

THE WISDOM OF GOD

(Sermon to the saints of God at the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ at Topeka, Kansas
(Westboro Baptist Church) on May 14, 2023)

*“O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all:
the earth is full of thy riches.” (Psalm 104:24)*

*“For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it
pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”
1 Corinthians 1:21.*

The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is described by the Holy Spirit as *“speak[ing] the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world[.]” 1 Corinthians 2:7.* And, so you will not think that it is strange or presumptuous for me to declare this, there is clear precedent for it from the Bible. Solomon, whose very name is synonymous with wisdom, was gifted the wisdom of God, which can be summarized by these three verses: **1 Kings 3:28:** *“And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment.”* **1 Kings 4:29:** *“And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.”* **1 Kings 10:24:** *“And all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart.”* And our Lord Jesus Christ endorsed and expanded upon this in describing his church in the earth: **Luke 11:31:** *“The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.”*

“For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?”(1 Corinthians 4:7). And, so you know that this wisdom of Solomon was God’s work, and nothing intrinsic or inherent in Solomon, the Holy Spirit describes Solomon’s natural, intrinsic wisdom when he is not endued with the wisdom of God and the Spirit of God, to wit: that foolishness which also defines Solomon because of his love for “strange women.” **1 Kings 11:1:** *“But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites,*

Zidonians, and Hittites;” etc. The rest of Chapter 11 tells of his heart being turned away from God by 700 wives [added to 300 concubines] from perfectly following the Lord and being turned to idols and wicked works, and God’s judgment on him for that. His own preaching condemns him at **Proverbs 22:14**: “*The mouth of strange women is a deep pit: he that is abhorred of the LORD shall fall therein.*” **Proverbs 23:33**: “*Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.*” “Perverse things” is the opposite of the wisdom of God.

James, the brother of our Lord Jesus Christ, advises to listen to Job’s patience; to be instructed by it. (**James 5:11**). In the depth of his trial of patience, Job is answering his friends, and the subject is the Wisdom of God—not in the abstract—but in his day-to-day events (and in every person’s lives), including in these deep afflictions Job suffers: “*Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this? In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.*” (**Job 12:9-10**).

Clearly, when speaking of the wisdom of God he speaks of God’s sovereign power to dispose of his creation as he has sought good to do, which source of decision-making is in all wisdom, prudence and understanding (“*Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence*” (**Ephesians 1:8**)); and especially with regard to those who he has elected to salvation (but equally those he has elected to reprobation—which (elect or reprobate) accounts for the entire creation of humankind). God’s omniscience instructs his wisdom. (**Jude 1:25**: “*To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.*”) Paul, having just spoken of this very thing concludes: “*O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?... For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*” (**Romans 11:33-34, 36**).

Job devotes Chapter 12 to God’s wisdom, and in here is way he describes God’s wisdom:

*With the ancient is wisdom; and in length
of days understanding. With him is wisdom*

and strength, he hath counsel and understanding. Behold, he breaketh down, and it cannot be built again: he shutteth up a man, and there can be no opening. Behold, he withholdeth the waters, and they dry up: also he sendeth them out, and they overturn the earth. With him is strength and wisdom: the deceived and the deceiver are his. He leadeth counsellors away spoiled, and maketh the judges fools. He looseth the bond of kings, and girdeth their loins with a girdle. He leadeth princes away spoiled, and overthroweth the mighty. He removeth away the speech of the trusty, and taketh away the understanding of the aged. He poureth contempt upon princes, and weakeneth the strength of the mighty. He discovereth deep things out of darkness, and bringeth out to light the shadow of death. He increaseth the nations, and destroyeth them: he enlargeth the nations, and straiteneth them again. He taketh away the heart of the chief of the people of the earth, and causeth them to wander in a wilderness where there is no way. They grope in the dark without light, and he maketh them to stagger like a drunken man.”

(Job 12:12-25)

For several months I have proposed to open up the Bible about the attributes of God, because the Bible teaches what God has purposed to reveal about himself. The next installment in that effort, I want to talk to you about God’s wisdom.

“Something more than a theoretical knowledge of God is needed by us. God is only truly known in the soul as we yield ourselves to Him, submit to His authority, and regulate all the details of our lives by His holy precepts and commandments. ‘Then shall we know, if we following [in the path of obedience] to know the Lord’ (Hosea 6:3). ‘If any man will do His will, he shall know’ (John 7:17). ‘The people that do know their God shall be strong.’ (Daniel 11:32).”

-A.W. Pink, 1930 (From his Preface in “Attributes of God.”)

So in “*acquaint[ing] thyself with [God]*” (**Job 22:21**),” having understanding from the Bible of his attribute called “wisdom” will help you clear the cobwebs about those things that happen to you day-by-day. If you will focus on “[c]asting down imaginations, and every high thing that *exalteth* itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;” mainly in studying and meditating upon the true attributes of God, you will absolutely be thankful for every work and every event that falls out to you, because you will understand that these things have happened pursuant to the eternal wisdom of God; and you will “*be at peace*” (**Job 22:21**). Especially when added to his promise in **Romans 8:28**: “*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*” This is not an exhaustive tutorial, but adding prayer for help and instruction and wisdom is necessary: “*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*” (**Philippians 4:6**). The God of all wisdom will give to those who ask. **James 1:5**: “*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*” “*For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*” (**Proverbs 2:6**).

