

PREFACE

*"I thank God for the message of pastor today. I think it is a Spirit-filled Sabbath starting right from practice of psalms to the benediction prayer. It is the effect of the 1-2 weeks that pastor is up here. The brethren strived to give their best to God at the place of worship. There was the ministration of the Word of God and pastor instilled in us the desire to seek the face of God through the Psalms. As pastor preached today, he linked the book of Job so beautifully to the Psalms. Initially I was tricked to believe that pastor was going to preach only from the book of Job. Although today's call of to worship is from Job, pastor is non-institutional and led us to the Psalms. We have heard from pastor in the past and we glibly said that the book of Job shows the perplexity of life and the book of Psalms is the sanctuary. In the person of Job, we see the perplexity of life and many questions that cannot be answered. Due to the dealings of providence in our lives, we want to find answers and Job questioned the purpose of his existence on this earth. As pastor brought out in the life of Job today, Job had no answer and was earnestly seeking God for an answer. God was silent to him and he felt disquieted. What is the thing that Job greatly feared? Some said, the loss of his children and some said his own sufferings physically, but actually pastor answered today that the greatest pain was God being silent to him and providence was frowning on him. I also asked why all these things happened to me. Is this only for a short time? Doth His promise fail? Is His mercy clean gone forever? I question if it is the judgment of God upon my sins. There was Elihu to guide Job along the way so that he would not charge God unrighteously and know his place before God. Pastor then led us to the book of Psalms. What then is the Psalms in the light of Job? The living legend is before us and talking to us about the book of Psalms. The book of Psalms is a treasure chest filled with deep hidden mystery and richness of the experiences of the psalmist at high points of praising God and in low seasons. More often than not, the Psalms were technically used in my life and not employed as they should be. It is as though the treasure chest is locked and it is my own heart that locked it. Pastor put the key in my hands to discover yet again the gold and silver in the book of Psalms, and to enjoy it. Pastor showed again why the book of Psalms is so beautiful and relevant. It is a compendium of doctrines – a concise body of knowledge. It is all the doctrines contained in the Word of God. Like right from Psalm 1 from doctrine of biblical separation to doctrine of Scriptures; it is also a compendium of songs for us to apply in every season of life. What we are singing is what the men of God and the saints in the past have been using. The Word of God abideth forever. The Psalms are still relevant to us. Thus we see the divine properties of the Word of as it is made in heaven. Pastor wished each of us will be convicted to go back to use the Psalms. Christ is in the Psalms. If I am seeking for Christ then the Psalms should be precious to me. **I have left off reading the Word of God and also singing the Psalms in the last few years of my life.** I am bereft of the positive experience of true religion. But the negative experience became more real such as times when I felt spiritual defilement. But the Psalms are meant for me to use in crying to God. God made it easy for us to remember the Psalms. We can hum the tune and remember it. The preciousness of the Psalms is experimental to me before but I desire to grow as a Christian and mature as a Christian. I pray I will use the Psalms in good or bad times to cry to God. Pastor did not say the Psalms would answer all my questions. The secret things belong to God. God needs not answer any of my questions. The Psalms direct me to seek Christ. There is nothing else more important than the justification of our soul. That is what Job is trying to show us. The justification of a man and salvation of the soul is most important and everything else pales into insignificance. We need to employ the Psalms in our seeking of God for our soul to be reconciled back to God. Pastor scolded us for espousing many other gospels – the gospel of fitness, the gospel of oats, the gospel of cosmetics, the gospel of education, the gospel of career and if in time to come, the gospel of marriage, the gospel of children, the gospel of buying houses and cars (the gospel of prosperity) yet I see at the end of day, I need to espouse the Gospel of Christ - that is the only Gospel that saves! I pray I will go back to the Psalms to seek the Lord Yeshua Christ. I must be able to say experimentally, 'Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of pilgrimage'. I thank God for the way in that pastor enthused us to go back to the Psalms. Pray that all his labour and effort would not be in vain."*

Naomi Chua's response to pastor's message on the link, the place, the sequence and the purpose of the book of Job and the Psalter in the Wisdom Literature, Cameron Highlands, Pahang, Malaysia; 12 June 2016 AD