

The Wise Shall Understand

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I would like to start today by turning to Daniel 12.

Daniel 12:10 *Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand. (NKJV)*

That's my title for today.

The Wise Shall Understand

Reading through this, I read this scripture and two questions came to my mind. Who are the wise and what are they to understand? The context of Daniel 12 is assumed to be end time events. Many have taken this verse to mean that at the end time God will make available, wisdom to understand some of the prophecies that we haven't understood. We've come up with interpretations for some of these ancient prophecies. It seems that our batting average for churches in general have been pretty bad when it comes to that. There's a problem with this and that involves intellectual vanity. We'd like to know something that other people don't know. There is an important principle. I would like to turn to Deuteronomy 29:29.

Deuteronomy 29:29 *"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. (NKJV)*

There are things that belong to God and things that He hasn't revealed to us. An example I would say is in Matthew 24:35.

Matthew 24:35 *Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.
36) But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. (NKJV)*

God has set limits on what He tells us. He has withheld some things and for a definite purpose. In security clearance there is a term, need to know, and I believe there are many things that God feels we don't need to know. At least in what He is teaching us. He's teaching us things and giving us things we need for our education. I feel that one important principle concerning prophecy is the "after-the-fact" principle. We look at the prophecy after it's been fulfilled and then we look back to see how God has fulfilled the prophecy—fulfilled amazingly—and not at all like what we expected. But it perfectly fits with what He said would happen. I think that God does that to inspire us. We see how He does things and quite often, not the way we would expect.

I think God is teaching us to discern between knowledge that produces Godly character and knowledge that is perhaps distracting. I think there is danger that we need to be aware of and it involves understanding our human nature. Our human nature tells us that we need to know everything and we don't. Being satisfied with and thankful for what God does give us I think is a mark of humility and something God is always teaching. In *Fiddler on the Roof*, it's interesting when Hodel was waiting for a train to take her off to Siberia, she said, "Papa God alone knows and we'll see each other again". Tevye said, "Then we will leave it in His hands". There are a lot of things we just need to leave in God's hands.

I believe a wise principle is "leaving things in God's hands" because He knows precisely what to do. God is our teacher and He is a perfect teacher. He knows how to teach each and every one of us individually. He knows what we need to know to bring us to the character that He wants us to have.

Back to Daniel 12, who are the wise? First, we need to know where wisdom comes from. First look at Daniel 2:20.

Daniel 2:20 *Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His.*

21) And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise, And knowledge to those who have understanding.

22) He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him. (NKJV)

God knows all things and He can give wisdom at His discretion. God gave wisdom to King Solomon. I think that is an example we could look at. That's in 1 Kings 3:5.

1 Kings 3:5 *At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?"*

6) And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

7) Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.

8) And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted.

9) Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

10) The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.

11) Then God said to him: "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked

the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice,

12) behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you. (NKJV)

God is able to do that. God is also able to take away wisdom. Look at Romans 1:22.

Romans 1:22 *Professing to be wise, they became fools,*

23) and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

24) Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

25) who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

26) For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.

27) Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

28) And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

29) being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,

30) backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31) undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;

32) who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. (NKJV)

God can give wisdom and take away wisdom and what is written right here is quite a good description of this world we are in. I would like to turn to 1 Corinthians 1:18.

1 Corinthians 1:18 *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

19) For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."

20) Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

21) For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

22) For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom;

23) *but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,*
24) *but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*
25) *Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*
26) *For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.*
27) *But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;*
28) *and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are ...*
(NKJV)

This is who God calls—God calls *the weak of the world*. One verse in Matthew 11:25.

Matthew 11:25 *At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. (NKJV)*

This is who God calls and reveals things to *babes*. Really to what are considered "*the weak of the world*". Let's look at Matthew 18:2.

Matthew 18:2 *Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them,*
3) *and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.*
4) *Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (NKJV)*

This all fits together and we can see who God is calling. He's calling who the world considers the foolish, to show up the wise of this world. The Scribes and Pharisees tried to look wise and look righteous outwardly. Christ said they had their reward. That's in Matthew 6:1.

Matthew 6:1 *"Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise, you have no reward from your Father in heaven.*
2) *Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.*
3) *But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,*
4) *that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.*

5) *“And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.*

6) *But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.* (NKJV)

If we try to gain wisdom in order to look wise, we lose our chance at God’s Kingdom. Those who will have wisdom are those that realize that wisdom really comes from God. Daniel 12:10 as we read says, *“None of the wicked shall understand but the wise shall understand.”* This certainly depicts this world we are in today.

Where God has withheld the wisdom—to what we call *the wise of the world*—and revealed it to a very few people. He has revealed it in His tremendous mercy, giving us what we have. Christ gave us an outline of end time events. If God does reveal to us more exactly, some of the things that are going to happen at the end time, I think it’s just going to be a bonus; an undeserved bonus.

What are the most important things for us to understand at this time? Mr. Armstrong spoke often about *the trunk of the tree*. Winston Churchill spoke of a *great plan being worked out here below*. Knowing the only true God and His plan that He is working out on this earth, really are *the trunk of the tree*. I feel by far, the most important wisdom we can understand is that. I tried to outline these things in six points. Who is God and what is His plan? What is He doing?

