

# ☞ Ming Dao Bible Lecture III ☞

## How to Teach and Preach Old Testament Wisdom Literature (3 April 2006)

### I. Seven Collections

- ◆ Collection I: Why Wisdom. (Prov. 1:1-9:18)
- ◆ Collection II: Proverbs of Solomon. (Prov. 10:1-22:16)
- ◆ Collection III: Thirty Sayings of Wise. (Prov. 22:17-24:22)
- ◆ Collection IV: More Sayings of Wise. (Prov. 24:23-34)
- ◆ Collection V: Proverbs of Solomon Collected by Hezekiah. (Prov. 25:1-29:27)
- ◆ Collection VI: Sayings of Agur. (Prov. 30:1-33)
- ◆ Collection VII: Sayings of Lemuel's Mother. (Prov. 31:1-31)

### II. Collection I

- A. Preamble. (Prov. 1:1-7)
- B. Lectures of Father and Sermons of Wisdom. (Prov. 1:8-8:36)
- C. Epilogue: Rival Invitations of Wisdom and Folly to Gullible. (Prov. 9:1-18)

### III. Preamble (Prov. 1:1-7)

- A. Superscript: Genre and Author. (v.1)
  - 1. Wisdom Genre.
    - a. Sage stands apart from Israel's salvation history. No Mention of Patriarchs, Moses and Israel's Covenants.
    - b. Sage Validates Truth from Created Order. (Prov. 24:30-34)
  - 2. Proverb: Specie of Wisdom.
    - a. "A short, salty saying that has currency among those who fear the LORD." (BKW, *Proverbs*, p.55)
    - b. "A parable expressed in a brief pithy sentence, a vivid and striking speech, a rapidly drawn picture. It aims to quicken an apprehension of the real as distinct from the wished for, or complacently accepted; of compelling the hearer or reader to form a judgment on himself, his situation or his conduct" (Herbert)

- 3. Authors.
  - a. Solomon: Collections I, II, III, IV (950 BC).
  - b. Solomon collected by Hezekiah: Collection V (700 BC).
  - c. Agur and Lemuel: Collections VI, VII (Post-exilic?)
  - d. Final Editor (Post-exilic?).
- 4. Author: King of Israel.
  - a. Tutored in Mosaic Law. (Deu. 17:18-19)
  - b. Proverbs Uses Covenant Name of God: *YHWH* ("I AM").
  - c. Job and Ecclesiastes Uses Transcendent Name of God: *Elohim* ("God").
  - d. If Solomon is so wise, why did he die like a fool? (Prov. 19:27)
- B. Aim and Audience. (vv.2-6)
  - 1. Aim. (vv.2-3)
  - 2. Audience: Simpleton. (vv.4-6)  
Hebrew *peti* "open", "uncommitted". Covenant child who has reached puberty without making a decision to embrace parent's teaching and so is easily misled ("gullible").
- C. Key to Book. (v.7)

### IV. Preacher's Six Little Men

- A. Why Wisdom? Collection I.
  - 1. Father's 10 Lectures to Son. (Prov. 1:8-19; 2:1-22; 3:1-12, 13-34; 4:1-9, 10-19, 20-27; 5:1-23 [appendix 6:1-19]; 6:20-34; 7:1-27)
  - 2. Wisdom's Two Sermons to Gullible. (Prov. 1:20-33; 8:1-36)
- B. What is Wisdom?
  - 1. Heb. *Hokmah* ("skill").
    - a. Technical Skill. (Exo. 28:3)
    - b. Judicial Skill. (Deu. 1:15-16)
    - c. Survival Skill. (Prov. 30:24-28)
    - d. Social Skill (God): Proverbs.  
Summary (Prov. 2:5), Substantiation (v.6), Security (v.8).  
Social Skill (Man): Proverbs.  
Summary (v.9), Substantiation (v.10), Security (v.11).
  - 2. Synonymous terms: instruction / discipline, prudence, insight, etc.
  - 3. Knowledge: Enables skill. (Prov. 1:7)

- C. Who is Wisdom? (1:20-33; 8:1-33)
1. Her Persona: *Hokmah* is feminine; hence personification is feminine.
    - a. Preaches Like a Prophet.
    - b. Carries A Sage's Scroll.
    - c. Exists Before Any Created Thing, but Not Eternal.
    - d. Begotten by God.
    - e. Rejected by People.
  2. Her Reality: Solomon's Wisdom.
    - a. Preamble 1:1-2: Wisdom identified as Proverbs of Solomon.
    - b. Her sermons to the gullible resemble the father's lectures.
    - c. Has authority because she knows everything.
- D. Who Has Wisdom? Where Can It Be Found?
1. Job 28:12-28.
    - a. Not With Human beings. (vv.12-14)
    - b. Cannot Be Purchased. (vv.15-19)
    - c. Not With Human beings. (vv.20-22)
    - d. Only God Has Wisdom. (vv.23-27)
    - e. He Must Reveal It. (vv.28)
  2. Proverbs 30:1-6.
    - a. Summary: Human incompetence / weakness and competence / strength. (v.1)
    - b. Without knowledge of God, not human. (vv.2-3)
    - c. Without comprehensive knowledge, not certain knowledge. (v.4a)
    - d. Epistemological Crisis Solved in a Relationship with God. (v.4b)
      - ◆ Name *I AM* as Creator and Sustain of Cosmos and Knows Everything Competent Person.
      - ◆ Name Self as His Son / Student.
        - ~ Exodus 4:22: "Israel is my firstborn son"
        - ~ LXX: "What is name of his children (pl.)"
        - ~ Baruch 3:29-37.

*"Who has gone up into heaven and taken her [wisdom], and brought her down from the clouds? There is neither one who knows her way, nor one who comprehends her path. But he who knows [sees?] all things knows her. He found her out in his understanding. He established the earth for evermore; This is our God, with whom none can be compared. He found the way of understanding and gave it to Jacob her servant and to Israel whom he loved."*

e. Found Only In Textbook of Canon. (vv.5-6)

- E. How to Have Wisdom? (Prov. 1:7; 2:1-22)
1. "Accept": Faith is proof of regeneration. (1 Cor. 2:14)
  2. Store Up.
    - a. Memorize. (Prov. 22:17-19)
    - b. With Religious Affection. (Matt. 2:1-6)
- F. When to Acquire Wisdom?
1. First Thing of Wisdom is a Decision to Get Wisdom. (Prov. 4:7)
  2. What is Required is a Decision, Not Brains.

~ The End ~