

FIRST CORINTHIANS 2.10

GOD'S VALLEY, GOD'S STOOP

As the apostle Paul explores the preparation of God for the cross the Spirit presents us with a preview in Isaiah 53. Paul calls this "The valley of God" and assures us the Lord God has visited this valley and known its every pit and shadow. The sovereign one is understood as able to foreknow without being willing to forego the compassionate plan of salvation.

God has shone or glowed for us - "spread out" for us by His Spirit - for the Spirit searches everything - **even the "depths" of God - the "profundity" or better still the "valley" qmw9 of God.** *The point Paul is making is that God has shown us the depths recorded first by Isaiah in his 53rd - His infinite love expressed in the cross. Paul arrives not at the cross by the traditional route of having seen it for himself as an apostle but **having explored it in the prophets after he had met the risen Lord.** The prophet is available to all and we alike can walk through the valley of the shadow in Isaiah and be deeply moved by what the Spirit says in the word.*

It is surely thus that we are to contemplate our Lord and redeemer. He walked this way by the Spirit. He listened to the composer of Psalm 22. Such is death's shadow to life's creator

Down from His glory ever living story
My God and Saviour came and Jesus was His name
Born in a manger to His own a stranger
A man of sorrows tears and agony
O how I love Him how I adore Him
My breath and sunshine my all-in-all
The great creator became my Saviour
And all God's fullness dwelleth in Him.

Bob Coffey Aramaic Bible Companion