

Wisdom Comes From God

The book of Job contains a tremendous amount of material. People often focus on the first two chapters and the last one, but there's far more to it than that. It's a deep book that's full of fascinating information, and which deserves more attention than it gets.

One of the points Job makes is that wisdom comes from God. It's impossible to obtain wisdom unless God reveals it to us:

Job 28:20-23: “Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding? Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept close from the fowls of the air. Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears. God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof.”

It's true there are many things we can learn from nature. However, there are other things that can only be known if God chooses to reveal them to mankind. What happens after death? Where did the universe come from? What's our purpose? What's the difference between right and wrong? How can our sins be forgiven? How should we live our life? What things in life are worth doing?

All of these questions are enormously important, and all of them require revelation from God in order to answer. Nature can't tell us what happens after death. The stars reveal the glory of God, but they can't reveal the difference between right and wrong. These questions (and many others) are completely unanswerable by studying at the world around us. If God doesn't reveal those answers to us then we'll never have them.

That's one of the reasons why the Bible tell us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of both wisdom and knowledge:

Job 28:28: “And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.”

Psalms 111:10: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.”

Proverbs 1:7: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

Proverbs 9:10: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”

Proverbs 15:33: “The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.”

It's wise to fear God. Those who fear God will take Him seriously. They'll believe the things He has said and will walk in His ways. That means they'll know what's true and will walk in the light of that truth. They'll avoid many errors because God's word will guide them. Those who fear God understand reality, and are in a position to make good decisions because they know what's really going on.

However, those who reject God are blind. They don't understand the world (even if they think they do). They can't distinguish between right and wrong and so they fall into evil. They make terrible decisions because their worldview is wrong. They miss their purpose in life because they've rejected the truth that can only be found in God.

The answers to life's greatest questions can't be found in

nature and it can't be found in ourselves. Instead it can only be found in God, who has revealed those answers to us in His word.

God is willing to give wisdom to those who ask for it:

James 1:5: “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

The big question is whether we're willing to listen to what He has to say.