

"He Founded the World by Wisdom"
(Proverbs 3:19-20)

Introduction: When you wake up in the morning, what is the first thing that grabs your attention? Is it your tiredness? Is it the dream that you just had? Is it your annoyance at the alarm which just woke you out of a sound sleep? What is it that should grab your attention when you first wake up? Isn't it the realization of God and the wonder of His creation? the fact that you are? the fact that everything is, and that it is as it is? the fact that everything around you tells you of the glory of God by its wonderful design and beauty? As we read this morning in Psalm 19, "THE HEAVENS ARE TELLING OF THE GLORY OF GOD; AND THEIR EXPANSE IS DECLARING THE WORK OF HIS HANDS. DAY TO DAY POURS FORTH SPEECH, AND NIGHT TO NIGHT REVEALS KNOWLEDGE" (vv. 1-2). The apostle Paul tells us the same thing in Romans 1:20, "FOR SINCE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD HIS INVISIBLE ATTRIBUTES, HIS ETERNAL POWER AND DIVINE NATURE, HAVE BEEN CLEARLY SEEN." The creation tells you in no uncertain terms that God exists. You do not wake up to nothing at all, that is impossible. Neither do you wake up to some kind of hodgepodge of things all randomly spread around, with creatures of all different kinds of shapes and sizes rolling and slithering around. But you wake up to an amazingly ordered and complex world which is full of beauty and symmetry, of order and reason, of color and imagination. It shows the work of the infinite Designer. It speaks to you more loudly than words could ever speak. And what it tells us, is that God is wise. What I want you to see from this text this morning is that,

Wisdom is woven into the very fabric of creation, and if you are to live in God's world successfully, as that success is measured by the Scriptures, you must live according to that wisdom as well.

I. *First, I Want You to See Something of How the Wisdom, Understanding and Knowledge of God Is Displayed in His Creation.*

A. *First, Solomon Tells Us that God Established the Earth by Wisdom.*
"THE LORD BY WISDOM FOUNDED THE EARTH."

1. *Wisdom is something which God possessed from the beginning, something which He had from all eternity.*

a. *The world itself was an eternal idea in the mind of God. And included in that eternal idea and plan was all the wisdom that was needed to create it and to make it work the way that He wanted.*

b. *In Proverbs 8:22-31, we read more about wisdom's involvement in the Creation. Solomon writes, "THE LORD POSSESSED ME AT THE BEGINNING OF HIS WAY, BEFORE HIS WORKS OF OLD. FROM THE EVERLASTING I WAS ESTABLISHED, FROM THE BEGINNING, FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES OF THE EARTH. WHEN THERE WERE NO DEPTHS I WAS BROUGHT FORTH, WHEN THERE WERE NO SPRINGS ABOUNDING WITH WATER. BEFORE THE MOUNTAINS WERE SETTLED, BEFORE THE HILLS I WAS BROUGHT FORTH; WHILE HE HAD NOT YET MADE THE EARTH AND THE FIELDS, NOR THE FIRST DUST OF THE WORLD. WHEN HE ESTABLISHED THE HEAVENS, I WAS THERE, WHEN HE INSCRIBED A CIRCLE ON THE FACE OF THE DEEP, WHEN HE MADE FIRM THE SKIES ABOVE, WHEN THE SPRINGS OF THE DEEP BECAME FIXED, WHEN HE SET THE SEA FOR ITS BOUNDARY, SO THAT THE WATER SHOULD NOT TRANSGRESS HIS COMMAND, WHEN HE MARKED OUT THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH; THEN I WAS*

BESIDE HIM, AS A MASTER WORKMAN; AND I WAS DAILY HIS DELIGHT, REJOICING ALWAYS BEFORE HIM, REJOICING IN THE WORLD, HIS EARTH, AND HAVING MY DELIGHT IN THE SONS OF MEN."

2. Wisdom was said to be alongside of God as a Master Workman bringing beauty and purposefulness into the Creation.
 - a. I think that we often conceive of God as simply speaking and everything coming into existence. And this is certainly the way that the Bible presents it to us.
 - b. But we are not to think of God as having had the power to make something not knowing how it would hold together or how it would work. God is not like a man with three wishes who wishes for a universe, and then some outside power makes it happen apart from his knowing and understanding it.
 - c. Every aspect of His creation is founded upon wisdom, understanding and knowledge. The universe is the way that it is because God wanted to put it together and make it work in a specific way.
 - d. And so God made the materials that He needed out of nothing, that is, not out of something that already was. He made something entirely new. John writes, "ALL THINGS CAME INTO BEING BY HIM, AND APART FROM HIM NOTHING CAME INTO BEING THAT HAS COME INTO BEING" (John 1:3).
 - e. Not only did He create the materials from which He would construct His earth, But He also had created the space to put it in. He laid its foundations in that space. He suspended the earth in it and it stands firm. This requires a great deal of wisdom, so much so that God challenged Job and his friends, if they thought they knew so much, to explain it to Him. He said, "WHERE WERE YOU WHEN I LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH! TELL ME, IF YOU HAVE UNDERSTANDING, WHO SET ITS MEASUREMENTS, SINCE YOU KNOW? OR WHO STRETCHED THE LINE ON IT? ON WHAT WERE ITS BASES SUNK? OR WHO LAID ITS CORNERSTONE, WHEN THE MORNING STARS SANG TOGETHER, AND ALL THE SONS OF GOD SHOUTED FOR JOY? (38:4-7).
 - f. God has made a marvelously complex world, and when you think of all the wonders that He has made, it can fascinate and overwhelm the mind.
 - (i) Scientists say that the earth's diameter is just the right distance, with its bulge at the equator just the right size, for life to exist here.
 - (ii) It's tilt is just at the right angle to produce the four seasons with its present atmospheric conditions, enabling the largest proportion of land to be inhabitable.
 - (iii) It rotates at the just the right speed producing regular day and night cycles which correspond to your sleeping cycles.
 - (iv) It is composed of over 100 naturally occurring elements all with different properties enabling man to make an almost innumerable number of useful tools, machines and other devices to help him in his work.
 - (v) God's wisdom is seen throughout His world.

