

- ▶ Wisdom is merely seeing life from God's perspective and responding accordingly.

**Proverbs 9:10** "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight."

- Wisdom is from God.
- God wants to give us wisdom.
- Wisdom is good.
- Wisdom combats evil.

## 1. True Wisdom is from God

**Proverbs 2:6** "For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."

**Proverbs 14:12** "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death."

## 2. We lack wisdom and God is willing to give it

**James 1:5** "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

## 3. Wisdom, like God, is GOOD

**James 3:17** "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."

## 4. Live in wisdom because the days are EVIL!

**Ephesians 5:15-16** "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."



## **DOES WISDOM PLAY A ROLE IN PREPARATION FOR THE LAST DAYS?**

**Daniel 12:1-4** “At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. <sup>2</sup> And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup> And those who are *wise* shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. <sup>4</sup> But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”

**Matthew 24:44-46** “Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. <sup>45</sup> “Who then is the faithful and *wise* servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? <sup>46</sup> Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.”

**Proverbs 3:1-7** “My son, do not forget my teaching,  
but let your heart keep my commandments,  
<sup>2</sup> for length of days and years of life  
and peace they will add to you.  
<sup>3</sup> Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you;  
bind them around your neck;  
write them on the tablet of your heart.  
<sup>4</sup> So you will find favor and good success  
in the sight of God and man.  
<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.  
<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.  
<sup>7</sup> Be not wise in your own eyes;  
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.”



## **PREPARATION FOR THE GLORIOUS SECOND COMING OF CHRIST!**

1. The preparation that comes from the glorious prospect of seeing the Lord
2. The preparation that comes from the necessity of suffering before he comes
3. The preparation to be found faithful and vigilant in our particular callings when He comes

### **1. Pursue Christlikeness now by concentrating on His second appearing.**

**1 John 3:2-3** “Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears [the second coming] we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.”

### **2. Ready yourself for suffering.**

- ▶ The preparation that comes from the necessity of suffering before Jesus comes.

**Acts 14:22** “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”

**Revelation 12:17** “Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.”

**1 Thessalonians 3:1-3** “Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, <sup>2</sup> and we sent Timothy, our brother and God’s coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, <sup>3</sup> that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this.”

**Philippians 1:29-30** “For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, <sup>30</sup> engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.”

**Acts 5:33-42** “Then they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. <sup>34</sup> But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the



people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. <sup>35</sup> And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. <sup>36</sup> For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. <sup>37</sup> After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. <sup>38</sup> So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; <sup>39</sup> but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!” So they took his advice, <sup>40</sup> and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. <sup>41</sup> Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. <sup>42</sup> And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.”

### 3. Work faithfully for Christ.

**Matthew 25:1–13** “The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [*This is a picture of being ready for the second coming, the return of the bridegroom.*] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed [that’s Jesus’s hint that there will be some distance of time], they all became drowsy and slept [all ten]. But at midnight there was a cry, “Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.” Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, “Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.” But the wise answered, saying, “Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.” And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, “Lord, lord, open to us.” But he answered, “Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.” Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

**Luke 19:11-27** “As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. <sup>12</sup> He said therefore, “A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. <sup>13</sup> Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten



minas, and said to them, 'Engage in business until I come.' <sup>14</sup> But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' <sup>15</sup> When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. <sup>16</sup> The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.' <sup>17</sup> And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.' <sup>18</sup> And the second came, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made five minas.' <sup>19</sup> And he said to him, 'And you are to be over five cities.'

<sup>20</sup> Then another came, saying, 'Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief; <sup>21</sup> for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.' <sup>22</sup> He said to him, 'I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? <sup>23</sup> Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?' <sup>24</sup> And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the mina from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.' <sup>25</sup> And they said to him, 'Lord, he has ten minas!' <sup>26</sup> 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>27</sup> But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.'"

