

Adult Sunday School Lesson
Nassau Bay Baptist Church
June 21, 2020

As you watch and listen to the video, please feel free to pause the video for any reason, including to discuss something with others, to take time to look up a verse or passage, or to take a break. Remember, you also are able to go back and to repeat any part.

Read Proverbs 3:1-35.

In this chapter of the Proverbs, we can see five sections and the chapter anchor.

- Section 1—vv. 1-10—Life Commands with Promise (My son . . .)
- Section 2—vv. 11-18—Life Value of Correction (My son . . .)
- Section 3—vv. 19-20—The Lord and Wisdom (Anchor)
- Section 4—vv. 21-26—Life Value of Wisdom (My son . . .)
- Section 5—vv. 27-30—Living with Your Neighbor
- Section 6—vv. 31-35—Living without Wicked Fools

In this study, we will do an overview of the chapter, primarily by looking at key words, and we will take a deeper look at the chapter anchor.

Section 1—1-10

Law
Heart>>Commands
Peace
Mercy (*chesed*)>>Truth
Tablet (*Ten Commandments*)>>Heart
Trust>>Jehovah>>All>>Heart
Understanding
Acknowledge
Direct (*smooth, straight*)
Wise
Fear Jehovah>>Depart from evil
Honor (*glory, heavy*)>>Jehovah>>possessions

Section 2—11-18

Despise
Chastening>>Correction
Love>>Corrects (*rebukes, reproves*)
Happy>>Wisdom>>Understanding
Precious
Pleasantness
Peace (*Shalom*)
Tree of Life
Happy (*blessed*)

Section 4—21-26

Wisdom (*efficient wisdom*)>>Discretion (*plan*)

Safely>>Not Stumble

Not Afraid (*not in dread*)

Not Afraid

Confidence (*foolishness?*)

Section 5—27-30

Good

Neighbor

Tomorrow

Devise Evil

Neighbor

Safety

Strive Without Cause

Section 6—31-35

Envy

Oppressor (*violence, wrong*)

Ways

Perverse (*crooked*)>>Abomination (*disgusting*)

Secret Counsel>>Upright

Curse>>Wicked

Bless>>Just

Scorns>>Scornful

Grace (*favor*)>>Humble (*poor*)

Wise>>Inherit Glory

Shame>>Legacy>>Fools

Anchor—19-20

The Lord (emphasis) by wisdom (emphasis) founded the earth;
By understanding He established the heavens;
By His knowledge the depths were broken up,
And clouds drop down the dew. (Proverbs 3:19-20)

Notice the emphasis upon creation. But first notice the emphasis upon Jehovah and upon wisdom. In the Hebrew, the verb, “founded,” is in third place. In normal sentence structure, it would be first. But Solomon gave Jehovah first place and wisdom second.

We have to get this right. Wisdom supersedes creation because creation flowed out from wisdom, and God supersedes wisdom because wisdom flowed out from God.

As we continue, we see the following.

Jehovah>>**Wisdom**>>Earth founded
Understanding>>Heavens established
Knowledge>>Depths broken>>Clouds rained

So . . .

Jehovah *applied information about Himself that leads to a relationship with Him* and the earth was founded.

Through *insight in Himself and discernment that separates information and insight into right categories*, the heavens were established.

By *information about Himself that results in a relationship with Him that impacts and changes the lives of men and women*, the depths were broken and the clouds rained.

We see a very similar description for the one assigned to make worship implements for the tabernacle.

Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “See, I have called by name Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. I have filled him with the **Spirit of God**.

in **wisdom**,
in **understanding**,
in **knowledge**,

and in all *kinds of* craftsmanship” Exodus 31:1-3¹

Spirit of God

Interestingly, we find the **Spirit of God** instrumental both in creation of the universe and in designing of worship implements for the tabernacle.

And the **Spirit of God** was hovering over the face of the waters. Genesis 1:2b

Do we see the connection with Proverbs 3:20-21?

God created the heavens by *wisdom* and the earth by *understanding*, and brought rain from the clouds by *knowledge*. God imbued Bezalel with the ability to design and to build beautiful implements for the worship of Jehovah, the pattern of which was found in Heaven,² by *wisdom*, by *understanding*, and by *knowledge* (along with giving him abilities in all types of craftsmanship). Both happened under the superintendence of the *Spirit of God*.

¹ See Exodus 35:30-35.

² See Hebrews 9:23-25; Hebrews 8:3-5.

Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge

Knowledge is the baseline, the foundation, the information. Wisdom and understanding both depend upon and act upon knowledge.

All knowledge begins in information. All information is in God. Before the universe was, He was, and He had all information. All information was about Him.

So when the earth was made, He used information about Himself to form the earth. When we learn true information (not theories or speculation) concerning the Creation, we learn true information about God. (We must always differentiate between what we know and what we reason might be.)

Without God, no information would be in the world. Therefore, without God, no DNA, no language, no communication would exist.

Sidebar

Man cannot imagine a world without information because information is necessary to imagination. We assume that if anything is there, then information is there, and we can study it and glean that information. And that is a true assumption, but, leaving God out as the source of information, no one can answer the simple question, Where did information come from?

Video Link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aA-FcnLsF1g>

Understanding is the division of information into right categories. These divisions represent God and His ability to separate the good from the bad. In creation, he divided the waters from the waters, light from darkness, the earth from the heavens, the different types of creatures, etc.

A descriptive word for understanding is discernment, which is the separation of good ideas from bad ideas. Understanding/discernment is an aspect of wisdom.

Wisdom is the application of knowledge and understanding toward holiness and righteousness, toward becoming more like Jesus.

So we receive information from God that is about God. We divide the information in ways of *understanding* and discernment that are helpful to us as we live in obedience to God. We apply our understanding and discernment of the information we have received from God toward holiness and righteousness.