B. God's Understanding Can Also Be Seen in the Way He Prepared the Heavens. "BY UNDERSTANDING HE ESTABLISHED THE HEAVENS."

1. When you take out your telescope and look into the night sky,

- you don't see rocks of differing sizes and dirt floating in some cosmic chaos, as the result of a chance big-bang explosion.
2. What you do see are well-formed planets revolving around the sun, many with their own satellite moons orbiting around them.
 - a. You see the stars of perhaps several thousand other solar systems scattered throughout the galaxy.
 - b. You see hundreds of other galaxies scattered throughout the universe.
 - c. Not to mention the gaseous nebula, the many asteroids and meteors, and the comets which make their timely passes through our galaxy.
 3. You see order and harmony on a cosmic scale, not a grand cosmic accident.
 - a. The pattern of the planets and stars is so regular, that you can even tell the time and the seasons from them, which is exactly why the Lord put them there. In Genesis 1:14, God said, "LET THERE BE LIGHTS IN THE EXPANSE OF THE HEAVENS TO SEPARATE THE DAY FROM THE NIGHT, AND LET THEM BE FOR SIGNS, AND FOR SEASONS, AND FOR DAYS AND YEARS" (Gen. 1:14).
 - b. The ancient astronomers at Stone Henge set up an elaborate system of stones from which they were able to keep track of these things with tremendous accuracy.
 - c. God's understanding can be seen in His designing the heavens.
- C. And Lastly, His Knowledge Is Revealed in His Providential Care of the Earth. "BY HIS KNOWLEDGE THE DEEPS WERE BROKEN UP, AND THE SKIES DRIP WITH DEW."
1. The deeps being broken up have to do with the waters under the earth's surface being made into usable streams and rivers -- these are the waters below the firmament --, while the skies dripping with dew has to do with the needed rain and moisture to water the earth -- these are the waters above the firmament. This is God's marvelous design to provide water for sustaining His creatures, for though you may be able to go many days without food, you will quickly die without water.
 2. Dew and rain were especially needed by God's people in the land of Israel, for it did not have any rivers for irrigation; it was watered by the dew of heaven.
 - a. Moses said to the Jews concerning Canaan, "FOR THE LAND, INTO WHICH YOU ARE ENTERING TO POSSESS IT, IS NOT LIKE THE LAND OF EGYPT FROM WHICH YOU CAME, WHERE YOU USED TO SOW YOUR SEED AND WATER IT WITH YOUR FOOT LIKE A VEGETABLE GARDEN. BUT THE LAND INTO WHICH YOU ARE ABOUT TO CROSS TO POSSESS IT, A LAND OF HILLS AND VALLEYS, DRINKS WATER FROM THE RAIN OF HEAVEN, A LAND FOR WHICH THE LORD YOUR GOD CARES; THE EYES OF THE LORD YOUR GOD ARE ALWAYS ON IT, FROM THE BEGINNING EVEN TO THE END OF THE YEAR" (Deu. 11:10-12).
 - b. And here God's wisdom is particularly revealed for it was through this built in reliance upon Him for water that He often tested His people to see if they would follow Him completely. When the people turned to other gods, it was often because they thought that those gods had something to do with the rain. This was true of the Baals, which were nothing more than fertility gods.
 - c. And so we see that God's wisdom, understanding and

knowledge are interwoven throughout all of His Creation.

II. And the Point that Solomon Is Drawing from This Is, That If God Uses These Things in the Creation of His World, Don't You Need to Have These Things to Live in It?

