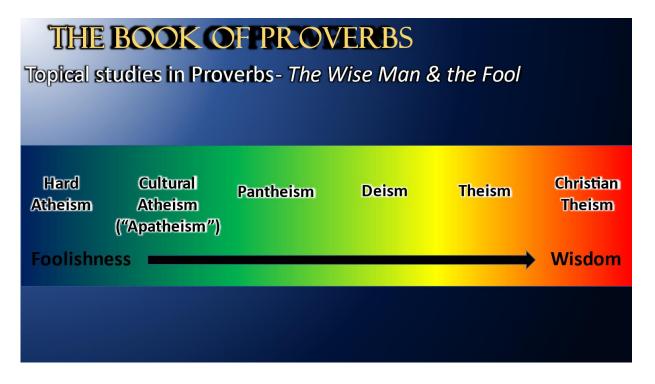
Lesson 5

Topical Study 1: The Wise Man & The Fool



Notes & Question	<u>s</u> .		

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

- The wise man, first and foremost, fears the L ORD (1:7; 9:10; 14:16; 15:33).
- The "fear of the LORD (Yahweh)" is respect, reverence, and awe for the Lord, the "maker of all things and the judge of all men." The fear of the Lord "means that God is constantly in the centre of our thought and apprehension, and life is characterized by the all "-pervasive consciousness of dependence on him and responsibility to him." (Murray)
- The fool, on the other hand, displays behavior that shows his lack of fear and reverence for God (1:7; 14:16) The truly foolish, as opposed to the simple or immature, exclude God from their consciousness: "... the wicked [man] does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God" (Ps. 10:4); "The fool says in his heart, 'there is no God'" (Ps. 14:1).

Notes & Questions:			

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

- The wise man's personal character:
 - "Righteous"; has moral integrity; loves good, hates evil (2:20; 8:13; 14:2, 9; 16:17)
 - Humble (11:2; 15:33)
 - Teachable (1:5; 9:8-9; 13:1; 17:10)
 - Honest; loves the truth, hates falsehood (22:21; 10:27; 13:5)
 - Self-controlled in emotions, speech, and actions (29:11; 11:12; 17:27)
 - Patient & Forgiving (12:16; 19:11; 20:22)
 - Diligent, Hardworking (10:4-5)
 - Generous (21:26)
 - Faithful (3:3-4; 20:28)

Notes & Questions:			

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

- The fool's personal character:
 - Wicked; lacks moral integrity (2:12 -15; 10:23; 13:9)
 - Prideful & Arrogant (17:7; 21:4, 24)
 - Unteachable (1:7, 22; 12:1; 13:1; 15:5, 12, 21; 18:2; 19:8; 27:22)
 - Deceitful & Slanderous (10:18)
 - Rash & Impulsive in emotions, speech, and actions (12:23; 14:16; 20:3; 29:11)
 - Impatient (12:16)
 - Intolerant & Vindictive (29:10, 27)
 - Lazy (10:4-5)
 - Faithless (26:6; 28:24)

Notes & Question	<u>s</u> :		

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

- The wise man's relationships:
 - God the wise man fears the Lord (9:10; 14:16); trusts the Lord (16:20);
 submits to the Lord (3:5-6, 11-12)
 - Family the wise man respects and honors his parents (10:1; 13:1; 23:24; 29:3)
 - Wife the wise man is faithful to (5:15-20) and appreciates his wife (18:22; 12:4); the wise woman is faithful to & appreciates her husband and family (31:10-31).
 - Children the wise man loves, provides for, trains, and disciplines his children (3:12; 13:24; 22:6; 23:13-14; 31:15)
 - Friends & Neighbors the wise man values & is faithful to his friends and neighbors (3:27-29; 17:7; 18:24; 27:10)

Notes & Questions:		
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THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

Topical studies in Proverbs- The Wise Man & the Fool

The model of the wise "man" — The Wife of Noble Character

The "wise man" is an "ideal type" which we can cumulatively sketch from the many verses spread throughout Proverbs which describe behaviors & attitudes that reflect wisdom. However, there is one place where a complete portrait presents a model of one who exemplifies & exhibits wisdom in character and life—the "Wife of Noble Character" in Proverbs 31:10-31. The "noble wife" embodies wisdom in action; situated in real life, in real circumstances. She fears the Lord, has moral integrity, is trustworthy, diligent, skilled, devoted to her husband & family, generous, & faithful in relationships. She also is an "ideal type," a "larger -than-life" example held out as a worthy goal to pursue.

Notes & Questions	<u>s</u> :		

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

Topical studies in Proverbs- The Wise Man & the Fool

The path of wisdom, like discipleship & sanctification, is a "long obedience in the same direction." Growing in wisdom is a continuous endeavor which is never finished in this lifetime. The wise man or woman is never wise in their own eyes (3:7) and is always seeking to grow in discernment & understanding (1:5). Seeking wisdom, knowledge, discernment, & understanding is an aspect of loving God with "all your mind" (Matt. 22:37). Seeking to grow in wisdom means seeking to grow in Christ, "in whom are hidden all the treasures of knowledge and wisdom" (Col. 2:3).

Notes & Questions	<u>s</u> :		