

Wisdom of Men (or the Power of God)

1 Cor 2:1-16

¹And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of **wisdom**, declaring unto you the testimony of God. ²For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. ⁴And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's **wisdom**, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: ⁵That your faith should not stand in the **wisdom** of men, but in the power of God.

⁶Howbeit we speak **wisdom** among them that are perfect: yet not the **wisdom** of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: ⁷But we speak the **wisdom** of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden **wisdom**, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: ⁸Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. ¹⁰But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. ¹¹For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. ¹³Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's **wisdom** teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. ¹⁶For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Purpose of study: Should we listen to the wisdom of men or rely on the power of God?

REFERENCES OF 'WISDOM' IN JOB:

Bullinger's Note on Job 2.11 – Three friends & their different “wise” viewpoints:

Eliphaz: “He argued from the standpoint of human experience.”

Bildad: “He argued from human tradition.”

Zophar: “He argued from the ground of human merit.”

1. Doth not their excellency *which is* in them go away? They die, even without **wisdom**. Job 4.21 (Eliphaz)

H2451 chokmâh From H2449; **wisdom** (in a good sense):—skillful, **wisdom**, wisely, wit.
2. *Is* not my help in me? And is **wisdom** driven quite from me? Job 6.13 (Job)

H8454 toshyah to substantiate, support, ability, help (in purpose) an undertaking, understanding, enterprise, substance, (sound) wisdom, working.
3. And that he would show thee the secrets of **wisdom (H2451)**, that *they are* double to that which is! Know therefore that God exacteth of thee *less* than thine iniquity deserveth. Job 11.6 (Zophar)
4. No doubt but ye *are* the people, and **wisdom** shall die with you. Job 12.2 (Job)
5. With the ancient *is* **wisdom**; and in length of days understanding. With him *is* **wisdom** and strength, he hath counsel and understanding. Job 12.12,13 (Job)
6. With him *is* strength and **wisdom (H8454)**: the deceived and the deceiver *are* his. Job 12.16 (Job)
7. O that ye would altogether hold your peace! and it should be your **wisdom**. Job 13.5 (Job)
8. Hast thou heard the secret of God? and dost thou restrain **wisdom** to thyself? Job 15.8 (Eliphaz)
9. How hast thou counselled *him that hath* no **wisdom**? and *how* hast thou plentifully declared the thing as it is? Job 26.3 (Job)
10. But where shall **wisdom** be found? and where *is* the place of understanding? Job 28.12 (Zophar)
11. No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of **wisdom** *is* above rubies. Job 28.18 (Zophar)
12. Whence then cometh **wisdom**? and where *is* the place of understanding? Job 28.20 (Zophar)
13. And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that *is* **wisdom**; and to depart from evil *is* understanding. Job 28.28 (Zophar)

Are Zophar's words correct? NO!

Psalms 111:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of **wisdom** (H2451); a good understanding have all they that do His commandments

14. I said, Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach **wisdom**. Job 32.7 (Job)
15. Lest ye should say, We have found out **wisdom**: God thrusteth him down, not man. Job 32.13 (**ELIHU – a new person on the scene!)
16. If not, hearken unto me: hold thy peace, and I shall teach thee **wisdom**. Job 33.33 (Elihu)
17. Job hath spoken without knowledge, and his words *were* without **wisdom**. Job 34.35 (Elihu)
18. Behold, God *is* mighty, and despiseth not *any*: *he is* mighty in strength and **wisdom**. Job 36.5 (Elihu)
19. Who hath put **wisdom** in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart? Job 38.36 (Jehovah)
20. Who can number the clouds in **wisdom**? or who can stay the bottles of heaven, Job 38.37
21. Because God hath deprived her of **wisdom**, neither hath he imparted to her understanding. Job 39.17
22. Doth the hawk fly by thy **wisdom**, *and* stretch her wings toward the south? Job 39.26

H998 biyah – understanding, knowledge, meaning, perfectly wisdom

Job 38:1-4 Then the Lord answered Job out of a whirlwind and said: who is this that has darkened counsel by words without knowledge. Gird up now thy loins like a man, for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare if thou have understanding.

Job 42:7 And it was so that after the Lord had spoken these words to Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee and against thy two friends, for you have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as My servant Job has.

Isaiah 11:2 And the spirit^{H7307} of the LORD^{H3068} shall rest^{H5117} upon him, the spirit^{H7307} of **wisdom**^{H2451} and understanding^{H998}, the spirit^{H7307} of counsel^{H6098} and might^{H1369}, the spirit^{H7307} of knowledge^{H1847} and of the fear^{H3374} of the LORD^{H3068};

H2451 chokmâh From H2449; **wisdom** (in a good sense):—skillful, **wisdom**, wisely, wit.

