



"Wisdom" in the Bible

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

Proverbs 9:10 NASB

Please read these scriptures and answer the related questions:

- (A) Romans 11:33 What has deep riches? _____
- (B) Exodus 31:1-3 Where did Bezalel get his wisdom? _____
- (C) 2 Chronicles 1:9-12 What did Solomon pray for? _____
- (D) Job 12:12 Who is wisdom with? _____
- (E) Job 12:13-16 With Who is wisdom and might? _____
- (F) Proverbs 4:4-12 Who is the "her" that is mentioned several times? _____
- (G) Ecclesiastes 9:16 What is better than strength? _____
- (H) Jeremiah 49:7 He wonders what has happened to counsel and what? _____
- (I) What does Proverbs 9:10 mean? *Think & pray before answering* _____

In Daniel chapter 2 the king has a dream and when his wise men can not interpret it he orders them killed. After a prayer meeting Daniel intercedes, interprets the dream, saves their lives, and is promoted to high standing in the kingdom together with some of his friends. The prayer of thanksgiving that Daniel gives after being shown the dream and its interpretation is in Daniel 2:19-23. Please read his prayer and answer these three questions:

- (J) Who does wisdom and power belong to? _____
- (K) Who gives wisdom to the wise? _____
- (L) Daniel thanked God for giving him what and power? _____

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-13 and answer these four questions:

- (M) Paul did not come in what? _____
- (N) Paul did not want their faith to rest on what? _____
- (O) Paul speaks God's wisdom to the mature. What are some of the distinguishing characteristics he lists for God's wisdom? _____

- (P) What does 1 Corinthians 2:10-13 mean? *Think & pray before answering* _____

----- "WISDOM" ANSWERS -----

- (A) Romans 11:33 What has deep riches? Wisdom and knowledge of God
- (B) Exodus 31:1-3 Where did Bezalel get his wisdom? God filled him with it
- (C) 2 Chronicles 1:9-12 What did Solomon pray for? Wisdom and knowledge
- (D) Job 12:12 Who is wisdom with? Aged men, older people
- (E) Job 12:13-16 With Who is wisdom and might? The Lord Job 12:9
- (F) Proverbs 4:4-12 Who is the "her" that is mentioned several times? Wisdom and understanding
- (G) Ecclesiastes 9:16 What is better than strength? Wisdom
- (H) Jeremiah 49:7 He wonders what has happened to counsel and what? Wisdom
- (I) It means if you have no respect for God you are not going to listen to Him. It means that Godly wisdom, understanding and knowledge are the only kinds worth having.
- (J) Who does wisdom and power belong to? God Dan 2:20
- (K) Who gives wisdom to the wise? God Dan 2:21
- (L) Daniel thanked God for giving him what and power? Wisdom and power Dan 2:23
- (M) Paul did not come in what? Superiority of speech or of wisdom 1Cor 2:1 & 4
- (N) Paul did not want their faith to rest on what? Wisdom of men 1Cor 2:5
- (O) Paul speaks God's wisdom to the mature. What are some of the distinguishing characteristics he lists for God's wisdom? Not of this age, a mystery, not understood by rulers past or present 1Cor 2:6-8
- (P) It means that the Holy Spirit is the source of any wisdom we might have, not human beings. That is why it is so important that on the "think and pray" questions in our courses, that we actually stop, think and pray. If we fill the air with the sound of our own voices how can we ever hear the Teacher, the Holy Spirit?

Hebrew & Greek Notes

Chokmah in Hebrew is usually translated "wise" or "wisdom". It could also be translated "shrewdness," "skillful," "wits," or "prudence." The Greek word is the noun *sophia* or the adjective *sophos* which is where we get words like "sophomore" and "sophistry." They are almost always translated "wisdom" or "wise" but could be translated "skilled", "learned", "cultivated", "intelligent" or "intelligence." You can look up the English definition in a dictionary, but the definition I think of when I use the word *wisdom* is "knowledge and understanding correctly applied to the situation, particularly in the process of making decisions and taking appropriate actions."

For further thought:

[q] Proverbs 9:1 has wisdom building a house with seven pillars. How can wisdom actually do anything if it is just a virtue or an attribute? What seven pillars is it talking about? What does this verse mean?

[r] James 3:13-18 is making a distinction between more than one kind of wisdom. What are they? How does it help us to know about them?

[s] Read and explain Proverbs 9:7-12.

[t] Read and explain 1 Corinthians 1:18-31.

[u] The words "wisdom" or "wise" appear over 375 times in the Bible. Use a concordance to find some of them to read and discuss. Over a hundred of the appearances are in the book of Proverbs. If you don't have a concordance, you should be able to just scan through Proverbs and find more to think about and discuss concerning the Biblical term "wisdom."