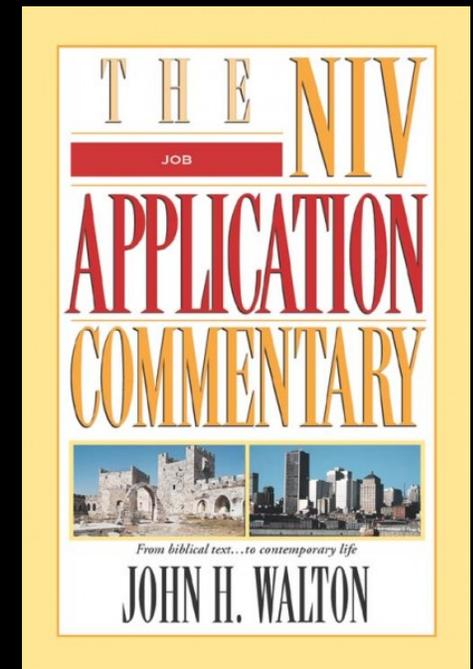
Part 4

Where Can Wisdom be Found?

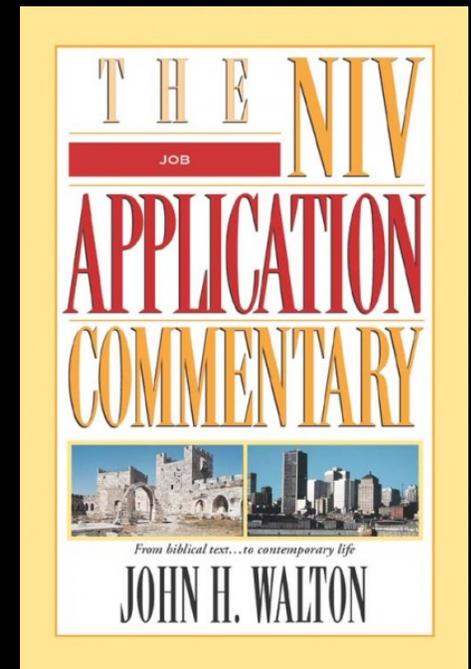
Job 28

We should not mistakenly think that this book is just about Job . . . **it is about all of us.** Though the book does engage in extremes, it is not trying to minimize anyone else's suffering in comparison, for suffering cannot be measured objectively.

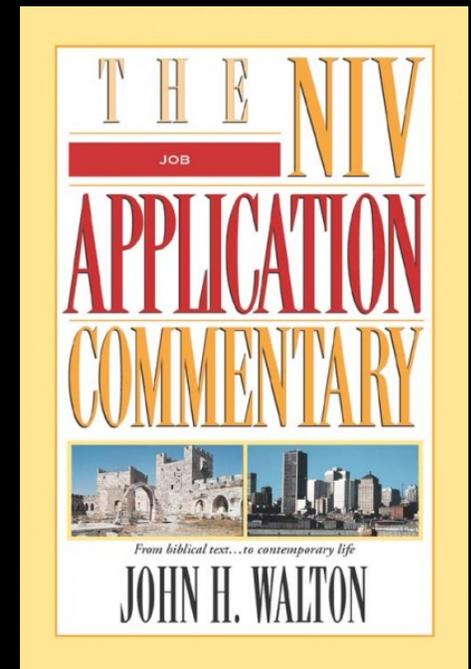
Regardless of where anyone's experiences fit on the spectrum of pain and suffering, we are all prone to ask the same questions.



The book is not about Job, his friends, or the Challenger it is about **all of us**, and **ultimately about God**. Our questions about suffering inevitably lead to God, for when we go through difficult times in life, there is no one else to question—he is the one whose ways we seek to understand. When we ask “Why me?” we are in effect asking, “How does God work?”



We may start out asking why we deserved this, but ultimately the question we arrive at is, “What kind of God are you?” In all our difficult experiences, eventually we arrive at the place where it is no longer us, but God who is on trial.



