

CRYSTALLIZATION-STUDY OF JOB PROVERBS ECCLESIASTES, Week 8

The Multifarious Wisdom of God

Scripture Reading: Prov. 1:2; 8:1-31; 9:10; Rom. 11:33; 1 Cor. 1:24, 30; Col. 2:2-3; Eph. 3:10

- Proverbs 1:2 For knowing wisdom and instruction; / For discerning words of understanding;
- Proverbs 8:1 Does not wisdom call, / And understanding lift up her voice?
- Proverbs 8:2 On the top of the heights, by the way, / Where the paths meet, she takes her stand;
- Proverbs 8:3 Beside the gates, at the entry of the city, / At the entrance of the doors, she cries aloud:
- Proverbs 8:4 To you, O men, I call; / And my voice is to the sons of men.
- Proverbs 8:5 O simple ones, understand prudence; / And, O fools, be of an understanding heart.
- Proverbs 8:6 Hear, for I will speak noble things; / And the opening of my lips will yield right things.
- Proverbs 8:7 For my mouth will utter truth, / And wickedness is an abomination to my lips.
- Proverbs 8:8 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; / There is nothing twisted or crooked in them.
- Proverbs 8:9 They are all straight to him who understands, / And right to those who find knowledge.
- Proverbs 8:10 Receive my instruction, and not silver; / And knowledge rather than choice gold.
- Proverbs 8:11 For wisdom is better than corals, / And nothing that you desire compares with her.
- Proverbs 8:12 I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, / And I find knowledge and discretion.
- Proverbs 8:13 The fear of Jehovah is to hate evil; / Pride and arrogance and the evil way / And the perverse mouth, I hate.
- Proverbs 8:14 Counsel is mine and sound wisdom; / I am understanding; I have might.
- Proverbs 8:15 By me kings reign, / And rulers decree justice.
- Proverbs 8:16 By me princes rule, / And nobles — all who judge righteously.
- Proverbs 8:17 I love those who love me, / And those who seek me diligently will find me.
- Proverbs 8:18 Riches and honor are with me, / Enduring wealth and righteousness.
- Proverbs 8:19 My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold; / And my yield than choice silver.
- Proverbs 8:20 I walk in the way of righteousness, / In the midst of the paths of justice,
- Proverbs 8:21 That I may cause those who love me to inherit substance / And that I may fill their treasuries.
- Proverbs 8:22 Jehovah possessed me in the beginning of His way, / Before His works of old.
- Proverbs 8:23 I was set up from eternity, / From the beginning, before the earth was.
- Proverbs 8:24 When there were no depths, I was brought forth, / When there were no fountains abounding with water.
- Proverbs 8:25 Before the mountains were settled, / Before the hills, I was brought forth;
- Proverbs 8:26 When He had not yet made the earth and the fields, / Nor the first dust of the world.
- Proverbs 8:27 [When He established the heavens, I was there](#); / When He inscribed a circle upon the surface of the deep,
- Proverbs 8:28 When He made firm the skies above, / When the fountains of the deep became strong,
- Proverbs 8:29 When He set for the sea its boundary, / That the waters should not transgress His commandment, / When He marked out the foundations of the earth;
- Proverbs 8:30 Then I was by Him, as a [master workman](#); / And I was [daily His delight](#), / Rejoicing always before Him,
- Proverbs 8:31 Rejoicing in His habitable earth; / And my delight was in the sons of men.
- Romance 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and untraceable His ways!
- 1 Corinthians 1:24 But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, [Christ](#) the power of God and the [wisdom of God](#).
- 1 Corinthians 1:30 But of Him you are in [Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God](#): both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
- Colossians 2:2 That their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of the [mystery of God, Christ](#),
- Colossians 2:3 [In whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden](#).
- Ephesians 3:10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,

Through the work of the Spirit of life, a change is taking place in our nature. It is a metabolic change, a change that sanctifies and transforms us. Thus, Christ is not only our righteousness but also our sanctification. Furthermore, we are daily being redeemed, and eventually we will be glorified. Christ is our **righteousness, sanctification, and redemption**, not only in an objective way but in a very subjective way—in the way of mingling and changing us metabolically. All this is a testimony to **God's multifarious wisdom**. Many aspects of God's wisdom are manifested in His making Christ our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. Our experience of Christ in these matters is according to God's manifold wisdom.

Because of His **wisdom** God can boast to Satan of what He has done with the man Satan corrupted and ruined. Have you ever realized that what we are as believers today is of God's wisdom? Only God has the wisdom to initiate such a wonderful thing, to make sinful and corrupted people the members of Christ.

