

Liberating Faith Studies

Summer Quarter – 2020

MANY* faces of **WISDOM*



The focus is the many faces of God's wisdom
& God as sovereign, liberating, and all wise



LIBERATING
FAITH STUDIES



MANY
faces of
WISDOM



Summer Quarter 2020

- **Unit 1:** The Book of Proverbs – Explores the nature of God's Wisdom
 - **Unit 2:** Jesus' teachings as presented in the Gospels
 - **Unit 3:** The New Testament letter attributed to James
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The Book of Proverbs

- Solomon wrote most of this book, with Agur and Lemuel contributing some of the later sections.
- “Proverb” means “to be like”

Purpose:

To teach people how to attain wisdom, discipline, and a prudent life, and how do what is right, just, and fair—in short , to apply divine wisdom to daily life and to provide moral instructions

- Proverbs is a book of comparisons between common, concrete images and life’s most profound truths.
- Proverbs are simple, moral statement (or illustrations) that highlight and teach fundamental realities about life
- Solomon sought God’s wisdom (2 Chronicles 1:8-12) and offered simple saying designed to make people contemplate:
 1. the fear of God, and
 2. living by His wisdom (1:7; 9:10)
- **The sum of God’s wisdom is personified in the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:30)**

God's Wisdom

➤ Seeking God's wisdom: Solomon asks for wisdom (2 Chr 1:8-12)

8 Solomon replied to God, "You showed great and faithful love to David, my father, and now you have made me king in his place.

9 O LORD God, please continue to keep your promise to David my father, for you have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth!

10 Give me the wisdom and knowledge to lead them properly, for who could possibly govern this great people of yours?"

11 God said to Solomon, "Because your greatest desire is to help your people, and you did not ask for wealth, riches, fame, or even the death of your enemies or a long life, but rather you asked for wisdom and knowledge to properly govern my people—

12 I will certainly give you the wisdom and knowledge you requested. But I will also give you wealth, riches, and fame such as no other king has had before you or will ever have in the future!"

God's Wisdom

► **Manifest in Christ** (2 Cor 30)

30 God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.



The Call of Wisdom

Lesson Scripture: Proverbs 1

Focus Scripture: Proverbs 1:1-4, 7-8, 10, 20-22, 32-33

Key Verse:

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7 (NRSV)

Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. Proverbs 1:7 (NLT)

The PURPOSE OF PROVERBS

(NLT)

- 1** These are the proverbs of Solomon, David's son, king of Israel.
- 2** Their purpose is to teach people wisdom and discipline, to help them understand the insights of the wise.
- 3** Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives, to help them do what is right, just, and fair.
- 4** These proverbs will give insight to the simple, knowledge and discernment to the young.
- 7** Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

► A Father's Exhortation: Acquire Wisdom

8 My child, listen when your father corrects you. Don't neglect your mother's instruction.

10 My child, if sinners entice you, turn your back on them!

► Wisdom Shouts in the Streets

20 Wisdom shouts in the streets. She cries out in the public square.

21 She calls to the crowds along the main street, to those gathered in front of the city gate:

22 "How long, you simpletons, will you insist on being simpleminded? How long will you mockers relish your mocking? How long will you fools hate knowledge?"

32 For simpletons turn away from me—to death. Fools are destroyed by their own complacency.

33 But all who listen to me will live in peace, untroubled by fear of harm."



Understanding and taking God's word to heart and life application

- Growing up, my parents and grandparents had a lot of sayings and idioms that they would recite when trying to get us kids to learn a lesson. They would share their experiences and offer us insights that would help us when making our own decisions. Out of fear and respect, mostly fear, we listened to what they said; but, we did not receive it as relevant to our current situations. Like a lot of young people, we dismissed their words as being outdated, because as DJ Jazzy Jeff and The Fresh Prince put it, "Parents Just Don't Understand." It would be years before we were able to heed their warnings or even comprehend what they were trying to say to us and the value of it. What made us or anyone so resistant to wisdom? What makes one ignore wisdom and not answer wisdom's call? And, what exactly is wisdom?
- What makes one ignore wisdom and not answer wisdom's call?
- So, how do we get people to tune their ear to wisdom's call?
- Or, do we...allow them to come to wisdom on their own with instruction and teaching as their guide?