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ADONAI's Wisdom Founded the Earth 3: 19-24

A proverb is a short and memorable saying designed to be our blueprint for living in the world that ADONAI has created. It is important to note that proverbs are not promises; they are generally true principles, all other things being equal.

Proverbs Chapter 3 explains why **wisdom** matters and what **wisdom** creates. **Wisdom** matters, according to **verses 13 to 26**, because **wisdom** is the open secret of the universe. It is not a private opinion, take it or leave it. **Wisdom** is how **life** works! We can disregard that for a while and get away with it, because **ADONAI** built it so well. But we want the last chapter of our stories to be the best, don't we? So **wisdom** matters. **Wisdom** also creates something, according to **verses 27 to 35**. **Wisdom** creates a culture of **life** amid this culture of death called **the world (First John 2:15-16)**. **Wisdom** is a community experience. It is a shared experience of **life** in its **fullness (John 10:10)**. We have been told that the universe just happened. We have been told that we emerged out of the prehistoric goo by sheer luck. But the truth is, **ADONAI** created all things, and the tool **He** used was **His** own **wisdom**. That was all **He** needed: **By wisdom ADONAI founded the earth.**⁹²



This **proverb** associates **wisdom** and **creation**. While this is the first time this connection is made in **Proverbs**, it will reoccur later (**to see link click [Bl](#) - Wisdom's Existence before Creation**) and constitutes a profound theme in the book. **By wisdom ADONAI founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens (3:19 Hebrew)**. The creation is ordered, not random. **God established it by His wisdom**. This negates the thought that it might be the result of chance. The order of creation can be seen in **Genesis 1:1 to 2:3** (see **Genesis Af - The Creation of the World**). This leads us to the conclusion that the apparent disorder in the world today is the result of the fall of mankind, not the original creation.

By His knowledge the deep fountains of the earth broke open (3:20a ESV). The rhythms of the water cycle are also connected to wisdom. Here the synonym **knowledge** is used. It is interesting to note the similarities between **3:19-20** and **24:3-4**, where the latter is proclaimed: **By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established, and by knowledge all its rooms are filled with all sorts of precious riches and valuables (24:3-4 Hebrew)**. Perhaps we are to think of **God's** construction of the cosmos as building a house. The words, **wisdom, understanding, and knowledge**, can be seen in both passages. We can see these three words and the construction of **the Tabernacle** in **31:1-3**, and the construction of **Solomon's Temple** in **First Kings 7:14**. Therefore, it is appropriate to make a connection between **the Tabernacle** and **Solomon's Temple** with the building of the cosmos.⁹³

To this very moment **He** sustains all things, **and the clouds drop down the dew**

(3:20b ESV). So if **God**, by **His wisdom**, can work that wonder of nature, what will **He** accomplish by **His wisdom** in you? We are surrounded and sustained by **God’s wisdom**, though we barely understand it. C. S. Lewis explained why, “At present we are on the outside of the world, on the wrong side of the door. We understand the freshness and purity of the morning, but they do not make us fresh and pure. We cannot mingle with the splendors we see. But . . . someday, **God** willing, we shall get in.” **Yeshua** died to get us in. If you have ever visited a foreign country and felt how lonely it is to walk the streets of a city unable to read the signs, or unable to ask for directions, because you did not know the language. We are like that in **God’s** amazing creation. But **God** is translating **His wisdom** for us in **Messiah**. That **wisdom** is the true foundation and meaning of the universe. **He** is urging us to take it to heart and to make it our own as outsiders who put our faith/trust/belief in **Him**.⁹⁴