New Testament:

1 Cor 1:17-31 For Christ^{G5547} sent^{G649} me not to baptize^{G907}, but to preach^{G2097} the gospel^{G2097}: not with **wisdom**^{G4678} of words^{G3056}, lest^{G2443-G3361} the cross^{G4716} of Christ^{G5547} should be made^{G2758} of none^{G2758} effect^{G2758}. ¹⁸For the preaching^{G3056} of the cross^{G4716} is to them that perish^{G622} **foolishness**^{G3472}; but unto us which are saved^{G4982} it is the power^{G1411} of God^{G2316}. ¹⁹For it is written^{G1125}, I will destroy^{G622} the **wisdom**^{G4678} of the wise^{G4680}, and will bring^{G114} to nothing^{G114} the understanding^{G4907} of the prudent^{G4908}. ²⁰Where^{G4226} is the wise^{G4680}? where^{G4226} is the scribe^{G1122}? where^{G4226} is the disputer^{G4804} of this^{G5127} world^{G165}? hath not God^{G2316} made^{G3471} foolish^{G3471} the **wisdom**^{G4678} of this^{G5127} world^{G2889}? ²¹For after^{G1894} that in the **wisdom**^{G4678} of God^{G2316} the world^{G2889} by **wisdom**^{G4678} knew^{G1097} not God^{G2316}, it pleased^{G2106} God^{G2316} by the foolishness^{G3472} of preaching^{G2782} to save^{G4982} them that believe^{G4100}. ²²For the Jews^{G2453} require^{G154} a sign^{G4592}, and the Greeks^{G1672} seek^{G2212} after **wisdom**^{G4678}: ²³But we preach^{G2784} Christ^{G5547} crucified^{G4717}, unto the Jews^{G2453} a tumblingblock^{G4625}, and unto the Greeks^{G1672} **foolishness**^{G3472}; ²⁴But unto them which^{G3588} are called^{G2822}, both^{G5037} Jews^{G2453} and Greeks^{G1672}, Christ^{G5547} the power^{G1411} of God^{G2316}, and the **wisdom**^{G4678} of God^{G2316}. ²⁵Because^{G3754} the foolishness^{G3474} of God^{G2316} is wiser^{G4680} than men^{G444}; and the weakness^{G772} of God^{G2316} is stronger^{G2478} than men^{G444}.

²⁶For ye see^{G991} your^{G5216} calling^{G2821}, brethren^{G80}, how that not many^{G4183} wise^{G4680} men after^{G2596} the flesh^{G4561}, not many^{G4183} mighty^{G1415}, not many^{G4183} noble^{G2104}, are called: ²⁷But God^{G2316} hath chosen^{G1586} the foolish^{G3474} things of the world^{G2889} to confound^{G2617} the wise^{G4680}; and God^{G2316} hath chosen^{G1586} the weak^{G772} things of the world^{G2889} to confound^{G2617} the things which are mighty^{G2478}; ²⁸And base^{G36} things of the world^{G2889}, and things which are despised^{G1848}, hath God^{G2316} chosen^{G1586}, yea, and things which^{G3588} are not, to bring^{G2673} to nought^{G2673} things that are: ²⁹That no^{G3361}-^{G3956} flesh^{G4561} should glory^{G2744} in his presence^{G1799}. ³⁰But of him are ye in Christ^{G5547} Jesus^{G2424}, who^{G3739} of God^{G2316} is made^{G1096} unto us **wisdom**^{G4678}, and righteousness^{G1343}, and sanctification^{G38}, and redemption^{G629}: ³¹That, according^{G2531} as it is written^{G1125}, He that glorieth^{G2744}, let him glory^{G2744} in the Lord^{G2962}.

G4678 sophia From G4680; *wisdom* (higher or lower, worldly or spiritual):—wisdom.

