

# THE WISDOM OF GOD

We know that God is omniscient (all knowing), omnipotent (all powerful) and omnipresent (all present). He is not only everywhere, and he is not just at all times, but he is everywhere at all times. God, from eternity, before the heavens and earth were ever created peered into time. He can see the very first second of creation all the way until the very last second of time. From eternity he can look from Genesis to Revelation before they ever existed.

**This is called his foreknowledge.**

God, seeing creation and the fall of man, took that foreknowledge and began to devise a plan within time to provide redemption. He would also devise methods and ways for that redemption to be offered to all nations, called the ministry of reconciliation. The methods and ways of God are his WISDOM.

The wisdom of God is the perfect means by which to achieve the perfect end. It leaves nothing to guess or conjecture. Wisdom sees everything clearly in focus, each thing in proper relation to all other things, and then provides the means, ways, and methods to be able to work toward that predestined goal with flawless precision.

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## WHEN DID GOD DEVISE HIS METHODS AND WAYS: WISDOM?

We generally assume the first thing God created was light; it was not. The creation of light was in Genesis, in time. However, before time, God came up with his first creation: HIS WISDOM. Proverbs 8:22-36 give us great understanding about the wisdom of God.

**22** The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, **before his works of old.**

**23** I was set up from everlasting, **from the beginning, or ever the earth was.**

**24** When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water.

**25** **Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth:**

**26** While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world.

**27** When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:

**28** When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:

29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:

30 Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him;

31 Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.

32 Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for **blessed are they that keep my ways.**

33 **Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.**

34 Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.

35 **For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD.**

36 **But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul:** all they that hate me love death.

### **BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD**

Both Peter and Paul spoke about God's plans which he made before the foundation of the world.

The ways and methods of God which are laid out in the Scriptures are not progressive; rather, they are all-encompassing. They were designed having considered all times, cultures, and conditions of the world before we were born and after you and I are gone from the face of the earth.

***“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,  
and cometh down from the Father of lights,  
with whom is no variableness,  
neither shadow of turning.”***

**James 1:17**

Man engineers something and then, with the progression of time and understanding, technology and changes, whatever man makes must be updated, upgraded, or further customized to accommodate new information. New variables demand change and relevance; Due to his foreknowledge, there are never new variables for God to consider. He had considered them all, before they ever came to us. News to us is never news to God. God's ways and methods were devised having all the possible information from before the foundation of the world. His ways and methods cannot be discounted as incomplete or in need of revamping. His ways are relevant to Him, after the counsel of his own will, and are not in need of being made relevant to us. They were devised in the eternal past.

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We do not have to know what he knows; only to do what He

says. His ways from eternity are born from the catalyst of his foreknowledge. All that needs to be known, which we will never have, is found in his wisdom, which he gives us liberally. In following his wisdom we are given his foreknowledge, though not the details of it, only the outcome of it.

Man who thinks he can improve on God's ways does not comprehend God's wisdom, but esteems himself more highly than he should.

## **THE SHADOW OF HIS WAYS**

When God, from eternity, peered into time and foresaw the fall of man, he came up with a plan for the redemption of man. He also came up with a plan about how that redemption would be offered to all of mankind through the ages. However, God would not come immediately at the fall of mankind, he would come within time, at a moment called "the fulness of time".

**"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."**

**Galatians 4:4-5**

God then conceived that if he would come in the fullness of time (6 BC), what would he do with the time before he would come to earth as a man to redeem mankind and birth his church? He would make everything from the beginning of Genesis to the coming of Christ a shadow of himself and the things to come.

***When that which casts the shadow, Christ, is actually come, the shadow can then be fully understood, but it is no longer the point of focus once the reality is present.***

The shadows are not the true form of the one casting the shadow, but only a blurry similitude of the reality. The substance is Christ and his church, but the shadow is only a very obscure and lifeless indication of Christ himself. When that which casts the shadow, Christ, is actually come, the shadow can then be fully understood, but it is no longer the point of focus once the reality is present.