The book of Job explores the difficult question:

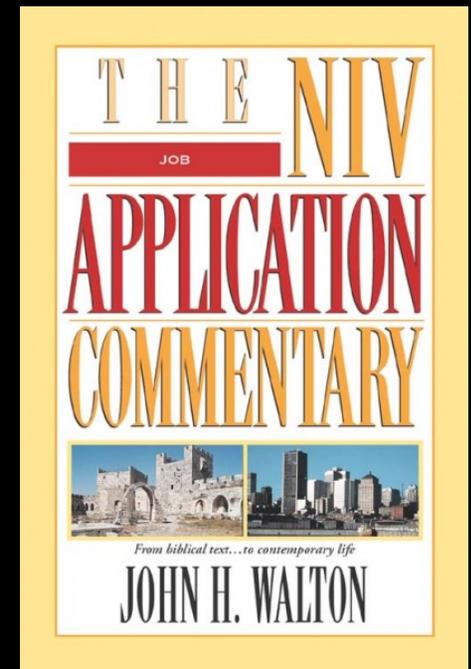
**“WHAT IS GOD’S RELATIONSHIP TO HUMAN SUFFERING?”**

But it really doesn’t answer the question; instead, we are invited to

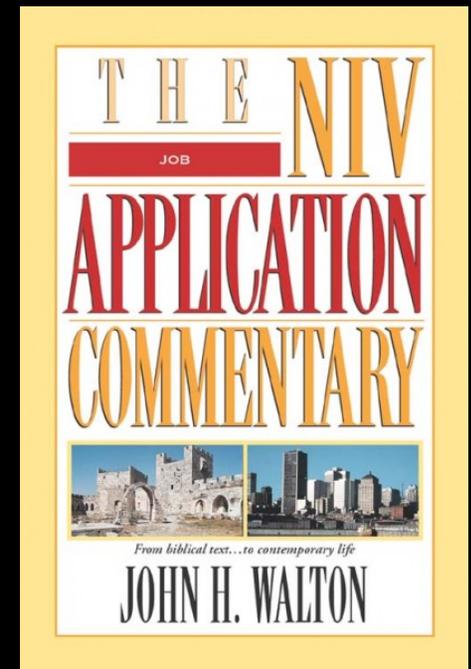
**TRUST  
GOD’S WISDOM  
&  
CHARACTER**

