

(11-17-19)

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TEXT: Ecclesiastes 8:1 Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing?...

2 I counsel thee to keep the king's commandment...

3 Be not hasty to go out of his sight: **stand not in an evil thing; for he doeth whatsoever pleaseth him.**

4 Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou?

17 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.

1 Timothy 5:19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.

Proverbs 25:3 The heaven for height, and the earth for depth, and **the heart of kings is unsearchable.**

"He shows that it is too hard for man to attain the reason of all the secret doings of the king, even when he is upright and does his duty." (*Geneva Notes*)

"Many of his purposes are far beyond the comprehension of the great mass of his people; so that to their minds the heart of kings is unsearchable...**Ought not this to teach forbearance in pronouncing judgment?** Are not the 'presumptuous and self-willed, who are not afraid of speaking evil of dignities,' convicted of the guilt of 'speaking evil of the things that they understand not'?" (Charles Bridges, *Exposition of the Book of Proverbs*, 1850)

Numbers 16:3 And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?

13 Is it a small thing that thou hast brought us up out of a land that floweth with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, except thou make thyself altogether a prince over us?

14 Moreover thou hast not brought us into a land that floweth with milk and honey, or given us inheritance of fields and vineyards...

32 And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained **unto Korah**, and all their goods.

Jude 1:8 Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, **despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.**

9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him **a railing accusation**, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

10 But these **speak evil of those things which they know not...**

11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and **perished in the gainsaying of Core.**

Deuteronomy 24:9 Remember what the LORD thy God did unto Miriam by the way, after that ye were come forth out of Egypt.

Numbers 12:1 And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married...

2 And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it.

10 And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became

leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous.

Proverbs 30:11 There is a generation that **curseth their father**, and doth not bless their mother.

12 There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

Hosea 4:4 Yet let no man strive, nor reprove another: for **thy people** are as they that strive with the priest.

Exodus 16:20 Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: **and Moses was wroth with them.**

Exodus 32:19 And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and **Moses' anger waxed hot**, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.

Leviticus 10:16...and he was **angry** with Eleazar and Ithamar...

Numbers 16:15 And Moses was **very wroth**...

Numbers 31:14 And Moses **was wroth** with the officers of the host...

2 Kings 13:19 And the man of God was wroth with him...

Nehemiah 5:6 And I was **very angry** when I heard their cry and these words.

Mark 3:5 And when he had looked round about on them **with anger**...

Ecclesiastes 10:4 If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offences.

Proverbs 30:32 If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, lay thine hand upon thy mouth.

Ecclesiastes 3:11...no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

7:23 All this have I proved by wisdom: I said, I will be wise; but it was far from me.

24 That which is far off, and exceeding deep, who can find it out?

11:5 As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God

who maketh all.

Job 11:7 Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?

8 It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know?

12 For vain man would be wise, though man be born like a wild ass's colt.

Isaiah 40:28...hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? **there is no searching of his understanding.**

Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Romans 11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and **lean not unto thine own understanding.**

7 **Be not wise in thine own eyes:** fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

Proverbs 23:4 Labour not to be rich: **cease from thine own wisdom.**

Proverbs 28:26 He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool...

Proverbs 30:3 I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy.

Jeremiah 10:23 O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: **it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.**

24 O LORD, correct me, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing.

Romans 12:16...Be not wise in your own conceits.

1 Corinthians 1:20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

1 Corinthians 3:18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God...

1 Corinthians 8:2 And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.

"...in Scripture, we are not competent judges...we are not in any sort competent judges what supernatural instruction were to have been expected..."

(Butler, *The Analogy of Religion*, 1736)

"...the analogy of his natural government suggests, and makes it credible, that his moral government must be a scheme quite beyond our comprehension...Nor can we give the whole account of any one thing...of all its causes, ends..." (Butler)

"...objections drawn from...things in [the Bible] appearing to men foolishness; from its containing matters of offence...It would be tedious, indeed impossible, to enumerate the several particulars comprehended under the objections here referred to; they being so various, according to the different fancies of men. There are persons who think it a strong objection against the authority of Scripture, that it is not composed by rules of art, agreed upon by critics, for polite and correct writing...I express myself with caution, lest I should be mistaken to vilify reason, which is indeed the only faculty we have wherewith to judge concerning any thing...[But] we are in no sort judges, beforehand, by what laws or rules, in what degree, or by what means, it were to have been expected that God would naturally instruct us..." (Butler)

"...the analogy of nature renders it highly credible beforehand, that, supposing a revelation to be made, it must contain many things very different from what we should have expected, and such as appear open to great objections..." (Butler)

Romans 11:34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?

Isaiah 40:13 Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him?

Romans 9:20 Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God?...

Isaiah 41:21 Produce your cause, saith the LORD; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob.

22 Let them bring them forth, and shew us what shall happen: let them shew the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come.

23 Shew the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods: yea, do good, or do evil, that we may be dismayed, and behold it together.

24 Behold, ye are of nothing...