

*The Fourth Day (Wednesday)*

# WISDOM FROM ABOVE

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## JESUS IS GOD'S WISDOM

1 Corinthians 1:17-31: For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel – **not with wisdom and eloquence**, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? **Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?** For since in the **wisdom of God** the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God**. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. **It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God** – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 2:1-13: And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, **I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom** as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were **not with wise and persuasive words**, but with a demonstration of the

Spirit's power, **so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.** We do, however, **speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age,** who are coming to nothing. No, we declare **God's wisdom,** a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" – the things God has prepared for those who love him – these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, **not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit,** explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.

Matthew 11:16-19: "To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others: " 'We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' **But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.**"

Matthew 12:42: The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to **Solomon's wisdom, and now something greater than Solomon is here.**

Isaiah 11:2-4: **The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,** the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD – and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

Luke 2:40, 52: And the child [Jesus] grew and became strong; **he was filled with wisdom,** and the grace of God was on him. ... And Jesus **grew in wisdom and stature,** and in favor with God and man.

Revelation 5:12: In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and **wisdom** and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

Revelation 7:11-12: All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and **wisdom** and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

## WISDOM FROM ABOVE

James 1:5-8:- If any of you lacks **wisdom**, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

James 3:13-18: **Who is wise** and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. **Such "wisdom"** does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. **But the wisdom that comes from heaven** is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Luke 21:13-15: And so you will bear testimony to me. But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. For I will give you words and **wisdom** that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.

Ephesians 1:17: I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the **Spirit of wisdom** and revelation, so that you may know him better.

Colossians 4:5-6: **Be wise** in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Colossians 1:9: For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through **all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives**,

Ephesians 3:10-11: His intent was that now, through the church, **the manifold wisdom of God** should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Colossians 1:28: He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone **with all wisdom**, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.

Colossians 2:2-3: My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden **all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**.

Colossians 2:20-23: Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: "Do not handle!

Do not taste! Do not touch!?" These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. Such regulations indeed have an **appearance of wisdom**, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

Colossians 3:16: Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with **all wisdom** through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Revelation 13:18: **This calls for wisdom.** Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666.

Revelation 17:9-14: "**This calls for a mind with wisdom.** The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for only a little while. The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction. "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings – and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."

## THE CALL, VALUE, AND BLESSING OF WISDOM

Proverbs 1:20-33: [The Call of Wisdom] Out in the open **wisdom calls aloud**, she raises her voice in the public square; on top of the wall she cries out, at the city gate **she makes her speech**: "How long will you who are simple love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge? Repent at my rebuke! Then I will pour out my thoughts to you, I will make known to you my teachings. But since you refuse to listen when I call and no one pays attention when I stretch out my hand, since you disregard all my advice and do not accept my rebuke, I in turn will laugh when disaster strikes you; I will mock when calamity overtakes you – when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and trouble overwhelm you. Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me, since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the LORD. Since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes. For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm."

Proverbs 8:1-21: **Does not wisdom call out?** Does not understanding raise her voice? At the highest point along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; beside the gate leading into the city, at the entrance, **she cries aloud**: "To you, O people, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind. You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, set your

hearts on it. Listen, for I have trustworthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right. **My mouth speaks what is true**, for my lips detest wickedness. All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse. To the discerning all of them are right; they are upright to those who have found knowledge. **Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.** "I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion. To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have insight, I have power. By me kings reign and rulers issue decrees that are just; by me princes govern, and nobles – all who rule on earth. I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me. With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity. **My fruit is better than fine gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver.** I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, bestowing a rich inheritance on those who love me and making their treasuries full."

Proverbs 8:32-36: "Now then, my children, **listen to me [wisdom]; blessed are those who keep my ways. Listen to my instruction and be wise**; do not disregard it. Blessed are those who listen to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For **those who find me find life and receive favor from the LORD.** But those who fail to find me harm themselves; all who hate me love death."

Proverbs 2:1-22: [The Value of Wisdom] My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, **turning your ear to wisdom** and applying your heart to understanding – indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 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. **For the LORD gives wisdom**; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. **He holds success in store for the upright**, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones. Then you will understand what is right and just and fair – every good path. **For wisdom will enter your heart**, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. **Discretion will protect you**, and **understanding will guard you. Wisdom will save you** from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse, who have left the straight paths to walk in dark ways, who delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil, whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways. **Wisdom will save you** also from the adulterous woman, from the wayward woman with her seductive words, who has left the partner of her youth and ignored the covenant she made before God. Surely her house leads down to death and her paths to the spirits of the dead. None who go to her return or attain the paths of life. **Thus you will walk in the ways of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous.** For the upright will live in the land, and the blameless will remain in it; but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the unfaithful will be torn from it.

Proverbs 3:13-18: [The Blessing of Wisdom] **Blessed are those who find wisdom**, those who gain understanding, **for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her.** Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are pleasant ways, and

all her paths are peace. **She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her**; those who hold her fast will be blessed.