The **church through which God's wisdom is so marvelously displayed is God's masterpiece**. In the eyes of God the most wonderful thing in the universe is the church, for **through the church God's multifarious wisdom is made known** to Satan and his angels. The day is coming when Satan and his angels will be put to shame. They will realize that everything they have done has given God the opportunity to manifest His wisdom. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament, chapter 337*)

Day 1

- Proverbs 9:10** The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of wisdom, / And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
- Proverbs 3:19** Jehovah by wisdom founded the earth; / He established the heavens by understanding;
- Proverbs 8:30** Then I was by Him, as a master workman; / And I was daily His delight, / Rejoicing always before Him,

I. The book of Proverbs stresses **wisdom** that we **receive from God** through contacting God—1:2; 2:10; 4:5; 9:10; 11:2b; 14:33a:

- A. The subject of Proverbs is **living a godly life by God's wisdom**— 3:13-18; 8:11.
- B. The central thought of Proverbs is that we should **seek after wisdom** so that we may live a godly life on earth that is acceptable to God—2:1-9.
- C. **Wisdom comes from God**: "Jehovah gives wisdom; / From His mouth come knowledge and understanding"—v. 6.
- D. **Wisdom** is **more valuable** and **better** than gold, silver, and corals, and is **more desirable** than anything else—3:14-15; 8:11, 19.
- E. In certain portions of Proverbs the **wisdom of God** is **personified**— 1:20; 3:19; 4:5-9; 8:1-36:
 1. This personification of God's wisdom is a reference to the **second of the Divine Trinity**, who **became wisdom from God** to all the New Testament believers—Matt. 11:19; Col. 2:3; 1 Cor. 1:24, 30.
 2. "Jehovah by wisdom founded the earth"—Prov. 3:19a:
 - a. This One by whom Jehovah founded the earth and established the heavens is Christ, who is the wisdom of God— 1 Cor. 1:24.
 - b. **Wisdom**, as the **master workman** of God's creation of all things, is **God's delight**—Prov. 8:30.
 - c. God's creation of all things is **through Christ**, who is wisdom and God's delight—3:19; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 1:2.

Day 2

- Romance 11:33** Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and untraceable His ways!
- Romance 16:25** Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel, that is, the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which has been kept in silence in the times of the ages
- Romance 16:27** To the only wise God through Jesus Christ, to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

II. Romans 11:33a speaks of **God's wisdom**: "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!":

- A. It is important to see the difference between **wisdom** and **knowledge**—v. 33:
1. **Wisdom** is for **planning** and **purposing**—Eph. 1:9; 3:11.
 2. **Wisdom** is seen in the **initiation of something**, as indicated by Romans 11:36: "Out from Him and through Him and to Him are all things."
 3. **God is the unique Initiator**: "One God, the Father, out from whom are all things"—1 Cor. 8:6a:
 - a. **God has initiated many things**, not by His knowledge but **by His wisdom**—Prov. 3:19; 8:12, 22-31.
 - b. When God comes in to **apply what He has initiated**, **He displays His knowledge**.
- B. The wisdom of God is "God's wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom which has been hidden, which God predestined before the ages for our glory"—1 Cor. 2:7:
1. As God's center and as our portion for our enjoyment, **Christ is God's wisdom in a mystery** that is **deep** and **profound**—Rom. 11:33.
 2. Within God there is wisdom in a mystery; this wisdom has been hidden and predestined before the ages **for our glory**— 1 Cor. 2:7.
- C. "To the only wise God through Jesus Christ, **to Him be the glory forever and ever**. Amen"—Rom. 16:27:
1. In the **local churches** throughout the earth, **we all give glory to the only wise God**.
 2. The wise God has given Jesus Christ to us according to the revelation of the mystery, which has been kept in silence in the times of the ages, who also is the One who has saved us, regenerated us, and through His divine dispensing is continually renewing and transforming us, and who will eventually glorify us and conform us to the image of God's firstborn Son, bringing us into glory—v. 25; 3:24-25; 5:10; 8:16, 23, 29; 12:1-2.

Day 3

Proverbs 8:12 I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, / And I find knowledge and discretion.

1 Corinthians 1:24 But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Colossians 2:2-3 That their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ, In whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.

