

CRYSTALLIZATION-STUDY OUTLINES

PROVERBS

Message Eight

The Multifarious Wisdom of God

RK *Hymns*: 23

Scripture Reading: Prov. 1:2; 8:1-31; 9:10; Rom. 11:33;
1 Cor. 1:24, 30; Col. 2:2-3; Eph. 3:10

- Prov 1:2 For knowing wisdom and instruction; / For discerning words of understanding;
Prov 8:1 Does not wisdom call, / And understanding lift up her voice?
Prov 8:2 On the top of the heights, by the way, / Where the paths meet, she takes her stand;
Prov 8:3 Beside the gates, at the entry of the city, / At the entrance of the doors, she cries aloud:
Prov 8:4 To you, O men, I call; / And my voice is to the sons of men.
Prov 8:5 O simple ones, understand prudence; / And, O fools, be of an understanding heart.
Prov 8:6 Hear, for I will speak noble things; / And the opening of my lips will yield right things.
Prov 8:7 For my mouth will utter truth, / And wickedness is an abomination to my lips.
Prov 8:8 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; / There is nothing twisted or crooked in them.
Prov 8:9 They are all straight to him who understands, / And right to those who find knowledge.
Prov 8:10 Receive my instruction, and not silver; / And knowledge rather than choice gold.
Prov 8:11 For wisdom is better than corals, / And nothing that you desire compares with her.
Prov 8:12 I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, / And I find knowledge and discretion.
Prov 8:13 The fear of Jehovah is to hate evil; / Pride and arrogance and the evil way / And the perverse mouth, I hate.
Prov 8:14 Counsel is mine and sound wisdom; / I am understanding; I have might.
Prov 8:15 By me kings reign, / And rulers decree justice.
Prov 8:16 By me princes rule, / And nobles
Prov 8:17 I love those who love me, / And those who seek me diligently will find me.
Prov 8:18 Riches and honor are with me, / Enduring wealth and righteousness.
Prov 8:19 My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold; / And my yield than choice silver.
Prov 8:20 I walk in the way of righteousness, / In the midst of the paths of justice,
Prov 8:21 That I may cause those who love me to inherit substance / And that I may fill their treasuries.
Prov 8:22 Jehovah possessed me in the beginning of His way, / Before His works of old.
Prov 8:23 I was set up from eternity, / From the beginning, before the earth was.
Prov 8:24 When there were no depths, I was brought forth, / When there were no fountains abounding with water.
Prov 8:25 Before the mountains were settled, / Before the hills, I was brought forth;
Prov 8:26 When He had not yet made the earth and the fields, / Nor the first dust of the world.
Prov 8:27 When He established the heavens, I was there; / When He inscribed a circle upon the surface of the deep,
Prov 8:28 When He made firm the skies above, / When the fountains of the deep became strong,
Prov 8:29 When He set for the sea its boundary, / That the waters should not transgress His commandment, / When He marked out the foundations of the earth;
Prov 8:30 Then I was by Him, as a master workman; / And I was daily His delight, / Rejoicing always before Him,
Prov 8:31 Rejoicing in His habitable earth; / And my delight was in the sons of men.
Prov 9:10 The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of wisdom, / And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
Rom 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and untraceable His ways!
1 Cor 1:24 But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
Col 2:2 That their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ,
Col 2:3 In whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.
Eph 3:10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,

I. The book of Proverbs stresses wisdom that we receive from God through contacting God—1:2; 2:10; 4:5; 9:10; 11:2b; 14:33a:

