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Proverbs 8

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Proverbs 8.

Topics.

- Wisdom and understanding raise their voice and all call to everyone.
- Gifts concerning intellect and thinking and choices and decisions.
- Gifts concerning judging and decisions and the end result of a choice.
- Learn wisdom for wisdom only speaks noble things and what is right.
- Choose wisdom instead of silver and knowledge rather than gold.
- By wisdom kings reign; decree what is just and govern justly.
- With wisdom come enduring wealth, righteousness, riches and honour.
- God possessed wisdom at the beginning, the first of his acts.
- Whoever finds wisdom finds life and obtains favour from the LORD.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Proverbs is a collection of Israelite wisdom literature, that has multiple authors, but most of it is attributed to King Solomon. Chapter one to nine gives readers a framework for understanding the rest of the book. The central concern of the book of Proverbs is practical wisdom for living. We are told that the beginning and essence of wisdom is the fear of the LORD (Prov. 1:7) (Prov. 9:10). It contrasts the benefits of seeking wisdom and the pitfalls of living a foolish life. While the wicked stumble in deep darkness (Prov. 4:19), the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day ((Prov. 4:18). Individual proverbs date from between the tenth and sixth centuries B.C.

KINGS AND ANGELS

The title king is often used throughout the book of Proverbs, it comes from the Hebrew word (*malak*) which can refer to the following four things:

1. A royal king ascending to the throne of royalty and reigning from it.
2. A male sovereign (i.e., a man or boy who rules as a monarch over an independent state.
3. The chief, or the principal leader or ruler of a group (secular or religious).
4. A messenger or ambassador, especially of God, (i.e. an angel, a king, a prophet, a priest or a teacher).
5. The best, the strongest and the wisest of all.

It is interesting to notice in the first verse of proverbs (Prov. 1:1) the word king comes from the Hebrew word (*malak*) and the first mention of an angel in the Bible also comes from the Hebrew word (*malak*) (Gen. 16:7). This means when the title king is used in the book of Proverbs it

carries the idea of a wise king that does good unless the context implies otherwise. For further information concerning angels see the title: "Angels," (ON WEBSITE MENU).

PROVERBS 8:1-4

Wisdom and Understanding Raise their Voice and Call to Everyone.

- **Proverbs 8:1-4:** Does not wisdom call? Does not understanding raise her voice? ²On the heights beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; ³beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud: ⁴To you, O men, I call, and my cry is to the children of man.

Wisdom is personified as a woman who desperately wants to pass on her gift to everyone everywhere (Proverbs 8:1-4). Following is a list of some of the gifts that wisdom longs to give.

Gifts concerning Intellect and Thinking.

- The ability to reason and discern a thing out to its end conclusion and perceive the ramifications (good or bad) of what someone is saying.
- The ability to use good sense and to be rational in dealing with practical, financial, emotional, and spiritual matters.
- The ability to think clearly and be practical with the talents and skills they have.
- The ability to be thoughtful and discreet and keep sensitive information secret so as not to cause embarrassment to others.

Gifts concerning Choices and Decisions.

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- The ability to see the positive in a choice to be made as well as the negative.
- The ability to stop emotions from influencing and controlling decisions that have to be made.
- The ability to make choices that will be fair and just to others.
- The ability to be cautious in making decisions as opposed to being impulsive.
- The ability to perceive the end result or ramifications (good or bad) of the underlying message that is being taught.

Gifts concerning Judging and Decisions.

- The ability to consider others; be just and fair and treat everyone as an equal.
- The ability to make good judgments and carefully consider the likely consequences.
- The ability to judge and decide on a matter and make the right decision about it.

Gifts concerning the End Result of a Choice.

- The ability to acquire mental knowledge that helps in making right decisions for the present moment and for the future.
- The ability to see ahead in time the ramifications, consequences and the end result of an action done in the present moment.

- The ability to think a choice through in the present moment to its end conclusion to see if it is going to result in calamity or danger in the future.
- The ability to make good choices and decisions in the present moment that will end in a good outcome in the future and bring about the best result.
- The ability to avoid making decisions and choices in the present moment that will lead to hurt or calamity in the future.
- The ability to manage resources so as to provide for the future.

