



Message: “Lovingkindness Walks Through the Darkness”. **Psalm 89:49-52** [38-52]

The intention with which we live our lives reflects the nature of Christ within us. Ethan speaks about the importance of God’s lovingkindness. For Ethan it was the thing which saw him through the difficulties that he faced.

Ethan was a wise man, in fact we are told he was one of the wisest men in the kingdom of Israel. But wisdom can be a doubled edged sword. The ability to apply knowledge to circumstances of life can be used for good or evil.

Ethan comes from the Hebrew name Eitan – meaning: strong, stable, enduring or good courage. Indicating optimism. Ethan can also mean “steadfast”



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**49 Lord, where *are* Your former lovingkindnesses, Which You swore to David in Your truth?**

**50 Remember, Lord, the reproach of Your servants — *How* I bear in my bosom *the reproach* of all the many peoples,**

**51 With which Your enemies have reproached, O LORD, With which they have reproached the footsteps of Your anointed.**

**52 Blessed *be* the LORD forevermore! Amen and Amen.**

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# Hesed

Steadfast Love // Lovingkindness // Covenant Loyalty

חֶסֶד

Message:  
“Lovingkindness  
Walks Through  
the Darkness”.  
**Psalm 89:49-52**  
[38-52]  
The Hebrew word  
“Hesed [pronounced  
“chesed”] varies in  
meaning due to the  
context. It can mean  
mercy, goodness,  
loving kindness,  
kindness, loyalty. It is  
a word intentionally  
loaded with  
emotional impact.  
**Psalm 25:8-11**



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## Psalm 25:8-11

8 Good and upright *is* the LORD;  
Therefore He teaches sinners in  
the way.

9 The humble He guides in  
justice, And the humble He  
teaches His way.

10 All the paths of the LORD *are*  
**mercy** and truth, To such as keep  
His covenant and His testimonies.

11 For Your name's sake, O  
LORD, Pardon my iniquity, for it *is*  
great.

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חסד

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**Psalm 89:49-52 [38-52]**

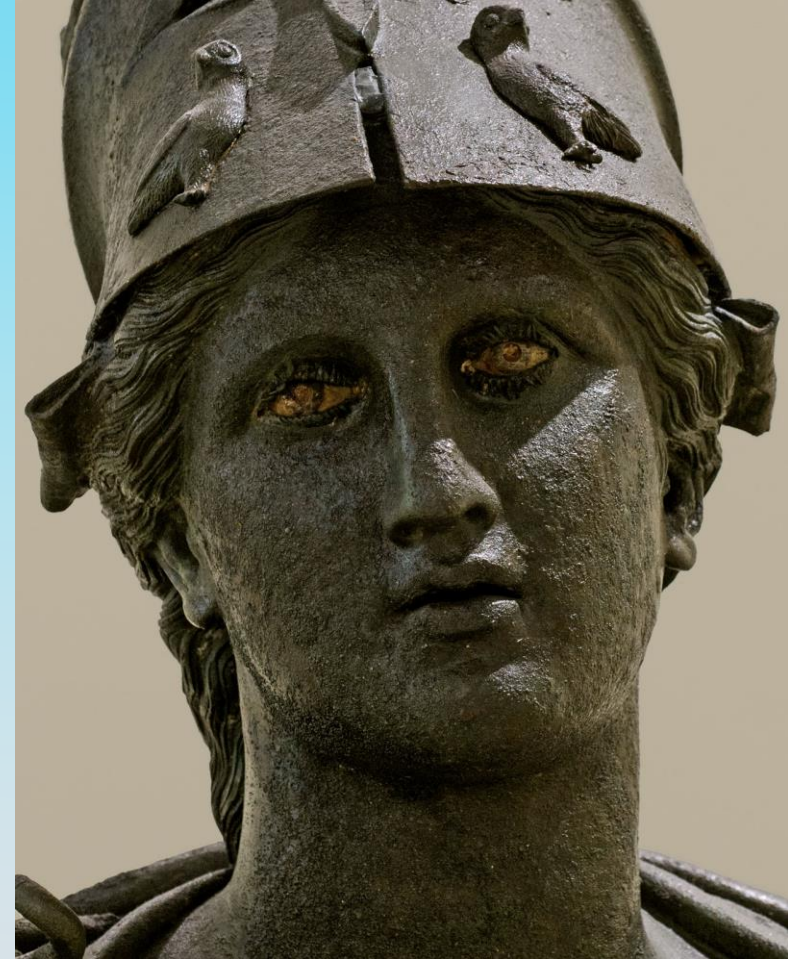
Many people struggle to view God as hesed [lovinglykind]. Yet this is how God reveals Himself throughout the Old Testament. He tells us that His motivation for all He does is “Hesed”. Ethan depends on this.

In fact his psalm uses the word “hesed” 7 times in reference to God. In most cases it is a plea for God to remember his “lovingkindness”.

As Ethan walks through the darkness of his present circumstances he depends on this lovingkindness to bolster his optimism for the future.

