

Wisdom 101¹

Biblical Wisdom Literature includes the books that portray the virtues, persona and travels of Wisdom as an emanation of Elohim. Biblical Wisdom has gotten some bad press in the last few decades due to some groups dissociating Wisdom from the ONE and worshipping Wisdom as a goddess. As a result, the study of Biblical Wisdom has been held in suspicion by Orthodox groups. However, excising Wisdom from the canon is every bit the error as deifying it. The following lesson teaches the biblical view of the place of Wisdom in the literature and in the Unity.

WISDOM²

1. the quality or state of being wise; knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action; discernment, or insight. 2. scholarly knowledge or learning: the wisdom of the schools. 3. wise sayings or teachings; precepts. 4. a wise act or saying.

TERMS:

Wisdom (feminine) ♀

Hokmah (f, Hebrew)

Sophia (f, Greek)

“I came from the mouth of El Shaddai.”

Yahshua ben Sirach 24:1

“For she is the breath of the power
Of Elohim, a pure emanation, a spotless
mirror of the kavod of Almighty.”

Wisdom 7:22ff.

‘I tell you, Wisdom is vindicated by her
children; justified by her deeds.’

Yahshua in Luke 7:35.

Word (masculine) ♂

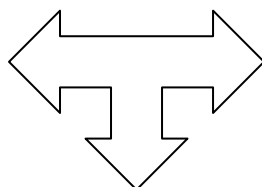
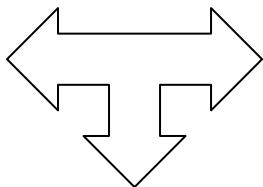
Davar (m, Hebrew)

Logos (m, Greek)

In the beginning was the Word ... all
things came to be through him.”

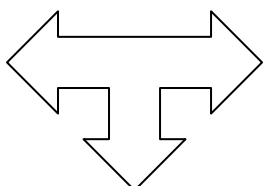
John 1:1-4

He is the image of the invisible
Eloha, the first-born of all creation;
for in him all things were created,
in heaven and on earth, visible
and invisible. Col 1:15-16



♀ WISDOM / YAHSHUA MESSIAH / WORD ♂

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem ... How often
would I have gathered your children
together as a hen gathers her brood
under her wings, and you would not!
Matthew 23:37-39



“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees,
hypocrites! for you are like
whitewashed tombs ... ,
So you also outwardly appear
righteous to men, but within you are
full of hypocrisy and iniquity.
Matthew 23:27-28

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness of life in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. Colossians 2:9-10

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² wisdom. (n.d.). Dictionary.com Unabridged (v 1.1). Retrieved December 28, 2007, from Dictionary.com website: <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/wisdom> or saying.

THE SCRIPTURES AND WISDOM

Cast out the Scriptures *between the testaments* makes it nearly impossible to trace the spiritual heritage of the Wisdom / Logos / Messiah. These books and others were in use not only during the first century and before, but are quoted in the New Testament several times, and many themes are found in them. Also found in these cast offs is the history of the Maccabees, the continuing history of Jeremiah, and of course the BRIDGE between the Tanak and the Renewal. Nazoreans (Nazarenes) have cast these out only because the Jews did around 70 AD because they came to them in GREEK instead of Hebrew / Aramaic. At that time (as at this time), some sectarian Jews hated anything Greek, even if it was worthwhile or even inspired. Same goes today with the origins of the New Testament. Many are VEHEMENT against the idea that any of the New Testament could have been written in Greek. Whether it was or not, there is no reason to get unduly angry against persons with other informed opinions.

The following books are considered to be the corpus of biblical Wisdom Literature. It is an astounding thing to follow the development of the idea of Wisdom / Logos through these books, from the earliest to the latest. And this is the order I have them in here so far as I can tell.

JOB

1 ENOCH

*SONG OF SONGS

*PROVERBS

QOHELETH (Ecclesiastes)

*SIRACH (Ecclesiasticus, or Jesus ben Sirach)

*WISDOM OF SOLOMON (or Wisdom)

*4Q525 and others (Dead Sea Scrolls)

*GOSPEL OF JOHN (Prologue only)

*PHILO OF ALEXANDRIA (Selected passages)

EPISTLE OF JAMES

*ODES OF SOLOMON

Reading a few selected passages from there starred (*) literature will reveal the evolution of a divine idea, and also show us that the place, purpose and “soul” of Messiah is far greater than we could ever have imagined.

Messiah CAME as a man, but he was NOT a man – and is not NOW a man. He called himself the “Wisdom of Elohim” and, at the same time, Scripture defines him as the “Word of Elohim.”

There is to be no fear that in worshipping Messiah we are worshipping a man, or that Elohim is a man, or that womanhood is inferior to manhood. We all strive instead, not in the flesh, but in order that we too may be Elohim in the model of Messiah – with both the best of feminine and masculine traits once we become Elohim fully.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanue-Elohim shall come to thee, O Yisrael.