

1513.

Great Chapters  
Proverbs VIII.

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## GREAT CHAPTERS.

### PROVERBS viii.

"Doth not Wisdom cry?" Proverbs 8:1.

### INTRODUCTION.

A consideration of this chapter demands a recognition of its place in the Inspired Literature.

It is part of the WISDOM Literature.

#### Three Books.

Job. Proverbs Ecclesiastes- And perhaps some of the Psalms  
(In the Apocrypha. Wisdom of Solomon. Ecclesiasticus)

Strictly Wisdom is the Equivalent of Philosophy.

#### Only a Distinction.

Philosophy as we have studied it, begins with a Question, and consists of a Quest, \*  
The Question.-- What is Truth?  
The Quest.-- To find the Answer.  
Not so Hebrew Philosophy.

The Wisdom Literature does not formulate a Philosophy- but rather applies it.  
Practical rather than speculative.

The Thought process may thus be stated.

Thought precedes Phenomena.  
Thought postulates a Thinker.  
Therefore GOD. → *Paley's Argument from Design*

Therefore. The first Fact is God.  
The Sequence is His Thought- His Knowledge-WISDOM.

In HIM no unsolved Riddle.

Therefore. For Man- The Fear of the Lord is the Beginning of Wisdom.

\* for a conquest

These Writings are distinguished from the other Old Testament Scriptures.

While the Conception of God is Hebrew, the Vision of Him is universal.

The Hebrew Conception JEHOVAH.

Job 25 Times.

Proverbs. 66 Times.

Ecclesiastes. Arrestingly absent

#### The Universal.

An absence of reference to Mosaic Law or Ritual.

The Moral is essential, rather than ceremonial.

Therefore Human rather than Jewish.

And so the whole range of human experience comes into view.

All this gives character to our Chapter.

#### The Chapter in its Setting.

The Book consists of

Discourses on Wisdom.	1-9.
A Collection of Proverbs.	10-24.
A Posthumous Collection.	25-29.
An Appendix. Words of Agur.	
Oracles of Lemuel.	30.31.

The chapter is in the first Section.

It is a complete Discourse, and the Climax of the Series.

In it WISDOM is personified.

In the Discourse--

A. She is introduced. 1-3.

B. Her Message is recorded. 4-36.

So let us survey it.

A. THE INTRODUCTION OF WISDOM. 1-3.

I. "Wisdom" Complete Knowledge or Truth.  
"Understanding".  
Perfect Intelligence.

II. Her Standing.

The Centre of the Highways.

The Gates-the Entries- the Doors.

The starting places- and the converg-  
ing Centres.

III. Her Speech.

She crieth aloud.

WISDOM is Talking in the Open.

*cf. Previous Chapter  
Wis personified in a woman  
Leaving place - behind!*

B. THE MESSAGE OF WISDOM. 4-36.

I. Her Introduction. 4-9.

Those addressed.  
Men.

The Sons of Man.

"The Simple"- "Fools."  
*Rest is Sea - Open*      *Sidly - in Action.*

The Aim of the Message.

Moral.

Excellent Things. Right Things.  
Truth.

No wickedness. Nothing crooked or  
perverse.

The moral Principle in TRUTH --

II. Her Treasures. 10-21.

By Comparison. Silver. Gold Rubies.

In Fact. Knowledge. Prudence. Purity.

The Secrets of Authority--

Kings. Princes. Nobles. Judges.

Durable Wealth. Honour

*Obedience with because of its Advantage.*

III. Her Claims. 22-31.  
With Jehovah from the Beginning.  
Before Creation. 22-26.

Therein the Processes of Creation.  
27-31.

The Delight of Jehovah.

Rejoicing before Jehovah.

Rejoicing in the finished Creation.

Delighting in the Sons of Men.

*Obedience urged because of the Essential & Eternal nature of Wisdom.*

IV. Her Appeal. 32-36.  
Those addressed-- "Sons".  
"The Man."

To--Hearken. Hear. Obey.

The Alternative.

"Blessed" Q..

" But...."

CONCLUSION.

Creation is Cosmic not Fortuitous.

Jehovah is a God of Law and Order.

The Centrality of Man to the Cosmic Order.

*Contemplated in the Conception of the Universe ~ ~ ~*

The Supremacy of the Moral in the Cosmic Order.

The Laws of Nature.

Plus the Ethical Principle.

The Completion of Proverbs 8--John 1.

The Poetic Personification becomes the Manifested Person.

*Apocrypha. Wisdom of Solomon. vii. 25-29.*

*Philo - The Logos ~*

*So John.*

*" Christ is made imbric us Wisdom."*