



August 2012

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR 2012
MERCY MISSION TO ISRAEL:

6 AM-8 AM. A,B,C	4 P.M.-6 P.M. P,Q,R
8 AM-10 A.M. D,E,F	6 P.M.-8 P.M. S,T,U
10 AM-12 P.M. G,H,I	8 P.M.-10 P.M. V,W,X,Y,Z
12 P.M.-2 P.M. J,K,L	10 P.M.- 6 AM. Those whom our Father wakes up to pray!
2 P.M.-4 P.M. M,N,O	

(FIRST
LETTER OF
LAST NAME) Aug 26 - Sep 7

ISRAEL IS 7 HRS. AHEAD OF EST.

Shalom in our Messiah Yeshua!

Wisdom: the Jewish Root

The Lord has impressed upon us to share this month on a very crucial biblical topic: wisdom, in Hebrew, *hokhmah* (pronounced *hokh-MAH* with the guttural ch sound **חכמה**). We, as believers in Yeshua, need wisdom today more than ever: "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:15). There is a key to the biblical, Jewish concept of wisdom in this verse. Wisdom, *hokhmah*, is more about walking than talking or thinking. While the Greek concept of wisdom focuses mainly on the intellect and the acquisition of knowledge, the Hebrew concept of wisdom goes beyond intellectual pursuit to the practical, hands-on ability to live one's daily life successfully, applying knowledge in concrete ways. Wisdom in the Hebrew mind includes the ideas of good sense, aptitude and technical skill. It is something to be desired and sought after. "Wisdom is the principal thing. Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding" (Prov. 4:7).

The first verse in the Torah in which we find the word *hokhmah* is Exodus 28:3 in which God gives instructions to Moses concerning the holy garments to be made for Aaron and his sons: "So you shall speak to all who are gifted artisans, whom I have fulfilled with the spirit of wisdom [*ruach hokhmah* **רוח חכמה**], that they may make Aaron's garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest." God gave wisdom to the craftsmen in order that they might DO something. In Hebrew / biblical thinking it is considered wisdom to do a job well, whatever the job may be.

The word *hokhmah* is often followed by another word in the Hebrew Scriptures, *tabun* (*tah-BOON* **תבון**), which means understanding with clarity. For example, when God called Bezalel, the famous artisan who helped build the tabernacle, He told Moses: "And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship" (Ex. 31:3-5).

One who is wise, *hakham* (*ha-KHAM*), has godly cleverness and skill which results in practical action. He hears—and obeys—and is blessed. He follows wisdom, which is not only practical, but based on revealed principles of right and wrong. *Hokhmah* implies the proper choice between two opposite courses of action, such as cruelty and compassion, arrogance and humility, holiness and impurity. The correct choice would be called *hokhmah* and its opposite folly (*k'see-LEEM* **כסילים**).

The Source of Wisdom

The source of wisdom, in the Hebrew / biblical sense, is expressed beautifully in the **Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament** published by the Moody Bible Institute: "The source of all wisdom is a personal God who is holy, righteous, and just. His wisdom is expressed against the background of his omnipotence and omniscience. By his wisdom God numbered the clouds (Job 38:37), founded the earth (Prov. 3:19), and made the world (Jer. 10:12). Wisdom, being found in God, is regarded as a divine attribute (Job 12:13). He alone knows wisdom in its truest sense (Job 28: 20, 23). The wisdom of God is not found in man's speculation. He alone must provide this wisdom for man's guidance so that man can live the best possible moral and ethical life (Prov. 2:6; Job 11:6)."

Wisdom belongs to God and is one of His attributes. There are many examples in the Holy Scriptures of God giving wisdom to man. The first example of a man receiving wisdom from God is Joseph. Following his interpretation of a dream that Pharaoh had, Joseph gave Pharaoh advice and suggested that Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt to carry out Joseph's suggestions. Pharaoh responded by saying to his servants: *"Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God? The Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you' "* (Gen. 41:38-39).