In the Septuagint this word is often translated with the Greek word for “mercy” but that does not capture the complete meaning of the word. Hasidic Jews view their relationship with God as a reflection of this concept.





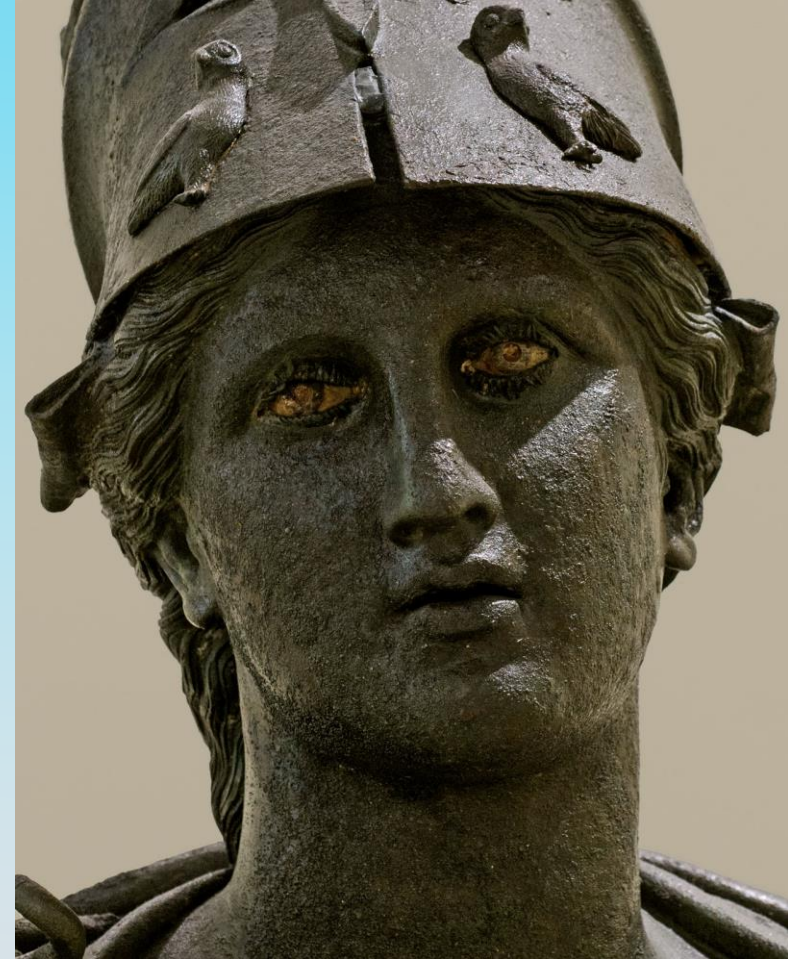
This bronze statue dates from around 330 BC. It is a statue of Athena the goddess of wisdom. The Greek words for wisdom are Sophia, Metis & phronesis.

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The basis of the name Athena is not known. It is not known if the goddess was named for the city or the city of Athens named for the goddess. Ancient Greek writers struggled with the origin of the name. Plato surmised that it developed out of the words for “theos” and “vous” or “godlike mind”. This seems unlikely; the goddess was probably named for the city and the origin of the name “Athens” is lost in antiquity.

In fact Athena may have originated as a chthonic of magic because her 2 most closely associated animals are a snake and an owl. According to the myth of her origin her mother was the Titan goddess Metis [wisdom].





This bronze statue dates from around 330 BC. It is a statue of Athena the goddess of wisdom. The Greek words for wisdom are Sophia, Metis & phroneisis.

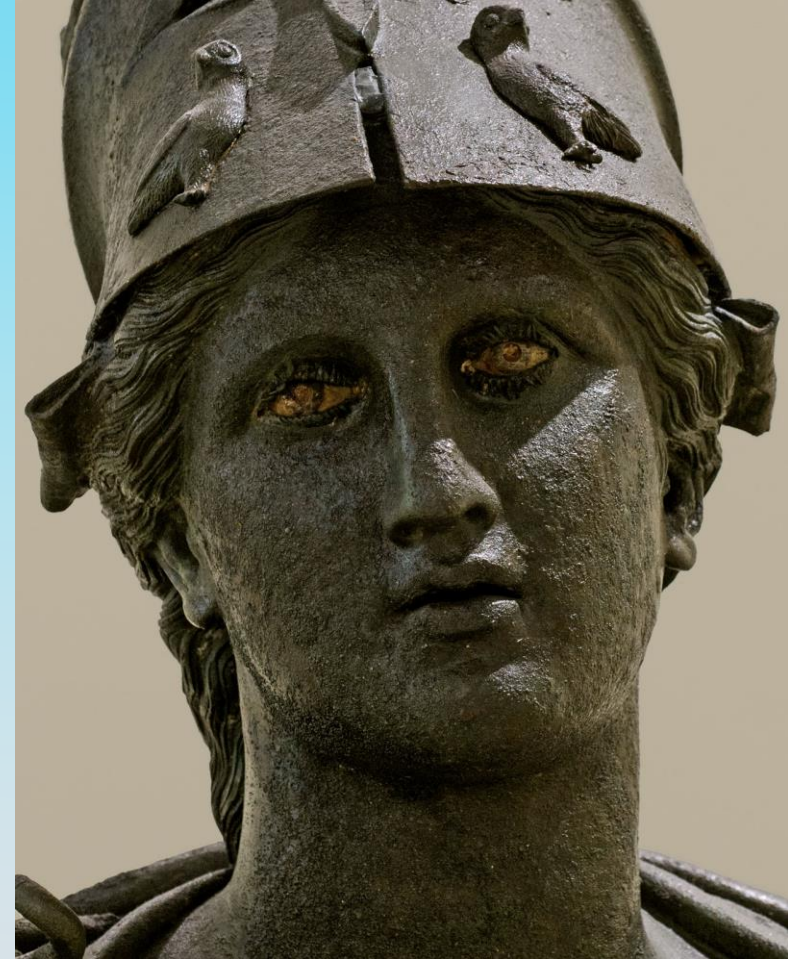
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The owl's connect to Athena is the reason why it is a symbol of “wisdom” in Western culture. You will notice the owls on her helmet. The word for owl in Greek means “bright eyes” the statue of Athena has “gold leaf eyes”. Athena was the goddess of strategy, knowledge, wisdom, crafts and war and magic. The magic nature of Athena was later played down as was the serpent connection. **Matthew 10:16**



