

Introduction: In our portion of Proverbs this morning we hear the conclusion of a speech by a person Solomon introduces to his sons as Wisdom personified as a woman (Proverbs 8:1-3). 'Lady Wisdom', as some have called her, takes her stand at the gates of the city and cries out to all humanity in order that they would both hear her and heed her. *** She is especially concerned with young men, that their lust would not drive them to immorality and to commit adultery (Proverbs 6:20-7:27) *** In our portion we come to understand that Wisdom personified (perhaps a spirit being of great God-given wisdom) was with God when He began to create the physical universe (Genesis 1). In our Bible study of angels we are learning of God's 'Divine Council' of created spirit beings (Psalm 82:1) who sang and shouted for joy as He created the earth (Job 38:6-7). *** Wisdom describes how she was woven into the very fabric, the warp and woof, of creation; and that people, God's final creation, can experience the life that God intended for them by living according to her ways. Through her, God is saying to all people, and young men in particular, pursue Woman Wisdom, NOT lust and adultery. Wisdom was with God as He created, and she shared His delight in His 'very good' creation (Genesis 1:31). *** In our Gospel portion we see Jesus, The Son of God, has absolute power over creation to the astonishment of His disciples. *** With this introduction, let's examine our texts in more detail, especially the conclusion of Wisdom's speech.

I. Wisdom was with Yahweh from before He created the earth and people; and she was beside Him as an artisan, rejoicing with Him in all He created. (Proverbs 8:22-31)

A. Wisdom was The Covenant God's poured out possession before the creation of the physical universe. (Proverbs 8:22-26)

1. Yahweh possessed me beginning of His ways, before His works of time past; from eternity I was poured out, from the beginning before the earth. (Verses 22-23)

Possessed: The first verb to describe the origins of Wisdom usually carries the sense ownership; but, with God it often refers to what He has made, a synonym of the word create. This would mean that because God brought wisdom into being, He has the ownership rights of all creators.

Poured out: The verb poured out often is a synonym for anointed, as in chosen. When God chose someone to be a priest or king, that man was anointed in oil. Messiah is Hebrew for 'anointed'. God chose Wisdom for an important role before He created anything physical.

2. When no depths I was brought forth, when no fountains being abundant of water; before the mountains were sunk down, before the hills I was brought forth. (Verses 24-25)

No seas and land: Using three phrases for 'before' Wisdom says she existed before water and land.

3. Before (not until) He made the earth and the outside, and the first of the dust of the inhabited world. (Verse 26)

No people: This is a poetic reference to humanity, *adam*. Genesis states that God created *adam* from the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:7). So, God brought forth Wisdom long before He created people.

B. Wisdom was beside God as a master artisan, rejoicing with Him as He created people. (Proverbs 8:27-31)

1. When He prepared the heavens, there I (was), when He circled the face of the deep; When He established the (dust) cloud from above, strengthened the fountains of the deep; When He set for the sea its boundary, and the waters will not pass over (what) His mouth (said). (Verses 27-29b)

Sky: On the second day of creation, God set the 'expanse' and called it 'sky' (Genesis 1:6-8). Wisdom says she was with Him then.

Sea: On the third day of creation, God gathered the waters, set a boundary for them, and called them good (Genesis 1:9-10; Job 38:8-11; Jeremiah 5:22).

2. When He marked out the foundations of the earth; then I was beside Him a skilled artisan; and I was (His) delight day (by) day, rejoicing in His Presence all the time. (Verses 29c-30)

Earth: Also on the third day, after God gathered the seas and set their boundary, the dry land appeared and He called it 'earth' and saw it was good (Genesis 1:9-10)

Co-rejoicing: Wisdom says she was beside God as a skilled artisan (wisdom is craftsman skill, Exodus 31:2-5), as God's daily delight, and she was co-rejoicing with Him in all His creation work!

Wisdom rejoices in God's creation work

3. Playing in the habitable world of His earth, and delighting in the sons of *adam*. (Verse 31)

Delight: The first phrase uses the verb that is the basis for Isaac's name (Genesis 21:1-7) and suggests that Eden was just a portion of all the earth. More importantly, Wisdom delighted in all the people that were descended from the first man, God's final creation, after which He pronounced His creation 'very good' (Genesis 1:31). All the way through God's work of creation, Wisdom was with God delighting and rejoicing in His creation work.