III. **Christ is the wisdom of God**—1 Cor. 1:24:

- A. In the New Testament the **personified wisdom of God** is **Christ as its reality**— Prov. 8:1, 12; 9:1; Luke 2:40, 52; 7:35; Matt. 11:19:
1. The wisdom of Christ's deity was revealed **in proportion to the measure of His bodily growth**—Col. 2:2-3; Luke 2:40, 52.
 2. Matthew 11:19b indicates that **wisdom is Christ**:
 - a. **Whatever Christ did was done by the wisdom of God**, which is Christ Himself—1 Cor. 1:24.
 - b. This wisdom was **justified, vindicated, by His wise works**, His wise deeds.
 3. In Luke 7:35 the Lord Jesus said, "**Wisdom is justified by all her children**":
 - a. Those who believe in Christ are the **children of wisdom**, those who justify Christ and His deeds and who follow Him as their wisdom.
 - b. **Christ's work** is to **produce us as the children of wisdom** caring for the life of wisdom.
- B. In Christ "all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden"—Col. 2:3:
1. **God** is the **unique source** of wisdom and knowledge:
 - a. We need to trace wisdom and knowledge to their **true source in God**—1 Cor. 8:6.
 - b. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are **hidden in Christ**, who is the mystery of God—Col. 2:2-3.
 2. The fact that wisdom and knowledge are embodied in Christ is proved by His spoken words, especially those recorded in the Gospels of Matthew and John:
 - a. The Lord's words recorded in these two books contain the **highest philosophy**.
 - b. The **concept** in the Lord's words is **deep** and **profound**.

3. Since wisdom and knowledge are stored up in Christ as a treasure, **we cannot have wisdom and knowledge unless we have Christ**—Col. 1:27; 3:4, 10-11.
4. If we **exercise** our being to **contact** the Lord, Christ as the life- giving Spirit will saturate our spirit and our mind, and we will have in our experience the wisdom and knowledge that are hidden in Christ—2:3.

Ephesians and Colossians show that **God's wisdom includes all that God is**. God's wisdom is realized through God Himself and His power. If God's wisdom did not have God Himself as the resource and God's power as the energy, all God's plans would be in vain, and God's wisdom would not be manifested. The reason God's wisdom can be realized is that God Himself is the resource and God's power is the energy. The Bible shows that **God's wisdom includes all that God is, and all that God is, is embodied in Christ**. God also causes Christ to become wisdom to us. It pleases God to make known His multifarious wisdom through the church to Satan and his angels; the multifarious wisdom of God is the church. (*Three Aspects of the Church, Book 1: The Meaning of the Church, chapter 3*)

Day 4

1 Corinthians 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

Romance 8:23 And not only so, but we ourselves also, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting sonship, the redemption of our body.

IV. As believers, we are in Christ, and Christ has become the wisdom from God to us—1 Cor. 1:30:

- A. What we believers, as the new creation, are and have is **of God, not of ourselves**—Rom. 11:36.
- B. As our wisdom, **Christ** is all-inclusive, **becoming wisdom to us from God** in righteousness, sanctification, and redemption—1 Cor. 1:30:
 1. By Christ as our **righteousness**, we have been **justified** by God so that we might be **reborn** in our spirit to receive the divine life—Rom. 5:18.
 2. By Christ as our **sanctification**, we are being sanctified in our soul, that is, **transformed in our mind, emotion, and will** with His divine life—6:19, 22; 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18.
 3. Christ as our **redemption** is for the redemption of our body, by which we will be **transfigured in our body** with His divine life to have His glorious likeness—Rom. 8:23; Phil. 3:21.

CHRIST BECOMING WISDOM TO THE BELIEVERS FROM GOD

In 1:30 Paul says that Christ Jesus “*became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption.*” Paul does not say that Christ is wisdom to us; he says that **Christ became wisdom to us**. This indicates that at one time Christ was not wisdom to us, but that He later became wisdom to us. For example, to say that I am your friend is somewhat different from saying that I became your friend. To say that I became your friend implies that once I was not your friend, but now I have become a friend to you. Christ could not become wisdom to us before we were in Him. But **when we believed in Christ, God put us into Him**. Then Christ became wisdom to us.

Christ was made wisdom to us from God as three vital things in God's salvation: **righteousness** (for our **past**), by which we have been justified by God, that we might be reborn in our spirit to receive the divine life; **sanctification** (for the **present**), by which we are being sanctified in our soul, that is, transformed in our mind, emotion, and will, with the divine life; and **redemption** (for the **future**), that is, the redemption of our body, by which we will be transfigured in our body with His divine life to have His glorious likeness. It is of God that we participate in such a complete and perfect salvation, making our entire being—spirit, soul, and body—organically one with Christ, and making Christ everything to us. It is altogether of God, not of ourselves, that we may boast and glory in Him, not in ourselves. (*Life-Study of 1 Corinthians, Chapter 9*)

- C. **To us from God** in 1 Corinthians 1:30 refers to something **present, practical, and experiential in the way of transmission**:
1. For Christ to become wisdom to us from God indicates that **there is a transmission** of Christ as wisdom from God to us for our daily experience—v. 30.
 2. Christ as wisdom should **unceasingly flow** from God **to us** to be our **present and practical wisdom in our experience**.
 3. If we **remain with the Lord to receive His dispensing** (John 15:4-5), He will be transmitted into us as the wisdom to handle various problems and matters.
 4. If we are **one with the Lord** and receive His dispensing, we will experience and enjoy Him as our wisdom day by day and hour by hour—1 Cor. 6:17; 1:30.

