


THE WISDOM OF GOD

Ancient Sagacity from the Book of Proverbs - Part 2



1

FURTHER BIG PICTURE STUFF

- *The Royal Setting* [King Solomon, King Lemuel, their son(s)]
- *The Parental Emphasis* [father (and mother) desiring what is best]
- *The Invitational Approach* [wooing, winning, convincing, earnest]
- *The Dualistic Framework* [the division of something conceptually into two opposed or contrasted aspects]
- *The Observational Method* [not primarily promises, but analysis of how things ordinarily work in the YHWH created order]
- *The Hodge-Podge Layout* [esp. after church 9...life as it comes, yet holistic]
- A word to us as New Covenant believers (royal children wooed into the way of Wisdom through attentiveness, exploration, and wonder)

2

OPENING EXHORTATION (8-9)

My child, *listen* when your father *corrects* you.
Don't neglect your mother's *instruction*.
 What you learn *from them*
 will *crown* you with *grace*
 and be a *chain of honor* around your neck.

3

OPENING WARNING (10)

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

4

AN OPENING SCENARIO (11-14)

They may say, "Come and join us.
Let's hide and kill someone!
Just for fun, let's ambush the innocent!
Let's swallow them alive, like the grave;
let's swallow them whole,
like those who go down to the pit of death.
Think of the great things we'll get!
We'll fill our houses with all the stuff we take.
Come, throw in your lot with us;
we'll all share the loot."

5

A CLOSING EXHORTATION (15-19)

My child, *don't go along* with them!
Stay far away from their paths.
They *rush* to commit evil deeds.
They *hurry* to commit murder.
If a **bird** sees a trap being set,
it knows to stay away.
But these people set an *ambush for themselves*;
they are *trying* to get themselves killed.
Such is the fate of all who are **greedy** for money;
it *robs them* of life.

6

AN ALTERNATIVE CALL (20-23)

Wisdom *shouts* in the streets.

She *cries out* in the public square.

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

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?

Come and listen *to my* counsel.

I'll *share my heart* [Hb. spirit] with you

and *make you wise*.

7

A STERN WARNING (24-27)

I called you so often, but *you wouldn't come*.

I reached out to you, but *you paid no attention*.

You *ignored my advice*

and *rejected the correction* I offered.

So *I will laugh* when you are in trouble!

I will mock you when *disaster* overtakes you—

when *calamity* overtakes you like a storm,

when *disaster* engulfs you like a cyclone,

and *anguish* and *distress* overwhelm you.

8

A STERN WARNING (28-32)

When they cry for help, *I will not answer*.

Though they anxiously search for me, *they will not find me*.

For they *hated knowledge*

and *chose not* to fear the Lord.

They *rejected my advice*

and *paid no attention* when I corrected them.

Therefore, they must *eat the bitter fruit* of living their own
way,

choking on their own schemes.

For simpletons turn away from me—to *death*.

9

A GREAT PROMISE (33)

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

10

CLOSING THOUGHTS

- How does the Good News of the Kingdom inform these passages?
 - Not moralistic replacement for the finished work of Christ
 - Rather, a Spirit empowered love for God, the world, and others in acceptance of Wisdom from God revealed in the world
 - Not removal of all suffering in this life
 - Rather, accepting that we and the creation groan due to the fall, yet, there is unnecessary added suffering when we live in foolishness
- The just shall live by faith in what God reveals in His Word and World
- A word to the younger people: two ways to learn Wisdom (lessons learned through failure or learning the lessons of the failed)

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