- Prov 1:2 For knowing wisdom and instruction; / For discerning words of understanding;
Prov 2:10 For wisdom will enter your heart, / And knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;
Prov 4:5 Get wisdom; get understanding; / Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth.
Prov 9:10 The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of wisdom, / And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
Prov 11:2b ... But wisdom is with the humble.
Prov 14:33a Wisdom rests quietly in the heart of one who has understanding, ...
- A. The subject of Proverbs is living a godly life by God’s wisdom—3:13-18; 8:11.
Prov 3:13 Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, / And the man who gains understanding.
Prov 3:14 For her profit is better than the profit of silver, / And her income is better than gold.
Prov 3:15 She is more precious than corals, / And nothing you desire compares with her.
Prov 3:16 Length of days is in her right hand; / In her left hand are riches and honor.
Prov 3:17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, / And all her paths are peace.
Prov 3:18 She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her, / And happy are those who hold her fast.
Prov 8:11 For wisdom is better than corals, / And nothing that you desire compares with her.
- B. The central thought of Proverbs is that we should seek after wisdom so that we may live a godly life on earth that is acceptable to God—2:1-9.
Prov 2:1 My son, if you receive my words / And treasure up my commandments within you,
Prov 2:2 Making your ear attentive to wisdom / And inclining your heart to understanding;
Prov 2:3 Indeed, if you cry out for discernment / And lift up your voice for understanding;
Prov 2:4 If you seek her like silver / And search for her like hidden treasures,
Prov 2:5 Then you will understand the fear of Jehovah / And find the knowledge of God.
Prov 2:6 For Jehovah gives wisdom; / From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;
Prov 2:7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; / He is a shield to those who walk in integrity,
Prov 2:8 Guarding the paths of justice / And keeping the way of His faithful ones.
Prov 2:9 Then you will understand righteousness and justice / And equity, indeed, every good path.
- C. Wisdom comes from God: “Jehovah gives wisdom; / From His mouth come knowledge and understanding”—v. 6.
- D. Wisdom is more valuable and better than gold, silver, and corals, and is more desirable than anything else—3:14-15; 8:11, 19.
Prov 3:14 For her profit is better than the profit of silver, / And her income is better than gold.
Prov 3:15 She is more precious than corals, / And nothing you desire compares with her.
Prov 8:11 For wisdom is better than corals, / And nothing that you desire compares with her.
Prov 8:19 My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold; / And my yield than choice silver.
- E. In certain portions of Proverbs the wisdom of God is personified—1:20; 3:19; 4:5-9; 8:1-36:
Prov 1:20 Wisdom cries out in the street; / She utters her voice in the open squares.
Prov 3:19 Jehovah by wisdom founded the earth; / He established the heavens by understanding;
Prov 4:5 Get wisdom; get understanding; / Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth.
Prov 4:6 Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; / Love her, and she will guard you.
Prov 4:7 The beginning of wisdom is this: / Get wisdom; and in all your getting, get understanding.
Prov 4:8 Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; / She will honor you if you embrace her.
Prov 4:9 She will give a garland of grace for your head; / A crown of beauty will she bestow on you.
Prov 8:1 Does not wisdom call, / And understanding lift up her voice?
Prov 8:2 On the top of the heights, by the way, / Where the paths meet, she takes her stand;
Prov 8:3 Beside the gates, at the entry of the city, / At the entrance of the doors, she cries aloud:

Prov 8:4 To you, O men, I call; / And my voice is to the sons of men.
 Prov 8:5 O simple ones, understand prudence; / And, O fools, be of an understanding heart.
 Prov 8:6 Hear, for I will speak noble things; / And the opening of my lips will yield right things.
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 Prov 8:21 That I may cause those who love me to inherit substance / And that I may fill their treasuries.
 Prov 8:22 Jehovah possessed me in the beginning of His way, / Before His works of old.
 Prov 8:23 I was set up from eternity, / From the beginning, before the earth was.
 Prov 8:24 When there were no depths, I was brought forth, / When there were no fountains abounding with water.
 Prov 8:25 Before the mountains were settled, / Before the hills, I was brought forth;
 Prov 8:26 When He had not yet made the earth and the fields, / Nor the first dust of the world.
 Prov 8:27 When He established the heavens, I was there; / When He inscribed a circle upon the surface of the deep,
 Prov 8:28 When He made firm the skies above, / When the fountains of the deep became strong,
 Prov 8:29 When He set for the sea its boundary, / That the waters should not transgress His commandment, / When He marked out the foundations of the earth;
 Prov 8:30 Then I was by Him, as a master workman; / And I was daily His delight, / Rejoicing always before Him,
 Prov 8:31 Rejoicing in His habitable earth; / And my delight was in the sons of men.
 Prov 8:32 Now therefore, my sons, listen to me; / For blessed are they who keep my ways.
 Prov 8:33 Hear instruction, and be wise; / And do not neglect it.
 Prov 8:34 Blessed is the man who listens to me, / Watching daily at my doors, / Waiting at my doorposts.
 Prov 8:35 For whoever finds me finds life, / And will obtain favor from Jehovah.
 Prov 8:36 But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; / All who hate me love death.

1. This personification of God's wisdom is a reference to the second of the Divine Trinity, who became wisdom from God to all the New Testament believers—Matt. 11:19; Col. 2:3; 1 Cor. 1:24, 30.

Matt 11:19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking; and they say, Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners. Yet wisdom is justified by her works.

