

Solomon and Proverbs

Lesson 3: Christ, Our Wisdom for Living

Solomon and Proverbs

The relative lateness of the emergence of the flowering of Israelite wisdom may be explained by the relationship of true human wisdom to the revelation of the wisdom of God.

Revelation of God's wisdom involved a process within the history of the Israelite people.

There had to be some delay in the beginning of the reflection on experience until there was a measure of completeness about the revelation.

History Linked to Israel's History

What Adam and Eve had lost was beginning to be restored through Israel.

Israel represented the whole human race in the process of redemption and renewal.

This redemptive work was finally achieved in the person and work of a particular Israelite named Jesus of Nazareth.

Solomon and Jesus: Israel

The call of God came to his people who were in bondage in Egypt to a power that was opposed to God.



God acted in response to the bondage to show that his commitment to his chosen people still stood.

God's action involved the powerful rescue of the people in the exodus from their alien captivity.

The rescued people were bonded to God in the covenant of Sinai.

Israel was brought into the place that God promised them so that they might be free to worship God without hindrance.

Solomon and Jesus: The Temple

The focus of God's promised place:

The city of Jerusalem

The temple

The focus of the rule of God becomes a line of human agents chosen to reflect the kingship of God among his chosen people through:

The judges

The kings

The Pattern of Redemption and Wisdom

The "fear of the Lord" means:

The acceptance of God's word that interprets the critical events of Israel's history as God's acts to redeem Israel.

A reverent response of faith to the God who thus shows himself to be the Redeemer.

Solomon Foreshadows Jesus

Solomon represents the people of God within the context of God's redemptive acts in history.

Solomon and Israel reflect on their existence in the light of:

the whole process from creation to new creation

the redemptive work of God to bring his people into his everlasting kingdom

Jesus perfectly expresses the human activity of:

gaining wisdom

living by wisdom

David's Charge to Solomon

David charged Solomon to be obedient to the Lord

David repeated the promises of God to the royal line of David

Solomon's Temple as Wisdom

The temple represents the presence of God among his people who are now settled and established in the Promised Land.

At heart of the temple is:



the expressiveness of the sacrificial system.

the priestly office by which the nation and its individuals know reconciliation with God through the forgiveness of sins.

the expression of fellowship with a merciful and loving God who has created and redeemed Israel for himself.

the reminder of Israel's role in God's purposes for the nations of the world.

Jesus, Greater than Solomon

Interpreting Proverbs in the light of the **gospel** follows the example of Jesus himself and that of the New Testament.

The **fear** of the Lord points forward to the completed revelation of God in Jesus Christ.

The temple and Solomon are central to the **climax** of **redemptive** revelation within the history of Israel.

Jesus comes as:

the one who is **greater** than **Solomon**.

the new and living **temple** of God.

Jesus fulfils:

the role of the **temple** by being in his own person the **place** where God and humanity meet.

the **priestly** role of the one who **mediates** reconciliation with God on the grounds of an acceptable sacrifice for sin.

Jesus, Fulfiller of the Old Testament

Jesus **embodies** the promises of God to David as the true and representative **Israelite**.

Jesus' **resurrection** fulfills the covenant **promises** to the descendants of Abraham.

Jesus' resurrection creates a new **humanity** that conforms to the will and purpose of God.

Jesus' **death** and **resurrection** give definitive meaning to the universe and human existence.

Christ's **gospel** is the only framework within which we can carry on the human task of gathering and interpreting facts in the light of eternity.