

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 206 – Proved By Wisdom Through Man Made Upright (Ecclesiastes 7:23-29)

1. Did Solomon reach the level of wisdom he desired?

No: *“All this have I proved by wisdom: I said, I will be wise; but it was far from me” (Ecclesiastes 7:23).*

- Consider this as commentary: *“Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea further; though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it” (Ecclesiastes 8:17).*
- Solomon had wisdom unlike any other man on earth (**I Kings 3:12**). Yet, even he could not obtain the depth of the wisdom of God (**Luke 11:31**; cf. **Job 11:7-9, Job 37:23, Isaiah 55:7-9, and Romans 11:33-36**).
- The treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in God (**Colossians 2:1-3**).

2. Are there some things beyond our reach of knowledge?

Yes: *“That which is far off, and exceeding deep, who can find it out” (Ecclesiastes 7:24)?*

- In continuation of what we discussed, it is God’s thoughts that are very deep (**Psalms 36:6 and Psalms 92:5**).
- This does not mean that the Scriptures cannot be understood (**Deuteronomy 30:11-14 and Ephesians 3:1-4**).

3. Is your heart involved in the searching out of wisdom, the reason of things, etc.?

Yes: *“I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness” (Ecclesiastes 7:25).*

- **Deuteronomy 4:29, I Chronicles 22:19, I Chronicles 28:9, Ezra 7:10, Ecclesiastes 1:13, Jeremiah 29:13, Luke 8:15, and Romans 6:17.**
- Solomon wanted to understand madness, foolishness, and folly (**Ecclesiastes 1:17**).
- It is beneficial to understand some things about fools (**Proverbs 14:7, Proverbs 15:5, Proverbs 27:22**, etc.).
- Folly [silliness] is a result of foolishness (**Proverbs 26:11**) or being naïve (**Proverbs 14:18**).
- Knowing about sinfulness prepares us to combat and avoid it (**II Corinthians 2:11**).

4. What did Solomon say was more bitter than death?

A woman who traps men: *“And I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart is snares and nets, and her hands as bands: whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her” (Ecclesiastes 7:26).*

- **Judges 16:1-21, Proverbs 5:3-5, Proverbs 7:21-27, Proverbs 9:13-18, Proverbs 22:14, Proverbs 23:27-28, and Matthew 14:1-11.**

5. What did Solomon seek to find the account [Strong’s #2808; reasoning] of which he could not find?

SEEMINGLY, he was trying to figure out the reasoning of a woman and could not understand it: *“(27) Behold, this have I found, saith the preacher, counting one by one, to find out the account: (28) Which yet my soul seeketh, but I find not: one man among a thousand have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found” (Ecclesiastes 7:27-28).*

- IF, and I say IF, Solomon was talking about finding faithful men vs. women, one in a thousand may be what he was saying (**Psalms 12:1-2, Luke 13:23-24, and Luke 18:8**). A good woman is hard to find and she is precious for sure (**Proverbs 31:10**).
- IF, and I say IF, Solomon was saying people are hard to understand and saying women even more so than men, that is understandable too. It could also be that Solomon, when he was faithful, was taught to be on guard with women (**Proverbs 31:3**).

6. Whose fault is it that mankind erred?

Man’s fault: *“Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions” (Ecclesiastes 7:29).*

- God made us in His likeness (**Genesis 1:26-27**). Man destroyed that (**Romans 5:12**).
- When sin abounds we can only blame ourselves (**Ezekiel 18:20, Ezekiel 18:30, Galatians 6:7-8, James 4:17, and I John 3:4**).