God gave wisdom to Moses, who in turn imparted that same spirit to his successor, Joshua: *"Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him..."* (Deut. 34:9). The Bible tells us that the LORD was with David (1 Sam. 18:12). *"And David behaved wisely in all his ways..."* (1 Sam 18:14) David's son Solomon pleased God greatly by requesting wisdom to rule God's people, rather than riches or blessings for himself. Therefore, God gave Solomon a wise and understanding heart, making him the wisest man on the earth (1 Kings 3:12). *"And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men..."* (1 Kings 4:29-30)

The Foundation of Wisdom: God's Word

Solomon did not continue in God's wisdom until the end of his days. He did not finish strong. What went wrong? He forsook the foundation of wisdom: the Torah, the Word of God, the Commandments of God, the standards of God. Solomon disobeyed God. The Torah states in Deut. 17:17 concerning the kings of Israel: *"But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.' Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself"* (Deut. 17:16-17).

King Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines who turned away his heart from the one true God to other gods (1 Kings 11:3-6). He also had 40,000 stalls of horses for his chariots and 12,000 horsemen (1 Kings 4:26). Solomon forsook the wisdom of the Word of God. Perhaps he thought that the wisest of all men could disobey God and not suffer any consequences. But he was wrong. IT IS NEVER WISE TO COMPROMISE.

Solomon, who wrote three thousand proverbs, including Proverbs 3:7, did not follow his own advice: *"Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil."* Nevertheless, he accurately equated wisdom with God's Word throughout the Book of Proverbs. For example, in Proverbs 3:13-18 when the word wisdom is used, traditional Jews interpret it to mean "Torah": *"Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding; for her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, and her gain than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies, and all the things you may desire can not compare with her...Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who retain her."* This last phrase is actually part of the Torah service at most synagogues, including ours. The Torah is considered to be the wisdom of God. Consider the next verse that states, *"The LORD by wisdom founded the earth."* Yes, God's wisdom, His Word, spoke all creation into being. God's Word is Wisdom. Wisdom comes from God's Word.

Moses, the servant of God, had reminded all Israel to obey God's statutes and judgments, His Word, before they entered the Promised Land: *"Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people' "* (Deut. 4:6). Obeying God's Word is wisdom.

Qualities of the Wise Man (Woman)

Are you wise in the biblical sense of the Word? Check yourself by some of the standards outlined in the Book of Proverbs. Do you: fear God? (9:10), listen to counsel? (12:15), promote health with your tongue? (12:18), restrain your lips from using a multitude of words? (10:19), win souls? (11:30), honor your parents? (13:1), work diligently? (6:6), keep God's laws? (10:8)

We are told in the New Covenant Scriptures that the wise man or woman is the one who hears the words of God and does them. He is like a wise man who builds his house on a rock (Matt. 7:24-25). The wise virgins of Matt. 25 took oil in their vessels with their lamps. They were continually filled with the Spirit of God. The wise stewards of this same chapter did not squander their inheritance through fear, but caused it to multiply in their master's absence. Knowing God, believing Him, and obeying Him are all part of being wise in the biblical sense.

Wisdom and the Fear of the Lord

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom." (Ps. 111:10) This concept is found seven times in the Holy Scriptures (i.e. Prov. 9:10). Does this mean that we have to have a healthy fear, reverence and awe of God (*yirat HaShem*) FIRST in order to have wisdom? Or does it mean that one of the first fruits or manifestations of wisdom (something that is part of or immediately results from wisdom) is to revere or fear the Lord? Rabbis have debated this for centuries. Both interpretations are accepted. The authors of the ArtScroll Tanakh Series on *Mishlei* (Proverbs) explain the apparent contradiction in this way: "God is the Creator of the universe and life; all wisdom emanates from Him. It is impossible to understand man's place in the design of the universe without reverential awe of God and submission to His will; indeed, it is the only starting point that will lead man to his true goal. As the *Mishnah* (Rabbinic commentaries) teaches, 'If there is no fear of God, there is no wisdom.' However, the very same *Mishnah* teaches that 'If there is no wisdom, there is no fear of God.'" Both are true. Our world today, especially our nation, is in dire need of the fear of the Lord, for we are so lacking in godly wisdom. At the same time, we must pray for our leaders to have wisdom enough to fear God, and realize that we desperately need Him!

Godly vs. Worldly Wisdom

There is wisdom which is not from God. We read in the Brit Hadasha about heavenly vs. demonic wisdom: *"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by **good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.** (Note the Hebraic emphasis!) But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic...But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy"* (James 3:13-17).