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

1 Cor 1:24 But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

2. "Jehovah by wisdom founded the earth"—Prov. 3:19a:

- a. This One by whom Jehovah founded the earth and established the heavens is Christ, who is the wisdom of God—1 Cor. 1:24.

1 Cor 1:24 But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

- b. Wisdom, as the master workman of God’s creation of all things, is God’s delight—Prov. 8:30.
 Prov 8:30 Then I was by Him, as a master workman; / And I was daily His delight, / Rejoicing always before Him,
- c. God’s creation of all things is through Christ, who is wisdom and God’s delight—3:19; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 1:2.
 Prov 3:19 Jehovah by wisdom founded the earth; / He established the heavens by understanding;
 Col 1:16 Because in Him all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and unto Him.
 Col 1:17 And He is before all things, and all things cohere in Him;
 Heb 1:2 Has at the last of these days spoken to us in the Son, whom He appointed Heir of all things, through whom also He made the universe;

II. Romans 11:33a speaks of God’s wisdom: “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!”:

- A. It is important to see the difference between wisdom and knowledge—v. 33:
 Rom 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and untraceable His ways!
- 1. Wisdom is for planning and purposing—Eph. 1:9; 3:11.
 Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
 Eph 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,
- 2. Wisdom is seen in the initiation of something, as indicated by Romans 11:36: “Out from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.”
- 3. God is the unique Initiator: “One God, the Father, out from whom are all things”—1 Cor. 8:6a:
 - a. God has initiated many things, not by His knowledge but by His wisdom—Prov. 3:19; 8:12, 22-31.
 Prov 3:19 Jehovah by wisdom founded the earth; / He established the heavens by understanding;
 Prov 8:12 I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, / And I find knowledge and discretion.
 Prov 8:22 Jehovah possessed me in the beginning of His way, / Before His works of old.
 Prov 8:23 I was set up from eternity, / From the beginning, before the earth was.
 Prov 8:24 When there were no depths, I was brought forth, / When there were no fountains abounding with water.
 Prov 8:25 Before the mountains were settled, / Before the hills, I was brought forth;
 Prov 8:26 When He had not yet made the earth and the fields, / Nor the first dust of the world.
 Prov 8:27 When He established the heavens, I was there; / When He inscribed a circle upon the surface of the deep,
 Prov 8:28 When He made firm the skies above, / When the fountains of the deep became strong,
 Prov 8:29 When He set for the sea its boundary, / That the waters should not transgress His commandment, / When He marked out the foundations of the earth;
 Prov 8:30 Then I was by Him, as a master workman; / And I was daily His delight, / Rejoicing always before Him,
 Prov 8:31 Rejoicing in His habitable earth; / And my delight was in the sons of men.
 - b. When God comes in to apply what He has initiated, He displays His knowledge.
- B. The wisdom of God is “God’s wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom which has been hidden, which God predestined before the ages for our glory”—1 Cor. 2:7:

1. As God's center and as our portion for our enjoyment, Christ is God's wisdom in a mystery that is deep and profound—Rom. 11:33.
Rom 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and untraceable His ways!
 2. Within God there is wisdom in a mystery; this wisdom has been hidden and predestined before the ages for our glory—1 Cor. 2:7.
1 Cor 2:7 But we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom which has been hidden, which God predestined before the ages for our glory,
- C. "To the only wise God through Jesus Christ, to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen"—Rom. 16:27:
1. In the local churches throughout the earth, we all give glory to the only wise God.
 2. The wise God has given Jesus Christ to us according to the revelation of the mystery, which has been kept in silence in the times of the ages, who also is the One who has saved us, regenerated us, and through His divine dispensing is continually renewing and transforming us, and who will eventually glorify us and conform us to the image of God's firstborn Son, bringing us into glory—v. 25; 3:24-25; 5:10; 8:16, 23, 29; 12:1-2.
Rom 16:25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel, that is, the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which has been kept in silence in the times of the ages
Rom 3:24 Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;
Rom 3:25 Whom God set forth as a propitiation place through faith in His blood, for the demonstrating of His righteousness, in that in His forbearance God passed over the sins that had previously occurred,
Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,
Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.
Rom 8:23 And not only so, but we ourselves also, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting sonship, the redemption of our body.
Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;
Rom 12:1 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.
Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

III. Christ is the wisdom of God—1 Cor. 1:24:

- 1 Cor 1:24 But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- A. In the New Testament the personified wisdom of God is Christ as its reality—Prov. 8:1, 12; 9:1; Luke 2:40, 52; 7:35; Matt. 11:19:
- Prov 8:1 Does not wisdom call, / And understanding lift up her voice?
Prov 8:12 I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, / And I find knowledge and discretion.
Prov 9:1 Wisdom has built her house; / She has hewn out her seven pillars;
Luke 2:40 And the little child grew and became strong, being filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him.
Luke 2:52 And Jesus advanced in wisdom and stature and in the grace manifested in Him before God and men.
Luke 7:35 Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.
Matt 11:19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking; and they say, Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners. Yet wisdom is justified by her works.

