

Wisdom

1. **Chakmah** is the basic word in the Old Testament for wisdom. It appears in the Old Testament 146 times. Well over half of the instances of the use of wisdom or one of its cognates is found in Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.

2. These books are often called the wisdom books. The wisdom books of the Old Testament, however, are quite varied in structure and content as is the handling of the word wisdom in all other parts of the Old Testament. In Ecclesiastes wisdom is disparaged to the extent Solomon uses it in the intellectual sense; noting sarcastically that even the very wisest of men die.

3. Wisdom then in Ecclesiastes is often used to mean intelligence or skill. But it is not highly regarded by the writer Solomon; even though God had made him the wisest man in the world. Notice what Solomon has written "In much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow." Ecc 1:18

4. In Job, Proverbs and Psalms **Chakmah** is used more often than not to describe wisdom in the sense of knowing and respecting God. Wisdom in this sense serves as an insular to sorrow.

5. Doctrine is used synonymously in this categorical study with wisdom. The truly wise one, as we will see is promised blessing and true wisdom facilitates recovery from sorrow when the details of life turn south.

6. A mature believer will demonstrate capacity for life because his thinking will be based on the principles found in the Word of God.

7. The word wisdom is often used in Job. The word wisdom is used by Job and by his comforters alike. But there is a very distinctive use in Job 28, a chapter devoted to praising true wisdom - knowledge of God. Wisdom and understanding as used in this chapter refer not to mere intelligence, but to rectitude as an expression of divine viewpoint and thus straight thinking.

8. Job 28:28 provides a very early definition of wisdom, "And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding."

9. The use of wisdom in Proverbs is quite distinctive and is exactly like that in Job 28.

10. In the first of the book (Pro 1:7), at the end of the first section (Pro 9:10), and at the end of the book (Pro 31:26), wisdom is defined in the sense of developing and using divine viewpoint. Wisdom as used in these three verses does not describe skill or intelligence; it is a description of moral quality.

Pro 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Pro 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy one is understanding.

Pro 31:26 The perfect wife openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

11. Proverbs is the ultimate wisdom book. In Proverbs chapters, 1-9 wisdom is personified as a righteous woman. This is natural, for wisdom in Hebrew is a feminine noun. The contrast is drawn with the foolish woman, the harlot as opposed to her who is wise. The two are contrasted, one leads to blessing and the other to sin and evil.

12. That opposite of wisdom is not ignorance, but human viewpoint. In Pro 9:1-18 the contrast is most pointed. Wisdom and the foolish woman give the same call to the passersby. The one calls to the fear of the Lord; the other calls to disdain for the protocol of God. The question is always there? To whom will you answer?

13. In Pro 9:1-12 Lady Wisdom calls and in Pro 9:13-18 Madame Folly calls. I want to provide both the KJV and Message Bible of Proverbs chapter nine and perhaps by their comparison we can better see the importance of saying yes to Lady Wisdom and no to Madame Folly.

14. Lady Wisdom Gives a Dinner Party

Pro 9:1 Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars:

Lady wisdom has built and furnished her home; it's supported by seven hewn timbers.

Pro 9:2 She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table.

The banquet meal is ready to be served: Lamb roasted, wine poured out, table set with silver and flowers.

Pro 9:3 She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city,

Having dismissed her serving maids, Lady Wisdom goes to town, stands in a prominent place, and invites everyone within sound of her voice:

Pro 9:4 Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,

Pro 9:5 Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled.

Pro 9:6 Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

“Are you confused about life, don't know what's going on? Come with me, oh come, have dinner with me! I've prepared a wonderful spread—fresh-baked bread, roast lamb carefully selected wines. Leave your impoverished confusion and live! Walk up the street to a life with meaning.”

Pro 9:7 He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked man getteth himself a blot.

If you reason with an arrogant cynic, you'll get slapped in the face; confront bad behavior and get a kick in the shins.

Pro 9:8 Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

So don't waste your time on a scoffer; all you'll get for your pains is abuse.