James 3:13-18 Who^{G5101} is a **wise**^{G4680} man and endued^{G1990} with knowledge^{G1990} among^{G1722} you? let him show^{G1166} out of a good^{G2570} conversation^{G391} his works^{G2041} with meekness^{G4240} of **wisdom**^{G4678}. ¹⁴But if^{G1487} ye have^{G2192} bitter^{G4089} envying^{G2205} and strife^{G2052} in your^{G5216} hearts^{G2588}, glory^{G2620} not, and lie^{G5574} not against^{G2596} the truth^{G225}. ¹⁵This^{G3778} **wisdom**^{G4678} descendeth^{G2718} not from above^{G509}, but is

earthly^{G1919}, sensual^{G5591}, devilish^{G1141}. ¹⁶For where^{G3699} envying^{G2205} and strife^{G2052} is, there^{G1563} is confusion^{G181} and every^{G3956} evil^{G5337} work^{G4229}. ¹⁷But the **wisdom**^{G4678} that is from above^{G509} is first^{G4412} pure^{G53}, then^{G1899} peaceable^{G1516}, gentle^{G1933}, and easy^{G2138} to be entreated^{G2138}, full^{G3324} of mercy^{G1656} and good^{G18} fruits^{G2590}, without^{G505} partiality^{G87}, and without^{G505} hypocrisy^{G505}. ¹⁸And the fruit^{G2590} of righteousness^{G1343} is sown^{G4687} in peace^{G1515} of them that make^{G4160} peace^{G1515}.

Eph1:3-10 ³Blessed^{G2128} be the God^{G2316} and Father^{G3962} of our Lord^{G2962} Jesus^{G2424} Christ^{G5547}, who^{G3588} hath blessed^{G2127} us with all^{G3956} spiritual^{G4152} blessings^{G2129} in heavenly^{G2032} places in Christ^{G5547}: ⁴According^{G2531} as he hath chosen^{G1586} us in him before^{G4253} the foundation^{G2602} of the world^{G2889}, that we should be holy^{G40} and without^{G299} blame^{G299} before^{G2714} him in love^{G26}: ⁵Having predestinated^{G4309} us unto the adoption^{G5206} of children^{G5206} by Jesus^{G2424} Christ^{G5547} to himself^{G848}, according^{G2596} to the good pleasure^{G2107} of his will^{G2307}, ⁶To the praise^{G1868} of the glory^{G1391} of his grace^{G5485}, wherein^{G1722-G3757} he hath made^{G5487} us accepted^{G5487} in the beloved^{G25}. ⁷In whom^{G3739} we have^{G2192} redemption^{G629} through^{G1223} his blood^{G129}, the forgiveness^{G859} of sins^{G3900}, according^{G2596} to the riches^{G4149} of his grace^{G5485}; ⁸Wherein^{G3757} he hath abounded^{G4052} toward^{G1519} us in all^{G3956} **wisdom**^{G4678} and prudence^{G5428}; ⁹Having made^{G1107} known^{G1107} unto us the mystery^{G3466} of his will^{G2307}, according^{G2596} to his good pleasure^{G2107} which^{G3739} he hath purposed^{G4388} in himself^{G848}: ¹⁰That in the dispensation^{G3622} of the fulness^{G4138} of times^{G2540} he might gather^{G346} together^{G346} in one all^{G3956} things in Christ^{G5547}, both^{G5037} which^{G3588} are in heaven^{G3772}, and which^{G3588} are on^{G1909} earth^{G1093}; even in him:

G4678 sophia From G4680; *wisdom* (higher or lower, worldly or spiritual):—wisdom.

Eph 3:9-11 And to make^{G5461} all^{G3956} men see^{G5461} what^{G5101} is the fellowship^{G2842} of the mystery^{G3466}, which^{G3588} from the beginning of the world^{G165} hath been hid^{G614} in God^{G2316}, who^{G3588} created^{G2936} all^{G3956} things by Jesus^{G2424} Christ^{G5547}: ¹⁰To the intent^{G2443} that now^{G3568} unto the principalities^{G746} and powers^{G1849} in heavenly^{G2032} places might be known^{G1107} by the church^{G1577} the manifold^{G4182} **wisdom**^{G4678} of God^{G2316}, ¹¹According^{G2596} to the eternal^{G165} purpose^{G4286} which^{G3739} he purposed^{G4160} in Christ^{G5547} Jesus^{G2424} our Lord^{G2962}:

Col 1:9-11 ⁹For this^{G5124} cause^{G1223-G5124} we also^{G2532}, since^{G575} the day^{G2250} we heard^{G191} it, do not cease^{G3973} to pray^{G4336} for you, and to desire^{G154} that ye might be filled^{G4137} with the knowledge^{G1922} of his will^{G2307} in all^{G3956} **wisdom**^{G4678} and spiritual^{G4152} understanding^{G4907}; ¹⁰That ye might walk^{G4043} worthy^{G516} of the Lord^{G2962} unto all^{G3956} pleasing^{G699}, being fruitful^{G2592} in every^{G3956} good^{G18} work^{G2041}, and increasing^{G837} in the knowledge^{G1922} of God^{G2316}; ¹¹Strengthened^{G1412} with all^{G3956} might^{G1411}, according^{G2596} to his glorious^{G1391} **power**^{G2904}, unto all^{G3956} patience^{G5281} and longsuffering^{G3115} with joyfulness^{G5479};