1. The wisdom of Christ's deity was revealed in proportion to the measure of His bodily growth—Col. 2:2-3; Luke 2:40, 52.
 - Col 2:2 That their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ,
 - Col 2:3 In whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.
 - Luke 2:40 And the little child grew and became strong, being filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him.
 - Luke 2:52 And Jesus advanced in wisdom and stature and in the grace manifested in Him before God and men.
 2. Matthew 11:19b indicates that wisdom is Christ:
 - Matt 11:19b ... Yet wisdom is justified by her works.
 - a. Whatever Christ did was done by the wisdom of God, which is Christ Himself—1 Cor. 1:24.
 - 1 Cor 1:24 But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
 - b. This wisdom was justified, vindicated, by His wise works, His wise deeds.
 3. In Luke 7:35 the Lord Jesus said, "Wisdom is justified by all her children":
 - a. Those who believe in Christ are the children of wisdom, those who justify Christ and His deeds and who follow Him as their wisdom.
 - b. Christ's work is to produce us as the children of wisdom caring for the life of wisdom.
- B. In Christ "all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden"—Col. 2:3:
1. God is the unique source of wisdom and knowledge:
 - a. We need to trace wisdom and knowledge to their true source in God—1 Cor. 8:6.
 - 1 Cor 8:6 Yet to us there is one God, the Father, out from whom are all things, and we are unto Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and we are through Him.
 - b. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ, who is the mystery of God—Col. 2:2-3.
 - Col 2:2 That their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ,
 - Col 2:3 In whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.
 2. The fact that wisdom and knowledge are embodied in Christ is proved by His spoken words, especially those recorded in the Gospels of Matthew and John:
 - a. The Lord's words recorded in these two books contain the highest philosophy.
 - b. The concept in the Lord's words is deep and profound.
 3. Since wisdom and knowledge are stored up in Christ as a treasure, we cannot have wisdom and knowledge unless we have Christ—Col. 1:27; 3:4, 10-11.
 - Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
 - Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
 - Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
 - Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
 4. If we exercise our being to contact the Lord, Christ as the life-giving Spirit will saturate our spirit and our mind, and we will have in our experience the wisdom and knowledge that are hidden in Christ—2:3.
 - Col 2:3 In whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.

IV. As believers, we are in Christ, and Christ has become the wisdom from God to us—1 Cor. 1:30:

1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

A. What we believers, as the new creation, are and have is of God, not of ourselves—Rom. 11:36.

Rom 11:36 Because out from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

B. As our wisdom, Christ is all-inclusive, becoming wisdom to us from God in righteousness, sanctification, and redemption—1 Cor. 1:30:

1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

1. By Christ as our righteousness, we have been justified by God so that we might be reborn in our spirit to receive the divine life—Rom. 5:18.

Rom 5:18 So then as it was through one offense unto condemnation to all men, so also it was through one righteous act unto justification of life to all men.

2. By Christ as our sanctification, we are being sanctified in our soul, that is, transformed in our mind, emotion, and will with His divine life—6:19, 22; 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18.

Rom 6:19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to uncleanness and lawlessness unto lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness unto sanctification.

Rom 6:22 But now, having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end, eternal life.

Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

3. Christ as our redemption is for the redemption of our body, by which we will be transfigured in our body with His divine life to have His glorious likeness—Rom. 8:23; Phil. 3:21.

Rom 8:23 And not only so, but we ourselves also, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting sonship, the redemption of our body.

Phil 3:21 Who will transfigure the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of His glory, according to His operation by which He is able even to subject all things to Himself.

C. *To us from God* in 1 Corinthians 1:30 refers to something present, practical, and experiential in the way of transmission:

1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

1. For Christ to become wisdom to us from God indicates that there is a transmission of Christ as wisdom from God to us for our daily experience—v. 30.

1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

2. Christ as wisdom should unceasingly flow from God to us to be our present and practical wisdom in our experience.

3. If we remain with the Lord to receive His dispensing (John 15:4-5), He will be transmitted into us as the wisdom to handle various problems and matters.