Pro 9:9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

But if you correct those who care about life, that's different--they'll love you for it! Save your breath for the wise--they'll be wiser for it; tell good people what you know--they'll profit from it.

Pro 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Skilled living gets its start in the Fear-of-God, insight into life from knowing a Holy God.

Pro 9:11 For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.

It's through me, Lady Wisdom, that your life deepens, and the years of your life ripen.

Pro 9:12 If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself: but if thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear it.

Live wisely and wisdom will permeate your life; mock life and life will mock you.

15. Now for the call of Lady Folly the prostitute. Folly represents any and everything that keeps the believer from doctrine.

Madame Whore Calls Out

Pro 9:13 A foolish woman is clamorous: she is simple, and knoweth nothing.

Pro 9:14 For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city,

Pro 9:15 To call passengers who go right on their ways:

Pro 9:16 Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: and as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,

Then there's this other woman, Madame whore--brazen, empty-headed, frivolous. She sits on the front porch of her house on Main Street and as people walk by minding their own business, calls out, "are you confused about life, don't know what's going on?"

Pro 9:17 Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.

Pro 9:18 But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell.

Steal off with me, I'll show you a good time! No one will ever know--I'll give you the time of your life." But they don't know all the skeletons in her closet, that all her guests end up in hell."

16. Wow! What a horrific metaphor for the distractions that keep believers world-wide from the reason we were left here in time--to take in the Word under the filling of the Spirit, grow in God's grace and produce divine good.

17. In Proverbs, chapter 8, wisdom is presented as the companion of God in Creation and Providence. This Proverb is often called the wisdom proverb. Wisdom or doctrine is said to exist from the very beginning. Its importance is again stressed. I want to provide both the NIV and Message Bible of Proverbs chapter eight and perhaps by their comparison we can better see the importance of wisdom and its eternal existence.

Pro 8:1 Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice?

Pro 8:2 On the heights along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand;

Pro 8:3 beside the gates leading into the city, at the entrances, she cries aloud:

Do you hear Lady Wisdom calling? Can you hear Madame Insight raising her voice? She's taken her stand at First and Main, at the busiest intersection. Right in the city square where the traffic is thickest, she shouts,

Pro 8:4 "To you, O men, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind.

Pro 8:5 You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, gain understanding.

Pro 8:6 Listen, for I have worthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right.

"You--I am talking to all of you, everyone out here on the streets! Listen, you idiots--learn good sense! You blockheads-- shape up! Don't miss a word of this--I 'm telling you how to live well, I 'm telling you how to live at your best.

Pro 8:7 My mouth speaks what is true, for my lips detest wickedness.

Pro 8:8 All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse.

Pro 8:9 To the discerning all of them are right; they are faultless to those who have knowledge.

My mouth chews and savors and relishes truth--I can't stand the taste of evil! You'll only hear true and right words from my mouth; not one syllable will be twisted or skewed. You'll recognize this as true--you with open minds; truth--ready minds will see it at once.

Pro 8:10 Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold,

Pro 8:11 for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.

Prefer my life-discipline over chasing after money, and God-- knowledge over a lucrative career.

For Wisdom is better than all the trappings of wealth; nothing you could wish for holds a candle to her.

Pro 8:12 "I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion.

Pro 8:13 To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

Pro 8:14 Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding and power.

"I am lady Wisdom, and I live next to Sanity; Knowledge and Discretion live just down the street. The fear-of-God means hating Evil, whose ways I hate with a passion--pride and arrogance and crooked talk . Good counsel and common sense are my characteristics; I am both Insight and the Virtue to live it out.

Pro 8:15 By me kings reign and rulers make laws that are just;

Pro 8:16 by me princes govern, and all nobles who rule on earth.

With my help, leaders rule, and lawmakers legislate fairly; With my help, governors govern, along with all in legitimate authority.

Pro 8:17 I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.

Pro 8:18 With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity.

