

דרישה DRISHA

Winter Week of Learning 2015

Hokhma and Sophia: Extremes Meet? - Hindy Najman

Text 1: Proverbs 8:22-36

Prov. 8:22 “The LORD created me at the beginning of His course As the first of His works of old.

Prov. 8:23 In the distant past I was fashioned, At the beginning, at the origin of earth.

Prov. 8:24 There was still no deep when I was brought forth, No springs rich in water;

Prov. 8:25 Before [the foundation of] the mountains were sunk, Before the hills I was born.

Prov. 8:26 He had not yet made earth and fields, Or the world’s first clumps of clay.

Prov. 8:27 I was there when He set the heavens into place; When He fixed the horizon upon the deep;

Prov. 8:28 When He made the heavens above firm, And the fountains of the deep gushed forth;

Text 2: 1 Kings 3.4–14

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask, what shall I grant you?” . . . [Solomon replies] an understanding mind to judge Your people, to distinguish between good and bad; for who can judge this vast people of Yours? . . . [God replies] Because you asked for this—you did not ask for long life, you did not ask for riches, you did not ask for the life of your enemies, but you asked for discernment in dispensing justice. I now do as you have spoken. I grant you a wise and discerning mind; there has never been anyone like you before, nor will anyone arise again.

Text 3: 2 Chronicles 9:22-23

King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in wealth and wisdom. All the kings of the earth came to pay homage to Solomon and to listen to the wisdom which God had endowed him. . .

Text 4: Psalm 119

Psa. 119:145 I call with all my heart; answer me, O LORD, that I may observe Your laws. ..

Psa. 119:171 My lips shall pour forth praise, for You teach me Your laws.

Psa. 119:172 My tongue shall declare Your promise, for all Your commandments are just.

Psa. 119:173 Lend Your hand to help me, for I have chosen Your precepts.

Psa. 119:174 I have longed for Your deliverance, O LORD; Your teaching is my delight.

Psa. 119:175 Let me live, that I may praise You; may Your rules be my help;

Psa. 119:176 I have strayed like a lost sheep; search for Your servant, for have not neglected Your commandments.

Text 5: Ben Sira (Sirach) 14:20-21

20 Happy is the man who will meditate on wisdom and who will converse with his understanding.

21 He who considers her ways in his heart also will reflect on her obscurities.

Text 6: Wisdom of Solomon 7.17–22

For he himself gave me an unerring knowledge of the things that exist, to know the constitution of the world and the activity of the elements, the beginning and end and middle of times, the alterations of the solstices and the changes of the seasons, the cycles of the year and the constellations of the stars, the natures of animals and the tempers of wild animals, the violent

forces of spirits and the thoughts of human beings, the varieties of plants and the powers of roots, and all things, both what is secret and what is manifest, I learned, for she that is the fashioner of all things taught me, namely wisdom.

Text 7: Wisdom of Solomon 8.7

And if anyone loves righteousness, the fruits of her labors are virtues, for she teaches self-control and understanding, righteousness and courage; nothing is more useful in life than these for human beings.

Text 8: Wisdom of Solomon 9.6

Even if someone is perfect amongst human beings, if the wisdom that comes from [God] is absent, they will be considered to be nothing.

Text 9: Philo, On the Posterity and Exile of Cain, 136

For from what source is it natural for the mind that thirsts after wisdom to be filled, except from the wisdom of God, that fountain which never fails, and to which the soul that descends comes up again like a virtuous disciple?

Text 10: Job 38:4-38:17

Where were you when I laid the earth's foundations? Speak if you have understanding.
Do you know who fixed its dimensions Or who measured it with a line?
Onto what were its bases sunk? Who set its cornerstone?
When the morning stars sang together and all the divine beings shouted for joy?
Who closed the sea behind doors when it gushed forth out of the womb, ...
Have you ever commanded the day to break, assigned the dawn its place,
So that it seizes the corners of the earth and shakes the wicked out of it?
...Have you penetrated to the sources of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? Have the gates of death been disclosed to you? Have you seen the gates of deep darkness?

Text 11: Ben Sira 3:21-24

21 Things too difficult for you do not seek, and things too strong for you do not scrutinize.
22 The things that have been prescribed for you, think about these, for you have no need of hidden matters.
23 With matters greater than your affairs do not meddle, for things beyond human understanding have been shown to you.
24 For their presumption has led many astray, and their evil fancy has diminished their understanding.

Text 12: Ben Sira chapter 24

3 "I came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and like a mist I covered earth.
...9 Before the age, from the beginning, he created me, and until the age I will never fail.
10 In a holy tent I ministered before him, and thus in Sion I was firmly set.
...33 Still I will again pour out teaching like prophecy, and I will leave it behind for generations of eternity.
34 See that I have not toiled for myself alone but for all who seek it out.

Text 13: Daniel 12

Dan. 12:4 "But you, Daniel, keep the words secret, and seal the book until the time of the end. Many will range far and wide and knowledge will increase."

Dan. 12:5 Then I, Daniel, looked and saw two others standing, one on one bank of the river, the other on the other bank of the river.

Dan. 12:6 One said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the water of the river, “How long until the end of these awful things?”

Dan. 12:7 Then I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the water of the river, swear by the Ever-living One as he lifted his right hand and his left hand to heaven: “For a time, times, and half a time; and when the breaking of the power of the holy people comes to an end, then shall all these things be fulfilled.”

Dan. 12:8 I heard and did not understand, so I said, “My lord, what will be the outcome of these things?”

Dan. 12:9 He said, “Go, Daniel, for these words are secret and sealed to the time of the end.

Dan. 12:10 Many will be purified and purged and refined; the wicked will act wickedly and none of the wicked will understand; but the knowledgeable will understand.

Dan. 12:11 (From the time the regular offering is abolished, and an appalling abomination is set up — it will be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. Happy the one who waits and reaches one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.)

Dan. 12:12 But you, go on to the end; you shall rest, and arise to your destiny at the end of the days.”

Text 14: Ben Sira 3:21

“Things too difficult for you do not seek, and things too strong for you do not scrutinize.”