**"Shadow of things to come, but the substance is Christ." Colossians 2:17**  
**"the true form of these realities." Hebrews 10:1**

There are far more types of Christ than we could possibly explore here. Jesus literally declared that the entirety of the Old Testament Scriptures spoke about Him! However, a few of them are needful to be mentioned here.

## **TYPES OF CHRIST**

Adam is a type of Christ. Christ is referred to as the Second Adam.

David is a type of Christ. Christ is the actual King.

The High Priest is a type of Christ. Jesus is our High Priest.

## **TYPES OF THE CHURCH**

Out of Adam came Eve. Out of the Second Adam, Christ, came the Second Eve, the Church.

King David built his own tabernacle for the ark of the Covenant. Jesus Christ built his own tabernacle for his indwelling Spirit, the Church. God promised he would not raise up the tabernacle of Moses nor the Temple of Solomon in the last days, but the Tabernacle of David.

The High Priest would commit his life to the Tabernacle. Jesus, the High Priest, would commit himself to the church.

### **THE SECOND EVE: A HELPER SUITABLE FOR HIS WORK**

Just as the first Eve came out of the first Adam, a helper suitable for his work, the Second Eve, the church, came out of the Second Adam, a helper suitable for his work.

The first Eve came out of Adam, was named by Adam, was an expression of Adam, was made for Adam. So the Second Eve came out of Christ, was named by Christ, is an expression of Christ, was made for Christ

His work is the ministry of reconciliation.

He ascended to become the Head of the church, his bride; and he commended unto her his ministry of reconciliation. She is his helper, his bride, and his dwelling place. She is one with him and she is flesh of his flesh.

### **THINGS PERTAINING TO THE KINGDOM**

Jesus, in his resurrected body, did not immediately ascend to heaven. He had spent 3.5 years teaching and training his disciples but he must prepare to send them out (the very definition of "apostolic"). He spends 40 days revealing himself to them and teaching them. It is no doubt a series of lessons and invaluable understanding that they must have in order to go forth and do his work of expanding the kingdom of God, in his physical absence.

We do not have the curriculum for that class. We do not have an outline or syllabus. We do have the name of the class, and it is revealing in innumerable ways. "being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God:" (Acts 1:3) After teaching and revealing these things pertaining to the Kingdom he sends them forth to Jerusalem to be baptized with His Spirit and then to go into all the world and preach this gospel of Jesus Christ and his Kingdom to all nations.

### **THINK ABOUT IT**

I want to build a new massive barn with many rooms, lofts, storage, stables, etc. in order to expand my homestead. I have decided I will not be sawing a single board or hammering a single nail myself, but rather I would be teaching 11 people how to do it. These 11 have never built such barn before; and I have let them know that it will not be built as they have seen others build. I spent 40 days in a mountain with them imparting the plans, the knowledge, the understanding necessary. I will explain the reasoning, purposes, plans, methods, processes, and ideas that must be employed to make this barn expansion a reality. I am not sticking around. I am leaving on a trip and need them to understand and commit to the exacts of my design, methods, and plans. I will return and judge your work.

If the village people watched those 11 come out of that mountain as I started my journey away, the village people can assume that those 11 are not just doing what they are doing because they are "flying by the seat of their pants". They are making everything up as they go along. They have no design. They are choosing their own materials, dimensions, colors, etc.

*It would be ludicrous to believe that after spending 40 days with Jesus learning “things pertaining to the Kingdom of God” that those apostles were left to expand the Kingdom as blind guides with no real methods and design.*

I would think the contrary; I would believe that, even if the village people had not been in that mountain for 40 days with me, they could tell exactly what I had explained, designed, and asked them to do by observing the actions of the 11.

It would be ludicrous to believe that after spending 40 days with Jesus learning “things pertaining to the Kingdom of God” that those apostles were left to expand the Kingdom as blind guides with no real methods and design.

