

WISE UP Sunday School- March 4, 2012

Unifying Topic: WISDOM'S PART IN CREATION

Lesson Text

I. Wisdom Before Creation (Proverbs 8:22-26)

II. Wisdom At Creation (Proverbs 8:27-31)

III. Wisdom And Life (Proverbs 8:32-35)

The Main Thought: Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. (Prov.8:33, KJV).

Unifying Principle: People appraise wisdom and yearn for a depth of wisdom for themselves and others. What is the root of this longing for wisdom? The writer of Proverbs speaks about Wisdom having a divine origin, begin present as God created all things, and having a role with God in creation.

Lesson Aim: To explore the concept of Lady Wisdom and the importance of her presence at the creation of the world.

Life aim: To help participants connect the importance of wisdom and in their own lives.

8:22 The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.

8:23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.

8:24 When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water.

8:25 Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth.

8:26 While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world.

8:27 When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:

8:28 When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep.

8:29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:

8:30 Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him;

8:31 Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.

8:32 Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways.

8:33 Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.

8:34 Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.

8:35 For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord.

SYNOPSIS:

This is wisdom for young men:

Proverbs 8:1-11— ¹In Chapter seven, we read how the adulteress went out in the streets to seduce the young man. Now, we see how wisdom, like a virtuous woman, is seen crying in the streets offering services to all who will receive:

I. **Where she cries** - in "high places" and at the gates (vv. 1-3).

II. **To whom she cries** - to "the sons of men," to people in general (vv. 4-5).

III. **What she cries** - that which is "excellent," "right" and "true" (vv. 6-9).

IV. **Why she cries** - because what she has to offer is far more valuable than silver, gold or rubies (vv. 10-11).

Proverbs 8:12-21— ²We find here the characteristics of wisdom that can become ours (vv. 12-21). It enables a person to have good old fashioned common sense and be able to give wise counsel. The author states that wisdom [from God], makes prudence his dwelling place (v. 12). Prudence is right knowledge for special times which if understood, can do much to better a man's position in human affairs.

I. It gives men good heads. (v.12)

II. It gives men good hearts. (v. 13)

III. It has a great influence in public affairs. (v. 14)

IV. It makes people happy who embrace it. (vv.15-21)

LESSON:

Proverbs 8:22-26 Wisdom Before Creation

8:22 The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, — Wisdom is speaking and we learn of Wisdom's origin— in the beginning of Creation. God did not need to create wisdom, He possessed it! God possessed, owned, and has responsibility of Wisdom. In God it is as eternally inherent as any other essential attribute of His nature. ³What is meant in this passage is that we cannot think of God as ever having been without Wisdom. She is "*as the beginning of His*

¹ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/proverbs-81/>

² <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/proverbs-812/>

³ <http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Bible.show/sVerseID/16625/eVerseID/16625/RTD/barnes>

<http://www.pitwm.net//pitwm-sundayschool.html>

ways." ⁴Wisdom is seen here figuratively as a personification (image, epitome) of God's attribute of wisdom. Some scholars suggest that wisdom in chapter 8 refers to Christ. Although Christ was with God before creation and all wisdom resides in Christ (Col.2:3), these verses give no indication that Jesus Christ Himself is the one referred to as Wisdom. Some have suggested that if wisdom is replaced by Christ in chapter 8, then wisdom should be replaced with Christ throughout the book of Proverbs. According to verse 3 of this chapter, Wisdom is referred to as "**She**." I know the Father is the "**Authority**" (*the Administrator*), God the Son is the "**Agent**" (*the representative; the one who becomes what the Administrator speaks*) and the Holy Spirit is the "**Ability**" (the power; the one who demonstrates what is to come) in creation. As we ponder the description of Wisdom, eventually we realize that to speak of wisdom is to speak of God, for it is inseparable from His character.**before his works of old**;—Before the creation of the heavens and the earth the Lord possessed wisdom.

8:23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. — Amplified Version says: "*I [Wisdom] was inaugurated and ordained...*" This is just saying that Wisdom was established even before the world began; before there was ever an earth.

8:24 When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. NLT says: "*I was born before the oceans were created, before the springs bubbled forth their waters.*" ⁵A world of waters, "great deeps" lying in darkness, this was the picture of the remotest time of which man could form any conception, and yet the co-existence of the uncreated Wisdom with the eternal Yahweh was before that.

8:25 Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth. . ⁶The very same thing said of wisdom here is spoken of God in chapter 90 of Psalms verse 2, "*Before the mountains were brought forth or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.*" Before the earth had left the blueprint of God's mind to become the product of His creative fingers, Wisdom was gloriously present and brought forth. Mountains are always mentioned as the grandest and most ancient of God's works. Therefore, you see, "Wisdom" and God seem to be overlapping.

8:26 While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. ⁷"Highest part of the dust" sounds strange, but perhaps it refers to man, the noblest part of the creation, who was made of the dust of the earth, (Gen. 2:7). The Hebrew word is the same in both places, and is often used of man, (Gen. 3:19; 18:27; Ps.103:14; Eccl. 3:20). Hence, "*Wisdom's*" existence was before the first man. The creation of man is the last and highest stage in the production of organic life. And, "*Wisdom*" was before creation!

