

WISDOM OF GOD VS WISDOM OF THE WORLD

God's assessment of human wisdom:

1. 1 Cor. 1:20-25 – 'Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For indeed Jews ask for signs, the Greeks search for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.'

2. Rom. 1:22 – "Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures."

3. Psl. 115:2-8 – "Why should the nations say, Where, now, is their God? But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they cannot speak; they have eyes, but they cannot see; they have ears, but they cannot hear; they have noses, but they cannot smell, they have hands, but they cannot feel, they have feet, but they cannot walk; they cannot make a sound with their throat. Those who make them will become like them, everyone who trusts in them."

God 's wisdom puts God in charge/ Man's puts man in charge.

1. Man is mortal, so there must be an endless succession of men with differing views and experiences. God is eternal, and unchanging. Heb. 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever."

2. Man is limited by time and space. He cannot recall the forgotten past, nor can he accurately predict the future. God's long standing challenge to them: Isa. 41:21-23, "Present your case," the Lord says, "Bring forward your strong arguments," the King of Jacob says. Let them bring forth and declare to us what is going to take place; as for the former events, declare what they were, that we may consider them, and know their outcome; or announce to us what is coming. Declare the things that are

going to come afterward, that we may know that you are gods.”

God is unlimited in time and space, therefore he knows the past and future, and throughout the Bible has displayed that knowledge. **Isa. 46:9-10, “Remember the former things from long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things which have not been done... 48:5, “Therefore I declared them to you long ago, before they took place I proclaimed them to you, lest you should say, “My idol has done them.”** In fact, God placed His right to be heard on His ability to correctly foretell the future! **Deut. 18:21-22, “And you may say in your heart, ‘How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?’ When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.”**

How is the wisdom of God shown?

We need to make no apology for appealing to the Bible for our proof. It is a historical document, and its witnesses can pass the test of historical accuracy: physical presence, number, mental competency, character, agreement, and consistency under exam.

1. He knows all things:

a. Past (by His revelation we know what the origin of the cosmos is, and of life as well).

b. Future (He has clearly spoken of the end of all things and His coming to judge the earth)

2. He has power over all of the physical elements

a. Weather - (the winds and waves obey Him - Mk. 4:35-41)

b. Time and space - long day - Joshua. 10:12-14, 1 Kgs 20:10-11, angels appear)

c. All physical things:

(1) Animals (an animal speaks - Num. 22:28, lions quieted - Dan. 6:22)

(2) People (Sennacherib, king of Assyria - Isa. 37:21-38)

(3) Illnesses (healed them all - Mt. 4:23,8:16, 9:35, 10:1, 12:15, 14:14,19:2)

(4) Death & life (Ananias & Sapphira - Acts 5:1-10, Herod - Acts 12:20-23, widow's son - Luke 7:12-15, Lazarus - John 11:39-44)

d. He is able to reveal himself to and communicate with man

(1) He created speech and has spoken to mankind across the centuries

(2) He is able to punish and to bless

(3) He has consistently promoted good, and has been a factor in all the good of man

3. **His wisdom is shown in the redemptive plan involving Jesus**

a. The preparation through prophecy (See Luke 24:44-48)

b. Through seeking love

c. By acting to overcome the inability of mankind to change its situation

(1) example of Buddhist's question - God seeking, God working, man receiving

d. By the wisdom and truthfulness of His word

e. By the power of the Holy Spirit through the Word and in lives

4. We need to mount a campaign to show the unique credentials of the Bible as the revealed word of the one true and living God. In Hindu thought one is doomed to return to this world with all the suffering and pain...until through a life of religious devotion and altruistic works and/or spiritual insight, his soul attained sufficient moral and spiritual purity to make possible its escape from the Wheel of Rebirth...entering Nirvana...the God behind the world...Brahman. (Religion: What is it?, William Tremmel, Holt/Rinehart/Winston Pub., 1976, p. 190). Thankfully, God has a better plan for mankind! (John 14:1-6).

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