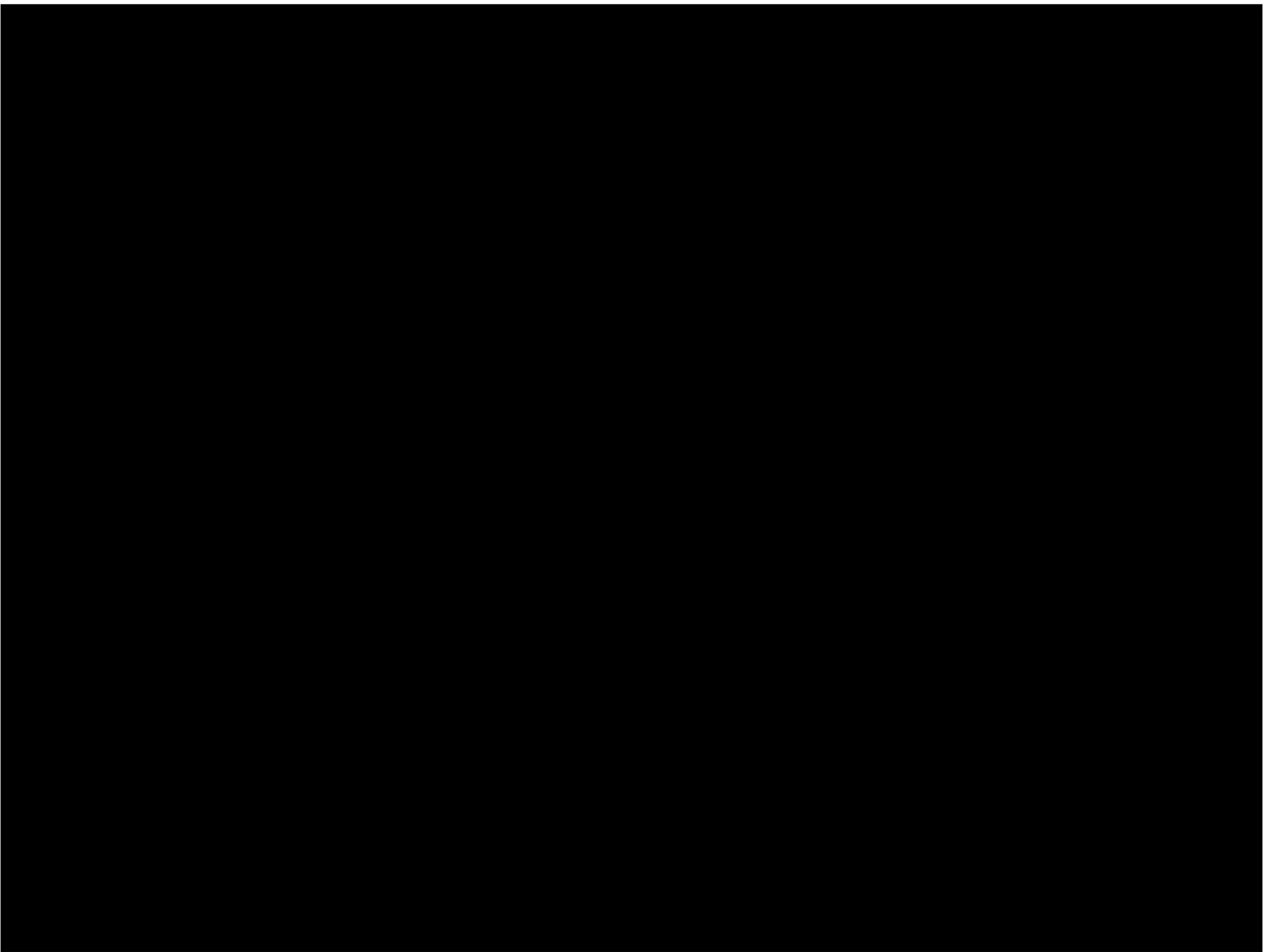


THE PURPOSE OF JOB: to explore God's policies with regard to suffering in the world, especially by the righteous or the innocent. In the process it seeks to revolutionize our thinking about God and the way that he runs the world. Most importantly, the book shifts our attention from the idea that God's *justice* is foundational to the operation of the world to the alternative that God's *wisdom* is the more appropriate foundation.



It does not offer a *reason* for suffering and does not try to defend God's justice. It does not answer the "WHY" question that we are so prone to ask when things go wrong. Instead, we are to *trust God's wisdom* and, in the process, to conclude by faith that he is also just.





*Job 28:1-11*

*Human Innovation: Impressive But Inadequate*

<sup>1</sup> There is a mine for silver and a place where gold is refined.

<sup>2</sup> Iron is taken from the earth, and copper is smelted from ore.

<sup>3</sup> Mortals put an end to the darkness; they search out the farthest recesses for ore in the blackest darkness.

<sup>4</sup> Far from human dwellings they cut a shaft, in places untouched by human feet; far from other people they dangle and sway.



*Job 28:1-11*

*Human Innovation: Impressive But Inadequate*

<sup>5</sup> The earth, from which food comes, is transformed below as by fire; <sup>6</sup> lapis lazuli comes from its rocks, and its dust contains nuggets of gold.

<sup>7</sup> No bird of prey knows that hidden path; no falcon's eye has seen it.

<sup>8</sup> Proud beasts do not set foot on it, and no lion prowls there.



*Job 28:1-11*

*Human Innovation: Impressive But Inadequate*

---

<sup>9</sup> 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.





*Job 28:12 - 19*

*Wisdom: Of Utmost Value But Inaccessible*

---

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

<sup>13</sup> No mortal comprehends its place; 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.”



*Job 28:12 - 19*

*Wisdom: Of Utmost Value But Inaccessible*

<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 lapis lazuli. <sup>17</sup> Neither gold nor crystal can compare with it, nor can it be had for jewels of gold. <sup>18</sup> Coral and jasper are not worthy of mention; the price of wisdom is beyond rubies. <sup>19</sup> The topaz of Cush cannot compare with it; it cannot be bought with pure gold.



