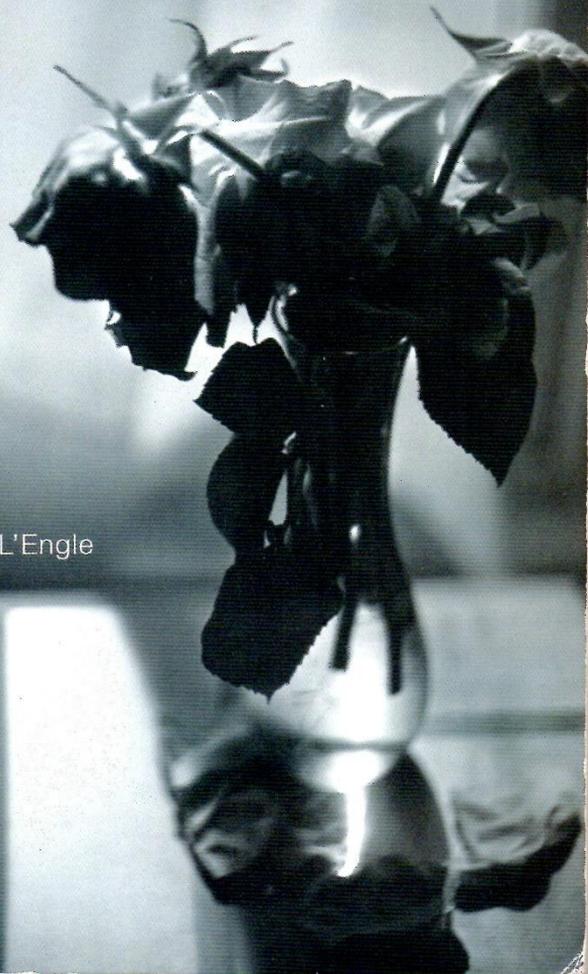
The image features a close-up, textured view of a person's face, likely Job, with a dark, wavy background. The face is rendered in a highly detailed, almost sculptural style, with deep shadows and bright highlights that emphasize the skin's texture and the contours of the features. The background consists of dark, wavy lines that create a sense of depth and movement. The overall mood is somber and dramatic.

**THE GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO JOB**

C. S. Lewis

A Grief Observed



Foreword by Madeleine L'Engle

Yet I want the others to be about me. I dread the moments when the house is empty. If only they would talk to one another and not to me.

Job 3

“3 After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. 2 And Job said: 3 ‘Let the day perish on which I was born, and the night that said, ‘A man is conceived.’ 4 Let that day be darkness! May God above not seek it, nor light shine upon it.

⁵ Let gloom and deep darkness claim it. Let clouds dwell upon it; let the blackness of the day terrify it. ⁶ That night—let thick darkness seize it! Let it not rejoice among the days of the year; let it not come into the number of the months. ⁷ Behold, let that night be barren; let no joyful cry enter it.

⁸ Let those curse it who curse the day,
who are ready to rouse up Leviathan.

⁹ Let the stars of its dawn be dark; let it
hope for light, but have none, nor see
the eyelids of the morning, ¹⁰ because it
did not shut the doors of my mother's
womb, nor hide trouble from my eyes.

¹¹ 'Why did I not die at birth, come out
from the womb and expire?

¹² Why did the knees receive me? Or why the breasts, that I should nurse?

¹³ For then I would have lain down and been quiet; I would have slept; then I would have been at rest, ¹⁴ with kings and counselors of the earth who rebuilt ruins for themselves, ¹⁵ or with princes who had gold, who filled their houses with silver.

¹⁶ Or why was I not as a hidden stillborn child, as infants who never see the light?

¹⁷ There the wicked cease from troubling, and there the weary are at rest. ¹⁸ There the prisoners are at ease together; they hear not the voice of the taskmaster. ¹⁹ The small and the great are there,

and the slave is free from his master.
²⁰ 'Why is light given to him who is in
misery, and life to the bitter in soul,
²¹ who long for death, but it comes not,
and dig for it more than for hidden
treasures, ²² who rejoice exceedingly
and are glad when they find the grave?

²³ Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden, whom God has hedged in?

²⁴ For my sighing comes instead of my bread, and my groanings are poured out like water. ²⁵ For the thing that I fear comes upon me, and what I dread befalls me. ²⁶ I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest, but trouble comes.”

1) God will take us to the edge.

“my sighing comes instead of my bread, and my groanings are poured out like water. For the thing that I fear comes upon me, and what I dread befalls me.” Vs 24,25

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. 1Peter 4

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. James 1

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. Heb 12:7

I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.
Acts 9



"Let the day perish on which I was born, and the night that said, 'A man is conceived.' Let that day be darkness! May God above not seek it, nor light shine upon it. Let gloom and deep darkness claim it." vs 3-5

2) God will hear our cries on the edge.

"Why did I not die at birth, come out from the womb and expire? Why did the knees receive me? Or why the breasts, that I should nurse?" vs 11,12

...“why was I not as a hidden stillborn child, as infants who never see the light?” vs 16

“God doesn’t mind our anger. He relishes it, if it drives us to him instead of away from him. Better an outburst than a theologically correct and spiritually pallid rationale and a dangling conversation.... You can speak your mind to God and not be afraid that he will blow things out of proportion.”

Ben Patterson

“God loves that holy war—Cast yourself into his arms, not to be caressed but to wrestle with him... He may be too many for you, and lift you from your feet. But it will be to lift you from earth, and set you in the heavenly places which are theirs who fight the good fight and lay hold of God as their eternal life.”

P.T. Forsyth

Why, O LORD, do you reject me and hide your face from me?.....

Your wrath has swept over me; your terrors have destroyed me.....

You have taken my companions and loved ones from me; the darkness is my closest friend.

Psalm 88

O LORD, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me.

Cursed be the day on which I was born! The day when my mother bore me, let it not be blessed!

Cursed be the man who brought the news to my father, "A son is born to you," making him very glad.

Jeremiah 20: 7, 14,15

3) God will give us grace to keep us from going over the edge.

Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden, whom God has hedged in? vs 23

“ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8