The Wisdom of God is a more comprehensive attribute than His knowledge or omniscience. This is perfect wisdom; complete and infinite. **Psalms 147:5**: “*Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.*” See **Daniel 2:20-21**: “*Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding[.]*” At least three

times he is said to be “the only wise God.” See **Romans 16:27**: “*To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.*” The immediate context is to the wisdom of designing, arranging, and accomplishing the calling out of every nation God’s people to salvation, through Jesus Christ. This wisdom will be the source of His glory “for ever.” **1 Timothy 1:17**: “*Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*” Gill: “[W]ho is wisdom itself, and of himself; and is the fountain of wisdom, both natural and spiritual, unto others.” **Jude 1:25**: “*To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.*” Not to the exclusion of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is named “wisdom.” “*Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:*” etc. **Proverbs 1:20-33**. Nor to the exclusion of the Spirit, who is the “*Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him,*” **Ephesians 1:17**. But this is in comparison to the wisdom of his creatures, which have no wisdom comparatively speaking. **Job 4:18-21**: “*Behold, he put no trust in his servants; and his angels he charged with folly; how much less in them that dwell in houses of clay; ...they die, even without wisdom.*” **Job 11:12**: “*For vain men would be wise, though man be born like a wild ass’s colt.*” Jeremiah 4:22: “*For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.*”

God is "all-wise"; he has all wisdom in him; there is no defect of it in him; with respect to anything whatever. Men may be wise in some things, and not in others; but he is wise in everything. No man is wise at all times; the wisest of men sometimes say a foolish word, and do a foolish thing. But God, neither in his word, nor in any of his works, can be charged with folly; not an unwise saying appears in all the scriptures; nor an unwise action in any of his works; "*How manifold are thy works, O Lord, in wisdom hast thou made them all!*" **Ps 104:24(a)**.

God is essentially wise; there is the personal wisdom of God, which is Christ; who is often spoken of as wisdom, and as the wisdom of God. **Proverbs 8:12-31**:

I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions. The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy,

and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate. Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength. By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth. I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver. I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment: That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures. The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.

1 Corinthians 1:24: “*But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the **wisdom of God.**”*

There is his essential wisdom, the attribute now under consideration; which is no other than the nature and essence of God. Wisdom is himself; as he is love itself, and goodness itself, so he is wisdom itself. His wisdom cannot be separated from his essence.

God is wisdom efficiently; he is the source and fountain of it, the God and giver of it. All wisdom that is in the angels of heaven comes from him; all that Adam had, or any of his sons. All the wisdom of Solomon, the wisest of men; or is in the politicians and philosophers of every age; or in every mechanic and engineer; or appears in every art and science; all is the gift of God. Particularly, the highest and best of wisdom, spiritual wisdom, wisdom in the hidden part,

the fear of God in the soul of man, is what God puts there. **Psalm 51:6:** “Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.” **Psalm 111:10:** “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.” Wherefore, as he that teacheth man knowledge, must have knowledge himself (**Psalm 94:10**); so he that gives wisdom to the wise, must have infinite wisdom himself; for such is the wisdom of God, it is unsearchable; there is no tracing it; it has depth which is unfathomable.

Romans 11:33: “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!”

Job 11:6-9: “And that he would shew thee the secrets of wisdom that they are double to that God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth. Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know? The measure thereof is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea.”

Job 28:12-23: “But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding? Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living. The depth saith, It is not in me: and the sea saith, It is not with me. It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof. It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire. The gold and the crystal cannot equal it: and the exchange of it shall not be for jewels of fine gold. No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom is above rubies. The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold. Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding? Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept close from the fowls of the air. Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears. God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof.”

Though wisdom cannot be traced out to the full, or be found out to perfection, there are some shining appearances and striking instances of it; which clearly and plainly prove that wisdom, in its utmost extent, is with God.

The wisdom of God appears in his purposes and decrees, and which are therefore called his counsels. **Isaiah 25:1:** *"O Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth."* Especially as seen in his secret transactions with Christ in the Covenant of Grace. *"Although my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and sure."* **2 Samuel 23:5.**

The wisdom of God is more clearly manifested in his visible works in time. *"O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches."* (**Psalms 104:24**). This includes his work of creation and in his providence.

The wisdom of God is seen in the great work of the redemption and salvation of men, through the Lord Jesus Christ, *"wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence."* (**Ephesians 1:7-8**)

The wisdom of God shines in the Gospel; in its doctrines and in its ordinances; in itself is called *"the wisdom of God in a mystery; the hidden wisdom;"* *"the manifold wisdom of God."* **1 Corinthians 2:7; Ephesians 3:10.**

The wisdom of God may be seen in the government and preservation of the church of God, in all ages. **Psalms 59:13:** *"Consume them in wrath, consume them, that they may not be; and let them know that God ruleth in Jacob unto the ends off the earth. Selah."*

I hope to visit these shining appearances and striking instances of God's wisdom from the Bible with you in the future, the Lord willing.

"And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. [I love you] Amen." **Romans 16:20.**