


## THE WISDOM OF GOD

Ancient Sagacity from the Book of Proverbs - Part3



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### INTRODUCTION

- 2nd introductory "lecture" from the father
- A brilliant encomium (writing or speech that praises someone or something highly) to Wisdom
- This chapter is a healthy corrective to the popular notion that education in Israel was a harsh and mindless affair in which "demands for obedience to rules were learned by rote and drummed in by incessant rebukes, simplistic promises, and above all, zealous thrashings." (M. Fox)
- A 22 verse, single line, alphabetic poem, both artistic and signifying completeness.

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### THE DILIGENT PURSUIT OF WISDOM (1-4)

<sup>1</sup> My child, **listen** to what I say,  
and **treasure** my commands.

<sup>2</sup> **Tune** your ears to wisdom,  
and **concentrate** on understanding.

<sup>3</sup> **Cry out** for insight,  
and **ask** for understanding.

<sup>4</sup> **Search** for them as you would for silver;  
**seek** them like hidden treasures.

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THE ULTIMATE REWARD OF WISDOM (5)

<sup>5</sup> Then you will understand what it means to **fear the Lord**, and you will gain **knowledge of God**.

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THE EXCLUSIVE SOURCE OF WISDOM (6-7)

<sup>6</sup> For the Lord **grants** wisdom!  
From **his mouth come** knowledge and understanding.  
<sup>7</sup> He **grants** a treasure of common sense to the honest.  
He is a **shield** to those who walk with integrity.

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THE FURTHER REWARDS OF WISDOM (8-11)

<sup>8</sup> He **guards** the paths of the just and **protects** those who are faithful to him.  
<sup>9</sup> Then you will understand what is **right, just, and fair**, and you will find **the right way** to go.  
<sup>10</sup> **For** wisdom will **enter your heart**, and knowledge will **fill you with joy**.  
<sup>11</sup> **Wise choices** will watch over you.  
**Understanding** will keep you safe.

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### THE PROTECTIVE POWER OF WISDOM (12-15)

- <sup>12</sup> Wisdom will save you from **evil people**,  
from those whose words are twisted.
- <sup>13</sup> These men turn from the right way  
to walk down dark paths.
- <sup>14</sup> They take pleasure in doing wrong,  
and they enjoy the twisted ways of evil.
- <sup>15</sup> Their actions are crooked,  
and their ways are wrong.

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### THE PROTECTIVE POWER OF WISDOM (16-19)

- <sup>16</sup> Wisdom will save you from **the immoral woman**,  
from the seductive words of the promiscuous woman.
- <sup>17</sup> She has abandoned her husband  
and ignores the covenant she made before God.
- <sup>18</sup> Entering her house leads to death;  
it is the road to the grave.
- <sup>19</sup> The man who visits her is doomed.  
He will never reach the paths of life.

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### THE ULTIMATE REWARD FOR WISDOM (20-22)

- <sup>20</sup> So **follow** the steps of the good,  
and **stay on** the paths of the righteous.
- <sup>21</sup> For **only** the godly will **live in the land**,  
and those with integrity will **remain in it**.
- <sup>22</sup> But the wicked will be **removed** from the land,  
and the treacherous will be **uprooted**.

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CLOSING THOUGHTS

- Wisdom only comes as *a gift* of God
- Wisdom only comes through *diligent pursuit*
- The ultimate goal is *knowing God*
- Wisdom guides in *righteousness, justice, and fairness*
- Wisdom gives the ability to make *decisions leading to joy*
- Wisdom *gives protection* from temptation and paths of sin, both broadly and particularly
- Wisdom is granted to those *who will inherit the earth*

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