# WHAT IS THIS WISDOM?

Wisdom is understanding how the universe and life itself works

Proverbs 3:19 – 20 – <sup>19</sup> By wisdom the LORD founded the earth; by understanding he created the heavens. <sup>20</sup> By his knowledge the deep fountains of the earth burst forth, and the dew settles beneath the night sky. (NLT)

# WHAT IS THIS WISDOM?

Wisdom is understanding how the universe and life itself works

Job 38:1 – 2 – <sup>1</sup> Then the LORD answered Job from the whirlwind: <sup>2</sup> “Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorant words?” (NLT)

# WHAT IS THIS WISDOM?

Wisdom is understanding how the universe and life itself works

Job 38:4 – 7 – <sup>4</sup> “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you know so much. <sup>5</sup> Who determined its dimensions and stretched out the surveying line? <sup>6</sup> What supports its foundations, and who laid its cornerstone <sup>7</sup> as the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?” (NLT)

# WHAT IS THIS WISDOM?

Wisdom is understanding how the universe and life itself works

Job 38:17 – 18 – <sup>17</sup> “Do you know where the gates of death are located? Have you seen the gates of utter gloom? <sup>18</sup> Do you realize the extent of the earth? Tell me about it if you know!” (NLT)

# WHAT IS THIS WISDOM?

Isaiah 55:8 – 9 – <sup>8</sup> “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the LORD. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. <sup>9</sup> For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.” (NLT)



*Job 28:20 - 28*

*Wisdom: It cannot be Found; it cannot be Bought, but  
it can be Received*

<sup>20</sup> 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.



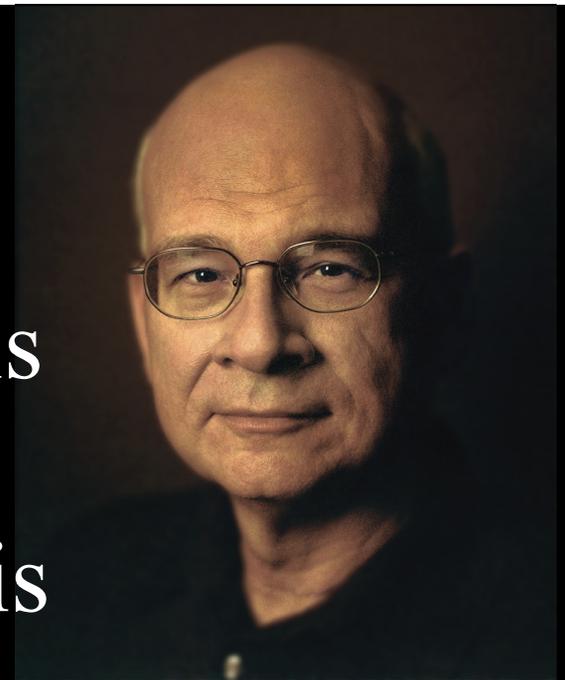
*Job 28:20 - 28*

*Wisdom: It cannot be Found; it cannot be Bought, but  
it can be Received*

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

<sup>28</sup> And he said to man,  
“The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom,  
and to shun evil is understanding.”





“Scary-level **TRUST** that God is loving you even though it doesn’t feel that way, that God is loving you even though everything around you seems dark. The fear of the Lord is scary-level, **unconditional TRUST** that God loves you in spite of how it looks.”



“Is Aslan safe?”

“Safe? Whoever said anything about him being safe? Of course he’s *not safe* . . . but he is **GOOD**.”