Wisdom rejoices in God's creation work

II. Wisdom now commands all to hear her instruction and do right to experience delight with God; Jesus causes reverent fear in His disciples by calming a severe storm. (Proverbs 8:32-36; Luke 8:22-25)

A. Wisdom appeals to people to heed her instruction and to find her to have a life of delight from Yahweh: do not hate her and die. (Proverbs 8:32-36)

1. And now sons: y'all must listen to me, and happy (in) my ways will be those keeping (them); y'all must hear instruction and y'all must be wise, and not y'all will refuse (it). (Verses 32-33)

Doers: True wisdom in God's people, created in His image to represent Him to all the physical creation, is to always act in accordance to all He has given in His Word. Wisdom is telling all 'the sons of *adam*' that they must keep to all her ways – given to her by God before the creation of the physical universe. When they hear and do her instruction they will be happy, a special blessing from God.

Application: We all must respond to Wisdom's appeal to hear her instruction to keep her ways, to become wise in all we do, so we will experience the happiness that is God's blessing.

2. Happy (is the) man (*adam*) listening to me, to watch at my gates day (by) day, to wait at the posts (*m^e-zoo-zah*) of my doors; because (the one) finding me has found life, and he will obtain delight from Yahweh. (*Verses 34-35*)

How she rejoices: Wisdom has now made it clear that she delights with God whenever people listen to her to keep her ways in all their life in order to be in a right relationship with God (IN Jesus). All who live this way receive joy and delight with Woman Wisdom and God!

Application: Let us all rejoice with Wisdom so we will live in harmony with God in the world He created with wisdom.

Wisdom rejoices in God's creation work

3. And (the one) missing (sinning against) me (Wisdom) doing violence (to) his soul, all hating me have loved death. (*Verse 36*)

Stern warning: Wisdom concludes with a strong and stern warning that people must not 'miss the mark' (sin and fall short) of her and her ways. Those who do this are actually doing violence to their souls. Moreover, to hate God's Wisdom, which He brought forth and chose by anointing before He created the world and people, is to love death. In other words, we must never hate God's Wisdom because to do so is to 'court' everlasting death in the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:1-15).

- B. Jesus causes fear and wonder in His disciples as He instantly calms a severe storm. (*Luke 8:22-25*)

1. But it was, in one of the days, and He Himself went into a ship, and His disciples, and He said to them, 'Let us now go over to the other side of the lake'; and they were launched. (*Verse 22*)

Cross lake: Jesus tells His disciples that together they will cross over to the other side of the lake in a fishing ship. Luke usually uses lake as a synonym for sea when referring to Galilee.

2. But (while) them moving through the water, He fell asleep; and it came down, a tempest of wind upon the lake; and they were being filled (the boat with water) and they were being in danger. (*Verse 23*)

Jesus sleeps: Being exhausted, Jesus soon fell asleep as the boat moved through the calm water.

Dangerous storm: Suddenly, a tempestuous and dangerous storm arose!

3. Having come (to where Jesus slept in the boat), they awoke Him saying, 'Master! Master! We are perishing!' (*Verse 24a*)

Disciples panic: Even though Jesus told them they were going to the other side of the lake, the storm put the twelve disciples in an extreme panic mode. They twice addressed Jesus with the highest title in their language. And they were sure they would perish.

4. But, having risen, He rebuked the tempestuous wind and the raging of the water; and, they ceased and it was calm. (*Verses 24b-c*)

Water and wind: Both the water and wind fully obeyed the voice (of rebuke) of their Creator (Jesus)!

5. But, He said to them, 'Where (is) the faith of y'all?' (*Verse 25a*)

Question: This is THE question for all disciples of Jesus. When unexpected danger comes upon His followers, and they panic, does the faith He has given them become weak, or leave them in the moment? What about us? Are there times when our faith is weak, or even non-existent for a time?

6. Having been made afraid, they wondered, saying to one another, 'What then, this man, he is being?!

That even, the tempestuous winds he is commanding, and the water?! And they are obeying him?!' (*Verses 25b-d*)

Wonder: If ever there was an historical example of 'interobang', this triple statement of reverent wonder by His disciples at the miracle of Jesus they witnessed is it. In their extreme panic, they saw Jesus' power over the worst that creation can do to fishermen.

Application: We must reverentially fear Jesus, The Savior, because of His power over all He created.

Jesus has power over creation.

Conclusion: Woman Wisdom was with God from before He created the earth and people. She was beside Him as a skilled artisan, rejoicing with Him in all He created. Wisdom is now commanding all people to do what is right and wise so they may have grace from God. When Jesus showed His power over creation by instantly calming a severe storm, His disciples responded with reverential fear.

Wisdom rejoices in God's creation work