Pro 8:19 My fruit is better than fine gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver.

I love those who love me; those who look for me find me. Wealth and Glory accompany me--also substantial Honor and a good Name. My benefits are worth more than a big salary, even a very big salary; the returns on me exceed any imaginable bonus.

Pro 8:20 I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice,

Pro 8:21 bestowing wealth on those who love me and making their treasuries full.

You can find me on Righteous Road--that where I walk--at the intersection of Justice Avenue, handing out life to those who love me, filling their arms with life--armloads of life!

Pro 8:22 "The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old;

Pro 8:23 I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began.

"God sovereignly made me--the first, the basic--before He did anything else. It was then I was brought into being a long time ago, well before Earth got its start.

Pro 8:24 When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water;

Pro 8:25 before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth

Pro 8:26 before he made the earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world.

Pro 8:27 I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep,

Pro 8:28 when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep,

Pro 8:29 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.

I arrived on the scene before Oceans, yes even before Springs and Rivers and Lakes. Before Mountains were sculpted and Hills took shape, I was already there, newborn; Long before God stretched out Earth's Horizons, and tended to the minute details of Soil and Weather and set Sky firmly in place, I was there. When he mapped and gave borders to wild Ocean, built the vast vault of Heaven, and installed the fountains that fed Ocean, when he drew a boundary for Seas, posted a sign that said, no trespassing, and then staked out Earth's foundations, I was right there with Him, making sure everything fit.

Pro 8:30 Then I was the craftsman at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence,

Pro 8:31 rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.

Day after day I was there, with my joyful applause, always enjoying His company, delighted with the world of things and creatures, happily celebrating the human family.

Pro 8:32 "Now then, my sons, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways.

Pro 8:33 Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not ignore it.

Pro 8:34 Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway.

Pro 8:35 For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the LORD.

"So, my dear friends, listen carefully; those who embrace these my ways are most blessed. Mark a life of discipline and live wisely; don't squander your precious life. Blessed the man, blessed the woman, who listens to me, awake and ready for each morning, alert and responsive as I start my day's work.

Pro 8:36 But whoever fails to find me harms himself; all who hate me love death."

When you find me, you find life, real life, to say nothing of God's good pleasure.

Pro 8:36 But whoever fails to find me harms himself; all who hate me love death."

But if you wrong me, you damage your very soul; when you reject me, you're flirting with death."

18. So much for our analysis of wisdom as found in the Proverbs chapters, eight and nine.

19. In the remainder of the book of Proverbs there are many tributes and warm praise for the wise man. For example, the wise son is contrasted with the foolish son.

Pro 10:1 The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

Pro 10:20 The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth.

20. Knowledge is a pleasant thing and when made a part of a person's understanding it will be evident in the mouth of that person.

Pro 22:17 Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge.

Pro 22:18 For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; they shall withal be fitted in thy lips.

21. While wisdom is personified in the Old Testament in the book of Proverbs and shown to have existed eternally, it is centered in the New Testament in one person, the Lord Jesus Christ.

1Co 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

Col 2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

Col 2:3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

22. Christ in His human nature increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man. "Upon Him," said Isaiah, "shall rest the Holy Spirit," whose primary attribute is to convey wisdom.

Luk 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Isa 11:2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