Proverbs 4:5-9: **Get wisdom**, get understanding; do not forget my words or turn away from them. **Do not forsake wisdom**, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. **The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom**. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Cherish her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you. She will give you a garland to grace your head and present you with a glorious crown."

## SCRIPTURES ABOUT WISDOM

Psalms 111:10: **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom**; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.

Deuteronomy 4:6: Observe them [God's commands] carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a **wise and understanding** people."

Isaiah 33:5-6: The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with his justice and righteousness. He will be the sure foundation for your times, **a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge**; the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure.

Hosea 14:9: **Who is wise?** Let them realize these things. Who is discerning? Let them understand. The ways of the LORD are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them.

Psalms 19:7: The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, **making wise the simple**.

Psalms 37:30: **The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom**, and their tongues speak what is just.

Psalms 49:3: My mouth will speak **words of wisdom**; the meditation of my heart will give you understanding.

Psalms 51:6: Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; **you taught me wisdom** in that secret place.

Psalms 90:12: Teach us to number our days, that we may **gain a heart of wisdom**.

Psalms 119:98: Your commands are always with me and make me **wiser than my enemies**.

Proverbs 9:10-12: **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom**, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be

added to your life. **If you are wise**, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer.

Proverbs 6:6-8: Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and **be wise!** It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.

Proverbs 7:4-5: **Say to wisdom**, "You are my sister," and to insight, "You are my relative." They will keep you from the adulterous woman, from the wayward woman with her seductive words.

Proverbs 10:13-14: **Wisdom is found on the lips of the discerning**, but a rod is for the back of one who has no sense. **The wise** store up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool invites ruin.

Proverbs 10:31: From the mouth of the righteous comes the **fruit of wisdom**, but a perverse tongue will be silenced.

Proverbs 11:2: When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with **humility comes wisdom**.

Proverbs 13:10: Where there is strife, there is pride, but **wisdom is found** in those who take advice.

Proverbs 13:20: **Walk with the wise and become wise**, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

Proverbs 14:6-8: The mocker seeks wisdom and finds none, but knowledge comes easily to the discerning. Stay away from a fool, for you will not find knowledge on their lips. **The wisdom of the prudent** is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception.

Proverbs 14:33: **Wisdom reposes** in the heart of the discerning and even among fools she lets herself be known.

Proverbs 15:33: **Wisdom's instruction is to fear the LORD**, and humility comes before honor.

Proverbs 16:16: How much better to get **wisdom** than gold, to get insight rather than silver!

Proverbs 17:24: **A discerning person keeps wisdom in view**, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth.

Proverbs 18:4: The words of the mouth are deep waters, but the **fountain of wisdom** is a rushing stream.

Proverbs 19:11: A person's **wisdom yields patience**; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense.

Proverbs 19:20: Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be **counted among the wise**.

Proverbs 20:1: Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is **not wise**.

Proverbs 21:11: When a mocker is punished, the **simple gain wisdom**; by paying attention to the wise they get knowledge.

Proverbs 21:30-31: **There is no wisdom**, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD. The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the LORD.

Proverbs 23:15-18: My son, **if your heart is wise**, then my heart will be glad indeed; my inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak what is right. Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the LORD. There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.

Proverbs 23-24: Buy the truth and do not sell it – **wisdom**, instruction and insight as well. The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers **a wise son** rejoices in him.

Proverbs 24:7: **Wisdom** is too high for fools; in the assembly at the gate they must not open their mouths.

Proverbs 24:14: **Know also that wisdom is like honey for you**: If you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.

Proverbs 28:26: Those who trust in themselves are fools, but those who **walk in wisdom** are kept safe.

Proverbs 29:15: **A rod and a reprimand impart wisdom**, but a child left undisciplined disgraces its mother.

Proverbs 30:24-28: "Four things on earth are small, yet they are **extremely wise**: Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer; hyraxes are creatures of little power, yet they make their home in the crags; locusts have no king, yet they advance together in ranks; a lizard can be caught with the hand, yet it is found in kings' palaces.

1 Kings 4:29-34: God gave Solomon **wisdom** and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. Solomon's **wisdom** was greater than the **wisdom** of all the people of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than anyone else, including Ethan the Ezrahite – wiser than Heman, Kalkol and Darda, the sons of Mahol. And his fame spread to all the surrounding nations. He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five. He spoke about plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also spoke about animals and birds, reptiles and fish. From all nations people came to listen to Solomon's **wisdom**, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his **wisdom**.

Daniel 1:20: In **every matter of wisdom and understanding** about which the king questioned them, he found them [Daniel and his friends] ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

Proverbs 3:19-24: **By wisdom the LORD laid the earth's foundations**, by understanding he set the heavens in place; by his knowledge the watery depths were divided, and the clouds let drop the dew. My son, **do not let wisdom and understanding out of your sight**, preserve sound judgment and discretion; they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck. Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble. When you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

Proverbs 24:3-4: **By wisdom a house is built**, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.

