

## Topics in Proverbs

### II. Wisdom's First Steps - The Fear of the Lord - It's Benefits - Pt 4

#### A. The Good of the Fear of the Lord

##### 1. Serves as the Beginning of Wisdom

a. Beginning - Pro 1:7

b. *re'shiyth* - the first, in place, time, order or rank (a firstfruit), beginning, chief (-est), first(-fruits, part, time), principal thing.

c. How it was used

i. Ge 1:1 the absolute beginning

ii. temporally - first thing

iii. quantitatively - chief thing, the choice part

iv. philosophically - principle thing

d. How should we understand "beginning"

i. in Pro 9:10 - *!@chillah* - in the sense of opening; a commencement; begin(-ning), first (time).

ii. a parallel verse using a synonym that gives the meaning of "first in time"

##### 2. What is Biblical Wisdom?

a. 325 Mentions in various forms in the OT

b. Like a microscope, wisdom magnifies and focuses life using the optics of Scripture in order of one to believe and behave so as to glorify and please God

c. What Biblical Wisdom involves . . .

i. Knowing facts of divine revelation

ii. Understanding the intentions of God that leads to a life of redemption and practical sanctification

iii. Wisdom then engages the intellect and will to translate this knowledge and understanding into a pattern of godly experience as a habit of one's life.

d. OT illustrations of wisdom

i. The artisan skillfully making something beautiful from raw materials - Ex 35:10

ii. Intellectual skill in observing and explaining how the natural world works - Pr 6:6-8

iii. Applying knowledge skillfully in a common sense way which allows one to live life with minimal obstacles, but could have no relationship with God.

iv. Adds the unique dimension of "the Fear of the Lord," it is both utilitarian, but also spiritual and eternal. This wisdom can only be taught by God's Spirit to believers who seek it. - Ps 49:3; 51:6; Pr 1:1-7; 15:31-32; 22:17-21

#### B. The Fear of the Lord Brings . . . .

1. Knowledge - 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

a. Form is Antithetical - (A, but B)

b. The verse impresses that we must start our learning by learning where we stand before God

i. If gripped by the Fear of the Lord . . . . ,

- we will be ready to learn and apply God's principles for life

- we will accept both instruction and rebuke from God's Word

ii. If not gripped by the Fear of the Lord,

- we will pick and choose according to our desires and prejudices

2. Wisdom - 9:10

- a. Form is Synonymous - (B re-words A)
  - i. In Line A, wisdom is equated to discernment in Line B
  - ii. In Line A, the Fear of the Lord is equated to the knowledge of the Holy One
- b. The Beginning - See A,1,d.
- c. The Fear of the Lord and the knowledge of the Holy One, being related ideas, are grounded in a relationship of submission and reverence.

3. Long Life - 10:27

- a. Form combines Antithetical (A, but B) + Consequence (B is what happen when you do A)
- b. two things to remember that give understanding
  - i. Nature of Proverbs - general principles - not all is said that could be
  - ii. Setting of Proverbs within the Mosaic Covenant - promised health and prosperity for believing obedience - Ex 15:26; De 7:12-15
- c. For the New Covenant follower,
  - i. lifestyle choices would likely remove us from liability to various forms of death like a jealous spouse, VD, criminal revenge, police etc
  - ii. Obviously eternal life is also partly in view

4. Strong Confidence and a Refuge - 14:26

- a. Form is Consequence (B is what happen when you do A)
- b. Assurance of God's love, and acceptance come from obedience
- c. Knowing God's sovereignty only brings good to conform me to Christ gives peace
- d. A b+c life lived gives the example for the next generation

5. A Fountain of Life - 14:27

- a. Form is Consequence (B is what happen when you do A)
- b. Jesus speaking of eternal life uses the same concept - Jo 4:14

6. Peace and Satisfaction - 15:16

- a. This is an Evaluation Proverb - (A is better than B)
- b. Walking with God, using His wisdom, alleviates problems with people and powers that be

7. The Discipline for Wisdom - 15:33

- a. Form is synonymous (B re-words A)
- b. The fear of the Lord (humility - Pr 22:4) brings God's training

8. Preservation from Evil - 16:6

- a. Form is Consequence (B is what happen when you do A)
- b. Much difficulty in interpretation, lots of questions, - whose attributes? - works salvation?
- c. Best interpretation
  - i. Line A, how sins are to be expiated
  - ii. Line B, how sin is to be avoided

9. Life, Peace of Mind, and Preservation - 19:23

- a. Form is Consequence (B is what happen when you do A)
- b. similar to # 3, 4, 8
- c. on the eternal plane, it is literally true

10. Riches, Honor, and Life - 22:4

- a. Form is Consequence (B is what happen when you do A)
- b. Line B is understood in the context of the Mosaic Covenant
- c. the one that comes to Christ in humility will be rewarded in eternity

11. Praise - 31:30

- a. Form is Evaluation (B is better than A)
- b. forms an *Inclusio* with 1:7, starts and ends the book w/ the Fear of the Lord
- c. Similar to 1 Pe 3:1-6, true beauty is found in the Fear of the Lord