23. As a result of the demonstrated wisdom of Christ, men asked, "Whence hath this man this wisdom?"

Mat 13:54 And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

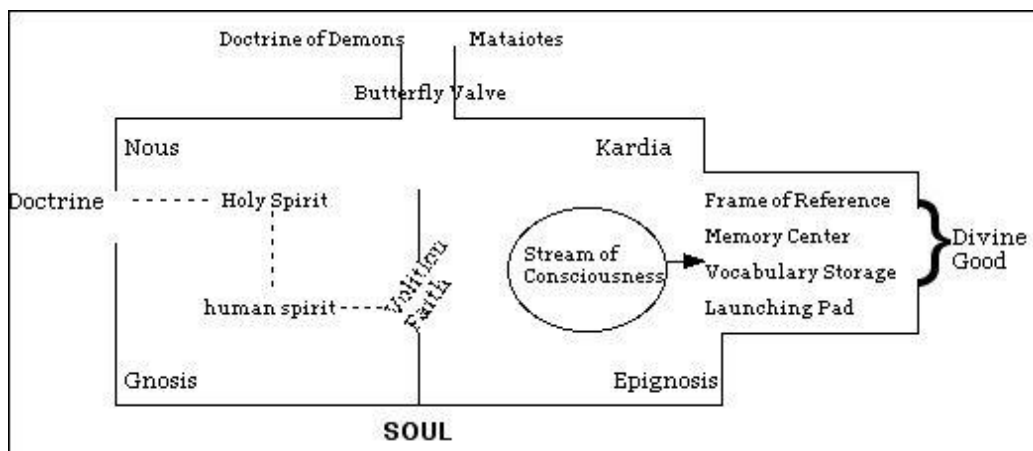
24. Little did they know, there standing before them was one greater than Solomon, and that one day their cynicism would result in a special judgment from the queen of the south.

Mat 12:42 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

25. Now let's move to the method of acquiring wisdom or doctrine in the right lobe of the soul where it will produce divine good.

25.1 Wisdom, doctrine and truth, as used in this categorical study refer to doctrine in the soul. The source of true wisdom is a product of **Gnosis** becoming **Epignosis**--a spiritual phenomenon from the grace of God.

25.2 This product of grace is available to any believer who desires to know more of the Savior. This spiritual product of grace can best be understood in chart form.



26. Salvation faith comes from a belief that Christ died to make the believer right with God. As a result, deliverance comes immediately as a forever condition to one who exercises faith alone in Christ alone. This we call positional sanctification. Positional sanctification is a forever fact.

27. There is for the believer a temporal sanctification for which all believers should strive. Temporal sanctification is also called “spiritual maturity.” It is a process and a product of the intake of the Word under the filling of the Spirit.

28. We are filled with the Spirit when we confess our sins and thus we are said to be spiritual and teachable. There are two Scriptures that best describe this grace phenomenon.

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

29. There have been counterfeit methods of acquiring wisdom.

29.1 The Greeks with their philosophy sought wisdom (1Co 1:22) and produced such great men as Plato and Aristotle, but extant Greek philosophy omitted God. God in His infinite wisdom, by contrast, used the cross to reveal the only way man could be saved.

29.2 The gospel proved to be a stumbling block to the Jews, who were trying to obtain salvation by good works.

Rom 9:30 What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.

Rom 9:31 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.

Rom 9:32 Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone;

Rom 9:33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumbling stone and rock of offense: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

29.3 The Jews were offended at the thought of the crucifixion and that they were so impotent that someone else must die for their sins. They say the same thing today: "What's wrong with us now?" The Greeks considered simple faith in a divine atonement too easy a way to salvation. Yet the atoning death of Christ is the epitome of all wisdom, since it solves the greatest problem of the world and man.

Eph 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

30. God's wisdom, manifested in His plan of salvation, met the needs of a holy God, a righteous God Who required that His righteousness be satisfied, and the perfect, sinless Son of God met this need.

30.1 The plan was sufficient for all men. Only one who was both God and man could have pulled this off. Yes, God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died as a substitute for us.

31. While Paul did not preach according to the wisdom of the world, He did preach the hidden wisdom of God, which can be discerned when God provides the guidance and help of the Holy Spirit.

1Co 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

1Co 2:8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 1Co 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

1Co 2:10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

32. God is desirous that man have and know His wisdom. Acquiring His wisdom is the reason we are left here in time.

Jam 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

Col 1:9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

Eph 1:8 It was God Who lavished on us all wisdom and understanding.

Eph 1:9 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,

2Tim 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2Tim 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

33. Wisdom is "from above" and is contrasted with earthly, human wisdom. The wisdom of this world is a counterfeit program inspired by Satan.