PROVERBS 8:5-9

Learn Wisdom for Wisdom Speaks Noble things and what is Right.

- **Proverbs 8:5-9:** O simple ones, learn prudence (wisdom in KJV); O fools, learn sense. ⁶Hear, for I (wisdom) (v12) will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right, ⁷for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. ⁸All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them. ⁹They are all straight to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge.

Prudence: (wisdom in the KJV) comes from the Hebrew word (*`ormah*) it can carry a good or bad meaning.

Prudence in a good sense: means tact and discretion it carries the idea of having good judgment and the sensitivity needed to avoid embarrassing or upsetting others and the ability to keep sensitive information secret. Having the freedom and authority to judge and decide on a matter and make a decision about it. To use good judgment and good sense in dealing with practical matters by carefully considering the likely consequences and acting accordingly to manage resources so as to provide for the future.

Prudence in a bad sense: means trickery and guile it primarily means to be skilful in the use of clever schemes to deceive others; to have a cunning, deceitful and treacherous quality; to subtly use clever schemes designed to deceive for the purpose of achieving a goal or a deceptive manoeuvre that is designed to deceive others for one's own gain.

PROVERBS 8:10-13

Choose Wisdom instead of Silver and Knowledge than Choice Gold.

- **Proverbs 8:10-13:** Take my (wisdom) instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold, ¹¹for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her. ¹²I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and I find knowledge and discretion. ¹³The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.

Wisdom is more valuable than silver and gold because it is guaranteed that wisdom will not only lead a person to God, to eternal life and keep them from all sorts of troubles, crime and wrongdoing, but also fill their mind and heart with contentment, peace and God's love. In contrast to this all the riches in the world cannot guarantee any of these things and certainly cannot buy eternal life.

The fear of the LORD is hatred toward evil: it is having a hatred of everything that harms another human physically, financially, sexually, emotionally, or spiritually and having a strong dislike of anything that destroys the planet and of whoever treats animals cruelly. God loves humans He gave his only Son to die for them. The fear of the LORD is

about protecting and preventing harm to other humans. It is about knowing we are all going to stand before Him one day and give an account of our actions. The fear of this judgment should motivate a person to do the right thing and treat others with respect. The reason a person is told to fear the LORD is because all humans have sinned and will one-day be judged by God. This fear should motivate all of us to seek God and his eternal salvation and forgiveness. This is why the Bible says the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom it motivates a person to seek God and His forgiveness. The apostle John in his letter wrote:

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:8-10).

The fear of the LORD has the following two aspects:

- 1 An eternal aspect: wisdom teaches that mankind is separated from God because of sin and without God a person has no hope of eternal life and will be judged accordingly. The fear of the LORD in this context is wisdom because it motivates a person to seek God and eternal life.
- 2 An aspect for the present moment: the fear of the LORD in the present moment motivates mankind to obey God's Ten Commandments which are all designed to protect the innocent from harm, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally and spiritually (summed up they mean do-good and not harm). The fear of the LORD in this context is also wisdom because if everyone feared the LORD humanity would live in harmony with each other. Sadly, there is very little fear of the LORD in the world today and so we see rampant rebellion, violence, crime and wars in most countries.

The fear of God and Christians: those in Christ look to the bloodstained cross of Calvary and understand and experience Christ's great love and God's grace in their hearts and minds and no longer act from fear, but from love in the same way that a man in love with a woman does not do things to please her from fear, but from the love dwelling in his heart. Likewise, it is with the faithful who belong to the Lords global family.

PROVERBS 8:14-17

By Wisdom Kings Reign; Decree what is Just and Govern Justly.

- **Proverbs 8:14-17:** I (wisdom) have counsel and sound wisdom; I have insight; I have strength. ¹⁵By me kings reign, and rulers decree what is just; ¹⁶by me princes rule, and nobles, all who govern justly. ¹⁷I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.

Counsel: comes from the Hebrew word (*`etsah*) and means to give advice, guide, resolve or deliberate meaning to be able to carefully consider and think something out in detail.

Seek: comes from the Hebrew word (*shachar*) and carries the following ideas: to enquire at betimes or rise up early in the morning to enquire with earnestness and painstaking diligence to search after something aimed for.

