

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE FOR ALL ITS WORTH

CHAPTER 12 – WISDOM:
THEN AND NOW

WISDOM



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- However, misunderstanding of the Word leads to misapplication and ungodly choices

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- Misunderstanding the terms and styles of wisdom literature
- Failing to follow the line of argument as presented

WHO IS WISE



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- Wisdom has little to do with IQ or cleverness but rather personal experience showcasing responsible behavior and choices

TEACHERS OF WISDOM



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- They served as surrogate parents to those seeking wisdom.
- We see the proverbs using terms such as “my son” or “my child” due to this relationship

LIMITS OF WISDOM



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- Many of the extrabiblical wisdom writings resemble the biblical writing styles, but the text must be acknowledged to be un-inspired.

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- Buddhism – Tripitaka

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- Hinduism – The Vedas, Upanishads, Laws of Manu, Ramayana, Mahabhrata (Bhagavad Gita)

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- Buddhism – Tripitaka
- Hinduism – The Vedas, Upanishads, Laws of Manu, Ramayana, Mahabhrata (Bhagavad Gita)
 - Divided into Shruti (What is Heard) and Smriti (What is Remembered)

WISDOM IN PROVERBS



WISDOM IN PROVERBS

- 2 types of Wisdom

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 - Prudential Wisdom
 - Speculative Wisdom

WISDOM IN PROVERBS

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- Proverbs is the source of “prudential wisdom”
- Prudential wisdom are memorable maxims people can use to help themselves to make reasonable choices in life

WISDOM IN PROVERBS

- Speculative Wisdom



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- Ecclesiastes and Job utilize speculative wisdom

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- Speculative Wisdom

- Ecclesiastes and Job utilize speculative wisdom
- The goal is to wrestle through the larger issues of life and understand cause and effect and come to a faithful conclusion

USES AND ABUSES IN PROVERBS



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- “Look before you leap”

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- “Look before you leap”
- Catchy, but what does it mean?
 - Where would you look, when should you look, how do you look, and why are you even leaping?

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- Proverbs 16:3

- Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.

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 - When do we commit to the Lord? Before or after we make our plans?

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- Proverbs 16:3

- Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.
 - When do we commit to the Lord? Before or after we make our plans?
 - Committing does not mean giving our plans to God, but rather allowing God to direct.

HERMENEUTICAL GUIDELINES



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- Proverbs are not legal guarantees from God

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- Proverbs are not legal guarantees from God
 - Proverbs 22:26-27
 - Do not be one who shakes hands in pledge or puts up security for debts; if you lack the means to pay, your very bed will be snatched from under you.

HERMENEUTICAL GUIDELINES

- Proverbs are not legal guarantees from God
 - Proverbs 29:12
 - If a ruler listens to lies, all his officials become wicked.

HERMENEUTICAL GUIDELINES

- Proverbs are not legal guarantees from God
 - Proverbs 15:25
 - The Lord tears down the house of the proud, but he sets the widow's boundary stones in place.

HERMENEUTICAL GUIDELINES

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 - Proverbs 21:22
 - One who is wise can go up against the city of the mighty and pull down the stronghold in which they trust.

HERMENEUTICAL GUIDELINES

- Proverbs must be read as a collection
 - Proverbs 6:20
 - My son, keep your father's command and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

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- Proverbs are worded to be memorable not theoretically accurate.
 - Proverbs 15:19
 - The way of the sluggard is blocked with thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway.

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- Proverbs are worded to be memorable not theoretically accurate.
 - Proverbs 31:10-31

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- Some Proverbs need to be translated to be appreciated
 - Proverbs 25:24
 - Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.
 - “It is better to live in a garage than in a spacious house with a woman you never should have married.”

WISDOM IN JOB



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 - Not everything in life happens because God is constantly meting out judgement
 - Not everything in life is a result of what is fair
 - This is conducted by presenting the world's wisdom and then destroying its "truth"

WISDOM IN ECCLESIASTES



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- Ecclesiastes often seen from 1 of 2 perspectives
 - An expression of cynical wisdom showing that the world's perspective is to be avoided
 - An expression of how one is to enjoy life under God in a world where all will see death

WISDOM IN ECCLESIASTES

- Regardless of the perspective favored, the point is singular

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- Regardless of the perspective favored, the point is singular
 - Life and its problems can be overwhelming

WISDOM IN ECCLESIASTES

- Regardless of the perspective favored, the point is singular
 - Life and its problems can be overwhelming
 - Christ's death and resurrection is the only hope

WISDOM IN SONG OF SOLOMON



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- This book is centered on human love between a man and a woman
- This is a celebration of love and also the “wisdom” of marriage and sexual fidelity.

HOMework FOR THIS WEEK

- Read Chapter 12
- What is your favorite passage of Scripture from any of the Wisdom Books (Proverbs, Job, or Ecclesiastes)?

HOMework FOR NEXT WEEK

- Read Chapter 13
- What is your biggest question on Revelation and the end times?
- How would you answer it?