Day 5

Ephesians 3:10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,

Ephesians 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.

V. **Through the church the multifarious wisdom of God will be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenlies—Eph. 3:10:**

- A. The rulers and authorities are the angelic rulers and authorities, both good and evil.
- B. Ephesians 3:10 especially refers to the evil ones—Satan and his angels:
1. Satan has his kingdom, his angels, and his sphere of rule—Matt. 12:26; 25:41; Eph. 6:12:
 - a. **Satan's sphere of rule** is in the **air** and on the **earth**—2:2; 1 John 5:19.
 - b. The book of Daniel indicates that **all nations on earth are under the rule of Satan in the air**—10:13.
 2. **Through the church God will make His wisdom** known not mainly to human beings but to those rebellious angels who are the followers of God's enemy—Rev. 12:7.
- C. Even the rebellion of Satan is **within the realm of God's wisdom**—Isa. 14:12-14:
1. If it were not for **Satan's rebellion**, God's wisdom could not be made known in a full way.
 2. Satan has created many opportunities for God's wisdom to be manifested in a multifarious way, that is, in various ways and aspects and from many angles—Eph. 3:10.
 3. Eventually, Satan, God's enemy, will be subdued and will come to **know God's multifarious wisdom**—v. 10.
- D. When God's chosen and redeemed people **partake of and enjoy the riches of Christ, these riches constitute them the church**, through which God's multifarious wisdom is made known to the angelic rulers and authorities in the heavenlies—vv. 8-10:
1. The day is coming when, **through the church**, Satan and his angels will be put to shame.
 2. They will realize that everything they have done has given God the opportunity to **manifest His wisdom**.

Ephesians 3:10 says that **through the church the multifarious wisdom of God is made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenlies**. These rulers and authorities are the angelic rulers and authorities, both good and evil. The passage here especially refers to the evil ones—Satan and his angels. According to the New Testament, Satan has his kingdom, his angels, and his sphere of rule. Satan's sphere of rule is in the air and on the earth. The book of Daniel indicates that all nations on earth are under the rule of Satan in the air. Therefore, **through the church God makes His wisdom known** not mainly to human beings but to those rebellious angels who are the followers of God's enemy.

In verse 10 Paul declares that God's multifarious wisdom is made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenlies through the church. The church is the Body of Christ, the joint-heirs, and the joint-partakers. The church is composed of those who once were ruined, corrupted, and damaged. Before we were saved, we were **vipers, poisonous serpents**. Furthermore, we were dead in trespasses and sins. Moreover, we were scattered and divided, utterly unable to be one. Thus, all the members of the church were in a hopeless situation. Nevertheless, **God in His wisdom** is able to make us the **church**. Now we are not only **redeemed, saved, cleansed, freed, liberated, and regenerated**—we are also **united**. We are one with God and with one another. Therefore, we are the **church**. (*Life-Study of Ephesians, chapter 31*)

Day 6

Hebrews 11:10	For he eagerly waited for the city which has the foundations, whose Architect and Builder is God.
Revelation 21:2	And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

VI. The New Jerusalem, as the ultimate consummation of the church, will be full of wisdom—Rev. 1:11; 21:2, 9-11; 22:16:

- A. The New Jerusalem is **designed and constructed by God**, the Architect and Builder of “the city which has the foundations”—Heb. 11:10:
1. This indicates that God is a skilled Designer and top Craftsman.
 2. As such an Architect and Builder, **God certainly has not designed and built a physical city**—Rev. 21:9-11.
 3. To say that the New Jerusalem is a physical city depreciates God’s wisdom and belittles Him as the eternal, wise Architect—Heb. 11:10.
 4. God has designed and built a spiritual entity for His corporate expression—Rev. 21:9-11.
 5. **In His wisdom God constructs the New Jerusalem by dispensing Himself as the Architect and Builder into our being**—Heb. 11:10; 2 Cor. 13:14; Rev. 21:2; 22:1-2.
- B. If we realize that the New Jerusalem is a **sign** that **signifies spiritual and divine things**, we will begin to see the wisdom of God in this city—1:1; 21:9-11.
- C. God is a wise Architect and Builder who designs and builds such a city to be the **full manifestation of His multifarious wisdom**—Eph. 3:10; Rev. 21:2, 9-11.