



## "Understanding" 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 associated questions:

- (A) Colossians 2:2-3 Where does wealth come from? \_\_\_\_\_
- (B) 1 Kings 7:13-14 What was Hiram filled with? \_\_\_\_\_
- (C) Job 32:6-10 Where does wisdom come from? \_\_\_\_\_
- (D) Psalm 147:5 How much understanding does God have? \_\_\_\_\_
- (E) Proverbs 14:6 Knowledge comes easily to whom? \_\_\_\_\_
- (F) Proverbs 14:29 A man slow to anger has great what? \_\_\_\_\_
- (G) Proverbs 28:2 What causes a nation to endure? \_\_\_\_\_
- (H) Jeremiah 3:15 How will God's shepherds feed us? \_\_\_\_\_
- (I) Mark 12:32-33 Loving God with your whole heart, understanding and strength is better than what? \_\_\_\_\_
- (J) Luke 2:47 They were amazed the what of the young Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
- (K) James 3:13 How do we show our understanding? \_\_\_\_\_
- (L) How do we get understanding? (Hints: Colossians 1:9, 1 John 5:20; Proverbs 2:1-6)

Think & Pray \_\_\_\_\_

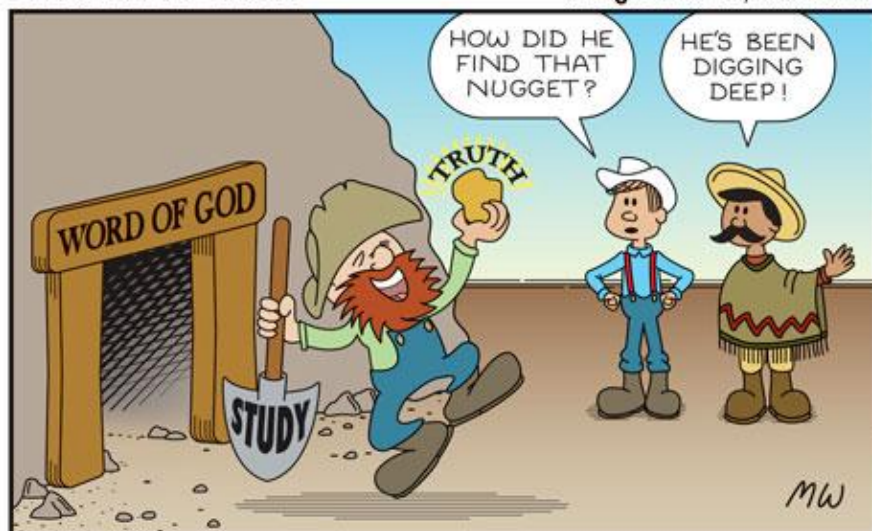
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### STRIKE IT RICH

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. - PROVERBS 2:4-5 NIV

----- ANSWERS -----

**Understanding**

- (A) Colossians 2:2-3 Where does wealth come from? Full assurance of understanding
- (B) 1 Kings 7:13-14 What was Hiram filled with? Wisdom and understanding
- (C) Job 32:6-10 Where does wisdom come from? A little from experience, but mostly from God
- (D) Psalm 147:5 How much understanding does God have? Infinite, unlimited
- (E) Proverbs 14:6 Knowledge comes easily to whom? One who has understanding
- (F) Proverbs 14:29 A man slow to anger has great what? Understanding (See also Prv 17:27)
- (G) Proverbs 28:2 What causes a nation to endure? Leadership with understanding and knowledge
- (H) Jeremiah 3:15 How will God's shepherds feed us? With knowledge and understanding
- (I) Mark 12:32-33 Loving God with your heart, understanding and strength is better than what? All burnt offerings and sacrifices.
- (J) Luke 2:47 They were amazed the what of the young Jesus? Understanding and answers
- (K) James 3:13 How do we show our understanding? By good behavior, gentleness and wisdom.

(L) God is the one who gives us understanding. If you want more, pray for it. "But what about 2 Timothy 2:15?" you ask, "Aren't we supposed to study?" Yes, we are, like now for instance. Praying and thinking about his question was when the Holy Spirit was teaching you something about "understanding", or at least that is my hope and prayer.

The Hebrew word *biynah* is almost always translated "understanding" but sometimes it is translated "wisdom", "knowledge" and even "meaning." The Greek word *syniemi* is usually translated "understanding." The Greek lexicon also gives it the meaning "bring together (as in making peace between opposing forces," or "join together in the mind." My definition of *understanding* is "correctly discerning the complex relationships between known facts and their implications."

There is another Greek term sometimes translated "understanding" which has the English sense of "empathetic" or "considerate." You can find this 1 Peter 3:7.

**For further thought:**

[m] In Matthew 22:29 what caused them to make a mistake? How do you know you are not making the same mistake they did?

[n] In Job 20:3 what is the "spirit of my understanding" talking about?

[o] Deuteronomy 32:28 mentions a nation lacking in understanding and lists the symptoms of that lack of understanding. What nation is it talking about? How does that help our understanding of "understanding"?

[p] In Isaiah 11:1-10 how does the term "understanding" fit into this passage?

[q] The word "understanding" appears over 125 times in the Bible. Use a concordance to find some of these appearances to read and discuss.