Because **ADONAI** directs our **path**, **He** is able to protect our **path**. **My son, do not let sound wisdom and understanding out of your sight, hang on to them, for they will be life to you, an ornament of grace around your neck (3:21-22 NIV).** The loving **father** warns **his son** to stay alert and focus on **the path of wisdom**. **He** must be diligent in **his** pursuit of **sound wisdom (2:7)** and **prudence (1:3a)**, which is the inner power that helps us get out of a jam. In **2:7** it is likened to **a shield** because **it** helps to protect us from the ups and downs of **life**. If a problem arises, then the recipient of **God’s wisdom** will be able to deal with it. **Prudence** implies **wise** behavior or good sense. **Proverbs** make us alert for the journey of **life**. Anyone who has driven long distances can affirm that bad things happen – wrong turns at best, fatal crashes at worst – when the driver is no longer alert. These **proverbs** in the TaNaKh help us to remain attentive to our surroundings and aware of potential dangers.⁹⁵ Perhaps “insight” comes nearest to the original, but in a practical sense. This concept may be illustrated by **Abigail**, the **wife** of the foolish **Nabal** (see [the Life of David Bn - Abigail Acted Quickly](#)).

It becomes very clear that **wisdom** means **walking** with **God**, and these next four verses provide the motivation for doing so. **Verses 23** and **24** form a kind of pair in that the first describes the safety of daily living, and the second the confidence **the wise** can have as **they** sleep. **Verse 23** describes daily **life** as walking on **the path**, a common theme of the book, particularly the first nine chapters. **Then you will walk on your path in safety, and your feet will not stumble (3:23 BSB).** **Verse 24** states that safety will continue even during the especially vulnerable time of sleep. **When you lie down, you will not be afraid, and your sleep will be**

sweet (3:24 NIV). When people **sleep**, their guard is down, and they are more open to attack. The person who is armed with **wisdom** doesn’t have to worry about such things.

Then **Solomon** turns from statements about **safety** to a caution **not to be afraid** of an unexpected tragedy. **Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked, for ADONAI (3:25 NIV).** Such “ruin” interrupts the **life** of the wicked, not the **life** of the righteous. **Verse 26** provides a reason for the confidence that follows from the **life** of **wisdom**. **ADONAI will be at your side.** When the Apostle Paul was suffering, **the Lord was at his side: At my first defense no one came to stand by me, all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me (2 Timothy 4:16-17).** **Solomon** finishes with this assurance. **God Himself will keep your foot from being caught in a snare (3:26 NIV).** The presence of **ADONAI** is to be connected to the teaching explicit elsewhere in **Proverbs** that those who are **wise** are in a relationship with **YHVH** (see [Ai](#) - **For the Fear of ADONAI is the Beginning of Wisdom**).⁹⁶

*Dear heavenly **Father**, praise **You** for **Your** great **wisdom** shown when **You** spoke the earth into existence. The amazing complexities of the earth prove a **Creator** with great **wisdom**. On what is the earth founded? When men question **God** as to why they have trials. **Job** questioned **God**, and **God** replied. “**Who is this that questions My wisdom with such ignorant words? Now brace yourself like a man because I have some questions for you, and you must answer them! “Where were you when I laid the foundations of earth? Tell Me, if you know so much. Who determined its dimensions and stretched out the surveying line? What supports its foundations set, and who laid its cornerstone” (Job 38:2-6)?***

Your wisdom** is proven by **Your creation** of the universe with all its perfect intricates: each animal perfectly formed for its own environment, and mankind with so many perfectly formed systems, all working together. **The body** of each creature is so very vastly different, yet perfectly formed. **All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one flesh of humans, another flesh of animals, another of birds, and another of fish. There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one thing while the earthly is another (First Corinthians 15:39-40).

It is an easy thing for you to know how to form new bodies for heavenly living. As

*you so perfectly formed the universe and each creature for living on earth, so with the same fantastic **wisdom** and astounding ability **You** are able to create **bodies** that will no longer die but will live in peace and eternal joy in heaven with **You**. **He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more. Nor shall there be mourning or crying or pain any longer, for the former things have passed away (Revelation 21:4).***

***Your wisdom** proves that you are an infinitely **wise Father** who can be trusted to: guide me at all times and to create a new heavenly **body** for everyone who loves **You**. **So also is the resurrection of the dead: Sown in corruption, raised in incorruption! Sown in dishonor, raised in glory! Sown in weakness, raised in power! Sown a natural body, raised a spiritual body (First Corinthians 15:42-44a)!** It is a joy to follow **Your** ways for **You** always choose the best path for me. In **Messiah Yeshua's** holy **Name** and power of **His** resurrection. Amen*