

Review

1. Recognise the limitations of our wisdom, as some things are too hard to understand
2. The challenge to pursue wisdom in the fear of God
3. Understanding God's original plan...that all men/women should be upright

The search for a wise man

"Who is like a wise man? Ecc 8:1

1. Solomon is searching for a wise man
2. It is not easy to find a wise man
3. Solomon described what a wise man should be in Proverbs 1
4. A description of a wise man Prov 1:2-7
 - a) To know wisdom and instruction,
 - b) To perceive the words of understanding,
 - c) To receive the instruction of wisdom
 - d) Justice, judgment, and equity
 - e) To give prudence to the simple
 - f) To the young man knowledge and discretion
 - g) A wise man will hear and increase learning
 - h) And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel
 - i) To understand a proverb and an enigma, the words of the wise and their riddles
 - j) The fear of the Lord
 - i) The fear of the Lord is to be seen as the beginning of knowledge
 - ii) Priority given to knowing the fear of the Lord

The ability of a wise man

1. He can interpret things
"And who knows the interpretation of a thing? Eccl 8:1
2. Many things need to be interpreted
3. When things are properly interpreted
 - a) Depth of understanding
 - b) Significance understood
4. When things are poorly interpreted
 - a) Shallow
 - b) Meaningless

The impact of wisdom

"A man's wisdom makes his face shine and the sternness of his face is changed." Eccl 8:1

1. Wisdom can impact the way a person looks
2. Wisdom makes a face shine
3. It changes the sternness of the face

Lessons to be learned

1. Recognise the need to pursue wisdom ...to be a wise man
2. Being a wise man gives us the ability to interpret the things of life
3. Wisdom can make a significant impact on our lives
 - a) To have a shining face
 - b) Not a stern one