Proverbs 8:22-31: "**The LORD brought me [wisdom] forth** as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; I was formed long ages ago, at the very beginning, when the world came to be. When there were no watery depths, I was given birth, when there were no springs overflowing with water; before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, before he made the world or its fields or any of the dust of the earth. I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. Then I was constantly at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.

Ecclesiastes 8:1: **Who is like the wise?** Who knows the explanation of things? A person's wisdom brightens their face and changes its hard appearance.

## DISCERNMENT AND DISCRETION

Philippians 1:9-11: And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and **depth of insight**, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God.

Hebrews 5:13-14: For everyone who partakes [only] of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to **discern good and evil**.

Matthew 16:2-3:- But He replied to them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' "And in the morning, 'There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Do you know how to **discern** the appearance of the sky, **but cannot [discern]** the signs of the times?

Romans 12:2: Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that **by testing you may discern** what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22: Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but **test them all**; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil.

1 Corinthians 6:4-5: Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, do you ask for a ruling from those whose way of life is scorned in the church? I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you **wise enough to judge** a dispute between believers?

Job 12:11: Does not **the ear test words** as the tongue tastes food?

1 Kings 3:8-14: [Solomon's prayer and God's response] Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. **So give your servant a discerning heart** to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?" The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for **discernment** in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. **I will give you a wise and discerning heart**, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for – both wealth and honor – so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life."

From Psalm 119:

v.27: **Cause me to understand** the way of your precepts, that I may meditate on your wonderful deeds.

v.34: **Give me understanding**, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart.

v.73: Your hands made me and formed me; **give me understanding** to learn your commands.

v.100: I have **more understanding** than the elders, for I obey your precepts.

v.104: I **gain understanding** from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path.

v.125: I am your servant; **give me discernment** that I may understand your statutes.

v.130: The unfolding of your words gives light; it **gives understanding** to the simple.

v.144: Your statutes are always righteous; **give me understanding** that I may live.

v.169: May my cry come before you, LORD; **give me understanding** according to your word.

## UNGODLY WISDOM AND THE VANITY OF WISDOM

James 3:14-16: But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. **Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.** For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

2 Corinthians 1:12: Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, with integrity and godly sincerity. We have done so, relying **not on worldly wisdom** but on God's grace.

1 Corinthians 3:18-20: Do not deceive yourselves. **If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become "fools" so that you may become wise.** For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "**He catches the wise in their craftiness**"; and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile."

Isaiah 47:8-11: "Now then, listen, [Babylon] you lover of pleasure, lounging in your security and saying to yourself, 'I am, and there is none besides me. I will never be a widow or suffer the loss of children.' Both of these will overtake you in a moment, on a single day: loss of children and widowhood. They will come upon you in full measure, in spite of your many sorceries and all your potent spells. You have trusted in your wickedness and have said, 'No one sees me.' **Your wisdom and knowledge mislead you when you say to yourself, 'I am, and there is none besides me.'** Disaster will come upon you, and you will not know how to conjure it away. A calamity will fall upon you that you cannot ward off with a ransom; a catastrophe you cannot foresee will suddenly come upon you.

Jeremiah 8:7-9: Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed seasons, and the dove, the swift and the thrush observe the time of their migration. But my people do not know the requirements of the LORD. **'How can you say, "We are wise, for we have the law of the LORD,"** when actually the lying pen of the scribes has handled it falsely? **The wise will be put to shame**; they will be dismayed and trapped. Since they have rejected the word of the LORD, **what kind of wisdom do they have?**

Jeremiah 9:23-24: This is what the LORD says: "**Let not the wise boast of their wisdom** or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.

Ecclesiastes 10:1: As dead flies give perfume a bad smell, **so a little folly outweighs wisdom** and honor.

Ecclesiastes 1:16-18: I said to myself, "Look, I have **increased in wisdom** more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge." Then I applied myself to the **understanding of wisdom**, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind. For **with much wisdom comes much sorrow**; the more knowledge, the more grief.

Ecclesiastes 2:13-16: I saw that **wisdom is better than folly**, just as light is better than darkness. **The wise have eyes in their heads**, while the fool walks in the darkness; but I came to realize that the same fate overtakes them both. Then I said to myself, "The fate of the fool will overtake me also. What then do I gain by being wise?" I said to myself, "This

too is meaningless." For **the wise**, like the fool, will not be long remembered; the days have already come when both have been forgotten. Like the fool, **the wise** too must die!

Ecclesiastes 2:26: **To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom**, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Ecclesiastes 9:11: I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to **the wise** or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all.

Ecclesiastes 9:13-18: I also saw under the sun **this example of wisdom** that greatly impressed me: There was once a small city with only a few people in it. And a powerful king came against it, surrounded it and built huge siege works against it. Now there lived in that city **a man poor but wise, and he saved the city by his wisdom**. But nobody remembered that poor man. So I said, "**Wisdom is better than strength.**" **But the poor man's wisdom is despised**, and his words are no longer heeded. The quiet **words of the wise** are more to be heeded than the shouts of a ruler of fools. **Wisdom is better than weapons of war**, but one sinner destroys much good.