Wisdom & Proverbs

The search for wisdom

PROVERBS

Two types of sayings

a. theological- mentioning God specifically

- In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps (16:9)
- All a man's motives seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the Lord (16:2)
- The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: they will not go unpunished (16:5)
- Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the LORD a man avoids evil (16:8)

b. human observations and experiences

- Kings take pleasure in honest lips, they value a man who speaks the truth (16:13)
- Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones (16:24)
- The laborer's appetite works for him, his hunger drives him on (16:26)
- Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city (16:32)

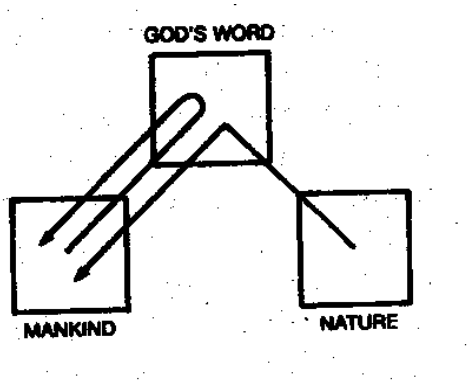
c. Aware of God

- Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. (16:18)
- Gray hair is a crown of splendour, it is attained by a righteous life (16:31)
- Better to be lowly in spirit and among the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud (16:19)

Graeme Goldsworthy: Gospel and Wisdom

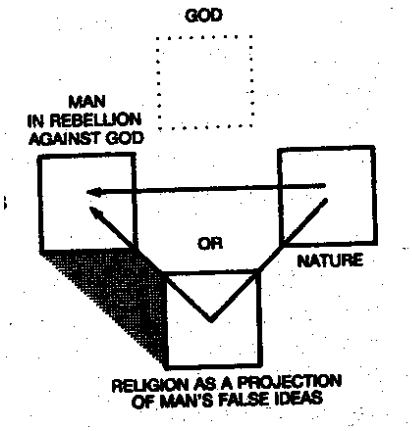
WISDOM AT CREATION

Knowledge of the world itself and himself was indirect. It was interpreted through the revelation which God gave of himself by his word



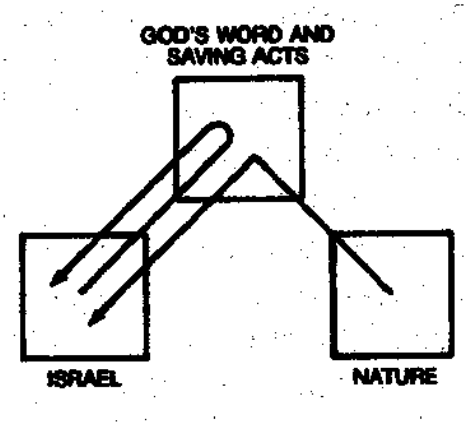
THE WISDOM OF THE WORLD

Natural man leaves God out of his thinking. He sees nature, including himself as all there is and as having self-evident meaning. If he has religious ideas they are his on attempts to avoid the revealed truth about God.



WISDOM IN ISRAEL

Israel's true wisdom interpreted reality in the light of the revelation of God in his word and saving acts.



SOLOMON

Great wisdom- judgments, administration, wealth, understanding the natural world.

But loved foreign wives and served their gods.

THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM