

“What Do You Know?”

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Texts: Genesis 6:5, Matt. 16:13-17 and James 3:3-18

Genesis 6:5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent¹ (or *imagination* KJV, ASB, AmericanB, Young’sLT, or inclination NIV, or scheme, HCSB, every desire that their heart conceived, NAB), of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Makh-ash-aw-baw’ is a difficult Hebrew concept to translate as you can see by the footnotes below. But we are going to go with “imagination,” as in “**every imagination of the thoughts of one’s heart**” because it gets at the crux of imaginary existence that undergirds some of the identity talk that we are hearing culturally these days. For example, we are told that one is a woman if one says “I am a woman.” Is one a woman by virtue of self-declaration, even in absence of any definition? Just declaring that you identify as a woman hardly establishes that factually, or actually. That is imaginary and I say imaginary because it connects identity with the scriptures. Genesis reads, **every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil always**. Not mistaken, not delusional but evil. This assertion, central to trans-ideology, is very charged. Why? Because it effectively erases womanhood. Erasing womanhood is unscriptural, and it a very evil idea. And that evil arises from the state of way between the seed of Satan, and the seed of Eve that God established as a consequence for the disobedience of Adam and Eve in the garden. They bought into the lie that by disobeying God, they

¹ Brown-Driver-Briggs

מחשבת **noun feminine thought, device** (chiefly in poetry and late) — absolute מ’ [Jeremiah 18:11](#); [Jeremiah 49:30](#); מחשבת [Ezekiel 38:10](#); מחשבת [Exodus 35:33](#); 2Chron 2:13; construct מחשבת [Esther 8:5](#); 2Chronicles 26:15; suffix מחשבתו [Esther 8:3](#); [Esther 9:25](#); plural מחשבות [Jeremiah 11:19](#) 7t.; מחשבת [Exodus 31:4](#) 3t.; construct מחשבות [Isaiah 59:7](#) 13t.; מחשבת [Genesis 6:5](#); suffix מחשבותי [Isaiah 55:8](#) etc. + 19 t. suffixes; —

1 thought:

a. of man מ’ אדם [Psalm 94:11](#); מ’ לב [Psalm 33:11](#) *thoughts of the mind*; (כל’ לב) [Genesis 6:5](#) (J), [1 Chronicles 28:9](#); [1 Chronicles 29:18](#).

b. of God מ’ יהוה [Micah 4:12](#); with אל [Psalm 40:6](#); על [Jeremiah 51:29](#); the thoughts of God are exceeding deep [Psalm 92:6](#); higher than man’s thoughts [Isaiah 55:8](#) (twice in verse); [Isaiah 55:9](#) (twice in verse).

2 device, plan, purpose [Isaiah 55:7](#); [Isaiah 59:7](#); [Isaiah 65:2](#); [Isaiah 66:18](#); [Jeremiah 6:19](#); [Jeremiah 18:12](#); [Psalm 56:6](#); [Proverbs 19:21](#); [Job 21:27](#); [Lamentations 3:60,61](#); [Esther 8:5](#); מ’ תרוץ [Proverbs 21:5](#); מ’ ערומים [Job 5:12](#); מ’ צדיקים [Proverbs 12:5](#); מ’ עמים [Psalm 33:10](#); מ’ און [Isaiah 59:7](#); [Jeremiah 4:14](#); [Proverbs 6:18](#); מ’ רע [Proverbs 15:26](#); מ’ שלום [Jeremiah 21:11](#); מ’ חשב [2 Samuel 14:14](#); [Jeremiah 11:19](#); [Jeremiah 18:11,18](#); [Jeremiah 29:11](#); [Jeremiah 49:20,30](#); [Jeremiah 50:45](#); [Ezekiel 38:10](#); [Daniel 11:24,25](#); [Esther 8:3](#); [Esther 9:25](#); מ’ as subject of נכון *be established* [Proverbs 16:3](#); [Proverbs 20:18](#); מ’ הפך *break plans* [Proverbs 15:22](#).

3 invention [Exodus 31:4](#); [Exodus 35:32,33,35](#) (all P), [2 Chron 2:13](#); [2 Chronicles 26:15](#) (see חשב **I 5**).

Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance #4284

cunning work, curious work, imagination, invented, means, purpose, thought

Or machashebeth {makh-ash-eh'-beth}; from [chashab](#); a contrivance, i.e. (concretely) a texture, machine, or (abstractly) intention, plan (whether bad, a plot; or good, advice) -- cunning (work), curious work, device(-sed), imagination, invented, means, purpose, thought.

would become like God. That example of bad advertising has held dreadful consequences.

Now I am going to argue in this message that **every imagination of the thoughts of his/our heart is only evil always** differs radically from **the knowledge of truth** which results in salvation. This assertion hinges on the identity of Jesus as **the way, the truth and the life**. When Peter, along with the other disciples was asked, first, who do men say that I am and then, but **who do you say that I am?**, he replied, **“You are the christ, the Son of the living God.”** Jesus exclaimed, **Blessed are you, Simon bar Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but your father who is in heaven.**

Matt. 16:13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; and others, [a]Elijah; but still others, [b]Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.” 15 He *said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered, “You are [c]the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon [d]Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven².

As Christians, it is revelation truth that matters, that anchors us in reality. It is what we know that we know! ***It is the revelation that Jesus is the Christ that saves us.*** So God reveals, and faith receives that truth. If you do not know that, *if you do not believe that*, you are not saved. And every saved person is saved by revelation truth!

