

## Doctrine of Wisdom

1. Chakmah is the basic word in the OT for wisdom it can be found in the OT 146 times. Well over half of the instances of the use of wisdom or one of its adjectival derivatives are found in Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.
2. These books are often called the wisdom books. The wisdom books of the OT, however, are quite varied in structure and content as is the handling of the word wisdom in all other parts of the OT. In Ecclesiastes it is disparaged to the extent Solomon uses it in the intellectual sense noting sarcastically that even the very wisest of men die.
3. Wisdom then in Ecclesiastes is often used to mean intelligence or skill. But it is not highly regarded by the writer Solomon, even though God had made him the wisest man in the world. Notice what Solomon says in Ecc 1:18 "In much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow."
4. In Job and in both Proverbs and Psalms it is used more often than not to describe wisdom in the sense of knowing and respecting God. Wisdom in this sense serves as an insular to sorrow, not suffering but continual sorrow.
5. Doctrine in the soul is wisdom and makes one truly wise. The wise one, as we will see is promised blessing and metabolized doctrine facilitates recovery from sorrow when the details of life turn south.
6. A spiritual believer with a soul full of Doctrine will demonstrate capacity for good judgment and sound decision making because his thinking will be based on the principles found in the Word.
7. The word wisdom is often used in Job. The word wisdom is used by Job and by his comforters alike. But there is a very distinctive use in Job 28, a chapter devoted to praising true wisdom - a knowledge of God. Wisdom and understanding as used in this chapter, refer not to mere intelligence, but to rectitude as an expression of divine viewpoint and thus straight thinking.
8. Job 28:28 provides the new definition, "The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding."
9. The usage of wisdom in Proverbs is quite distinctive and is exactly like that in Job 28.
10. In the first of the book (Pro 1:7), at the end of the first section (Pro 9:10), and at the end of the book (Pro 31:26), wisdom is defined in the sense of developing and using

divine viewpoint. Wisdom as used in these three verses does not describe skill or intelligence; it is a description of moral quality.

Pro 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Pro 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy one is understanding.

Pro 31:26 The perfect wife openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

11. Proverbs is the ultimate wisdom book. In Proverbs chapters 1-9 wisdom is personified as a righteous woman. This is natural, for wisdom in Hebrew is a feminine noun. The contrast is drawn with the foolish woman, the harlot as over against she who is wise. The two are contrasted, one leads to blessing and the other to sin.

12. That opposite of wisdom is not ignorance, but sin. In Pro 9:1-18 the contrast is most pointed. Wisdom and the foolish woman give the same call to the passersby. The one calls to the fear of the Lord; the other calls to sin. The question is always there? to whom will you answer? In Pro 9:1-12 wisdom calls and in Pro 9:13-18 the lady Folly calls.

#### Wisdom Speaks

Pro 9:1 Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars:

Pro 9:2 She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table.

Pro 9:3 She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city,

Pro 9:4 Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,

Pro 9:5 Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled.

Pro 9:6 Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

Pro 9:7 He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked man getteth himself a blot.

Pro 9:8 Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

Pro 9:9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

Pro 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Pro 9:11 For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.

Pro 9:12 If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself: but if thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear it.

#### Folly Speaks

Pro 9:13 A foolish woman is clamorous: she is simple, and knoweth nothing.  
Pro 9:14 For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city,  
Pro 9:15 To call passengers who go right on their ways:  
Pro 9:16 Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: and as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,  
Pro 9:17 Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.  
Pro 9:18 But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell.

13. In Proverbs chapter 8 wisdom is presented as the companion of God in creation and providence. This Proverb is often called the Wisdom Proverb. Wisdom or Doctrine is said to exist from the very beginning.

#### Wisdom's Call

Pro 8:1 Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?  
Pro 8:2 She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths.  
Pro 8:3 She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.  
Pro 8:4 Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man.  
Pro 8:5 O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.  
Pro 8:6 Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things.  
Pro 8:7 For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.  
Pro 8:8 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.  
Pro 8:9 They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.  
Pro 8:10 Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.  
Pro 8:11 For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.  
Pro 8:12 I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.  
Pro 8:13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Pro 8:14 Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength.  
Pro 8:15 By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.  
Pro 8:16 By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth.  
Pro 8:17 I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.  
Pro 8:18 Riches and honor are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness.  
Pro 8:19 My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver.  
Pro 8:20 I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment:  
Pro 8:21 That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.  
Pro 8:22 The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.  
Pro 8:23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.  
Pro 8:24 When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water.