G2904 kratos Perhaps a primary word; *vigor* [“great”], (literally or figuratively):—dominion, might [-ily], **power**, strength

Power:

I Cor 2:5 That your [G5216](#) faith [G4102](#) should not stand [G1510](#) in the **wisdom** [G4678](#) of men [G444](#), but in the **power** [G1411](#) of God [G2316](#).

G1411 dunamis From G1410; *force* (literally or figuratively); specifically miraculous *power* (usually by implication a *miracle* itself):—ability, abundance, meaning, might (-ily, -y, -y deed), (worker of) miracle (-s), **power, strength**, violence, mighty (wonderful) work.

Ex 15:6-8 Thy right [H3225](#) hand [H3225](#), O LORD [H3068](#), is become [H142](#) glorious [H142](#) in **power** [H3581](#): thy right [H3225](#) hand [H3225](#), O LORD [H3068](#), hath dashed [H7492](#) in pieces the enemy [H341](#). ⁷And in the greatness [H7230](#) of thine excellency [H1347](#) thou hast overthrown [H2040](#) them that rose [H6965](#) up against [H6965](#) thee: thou sentest [H7971](#) forth thy wrath [H2740](#), which [H834](#) consumed [H398](#) them as stubble [H7179](#). ⁸And with the blast [H7307](#) of thy nostrils [H639](#) the waters [H4325](#) were gathered [H6192](#) together, the floods [H5140](#) stood [H5324](#) upright as an heap [H5067](#), and the depths [H8415](#) were congealed [H7087](#) in the heart [H3820](#) of the sea [H3220](#).

H3581 ἄκωαχ κωαχ - From an unused root meaning to *be firm*; *vigor*, literally (**force**, in a good or a bad sense) or figuratively (*capacity, means, produce*); also (from its hardness) a large *lizard*:—ability, able, chameleon, force, fruits, might, **power (-ful)**, strength, substance, wealth.

1 Chron 29:11-12 Thine, O LORD [H3068](#), is the greatness [H1420](#), and the **power** [H1369](#), and the glory [H8597](#), and the victory [H5331](#), and the majesty [H1935](#): for all [H3605](#) that is in the heaven [H8064](#) and in the earth [H776](#) is thine; thine is the kingdom [H4467](#), O LORD [H3068](#), and thou art exalted [H5375](#) as head [H7218](#) above all [H3605](#). ¹²Both riches [H6239](#) and honour [H3519](#) come of thee, and thou reignest [H4910](#) over [H4605](#) all [H3605](#); and in thine hand [H3027](#) is **power** [H3581](#) and might [H1369](#); and in thine hand [H3027](#) it is to make great [H1431](#), and to give strength [H2388](#) unto all [H3605](#).

H1369 ḡ^ebûrâh Feminine passive participle from the same as H1368; *force* (literally or figuratively); by implication *valor, victory*:—force, mastery, **might, mighty (act, power), power, strength**.

Rom 1:20-23 For the invisible [G517](#) things of him from the creation [G2937](#) of the world [G2889](#) are clearly [G2529](#) seen [G2529](#), being understood [G3539](#) by the things that are made [G4161](#), even his eternal [G126](#) **power** [G1411](#) and Godhead [G2305](#); so [G1519](#) that they are without [G379](#) excuse [G379](#): ²¹Because [G1360](#) that, when they knew [G1097](#) God [G2316](#), they glorified [G1392](#) him