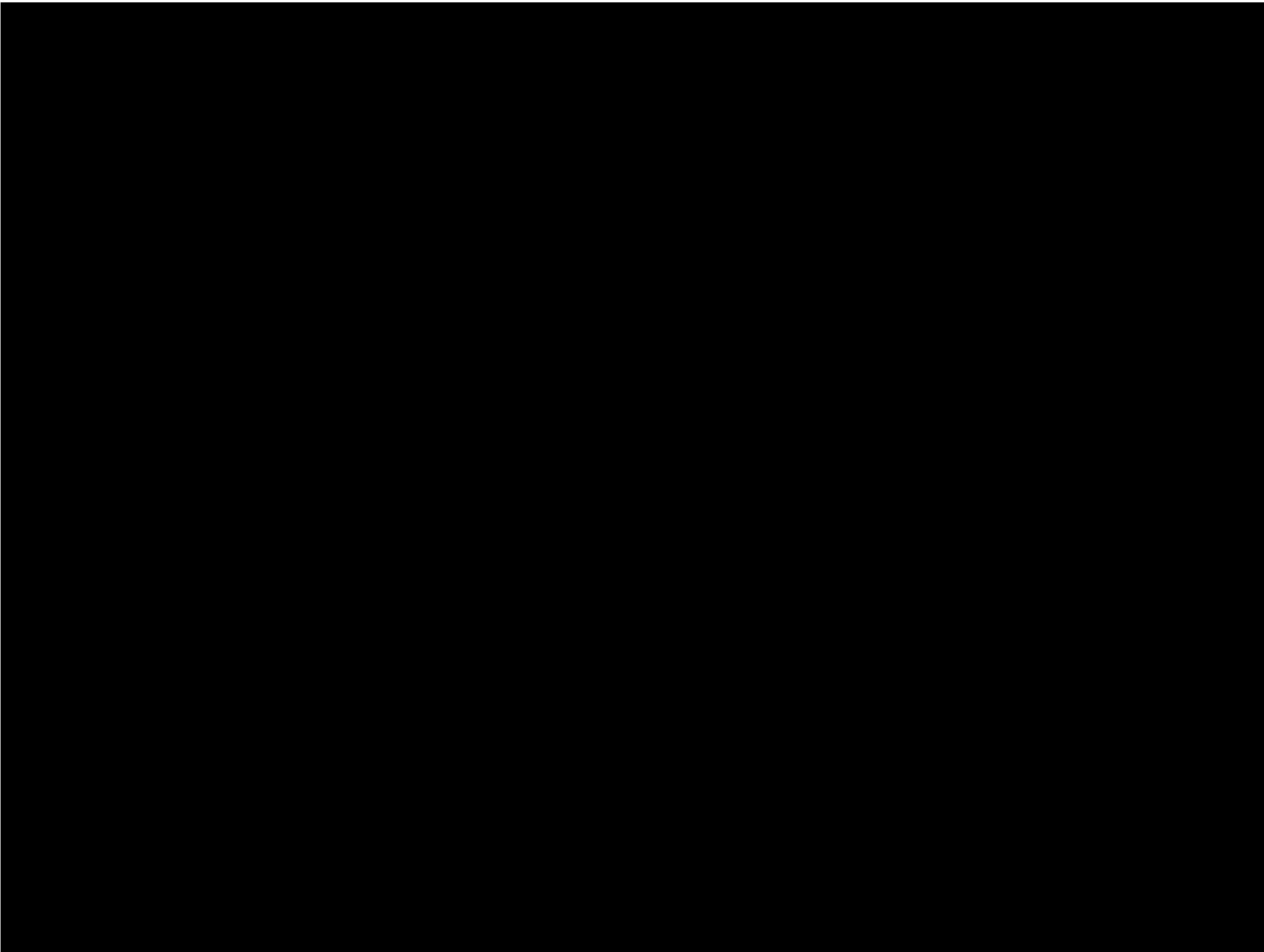
The fear of the Lord involves **TRUSTING** that God can take all of the pain and devastation that might occur in our lives and bring good from it.

The fear of the Lord involves thinking in terms of **TRUSTING** his wisdom and loving him.





He does care  
for us and  
experiences  
our pain along  
with us.



Adopting such a posture does not require us to affirm that “there is a reason even though I don’t know what it is.” Instead it asks us to move beyond reasons. Our confidence is not that there is an explanation. Our confidence is in **God’s wisdom and character** . . . he is good and he loves us beyond measure even if it doesn’t look like it or feel like it at the moment.



We express our fear of the Lord when we **TRUST** him with our circumstances—as uncomfortable or confusing as they may be. We **TRUST** him enough to accept that there need not be an explanation. We **TRUST** that his just nature is unassailable even though there is no identifiable justice in the circumstances in which we find ourselves.



We **TRUST** that he has set up the system in the very best (wisest) way possible even when we are suffering the consequences of a system broken by the fall. We **TRUST** his love for us and we **TRUST** that even in our difficulties, he can show his love and strengthen us through the trials.



## *Six Steps on the Path to Wisdom*

1. Trust God rather than blame him or demand explanation

*Trust in the wisdom of God  
born of our absolute  
conviction that he loves us.  
That is the way through the  
struggles of life.*

2. Tr

3. Do

4. Ch  
no

e world,  
temptation

5. Resist succumbing to the temptation to believe that you could run this world better than God does

6. Above all, trust that he is wise