Life is simpler for the child when it comes to truth. You believe your parents, or your teachers, and, hopefully, your pastor out of innocent trust. However, later in life, you realize that this is dangerous for, as scripture says, **All men are liars.** (Psalm 116:11) which is a hasty conclusion, but it seems aptly cautionary. And before we know it, we who have been lied to, as the victim of lies, learn to lie for ourselves and mature into the teller of lies. Eventually, we have been lied to, and so lied ourselves that the truth recedes in terms of its accessibility. Tryst has to be earned, we learn to be wary. And when we inhabit a culture which denies objective truth (or questions that we can even know the truth), two things happen: we make things up, we imagine our own truth, and we become posers, fakers and frauds. What is this but hypocrisy and we find ourselves imitating the worst while claiming to be the best. Life becomes very, very complicated and confusing. And yet those who lie the least do have the benefit of not having to lie more to cover ourself previous falsehood and foolish claims. And what with spin, social media, constant messaging, narrative formation and fake news, the world becomes a bewildering place to be. And, soberly, we live too much in a made up world, trying to exalt ourselves and meet the expectations of others. We crave approval and acceptance. We note that anyone can live a lie, and, sadly, most do.

² Footnotes

- a. Matthew 16:14 Gr *Elias*
- b. Matthew 16:14 Gr *Jeremias*
- c. Matthew 16:16 I.e. the Messiah
- d. Matthew 16:17 I.e. son of Jonah

But that is not the worst of it. The world turns out to be a place where truth depends on power. The powerful determine what is true and, because they can, they impose that truth on others—they compel compliance. Satan, the father of lies, has a hay day in this world setting, tricking us **to exchange the truth of God for a lie**. (See Romans 1:25ff) It is a fascinating moment in time, when we observe the most powerful among us demur to say what a woman is publicly and under the press of inclusivity insist that self-declared women be allowed to compete with biologically defined women as if there were no differences at all. But there are and that emperor has no clothes.

Furthermore, rejecting Jesus amounts to rejecting the truth. Remember Jesus is **the way, the truth and the life!** It's not always so plain and simple as it sometimes is—until it isn't! To those who impose their "truth" on others there is added another group: those who are revisionists, who revise the truth to wards some favorable understanding. Revisionists tend to rewrite dictionaries adding ambiguity where it never existed before. In Orwell's 1984, The Party declares "War is peace," Freedom is slavery, and Ignorance is strength." Destroying words and their meaning so as to rule through confusion—and making whatever mean whatever you want it to is, undoubtedly a power play! Citing Orwell: "An if all (read, media outlets) others accepted the lie which the Party imposed—if all the records told the same tale—then the lie passed into history and became "the truth." This is how January 6th ceased to be January 6th and became what the January 6th committee claimed it to be—the facts, the provocations and entrapments aside, of course "it was a violent insurrection." Insurrection was the preferred outcome! While the BLM riots get a pass as mostly peaceful when they were multiple times more violent and deadly than the capital "riot."

Right next to exchanging the truth for life, is the matter of exchanging one lie for another. There are misleading false narrative and conspiracy theories galore; all filling up the spin cycle and promoting chaos, fear and hate. All the features of a satanic state are on full display.

But there is an alternative" God can reveal and people can know that Jesus is the Son of God and the embodiment of divine truth. Those who walk in truth are on the road to heaven; those who do not are trekking to the other place.

Above all think biblically, with the Spirit's help, earnestly inquire as to the applicability of Scriptural truth—meaning the whole body of spiritual/divine revelation, *as much as you have been exposed to by trustworthy stewards (preachers, teachers and expositors) of the word of God*, as well as build on your own meditations and studies of the word(!). Apply all of that to your entire thought life. Upgrade constantly—review, revise and improve. In this manner, the godly man thinks biblically! He has sought and procured wisdom and reverentially obtained.

When it comes to conforming yourself to Christ make sure that you do not subject yourself to, or conform yourself to worldly thought, to secular scholarship, to errors and heresies and **the wisdom which is from below**. Strive to be reasonable. James 3:13-18 endorses such thoughtful discernment, a spiritual aide, to guard our thought life:

13 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the *gentleness of wisdom*. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and [a]selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant

and so lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, [b]natural, demonic.

Note how our behavior, our good behavior demonstrates wisdom and understanding. Thoughtfulness does not occur in a moral, or ethical vacuum. Gentleness is not usually attributed to wisdom but in Christian settings gentleness is connected to wisdom, And the reason for that is plain: the mind and the heart influences each other. **Bitter jealousy and selfish ambition** are heart attributes which foment arrogance and harshness. And all of this portrays a kind of wisdom, opposite to godly wisdom, which is sourced in the demonic realms. I reeks of evil and is cloaked in darkness.

16 For where jealousy and [c]selfish ambition exist, [d]there is disorder and every evil thing.

There can be no other outcome. And, helpfully, James immediately proceeds to set forth godly wisdom—its pure, gentle and reasonable nature, quality:

17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, [e]reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy

This is about as far from demonic wisdom as one can get!

18 And the [f]seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace [g]by those who make peace.³

Amen.

³ Footnotes

- a. James 3:14 Or *strife*
- b. James 3:15 Or *unspiritual*
- c. James 3:16 V 14, note 1
- d. James 3:16 I.e. in that place
- e. James 3:17 Or *willing to yield*
- f. James 3:18 Lit *fruit of righteousness*
- g. James 3:18 Or *for*