- A. The Way to Prosper in any System Is to Know What the Foundational Principles of It Are, and then to Live Accordingly.
1. If you go to college, and you want to do well, you must learn the rules of the college and abide by them.
 2. If you want to do well in your studies, then you need to learn the principles of good study habits and cultivate them.
 3. If you want to evangelize a particular people group, you must first learn the principles upon which their culture is based, so that you can communicate Christ, and do so without offending them.
 4. In the same way, if you want to live in God's world, and if you want to do so in a way that is pleasing to Him and will be blessed by Him, you must do it by following His wisdom. You must adopt His way of doing things. Solomon Says, "MY SON, LET THEM [that is, wisdom, understanding and knowledge] NOT DEPART FROM YOUR SIGHT; KEEP SOUND WISDOM AND DISCRETION" (v. 21).
 5. Adopting the world's wisdom or philosophy will not do. You must embrace God's.
- B. Solomon Says, If You Do They Will Adorn Your Life With the Blessings of Increased Years and Safety.
1. He writes, "SO THEY WILL BE LIFE TO YOUR SOUL, AND ADORNMENT TO YOUR NECK" (v. 22).
 - a. They will be life to your soul in two ways. First, they will increase the years of your life on this earth. As Solomon already said concerning wisdom, "LONG LIFE IS IN HER RIGHT HAND" (3:16).
 - b. But the wisdom of God is also able to give you that which is infinitely more valuable, eternal life.
 - (i) When you see what true wisdom demands, and know that you are utterly incapable of living according to it perfectly, then it turns you to the One who has done it perfectly and has earned the blessings. You will turn to Him as God requires, in faith and repentance, for you know that the Lord says, "THE ONE WHO COMES TO ME I WILL CERTAINLY NOT CAST OUT" (John 6:37).
 - (ii) To walk according to God's wisdom means to walk daily with Him trusting in the One who is wisdom incarnate. Paul writes, "BUT BY HIS DOING YOU ARE IN CHRIST JESUS, WHO BECAME TO US WISDOM FROM GOD, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS AND SANCTIFICATION, AND REDEMPTION" (1 Cor. 1:30).
 - (iii) Can you think of a more beautiful ornament to hang around your neck than the blessing of eternal life with the eternally Blessed One?
 2. But Solomon says that there is more, "THEN YOU WILL WALK IN YOUR WAY SECURELY, AND YOUR FOOT WILL NOT STUMBLE" (v. 23).
 - a. In the Bible, to walk is to live. To walk in security is to walk safely, and to walk without stumbling is to walk blamelessly.
 - b. If you walk according to your own wisdom, you tread on

dangerous ground, for the devil has laid many traps and snares for your soul, and you will not be able to avoid them.

- c. Furthermore, if you walk in your own ways, then you will eventually stumble and fall, and that without remedy.
- (i) The psalmist Asaph viewing things through his own understanding almost slipped and fell when he saw the prosperity of the wicked (Ps. 73:3).
 - (ii) Peter as well almost slipped when, walking according to the fear of man, he denied his Lord (Matt. 26:33-35, 69-75).
 - (iii) And God warns you this morning, that if you will not walk in His ways, you will fall. The psalmist writes concerning those who would rather walk on their own paths than His, "SURELY THOU DOST SET THEM IN SLIPPERY PLACES; THOU DOST CAST THEM DOWN TO DESTRUCTION. HOW THEY ARE DESTROYED IN A MOMENT! THEY ARE UTTERLY SWEEP AWAY BY SUDDEN TERRORS!" (Ps. 73:18-19).
- c. But if you walk according to God's wisdom you will be confident in all the situations of your life.
- (i) "WHEN YOU LIE DOWN, YOU WILL NOT BE AFRAID; WHEN YOU LIE DOWN YOUR SLEEP WILL BE SWEET" (v. 24).
 - (a) Sleep is a time of great vulnerability. When you are unconscious, there is little that you can do to protect your possessions or those whom you love.
 - (b) But when you walk according to God's ways, He will not only protect you when you sleep, but will also let that sleep have the added sweetness of confident safety.
 - (ii) He says further, "YOU NEED NOT BE AFRAID OF SUDDEN FEAR, NOR OF THE ONSLAUGHT OF THE WICKED WHEN IT COMES" (v. 25).
 - (a) Things fearful may come suddenly, but you do not need to fear them.
 - (b) Nor do you need to fear when the wicked ferociously attack.
 - (iii) "FOR", he says, "THE LORD WILL BE YOUR CONFIDENCE, AND WILL KEEP YOUR FOOT FROM BEING CAUGHT" (v. 26).
 - (a) When you realize that God is your shield and your refuge -- if you have fled for refuge in Christ -- then you have the best possible reason for being confident.
 - (b) God will not allow anything to happen to you outside of His good plan for you. And if the Lord has purposed anything, who or what could possibly turn it back?
 - (c) Rather, it is those who would harm you who must fear, for if you are the Lord's, He will protect you and pay the wicked back fully for any injustice they bring upon you.
- d. People of God. Seek to know God's wisdom and instruction.

It is so woven into the fabric of His creation and into the fabric of your life, that you cannot afford not to know it and live in accord with it. It is the blueprint for holy living. If you live in its light, it will illumine your path before you, showing you the way to ultimate success. But if you turn from it to walk in darkness, God will set your feet in slippery places and cast you down. Walk in God's wisdom, and prosper. Amen.