

BEYOND BLACK & WHITE

A STUDY OF THE BIBLE'S WISDOM LITERATURE

Lesson 1 — Introduction to Wisdom Lit.

I. Wisdom

A. What is it?

1. "Wisdom is the ability to live life _____."
2. "The book of proverbs opens by breaking the plain daylight of _____ into its rainbow of constituent _____." (*Derek Kidner, commentary on Proverbs*)

B. Key words (Prov. 1:1-6)

1. _____ or training
2. _____ or reproof
3. Building _____ and discipline
4. Understanding or _____
5. _____ or good sense
6. Wise dealing or sound wisdom
7. Shrewdness or _____
8. Knowledge or learning

C. Generally... A more _____ understanding of the complexities of life.

1. A difference between _____ and _____
2. Sometimes, the act of simplifying a concept actually _____ it.
3. Wisdom teaches us to live well with the "irreducible complexities" of life.
4. _____ helps us live with the complexities of life while avoiding a complicated life.

D. The B.I.B.L.E. is *more than* "Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth."

1. Wisdom is not meant to be readily available on an initial read (cf. Prov. 1:6).
2. God gives _____, complex wisdom for living well on the earth.
3. Gaining it requires _____, _____, and a proper heart.

"Wisdom is for anyone who wants it. Fools and simpletons are invited by name to its feast, which is as free as that of folly."

- Derek Kidner

- E. Proverbs 1:7 – the writers’ motto
 - 1. Also Prov. 9:10, 15:33, Psa. 111:10, Job 28:28
 - 2. It’s a description of _____, not just a thought process
 - 3. In summary: Knowledge begins with _____.

II. Wisdom Books

- A. Proverbs - Compilation of wise _____ and _____ by Solomon and others
- B. Job - a dialogue exploring the human experience with _____
 - 1. The Philosophy of _____
- C. Ecclesiastes - Essays on the true nature of _____, _____, and the _____
 - 1. The Philosophy of _____
- D. Song of Songs - a _____; an allegory of mankind’s relationship with wisdom (?)
 - 1. The Philosophy of _____

FOR WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15

Reading assignment: Job 1-3 and 38-42

Questions:

- Explain why the devil didn’t God stop the devil from afflicting Job with such suffering.

- What explanation does God give to Job at the end of the book for all that happened to him?

- What wisdom is this story (and all the dialogue in the middle) supposed to give us?