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

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

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

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

Pro 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:

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

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

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

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

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

Pro 8:35 For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favor of the LORD.

Pro 8:36 But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.

14. In the remainder of the Book of Proverbs there are many tributes and warm praise of the wise man. For example: the wise son is contrasted with the foolish son. Pro 10:1 and 20

Pro 10:1 The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

Pro 10:20 The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth.

15. Knowledge is a pleasant thing and when made a part of a person's understanding it will be evident in the mouth of that person. Pro 22:17-18

Pro 22:17 Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge.

Pro 22:18 For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; they shall withal be fitted in thy lips.

16. While wisdom is personified in the OT in the book of Proverbs and shown to have existed eternally, it is centered in the NT in one person, the Lord Jesus Christ. 1Co 1:30 and Col 2:2-3

1Co 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

Col 2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

Col 2:3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

17. Christ in His human nature increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man; upon Him said Isaiah shall rest the Holy Spirit whose primary attribute is to convey wisdom. Luk 2:52; Heb 5:8 and Isa 11:2

Luk 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Heb 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

Isa 11:2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

18. As a result, men asked, "Whence hath this man this wisdom?" (Mat 13:54), not realizing that a greater than Solomon was in their presence. (Mat 12:42).

Mat 13:54 And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

Mat 12:42 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

19. Of Christ Paul writes that He is the power and the wisdom of God, stressing that Christ's life and death were God's wise plan of salvation. 1Co 1:22-25

1Co 1:22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

1Co 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

1Co 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

1Co 1:25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

20. The Greeks with their philosophy sought wisdom (1Co 1:22) and produced such great men as Plato and Aristotle, but extant Greek philosophy omitted God. God in His infinite wisdom, by contrast, used the cross to reveal the only way man could be saved.

20.1 The gospel proved to be a stumbling block to the Jews, who were trying to obtain salvation by good works; and "foolishness" to the Greeks. Rom 9:30-33

Rom 9:30 What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.  
Rom 9:31 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.  
Rom 9:32 Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone;  
Rom 9:33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumbling stone and rock of offense: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

20.2 The Jews were offended at the thought of the crucifixion and that they were so impotent someone must die for their sins. They say the same thing today: "what's wrong with us now?" The Greeks considered simple faith in a substitutionary atonement too easy a way to salvation. Yet the atoning death of the Lord Jesus Christ is the epitome of all wisdom since it solves the greatest problem of the world and man, namely, sin. Eph 3:10

Eph 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

21. God's wisdom manifested in His plan of salvation met the needs of a holy God, a righteous God who required that His protocol be kept perfectly, and the perfect sinless Son of God met this need; and by imputation He became the righteousness of God for us. The plan was sufficient for all men. Only one who was both God and man could have pulled this off. Yes God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died as a substitute for us.

22. While Paul did not preach according to the wisdom of the world, still he preached the hidden wisdom of God which can be discerned when God gives man the guidance and help of the Holy Spirit. 1Co 2:7-10

1Co 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:  
1Co 2:8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.  
1Co 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.  
1Co 2:10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

23. God is desirous that man have and know His wisdom. Acquiring His wisdom is the reason we are left here in time.

Jam 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

Col 1:9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

Eph 1:8 It was God Who lavished on us all wisdom and understanding.

Eph 1:9 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,

24. Wisdom is "from above" and is contrasted with the earthly human wisdom; the wisdom of this world is a counterfeit program inspired by Satan and driven by his demons.

Jam 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

Jam 3:14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.

Jam 3:15 Such wisdom does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil.

Jam 3:16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

Jam 3:17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

Col 2:20 Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules:

Col 2:21 "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"?

Col 2:22 These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings.

Col 2:23 Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

Col 3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

25. God's wisdom must be revealed or "given" to men. This is done supernaturally by God the Holy Spirit Who reveals God's wisdom to every positive believer.

Luk 21:15 For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.

