

## Meeting Wisdom

- John's gospel has been distinguished as being deep enough for an elephant to sink, but shallow enough for a child to play. Today we will take a look at one of the many mysteries of his gospel. What I plan to do is reveal the world behind the text.

### Pray

- In the academic world there are authors such as Amos Yong that recognize that the study of scripture can be broken down into 3 segments.
  - The *world behind* the text
  - The *grammar of* the text
  - The *application in front of* the text
- We will engage all of these as we prospect out the gems of this text and others.
- **The “Word” of John’s Prologue**
  - In this prologue the Greek word *logos* is used every time we see “word.” John is designating Jesus as the *logos* and all of the attributes associated with it.
- **Influences of Hellenistic Judaism (Philo) and Palestinian Judaism (Rabbinic writings)**
  - Giving insight into the *world behind* and the *grammar of* the text
  - Philo Judaeus was a Jewish philosopher that mixed Greek stoicism into his writings. Stoicism placed importance on the concept of *logos*

- Similarities between 1:1-18

| <b>John's Prologue</b>                                      | <b>Wisdom</b>  |
|---|--|
| The Word was in the beginning<br>John 1:1                   | Wisdom was in the beginning<br>Prov. 8:22-23; Wisd. Sol. 9:9; Sir 1:4            |
| The Word was with God<br>John 1:1                           | Wisdom was with God<br>Prov. 8:30; Wisd. Sol. 9:4; Sir. 1:1                      |
| The Word was cocreator<br>John 1:1-3                        | Wisdom was cocreator<br>Prov. 3:19; 8:25; Wisd. Sol. 7:22; 9:1-2                 |
| The Word provides the light<br>John 1:4, 9                  | Wisdom provides the light<br>Prov. 8:22; Wisd. Sol. 7:26; Sir. 4:12;<br>Bar. 4:2 |
| The Word as light is in contrast to<br>darkness<br>John 1:5 | Wisdom as light is in contrast to<br>darkness<br>Wisd. Sol. 7:29-30              |
| The Word was in the world<br>John 1:10                      | Wisdom was in the world<br>Wisd. Sol. 8:1; Sir. 24:6                             |
| The Word was rejected by its own<br>John 1:11               | Wisdom was rejected by its own<br>Sir. 15:7; Bar. 3:12; 1 Enoch 42:1-2           |
| The Word was received by the faithful<br>John 1:12          | Wisdom was received by the faithful<br>Wisd. Sol. 7:27; Bar. 3:37                |
| The Word became flesh<br>John 1:14                          | Wisdom became flesh<br>Sir. 24:8; Bar. 3:37 – 4:2                                |

- Designate Jesus as the wisdom of the Old Testament
  - Wisdom of Job 28 – Read the Chapter
    - The book of Job is concerned with justice, so why would a chapter like this break away from the overarching theme to interact with wisdom?
      - Romans 5:1 “therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace in God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
      - If Jesus is understood as being equated with the wisdom of God in the Old Testament than we can read into this text that we are justified through faith in our knowledge of the wisdom, Jesus, of God.
    - Wisdom is shown as something very hard to find
      - In remote places forgotten by travelers (v4)
      - Miners have to dig shafts and hang suspended by ropes (v4)
      - The tunnels are a path no bird or prey has seen. (v. 7)
    - Wisdom is more valuable than rich treasures (vv. 12-19)
      - Gold
      - Silver
      - Onyx
      - Sapphire
      - Jewels
      - Fine coral or crystal
      - Pearls
      - Chrystolite
      - Glass

▪ **Abbadon and death have heard rumors of it.**

- Abbadon is word equated with Sheol or hell.
- Revelations 1:18 says that Jesus holds the keys to death and the grave.
- The way to obtain it is easy
  - Fear of the lord is wisdom, and fleeing from evil is the understanding
  - Knowledge and application

○ **Wisdom of Proverbs 8 – read the chapter**

- Juxtaposed to wisdom being hidden in Job 28, Proverbs 8 shows us something a little different.
  - Wisdom is widely available and out in the open
    - Highest parts of the city
    - Along the roads
    - At the intersection
    - At the gates of the city
  - It is for all people, specifically the simple (immature)
  - Is there for all *Love, Seek, and Find*. (v. 17)
  - Verses 22-31 show God, Wisdom, and Creation.
  - Whoever finds wisdom finds life (v. 35)
    - John 14:6 “I am the way, the truth, and the life”
- Comparing them
  - Job 28 has wisdom hidden and hard to find
  - Proverbs 8 has wisdom openly available
  - This is not a contradiction, but rather a compliment.

- Romans 1:20-22 “For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes, that is*, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by what has been made, so that they are without excuse. 21For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their reasonings, and their senseless hearts were darkened. 22Claiming to be wise, they became fools...”
- Conclusion
  - James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.