Jam 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

Jam 3:14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.

Jam 3:15 Such wisdom does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil.

Jam 3:16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

Jam 3:17 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.

Col 2:20 Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules:

Col 2:21 "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"?

Col 2:22 These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings.

Col 2:23 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.

Col 3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

34. God's wisdom must be revealed or "given" to men. This is done supernaturally by God the Holy Spirit, Who reveals God's wisdom to every positive believer.

Luk 21:15 For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.

Joh 14:26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Joh 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

1Co 2:14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

1Co 2:15 The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:

1Co 2:16 "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

34.1 God's wisdom will produce divine good.

Jam 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

Jam 1:20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

Jam 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

Jam 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Jam 1:23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

Jam 1:24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

Jam 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Isa 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isa 55:10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

Isa 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Col 1:3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you

Col 1:4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints;

Col 1:5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,

Col 1:6 Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:

35. Doctrine is presented by the pastor-teacher, and God the Holy Spirit teaches people who have an appetite for spiritual food. Positive people come when Bible doctrine is taught.

Col 1:28 We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.

Heb 13:7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Heb 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Tit 2:1 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.

Tit 2:15 These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

Eph 4:11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,

Eph 4:12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

36. We must not give up meeting together when doctrine--wisdom-- is taught.

Heb 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

37. Naves has written the following in his topical index concerning wisdom.

37.1 The Wisdom of Joseph

Acts 7:9 Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God was with him

Acts 7:10 and rescued him from all his troubles. He gave Joseph wisdom and enabled him to gain the goodwill of Pharaoh king of Egypt; so he made him ruler over Egypt and all his palace.

37.2 The Wisdom of Moses

Acts 7:22 Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.

Acts 7:23 "When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his fellow Israelites.

Acts 7:24 He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian.

Acts 7:25 Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not.

Acts 7:26 The next day Moses came upon two Israelites who were fighting. He tried to reconcile them by saying, 'Men, you are brothers; why do you want to hurt each other?'

Acts 7:27 "But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses aside and said, 'Who made you ruler and judge over us?'

Acts 7:28 Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?'

Acts 7:29 When Moses heard this, he fled to Midian, where he settled as a foreigner and had two sons.

Acts 7:30 "After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to Moses in the flames of a burning bush in the desert near Mount Sinai.

Acts 7:31 When he saw this, he was amazed at the sight. As he went over to look more closely, he heard the Lord's voice:

Acts 7:32 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.' Moses trembled with fear and did not dare to look.

Acts 7:33 "Then the Lord said to him, 'Take off your sandals; the place where you are standing is holy ground.

Acts 7:34 I have indeed seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their groaning and have come down to set them free. Now come, I will send you back to Egypt.'

Acts 7:35 "This is the same Moses whom they had rejected with the words, 'Who made you ruler and judge?' He was sent to be their ruler and deliverer by God himself, through the angel who appeared to him in the bush.

Acts 7:36 He led them out of Egypt and did wonders and miraculous signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea and for forty years in the desert.

37.3 The Wisdom of Paul

2Pe 3:15 Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.

2Pe 3:16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

2Pe 3:17 Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.

2Pe 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

38. Before we leave our categorical study of wisdom, let's see what Paul has to say about praying for wisdom, not only for self but also for others.

Eph 1:16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

Eph 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.

Eph 1:18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

Eph 3:14 For this reason I kneel before the Father,

Eph 3:15 from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

Eph 3:16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being

Eph 3:17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,

Eph 3:18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

Eph 3:19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Eph 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Eph 6:19 Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,

Eph 6:20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Phi 1:9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,

Phi 1:10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ,

Col 2:1 I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally.

Col 2:2 My purpose 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,

Col 2:3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

39. Much in this new Doctrine of Wisdom amplifies my earlier publications treating the subject of wisdom. I hope you will carefully consider this latest attempt to stress the need for continual study of God's most Holy Word.