Demonic wisdom goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden. Hasatan, the devil, tempted Eve with "wisdom" in Gen. 3:6. Wisdom concerning evil. Who was the tempter? Satan, the serpent. He is wise but his wisdom is not godly. Perhaps he was being referred to by the Messiah when He told His talmidim to be *"wise as serpents and harmless as doves"* (Matt. 10:16). We, as God's children need wisdom! An unfortunate truth is found in Luke 16:8: *"...for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light."* (KJV)

However, God promises to destroy the wisdom of the "wise" who say that the message of the cross is foolishness. *"...but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ [Messiah] the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men"* (1 Cor. 1:24-25).

Godly wisdom is to realize that we are all just passing through this life, that there is life after this, that the only things that will last are the treasures we store up in heaven. As the psalmist wrote, *"So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom"* (Ps. 90:12).

Yeshua and Wisdom

The Brit Hadasha comments frequently concerning the wisdom of Yeshua. Even as a child, Yeshua was *"strong in spirit, filled with wisdom"* (Luke 2:40). Following his twelfth birthday, we are told that Yeshua *"increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man"* (Luke 2:52). We read in Matthew about the Queen of Sheba who came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, *"...and indeed a greater than Solomon is here"* (Matt. 12:42). When Yeshua taught in the synagogue in Nazareth, they were astonished and said, *"Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works?"* (Matt. 13:54).

We read in 1 Corinthians that Yeshua became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption (1 Cor. 1:30). All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in the Messiah Yeshua (Col. 2:3).

Pray with us: Father, we praise you according to 1 Tim. 1:17. You are the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the God who alone is wise. Honor and glory are Yours forever and ever. You are the source of true wisdom. We acknowledge our need of this gift, and ask you today to fill us with the spirit of wisdom and understanding. You say in James 1:5 that if we lack wisdom we can ask you for it, and you will give it liberally to all of us. Thank you! We want wisdom like that of Joseph and Stephen. We desire your deep wisdom (Rom. 11:33), and acknowledge that without You we can do nothing. Please give us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of our Messiah (Eph. 1:17). *"Fill us with the knowledge of Your will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, that we may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing the knowledge of God."* (Col. 1:9-10) In the name of our Messiah Yeshua, AMEN.

Mercy Mission Wisdom

Please pray that we have wisdom as we travel throughout the Land of Israel—walking in wisdom toward those who are outside the faith, redeeming the time (Col. 4:5). We also covet your prayers for protection, good health, favor and anointing. Pray that many Israelis hear the voice of God as we sound our shofars during the month of Elul—the month of preparation and repentance before the High Holy Days. Our group will be in Israel from the 8th of Elul until the 20th of Elul (Aug. 26 - Sep. 7).

Love in the Only Wise God,

Ned & Jamie

P.S. You will enjoy Derek Leman's unique Messianic Jewish commentary on the book of Proverbs, as well as the anointed music ministry of Marty Goetz.

P.P.S. It is time to order your Jewish Calendar for the new year!

Jewish Jewels Television Airtime Schedule - August 2012

LOCAL TV STATIONS

AIRTIME:	STATE:	CITY:	STATIONS:
TUE 6:00 PM	AK	North Pole	KJNP TV 4
MON 10:00 PM	FL	Tampa/St. Pete.	WCLF TV 22
THU 11:30 AM	FL	Miami/Ft. Laud.	WHFT TV 45
SUN 1:30 PM	FL	Tallahassee	WVUP TV 45
SAT 10:30 PM	FL	West Palm Beach	WFGC TV 61
SUN 2:30 PM	GA	Columbus	WYBU TV 16
SUN 1:30 PM	IA	Dubuque	KFXB TV 40
SUN 1:30 PM	MO	New Bloomfield	KNLJ TV 25
SUN 4:00 PM	NJ/NY	NYC/New Jersey	WMBC TV 63

INTERNET - www.jewishjewels.org

View our program on the web for **FREE!** Go to our website and click Jewels TV to watch the program of the week or scroll down to view archived programs.

SATELLITE NETWORKS (EST)

DirecTV

SAT 2:30 PM Ch. 373 - WORD Network
SUN 4:00 PM Ch. 93 or 900 - WMBC
MON 8:30 PM Ch. 376 - CTN (Christian Television Network)

Dish Network

MON 8:30 PM Ch. 376 - CTN (Christian Television Network)



CABLE NETWORKS (EST)

AT&T U-Verse

SAT 2:30 PM Ch. 575 - WORD Network

Comcast Cable

SAT 2:30 PM Ch. 486 - WORD Network

Time Warner Cable

SAT 2:30 PM Ch. 386 - WORD Network

For other cable networks check local listings....