

## Wisdom

One portion of OT Scripture is known as “wisdom literature.” But, the proverbs are written by wise men, to be passed along to their sons and followers, in order to lead prudent, appropriate lives. In Solomon’s writing, he passed along basic knowledge of human behavior, which he termed “wisdom.”

But that’s not the same as the wisdom of God.

A. W. Tozer and J. I. Packer have defined wisdom as follows:

“In the Holy Scriptures wisdom, when used of God and good men, always carries a strong moral connotation. It is conceived as being pure, loving, and good.... (God’s) Wisdom, among other things, is the ability to devise perfect ends and to achieve those ends by the most perfect means. It sees the end from the beginning, so there can be no need to guess or conjecture. Wisdom sees everything in focus, each in proper relation to all, and is thus able to work toward predestined goals with flawless precision.” A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy* (San Francisco: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1961), p. 66.

“Wisdom is the power to see, and the inclination to choose, the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it. Wisdom is, in fact, the practical side of moral goodness. As such, it is found in its fulness only in God. He alone is naturally and entirely and invariable wise.” J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*, p. 80.

Given His infinite knowledge, combined with his holiness and righteousness, God always chooses what is best -- the best goals and the best means to those goals.

Wisdom is based upon knowledge. Often, in fact, wisdom and knowledge are mentioned together (see [Jeremiah 10:12; 51:15](#); [Romans 11:33](#); 1 Corinthians 1:24; [Colossians 2:3](#); [Revelation 5:12; 7:12](#) Psalm 104:24

Wisdom cannot exist without a knowledge of all the facts pertinent to any purpose or plan.

“With Him are wisdom and might; To Him belong counsel and understanding” ([Job 12:13](#)).

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable ([Isaiah 40:28](#)).

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! ([Romans 11:33](#)).

God is all-wise, infinitely wise:

“Behold, God is mighty but does not despise [any;] [He is] mighty in strength of understanding” ([Job 36:5](#)).

Great is our Lord, and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite ([Psalms 147:5](#)).

God’s wisdom is vastly superior to human wisdom:

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD. 9 “For [as] the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts” ([Isaiah 55:8-9](#)).

God alone is wise:

25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, 26 but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, [leading] to obedience of faith; 27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen ([Romans 16:25-27](#))

It is God who is the source of wisdom:

For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth [come] knowledge and understanding (Proverbs 2:6).

Daniel answered and said, “Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to Him” (Daniel 2:20).

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him (James 1:5).

God’s creation is reasonable and wise. His wisdom is demonstrated in His creation. From it’s vastness to its minuteness, it all works. It’s intelligent. It was made through wisdom.

The very fact that science works – that certain rules are built into the creation that can be repeatedly observed and counted on is evidence of the wisdom of God’s creation. It is not random. It’s stable. It’s the very basis on which science is founded – and ironically, it’s this very stability and repeatability that scientists use to deny the existence of God (as if the world just burst into an orderly assembly).

**Ephesians 3:1-10** God has chosen people from every nation. That’s the manifold (many faceted) wisdom of God. He is building His church and His purpose will stand. And history will conclude just as God, in His wisdom, has determined.

So, the church, its makeup (various gifts), and its existence demonstrates His wisdom.

If “all things work together for good, to those who love God” then there is design and wisdom in how He deals with individuals, resulting in their ultimate good and His ultimate glory.

James 1:5 -- If any of you lacks wisdom, ask God.

Proverbs 9:10 – Fear of God is the beginning of wisdom

And finally, just as God must first have had any positive characteristic shared by humans, human wisdom, thinking, logic, and morality are the direct result of God being wise.

Warning: Don't become wise in your own conceits.

Eve took ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because she saw that it would make her "wise." But, her newfound awareness of good and evil was the worst thing to ever happen to her.

Don't seek human wisdom and don't seek to look into forbidden things thinking it will expand your understanding. If God has restricted it, He did it for a reason and for your good. Seek the wisdom of God.

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Christians today seek to be wise, but all too often it is not God's wisdom they seek. They seem ignorant of the fact that there is a false wisdom which must be rejected:

13 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and [so] lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. 18 And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace ([James 3:13-18](#)).

12 For our proud confidence is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you ([2 Corinthians 1:12](#)).

23 These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, [but are] of no value against fleshly indulgence ([Colossians 2:23](#)).

The wisdom of God and the "wisdom" of men are not the same; they are not compatible. Indeed, they are in opposition to each other:

18 For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE." 20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not [come to] know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22 For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men ([1 Corinthians 1:18-25](#)).

1 And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. 4 And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. 6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; 7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden [wisdom,] which God predestined before the ages to our glory ([1 Corinthians 2:1-7](#)).

6 For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth [come] knowledge and understanding ([Proverbs 2:6](#)).

12 "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And I find knowledge [and] discretion. 13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way, And the perverted mouth, I hate. 14 Counsel is mine and sound wisdom; I am understanding, power is mine. 15 By me kings reign, And rulers decree justice. 16 By me princes rule, and nobles, All who judge rightly. 17 I love those who love me; And those who diligently seek me will find me. 18 Riches and honor are with me, Enduring wealth and righteousness. 19 My fruit is better than gold, even pure gold, And my yield than choicest silver. 20 I walk in the way of righteousness, In the midst of

the paths of justice, 21 To endow those who love me with wealth, That I may fill their treasuries” ([Proverbs 8:12-21](#)).

But, Godly wisdom given to the church is what we should share, teach, extol and proclaim:

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, 8 which He lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight 9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him 10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fulness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things upon the earth ([Ephesians 1:7-10](#)).

8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God, who created all things; 10 in order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly [places.] 11 [This was] in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. 13 Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory ([Ephesians 3:8-13](#)).