Proverbs 8:27-31 Wisdom At Creation

8:27 When he prepared the heavens, I was there: When God made, beautified, and adorned the heavens; when God gave them their form, figure, magnitude, and motion; when God garnished them with the sun, moon, and stars, "*Wisdom*" was there. ...**when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:** — This is pertaining to ⁸all the particles of matter, tending to a common center, producing in all bodies the orbicular form, which we see them have; so that even the waters are not only retained within their boundaries, but are subjected to the circular form, in their great aggregate of seas, as other parts of matter are. This is called here making a compass, "*bechukko chug*", sweeping a circle; and even this on the face of the deep, to bring the chaotic mass into form, regularity, and order.

8:28 When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep. —that is, so as to sustain the waters above and repress those below the firmament. **V29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment:** —This is ⁹when God assigned its limits, adjusted its saltness, and proportioned the extent of the surface to the quantity of vapors to be raised from it, for the irrigation of the terrene surface; ...**when he appointed the foundations of the earth:** —the principles on which earth is constructed, and the laws by which it is governed; the solid structure.

⁴ The Woman's Study Bible p.1031

⁵ <http://bible.cc/proverbs/8-24.htm>

⁶ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/proverbs/10.html>

⁷ http://www.pbministries.org/Landmark_Baptist/Seminary/Bible_Study_Courses/Proverbs/DH_proverbs_chap08.htm

⁸ <http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Bible.show/sVerseID/16630/eVerseID/16630/RTD/Clarke>

⁹ <http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Bible.show/sVerseID/16632/eVerseID/16632/RTD/Clarke>

<http://www.pitwm.net//pitwm-sundayschool.html>

8:30 Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: NLT says: "*I was the architect at his side.*" ...and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; Together, God and Wisdom were glad to see the world. Together, they were happy about the work. **V31 Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.** Easy English Bible says: "*I was glad when I saw his world.*" "*Habitable*" is that part of earth that's livable and fit for human habitation. ¹⁰In that part of the earth which is habitable, giving joy and delight to God, "*Wisdom*" finds her delight among the sons of men; not in the glory of the material universe, but in God's work among the sons of men. "*Wisdom*" was at creation!

Proverbs 8:32-35 Wisdom And Life

8:32 Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: —Wisdom, speaks to those that are children of the covenant promise; believers predestinated to the adoption of children to listen to her, for man has a choice. Why listen? ...**for blessed are they that keep my ways.** There is happiness when wisdom is heard and kept.

8:33 Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. She will bless us with instruction. She will teach us to be wise. When people professing godliness seek excuses for neglecting the means of grace, they show contempt of Wisdom's instructions. This way to be wise to that which is good is to both have the knowledge and practice of it. Refusing to hear instruction is not wise for it is the action of a fool who despises his soul.

8:34 Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. If a man listens to wisdom, then he will benefit from it. This man does not just listen to one lesson, and then walk away. He is daily watching at the gates before they are opened for opportunities to learn from God and waiting at the door to get in, which ultimately determines his blessings. This shows with what attention and reverence the Gospel should be sought after, and be heard.

8:35 For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord. Wisdom says when you find her you find life and obtain favor from the Lord. It was already said in 3:4: "*So shall thy find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.*" Favor means to be "endued with grace"; "made acceptable." Finding favor means you will not fail. The inner and outer appreciation for Wisdom will produce good success. Your very existence and purpose is guided in the right direction because Wisdom's instructed your path. The "*will of God*" is revealed in the "*Word of God.*" You wise up because you found it to be true. Knowing the truth makes you free; free to obtain favor of the Lord!

SUMMARY:

Wisdom declares that "*She*" was present before Creation. Why? - Because the Lord possessed her from the beginning; before the world began; before the earth had depth; before the springs were filled with water; before the mountains were sculptured or hills took shape.

Now Wisdom trumps out, "*I was there*" when God stretched out the heavens and put it in circular form. He tended to the minute details of soil and weather and set the sky firmly in place. Wisdom was witness to the oceans being mapped and given borders so the waters wouldn't pass God's command. To have been engaged in the creation of the world how awesome was that!

But there is something more spectacular than this, Wisdom says, "*I was by him*" (God Almighty); "*I was the architect at his side.*" "*Daily I delighted and rejoiced in his presence.*" Being so near and dear to God, "*She*" beams out, "*listen to me.*"; give ear to instruction so that you will be wise. 'Wise up so you won't fail because when I speak and you hear, you will be blessed; you will find life; and find favor of the Lord.' It will be God's children who listen and followed. They will take time to be alone with God because they took time and looked for Wisdom; they watched for opportunities to learn and delight in Wisdom.

APPLICATION:

¹¹Many Christians are so busy with spreading or defending Christianity that they have little time for quiet meditation and communion with God. If we are not careful our minds will be a reflection of our society and not our Lord — so Wise Up!

¹⁰ <http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Bible.show/sVerseID/16634/eVerseID/16634/RTD/Barnes>

¹¹ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/proverbs-822/>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>