

WISDOM FROM ABOVE

Request: James taught that if the believer lacked wisdom from above, he could ask God and it would be given to him generously and without reproach (Jms.1:5).

The Greek word for wisdom is Sophia. It refers to practical insight into the realities of life. In Hebrew, it is the word chakam. It refers to the believer's ability to apply CBD to the human experiences of life.

**This lesson will study four aspects of WISDOM FROM ABOVE.
explaining how the believer obtains and exercises it and what hinders it in the CWL.**

1. You might wonder, “Where did James get the idea that a believer could ask God for Wisdom From Above and receive it generously and without reproach?” (Jms.1:5)

Since the Book of James was among the first NT books written, it would come from the OT. We would naturally look into the wisdom literature section of the OT.

Proverbs would certainly be one book of the OT that discusses chakam (Prov.1:4-5). Proverbs is 1 of 5 wisdom literature books (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon).

One of the reasons is that Wisdom From Above is one of the subjects of the Book of Proverbs. And we believe that is because of King Solomon (1 King 4:32).

2. You might wonder “how do we know that God would give us Wisdom From Above generously and without reproach based on prayer?”

James is proof texting Solomon's Dream recorded in 1 Kings 3:5-28 (2:46b).

- Wish (1 Kings 3:5)
- Wisdom (1 Kings 3:6-9)
- Wealth (1 Kings 3:10-15)
- Wickedness (1 Kings 3:16-28)

3. In Jms.3:13-18, James contrasts two types of wisdom in world.

- One wisdom is called earthly, natural and demonic (Jms.3:15)
 - [Wisdom From Below / cosmos diabolicus – Satan].
- The other wisdom is called From above (Jms.3:15, 17)
 - [Wisdom From Above / divine viewpoint – God].

James opened his discussion regarding these two types of wisdom in the world that influence every member of the human race with this question:

- “Who among you is wise and understanding?” (Jms.3:13; Prov.4:5-9)

4. James characterizes cosmos diabolicus thinking (OMCD) as part of old man behavior and divine viewpoint thinking (NMDV) as part of new man behavior (Prov.23:7).

- **OMCD** (Jms.3:14-16; 1 Cor.1:20-21; 2:5-6, 13; 3:19-20)
- **NMDV** (Jms.3:13, 17-18; Col.1:9-10, 28; 4:5; Prov.24:3-4)