

“THROUGH THE BIBLE”

Union Chapel M.B. Church

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April 17, 2024

PROVERBS (PART 2)

“KNOWING GOD THROUGH THE PROVERBS”

PROVERBS 8

OVERVIEW AND THEME

THE EXCELLENCE AND WISDOM OF GOD

How should we read the **“Book of Wisdom?”** This Book is carefully arranged, written in the *Hebrew* poetic structure, very concise! To understand a proverb, Solomon clearly spells it out, **“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Prov. 1:7)**. The collection begins with chapter 10 and comes with the admonition, **“Listen...to instruction...!”** This is the **FATHER’S** emphases: wisdom should be desired above all else to live a full and godly life.

When we speak about the Unseen God who is without limitation, impossible to define, “eternal and unchanging,” we can compare and know Him through the **image** of His Son, Jesus! This is the most superior biblical approach. Studying the Old Testament Book of Proverbs with its wisdom, poetry and instructions (reading several or more translations), will enhance our ability to understand the New Testament.

KEY TO PROVERBS

SEEING CHRIST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

“Christ is man’s greatest Treasure. Without Him our Bibles would be skeletons. He is the frame and fabric of the Old Testament as well as of the New. The Law and the Prophets pointed forward, while the Gospels and the Epistles point back to Christ. He is the central focus of both. It (Old Testament) was written to prepare fallen man for the coming Messiah, and to point us to Him.”
Ervin N. Hershberger, Meyersdale, PA, 1999.

Wisdom and foolishness are presented in the personification (*image*) of a woman-
“Lady Wisdom” (**Prov. 1:20-21; 8:1-3**). Solomon uses as a metaphor, “she is the
voice of understanding, calling out in public for her message to be heard” (**Prov.
8:1**). Often, forgetful people need to be reminded of the truth! Note: In the Hebrew
language, wisdom is a grammatically feminine noun. **However, Wisdom is also seen
in its divine perfect state, “The Eternal created me...Before time He established
me...” (Proverbs 8:22-31)**. The Eternal God is the “Source” of all physical and
natural life, as well as spiritual life (**Prov. 3:19-20; 8:35-36**). **This Wisdom (Col. 2:3)
became Christ (Incarnation- God in Christ, the God-Man, 1 Cor. 1:30, 1:22-24).**
Therefore, we see Christ in Proverbs.

KEY VERSE:

PROVERBS 31 (The “bookend” to the lessons of Lady Wisdom, Ch. 1-9)

KEY WORD:

WISDOM

**Note: This kind of wisdom (biblical) consists of a relationship with God, dominated
by a reverent attitude of dependence and knowledge of who He is. This becomes
the foundation to receive guidance for the whole life.**

KEY THOUGHT (CHAPTER 8):

CHRIST, THE POWER AND WISDOM OF GOD

NOTES:

**The “Guidebook” for everyday living!” Fear God, live by His principles! God loves
humility!**