not as God [G2316](#), neither [G2228](#) were thankful [G2168](#); but became [G3154](#) vain [G3154](#) in their imaginations [G1261](#), and their foolish [G801](#) heart [G2588](#) was darkened [G4654](#). ²²Professing [G5335](#) themselves to be **wise** [G4680](#), they became [G3471](#) fools [G3471](#), ²³And changed [G236](#) the glory [G1391](#) of the uncorruptible [G862](#) God [G2316](#) into [G1722](#) an image [G1504](#) made [G4161](#) like [G3667](#) to corruptible [G5349](#) man [G444](#), and to birds [G4071](#), and fourfooted [G5074](#) beasts [G5074](#), and creeping [G2062](#) things. ²⁴Wherefore [G1352](#) God [G2316](#) also [G2532](#) gave [G3860](#) them up to uncleanness [G167](#) through [G1722](#) the lusts [G1939](#) of their own hearts [G2588](#), to dishonour [G818](#) their own bodies [G4983](#) between [G1722](#) themselves [G1438](#): ²⁵Who [G3748](#) changed [G3337](#) the truth [G225](#) of God [G2316](#) into [G1722](#) a lie [G5579](#), and worshipped [G4573](#) and served [G3000](#) the creature [G2937](#) more [G3844](#) than [G3844](#) the Creator [G2936](#), who [G3739](#) is blessed [G2128](#) for ever [G165](#). Amen [G281](#).

Eph 1:19-22 And what [G5101](#) is the exceeding [G5235](#) greatness [G3174](#) of his **power** [G1411](#) to us-ward [G1519-G5209](#) who [G3588](#) believe [G4100](#), according [G2596](#) to the working [G1753](#) of his mighty [G2479](#) **power** [G2904](#), ²⁰Which [G3739](#) he wrought [G1754](#) in Christ [G5547](#), when he raised [G1453](#) him from the dead [G3498](#), and set [G2523](#) him at [G1722](#) his own [G848](#) right [G1188](#) hand in the heavenly [G2032](#) places, ²¹Far [G5231](#) above [G5231](#) all [G3956](#) principality [G746](#), and **power** [G1849](#), and **might** [G1411](#), and dominion [G2963](#), and every [G3956](#) name [G3686](#) that is named [G3687](#), not only [G3440](#) in this [G3588](#) world [G165](#), but also [G2532](#) in that which is to come [G3195](#):

G2904 kratos Perhaps a primary word; *vigor* [“great”], (literally or figuratively):—dominion, might [-ily], **power, strength**.

G1849 exousia From [G1832](#) (in the sense of *ability*); *privilege*, that is, (subjectively) *force, capacity, competency, freedom*, or (objectively) *mastery* (concretely *magistrate, superhuman, potentate, token of control*), delegated *influence*:—authority, jurisdiction, liberty, **power, right, strength**.

G1411 dunamis From [G1410](#); *force* (literally or figuratively); specifically miraculous *power* (usually by implication a *miracle* itself):—ability, abundance, meaning, might (-ily, -y, -y deed), (worker of) miracle (-s), power, strength, violence, mighty (wonderful) work.

Eph 3:20 May be able [G1840](#) to comprehend [G2638](#) with all [G3956](#) saints [G40](#) what [G5101](#) is the breadth [G4114](#), and length [G3372](#), and depth [G899](#), and height [G5311](#); ¹⁹And to know [G1097](#) the love [G26](#) of Christ [G5547](#), which passeth [G5235](#) knowledge [G1108](#), that ye might be filled [G4137](#) with all [G3956](#) the fulness [G4138](#) of God [G2316](#). ²⁰Now [G1161](#) unto him that is able [G1410](#) to do [G4160](#) exceeding [G5228](#) abundantly [G1537-G4053](#) above [G5228](#) all [G3956](#) that we ask [G154](#) or [G2228](#) think [G3539](#), according [G2596](#) to the **power** [G1411](#) that worketh [G1754](#) in us,

Phil 3:10 That I may know [G1097](#) him, and the **power** [G1411](#) of his resurrection [G386](#), and the fellowship [G2842](#) of his sufferings [G3804](#), being made [G4832](#) conformable [G4832](#) unto his death [G2288](#);

1 Kings 4:29

And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.

And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt.

1 Kings 4:34

And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom.

Ecclesiastes 1:17

And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit. For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.

Ecclesiastes 2:3

I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life.

1 Kings 11:3

And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.

So how wise was Solomon after all? Wisdom of men!

Conclusion: These times are difficult, challenging and filled with noise about chaos and the lying words of men, that some call man's wisdom. Politically charged times. Covid 19 fears. Unemployment. Economy volatile. Protesting. Looting. Chaos. Who is the author of chaos? Who is the author of deceit and lies? There is no wisdom of men that is righteous. Therefore, remember who ultimately is in control and lean not on your own understanding! Focus on God and he will lead you to make the right choices. He is still in Power! He is still in control and He will set up or He will tear down power and authorities of man. We have Dunamis power. Access it through His Word and feel the Power of His resurrection! We don't have the Spirit of fear but of power and His might!