John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

4. If we are one with the Lord and receive His dispensing, we will experience and enjoy Him as our wisdom day by day and hour by hour—1 Cor. 6:17; 1:30.
1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

V. Through the church the multifarious wisdom of God will be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenlies—Eph. 3:10:

Eph 3:10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,

A. The rulers and authorities are the angelic rulers and authorities, both good and evil.

B. Ephesians 3:10 especially refers to the evil ones—Satan and his angels:

Eph 3:10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,

1. Satan has his kingdom, his angels, and his sphere of rule—Matt. 12:26; 25:41; Eph. 6:12:
Matt 12:26 And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?

Matt 25:41 Then He will say also to those on the left, Go away from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.

- a. Satan's sphere of rule is in the air and on the earth—2:2; 1 John 5:19.

Eph 2:2 In which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience;

1 John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the evil one.

- b. The book of Daniel indicates that all nations on earth are under the rule of Satan in the air—10:13.

Dan 10:13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me for twenty-one days; but now Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I remained there alone with the kings of Persia.

2. Through the church God will make His wisdom known not mainly to human beings but to those rebellious angels who are the followers of God's enemy—Rev. 12:7.

Rev 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels went to war with the dragon. And the dragon warred and his angels.

C. Even the rebellion of Satan is within the realm of God's wisdom—Isa. 14:12-14:

Isa 14:12 How you have fallen from heaven, / O Daystar, son of the dawn! / How you have been hewn down to earth, / You who made nations fall prostrate!

Isa 14:13 But you, you said in your heart: / I will ascend to heaven; / Above the stars of God / I will exalt my throne. / And I will sit upon the mount of assembly / In the uttermost parts of the north.

Isa 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; / I will make myself like the Most High.

1. If it were not for Satan's rebellion, God's wisdom could not be made known in a full way.

2. Satan has created many opportunities for God's wisdom to be manifested in a multifarious way, that is, in various ways and aspects and from many angles—Eph. 3:10.

Eph 3:10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,

3. Eventually, Satan, God's enemy, will be subdued and will come to know God's multifarious wisdom—v. 10.

Eph 3:10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,

D. When God's chosen and redeemed people partake of and enjoy the riches of Christ, these riches constitute them the church, through which God's multifarious wisdom is made known to the angelic rulers and authorities in the heavenlies—vv. 8-10:

Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel

Eph 3:9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,

Eph 3:10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,

1. The day is coming when, through the church, Satan and his angels will be put to shame.
2. They will realize that everything they have done has given God the opportunity to manifest His wisdom.

VI. The New Jerusalem, as the ultimate consummation of the church, will be full of wisdom—Rev. 1:11; 21:2, 9-11; 22:16:

Rev 1:11 Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.

Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:9 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

Rev 22:16 I Jesus have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright morning star.

A. The New Jerusalem is designed and constructed by God, the Architect and Builder of "the city which has the foundations"—Heb. 11:10:

Heb 11:10 For he eagerly waited for the city which has the foundations, whose Architect and Builder is God.

1. This indicates that God is a skilled Designer and top Craftsman.
2. As such an Architect and Builder, God certainly has not designed and built a physical city—Rev. 21:9-11.

Rev 21:9 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

3. To say that the New Jerusalem is a physical city depreciates God's wisdom and belittles Him as the eternal, wise Architect—Heb. 11:10.

Heb 11:10 For he eagerly waited for the city which has the foundations, whose Architect and Builder is God.

4. God has designed and built a spiritual entity for His corporate expression—Rev. 21:9-11.

Rev 21:9 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

5. In His wisdom God constructs the New Jerusalem by dispensing Himself as the Architect and Builder into our being—Heb. 11:10; 2 Cor. 13:14; Rev. 21:2; 22:1-2.
- Heb 11:10 For he eagerly waited for the city which has the foundations, whose Architect and Builder is God.
- 2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.
- Rev 22:2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
- B. If we realize that the New Jerusalem is a sign that signifies spiritual and divine things, we will begin to see the wisdom of God in this city—1:1; 21:9-11.
- Rev 1:1 The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave to Him to show to His slaves the things that must quickly take place; and He made it known by signs, sending it by His angel to His slave John,
- Rev 21:9 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.
- Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
- Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.
- C. God is a wise Architect and Builder who designs and builds such a city to be the full manifestation of His multifarious wisdom—Eph. 3:10; Rev. 21:2, 9-11.
- Eph 3:10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,
- Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- Rev 21:9 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.
- Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
- Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.