Wisdom says: "Whoever seeks me is going to find me," this shines a spotlight on the truth that it takes study, reading and humbleness to listen to others to gain wisdom it is not going to drop out of heaven. If a person seeks after wisdom it will give them mental and spiritual strength, insight and the ability to counsel. Wisdom not only establishes good kings, rulers' princes and nobles, with the ability to do right and govern justly, but also ones that people they rule over will favour.

NOTICE: wisdom loves those who love it. (v17).

With Wisdom come Wealth, Righteousness, Riches and Honour.

- **Proverbs 8:18-21:** Riches and honor are with me (wisdom), enduring wealth and righteousness. ¹⁹My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver. ²⁰I walk in the way of righteousness, in the paths of justice, ²¹granting an inheritance to those who love me, and filling their treasuries.

The fruit of wisdom is:

- Justice, fairness, impartiality, even-handedness, honesty and integrity, wisdom treats every human with fairness regardless of whether they are kings or paupers, rich or poor, lowly or noble wisdom is no respecter of people it treats everyone with fairness and honest justice accordingly.
- Riches, both material and spiritual
- Honour, both before mankind and before God.
- Enduring righteousness that will lead to eternal life, everlasting happiness and glory.

Like perfect love wisdom has no sin or any wrong-doing within it, if it were possible to build a house with its floors, walls, roof and furniture constructed with the fruits of wisdom it would by far surpass the most glorious palace on earth even if it was built with the cedars of Lebanon and the finest of gold and choice silver.

PROVERBS 8:22-31

God Possessed Wisdom at the Beginning, the First of His Acts.

- **Proverbs 8:22-31:** "The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old. ²³Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. ²⁴When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. ²⁵Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth, ²⁶before he had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world. ²⁷When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, ²⁸when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, ²⁹when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, ³⁰then I was beside him, like a master workman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, ³¹rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man.

God has always existed, and wisdom existed before creation, God used wisdom to create everything that He created., nothing that is made is made without wisdom, God used wisdom in everything that exist including the human mind, thoughts, the subconscious and the conscious mind. Ponder for a moment man stands like a proud peacock, with all his knowledge, but put that knowledge before the knowledge of God and suddenly it looks enormously pathetic, how pitiful is the pride of man especially when he exalts his intellect above God.

PROVERBS 8:32-36

Whoever Finds Wisdom Finds Life and Obtains Favour from God.

- **Proverbs 8:32-36:** And now, O sons, listen to me: blessed are those who keep my ways. ³³Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it. ³⁴Blessed is the one who listens to

me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. ³⁵For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD, ³⁶but he who fails to find me injures himself; all who hate me love death."

Blessed are those who keep my ways means blessed is everyone who does right before God and keeps His laws, meaning, they do-good and show kindness to others contrasted to doing harm. Blessings do not simply come by knowing the right thing to do, but by also doing it. Whoever has wisdom will have favour from the LORD in this life and will be counted worthy of eternal life, but those who lack wisdom do harm to themselves in this life will be judged and condemned to the lake of fire a symbol of eternal death (i.e., total destruction and utter extinction).

For further information see the title:

- Lake of Fire in, Death (ON WEBSITE MENU).

All who hate me love death: (v36) means all who choose to do what is corrupt and wrong and refuse to do what is good, right and decent bring judgment and condemnation to death upon themselves. It could be said that they by their corrupt works are digging their own graves.

WISDOM EMBRACES THE FOLLOWING NINE ASPECTS

1. Having a clear thoughtful, rational, discerning, discriminating, sharp, and discreet mind.
2. Being cautious in character as opposed to being impulsive.
3. Being sensible and practical with the skills and talents that a person has.
4. Making choices that considers others and that will be fair and just.
5. Studying, reading and learning to acquire mental knowledge that helps in making right decisions for the present moment and for the future.
6. Being able to see the future danger of a decision, choice or action.
7. Having the ability to make good choices and decisions in the present moment that will end in the best result and a good outcome in the future.
8. Being able to perceive the end result or ramifications (good or bad) of the underlying message a speaker is teaching.
9. Wisdom will protect a person from making decisions and choices in the present moment that will lead to hurt or calamity in the future for themselves and for others.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