1. There is one true God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

Deuteronomy 4:34 *Or did God ever try to go and take for Himself a nation from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?*

35) *To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD Himself is God; there is none other besides Him.*

36) *Out of heaven He let you hear His voice, that He might instruct you; on earth He showed you His great fire, and you heard His words out of the midst of the fire.*

37) *And because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them; and He brought you out of Egypt with His Presence, with His mighty power,*

38) *driving out from before you, nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in, to give you their land as an inheritance, as it is this day.*

39) *Therefore, know this day, and consider it in your heart, that the LORD Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.* (NKJV)

So, there is one true God. Job had to learn that in Job 38:1.

Job 38:1 *Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:*

2) *Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge?*

3) *Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.*

4) *Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.*

5) *Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?*

6) *To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone,*

7) *When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?*

We can read on here about the awesomeness of God and creating all of this. So, there is one true God and Jesus Christ, His Son. (NKJV)

2. God created this physical world and we humans, as a required part of His plan.

Just one scripture, Romans 1:20, which we've read many times probably.

Romans 1:20 *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse ... (NKJV)*

It's really amazing that we are in this physical world and a part of it. We have our human bodies. We have life, which is an awesome gift from God and it's all taken for granted by the whole world. God really has given us eyes to see His creation that is around us. I have mentioned Michael Behe—he has written a number of books on intelligent design. His field is biochemistry. There are instruments now that allow scientists to delve into the human body and actually determine the function of various parts. That intelligent design is inescapable. Dr. Behe in one of his books said:

*Intelligent design is now the elephant in the room.
The problem is there is a sign on the elephant that says "God".*

So there has to be design. This is something the educational world just can't accept. The only fall back they have is evolution or some variation of that.

Recently we have witnessed some of the products of this world's educational system, at least in our country. The system is really imploding and people are turning against colleges and college education. Mark Stein, in an article last week said

The three R's now are reading, writing, and rioting.

Mr. Davis Hansen in an article, [American Paralysis and Decline](#) quoted the Roman historian Levy, and said we can neither bury the diseases nor the remedies and hence, societies implode gradually and then suddenly. So, this is what happens when God takes away the wisdom of the world—or the so-called wisdom. Today the world is blind

to what God has created, but God in His mercy has shown us what He has created and how awesome that creation is and to be a part of it.

3. God's ultimate purpose is the creation of the spirit beings to add to His family.

God is creating spirit beings to add to His family. Romans 8:11.

Romans 8:11 *But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*

12) *Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.*

13) *For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

14) *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

15) *For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption [or sonship as some say] by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."*

16) *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*

17) *and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. (NKJV)*

1 Corinthians 15:49 *And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.*

50) *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.*

51) *Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—*

52) *in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

53) *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

54) *So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." (NKJV)*

So, God's purpose is bringing many new beings into His family is thus a key part of His plan.

4. This physical life is a training period to form in humans the character that God wants us to have as His children.

That requires becoming like loving children. I would like to look at Matthew 5:1. This is the "Sermon on the Mount" and I think a good overview of the kinds of things God is looking for in the people that He is trying to train to be His children.

Matthew 5:1 *And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.*

2) *Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:*

3) *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

4) *Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.*

5) *Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.*

6) *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.*

7) *Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.*

8) *Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.*

9) *Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. (NKJV)*

I think these points depict the kind of person that God is looking for. Humility is taught by God as we let His Spirit guide us in this life. The problems of this world won't exist in God's Kingdom because God is allowing only those He has chosen and trained to be His children, to become part of His family, His Kingdom. Those with the loving nature of a little child. Matthew 18:3. We read this already.

Matthew 18:3 *and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.*

4) *Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (NKJV)*

Of such is in the kingdom of heaven. Those inhabiting God's Kingdom must have the characteristics of a little child. I think it must have been very hard for Jesus Christ to come into this world after living in an environment of heaven, to come and live amongst humans and see human nature. Isaiah 57:15.

Isaiah 57:15 *For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones. (NKJV)*

This is what God is looking for. I think a good study is to go through more of the book of Job and read it once in a while. Job had to learn the lesson of humility and he finally learned it. It was a hard lesson. Job 42:1.

Job 42:1 *Then Job answered the LORD and said:*

2) *I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.*

3) *You asked, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore, I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.*

4) *Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’*

5) *I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You.*

6) *Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes.*” (NKJV)

God taught Job a painful lesson but it was necessary for Job’s training.

5. Jesus Christ came as a human being to this earth and was crucified as a sacrifice so that we might be a part of God’s plan.

John 3:13 *No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.*

14) *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,*

15) *that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*

16) *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

17) *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.* (NKJV)

Part of our training is learning good versus evil and that requires that we sin. I think God has foreordained that—that we take part in some of these things and come to realize results of sin. So that sin has to be paid for and God sent His Son Jesus Christ as that sacrifice.

6. God has revealed at the end of His plan, a wonderful world to come.

We can see a little glimpse of that in Revelation 21:3.

Revelation 21:3 *And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.*

4) *And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”*

5) *Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”*

6) *And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.*

7) *He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.* (NKJV)

God’s plan is wonderful really beyond our wildest dreams. What I’m saying in all of this is, if we focus our minds on what God is doing—His wonderful plan, how amazing it is to be a part of what God is doing and leave the details to God—I think we will be advancing in the formation of the character that God wants us to have. I believe this is the *wisdom of the wise*.