An Athenian silver “tetradrachma”. Athenian coinage had an owl on the obverse for over 500 years before Christ. This is from 400 BC





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**Matthew 10:16**

16 “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

The Greek word “wise” here phronimos meaning “prudent”. There are 4 separate Greek words translated as “wise” or “wisdom” in the New Testament, “metis” had fallen out of use.



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Wisdom in Jewish understanding was the ability to apply what you know to life. The critical components of wisdom are: knowledge [both practical and intellectual], insight [the ability to see more than what is on the surface]; good judgement [the ability to make informed decisions]; discretion [the ability to use information within the right time frame and circumstances]. To be considered wise Ethan would have had to exhibit these characteristics.

In the Old Testament there are 7 Words translated as “wisdom”

In Proverbs 11:17-20 indicates the intersection of hesed and wisdom.

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Proverbs 11:17-20

17 The **merciful** man does good for his own soul, But *he who is cruel* troubles his own flesh.

18 The wicked *man* does deceptive work, But he who sows righteousness *will have* a sure reward.

19 As righteousness *leads* to life, So he who pursues evil *pursues it* to his own death.

20 Those who are of a perverse heart *are* an abomination to the LORD, But *the blameless* in their ways *are* His delight.

*The book of Proverbs is about gaining wisdom. It warns here about the motives that drive that wisdom*

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FreakingNews.com

“The Wise Old Owl”  
poem dated from a  
Punch Magazine  
reworking of a  
nursery rhyme in  
1851”

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**Psalm 89:49-52 [38-52]**

Hebrew

חכמה *khok-maw'* - wisdom, skill, prudence This is the most used word.

חכם *khaw-kam'* - wise. It is related to the above word.

שכל *saw-kal'* - wise, understand, circumspect.

לבב *law-bab'a* - literally “ravished my heart” connected with the concept of conscience hence “wisdom”

בין *bene* - insight, understanding, discernment, wisdom

תבון *taw-boon'* - understanding, discretion, reason, wisdom. It is related to the word above.

תושיה *too-shee-yaw'* - wisdom, common sense, etc.

Greek

Σοφία *sophia* - wisdom, broad and full of intelligence; used of the knowledge of very diverse matters

Φρόνησις *phronesis* – wisdom, prudence

Φρόνιμος *phronimos* – wise, intelligent, mindful of one’s interests. From the word above

νουνεχῶς *nounechos* - wisely, discreetly, prudently [to have control of your mind]

Συνίημι *suniemi* - be wise, [to bring things together]

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This portrait is of Alexander Pope from 1716 when he was 28, [1688-1744]. He would revolutionize English literature and language.

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Alexander Pope through his poetry and literary critiques challenged English morals, decadence and political corruption.

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David learned this to his own sorrow many years earlier. His son Absalom led a coup against David. One of the men who joined Absalom was the man Ahithophel. Of the counselors of Israel he was accounted as the wisest. In 2 Samuel 15 and 16 we come to know the danger of wisdom which is mercenary or vindictive.

Wisdom without ethics at its base is cunning. Cunning can be used for great evil. As Christians we are told by Jesus to be wise as serpents but harmless as doves.





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“Many people are capable of doing a **wise thing**, more a **cunning thing**, but very few a **generous thing**.” - **Alexander Pope**

[QuoteOasis.com]

Wisdom that does not have the purpose of God or the betterment of others in mind is carnal in intent. We guard our wisdom by making sure it is exercised with lovingkindness.

We live in a world, due to darkness, does not appreciate our faith but as we display God’s lovingkindness in the world we give witness to Christ.