Joh 14:26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Joh 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

1Co 2:14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

1Co 2:15 The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:

1Co 2:16 "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

26. Doctrine is presented by the Pastor Teacher and God the Holy Spirit teaches people who have an appetite for spiritual food. Positive people come when Bible Doctrine is taught.

Col 1:28 We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.

Heb 13:7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Heb 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Tit 2:1 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.

Tit 2:2 Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.

Tit 2:3 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.

Tit 2:4 Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children,

Tit 2:5 to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

Tit 2:6 Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.

Tit 2:15 These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

Eph 4:11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,

Eph 4:12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

27. Naves in his topical index concerning NT wisdom writes of:

### 27.1 The Wisdom of Joseph;

Acts 7:9 "Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God was with him

Acts 7:10 and rescued him from all his troubles. He gave Joseph wisdom and enabled him to gain the goodwill of Pharaoh king of Egypt; so he made him ruler over Egypt and all his palace.

### 27.2 The Wisdom of Moses;

Acts 7:22 Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.

Acts 7:23 "When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his fellow Israelites.

Acts 7:24 He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian.

Acts 7:25 Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not.

Acts 7:26 The next day Moses came upon two Israelites who were fighting. He tried to reconcile them by saying, 'Men, you are brothers; why do you want to hurt each other?'

Acts 7:27 "But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses aside and said, 'Who made you ruler and judge over us?'

Acts 7:28 Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?'

Acts 7:29 When Moses heard this, he fled to Midian, where he settled as a foreigner and had two sons.

Acts 7:30 "After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to Moses in the flames of a burning bush in the desert near Mount Sinai.

Acts 7:31 When he saw this, he was amazed at the sight. As he went over to look more closely, he heard the Lord's voice:

Acts 7:32 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.' Moses trembled with fear and did not dare to look.

Acts 7:33 "Then the Lord said to him, 'Take off your sandals; the place where you are standing is holy ground.'

Acts 7:34 I have indeed seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their groaning and have come down to set them free. Now come, I will send you back to Egypt.'

Acts 7:35 "This is the same Moses whom they had rejected with the words, 'Who made you ruler and judge?' He was sent to be their ruler and deliverer by God himself, through the angel who appeared to him in the bush.

Acts 7:36 He led them out of Egypt and did wonders and miraculous signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea and for forty years in the desert.

### 27.3 The Wisdom of Paul;

2Pe 3:15 Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.

2Pe 3:16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

2Pe 3:17 Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.

2Pe 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

28. We have seen James' command to ask for wisdom. Before we leave the subject, let's see what Paul has to say about praying for wisdom, not only for self but also for others.

Eph 1:16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

Eph 1:17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

Eph 1:18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

Eph 3:14 For this reason I kneel before the Father,

Eph 3:15 from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

Eph 3:16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

Eph 3:17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,

Eph 3:18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

Eph 3:19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Eph 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Eph 6:19 Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,

Eph 6:20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Phi 1:9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,

Phi 1:10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ,

Col 2:1 I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally.

Col 2:2 My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,

Col 2:3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

29. Proverbs you will recall describes the call of Wisdom contrasted with Folly.

29.1 Let's review those passages once again.

#### Wisdom

Pro 9:1 Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars:

Pro 9:2 She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table

Pro 9:3 She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city,

Pro 9:4 Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,

Pro 9:5 Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled.

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Pro 9:7 He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked man getteth himself a blot.

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#### Folly

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Pro 9:15 To call passengers who go right on their ways:

Pro 9:16 Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: and as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,

Pro 9:17 Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.

Pro 9:18 But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell.

30. Wisdom is best thought of as a feminine noun, wisdom calls but never asserts, wisdom is offered but never demanded; every person gets the knowledge of God when they are ready and it is a decision to accept a divine call or a rejection of a divine call. Romans chapter one speaks of the unbeliever.

Rom 1:21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Rom 1:22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools

Rom 1:23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

31. True wisdom is contrary to what the world knows as wisdom; in fact the Scripture repeatedly speaks of human wisdom as a stumbling block for many.

1Co 1:17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel--not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

1Co 3:18 Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a "fool" so that he may become wise.

1Co 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness";

1Co 3:20 and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile."