

Wisdom in many places

Introduction

In this study we focus on two very important facts about wisdom. First, we note from passages like 1 Kings 3vs1-4vs34 and Daniel 1vs1-2vs49 that wisdom was (and is) not the sole possession of the people of God – there was wisdom outside of Israel as well as among the Israelites. This reminds us that we are not to be arrogant toward those who do not share our faith, that we should value all true education and be willing to listen to good advice, whatever the source. Second, we note that, despite the world's ability to understand the nature of things, there will always be something missing among those who do not know God. When it comes to ultimate reality and the true nature of things, we must learn to see the world in the light of God's word. There are two ways in which we see this: First, we note from Proverbs that wisdom begins with the fear of the LORD. Second, we note from Psalm 19 that the key to a life which pleases the LORD is to live in God's world according to God's Word. This is true wisdom, a wisdom which transcends what can be learnt by mere observation of the world.

Study Questions

These questions help you to see clearly what the text is saying.

Read: 1 Kings 3vs1-4vs34; Daniel 1vs1-2vs49

- Note:**
- a. The references to wise men and wisdom outside of Israel.
 - b. The origin of Solomon's wisdom.
 - c. The nature of Solomon's wisdom
 - d. The comparison between Daniel and his friends and the officials in Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom.

Answer the following questions:

1. What do these passages tell us about wisdom outside of Israel?

2. How did the wisdom of Solomon and of Daniel compare with the wisdom of those around them?

3. Where does all true wisdom come from?

Read: Proverbs 1:1-7; Psalm 19

- Note:**
- a. The language used to describe wisdom.
 - b. The persons for whom wisdom is intended.
 - c. The intellectual and moral nature of wisdom
 - d. The reference to the Fear of the LORD
 - e. The role of the law of the LORD in our growth in wisdom

Answer the following questions:

1. Where does wisdom begin? What in your opinion does this mean?

2. How should wisdom affect our thinking?

3. What effect should wisdom have upon our moral conduct?

4. What role does the Law of the LORD have in the formation of wisdom?

Think it Through

1. What challenge does the Psalmist place before us? What place does the Word of God have in fulfilling that challenge?