### **THE DESTINATION DETERMINES CONDUCT**

If I tell you that tomorrow you must meet me in Florida for three days, USA. The destination will then determine your conduct. You will immediately begin to reason and make decisions based on that destination. What airline you will contact? Which airport you will need to drive to or maybe none at all? What clothes will you pack? If I change the destination to Israel for a 2 week stay, the new destination will determine a different conduct. You will now begin to reason and determine which airline, what clothes you will pack, which documentation you will need, who will care for your pet, etc.

**Destination always determines conduct.**

We come again to God’s eternal purpose. This is God’s ultimate destination; that God, who is Life, would pour his life into his creation created in his image. This creation would live by his indwelling life, manifest his nature, express his character, and operate in his dominion to expand his invisible heavenly kingdom on the visible earth.

Considering this end and all the possible variables involved God reasoned within himself and determined the conduct that would be required to arrive at this destination. This is His wisdom. Now, we must desire this wisdom; and when we do, we will begin to operate accordingly.

We can only be wise if we, in fact, allow his wisdom to determine our ways. It is only God’s wisdom that produces the product he desires; The wisdom of man always produces only a form, a partial, or an altogether different thing.

### **WE CANNOT DISCOUNT THE WAYS AND METHODS OF THE APOSTLES**

Apostles are trained and then they are sent; they don’t just go. They don’t just work half-hazard and by chance. There is a reason for their methods and functions. There is a purpose behind not only their message but how they worked and what they did in the Book of Acts.

They did not set up a King. Why not?

They did not take over the Temple. Why not?

They did not insist on titles and positions. Why not?

Their ways and their methods did not flow from their own reasoning. They were wise in that they followed the ways and methods that flowed from the wisdom of God.

It was the very Wisdom of God that taught, exemplified, and trained these apostles!

### **1 Corinthians 1:24**

**But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.**

It was the very Wisdom of God that was their foundation.

“For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:11)

When we adopt his ways and methods we become WISE.

The wise hate evil.

The wise listen to God’s advice.

The wise accept God’s correction.

The wise have self-control.

The wise look ahead.

The wise trust God.

### **THE FEAR OF THE LORD**

A candle can give a small glow. A flashlight can shoot a beam of light. A lightbulb can light up a room. The sun lights up half of the world at one time! The sun is the greatest light in our solar system – it is in a group all by itself. No other light can compare to it. God is in a group all by Himself – nothing and no one can compare to Him. When you stand in amazement at his enormous greatness and you are overwhelmed with Him knowing all things and being in all places at one time, simultaneously – you pause in awe of the very idea of how great He is. This is called the fear of the Lord.

And the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Seeing Him in this way causes you to recognize how great his ways and thoughts are; how all-encompassing his wisdom is and how finite and limited our wisdom is.

When we stand in awe at God we stand in awe of nothing and no one else. When we truly see Him, we see nothing else.

Peter saw how Jesus filled those nets with so many fish; and he fell on his face and said, “Depart from me, I am just a (sinful) man.” When you stand in awe of the Lord, you can stand in awe of nothing else. Only his ways and wisdom can possibly be of value; everything else is dust! We value the ways of men when our fear of the Lord wanes. However, when we see HIM for who He is, and we see ourselves as his child, we bend humbly and carefully to his ways. His ways begin to have superior influence over our thoughts and then, in turn, our actions. Awe of Him produces faithfulness to Him.

***His wisdom, if followed, will ensure the world is crowded with Him.***

Jesus not only lived by the wisdom of God but he is the wisdom of God. The wisdom of God opens the door for the greatest manifestation and revelation of Jesus Christ; his love, his power, and his provision. His wisdom is the best and straightest path to Himself. His wisdom, if followed, will ensure the world is

crowded with Him. It is impossible for God to will anything that his wisdom does not approve.

## **TAKING THE PROMISED LAND**

The piece of land later known as Israel; Canaan land. The richest most fertile place on the earth reserved for a nation which the Lord himself would make. It is occupied by many who serve other gods. The end goal: destroy the enemies and occupy the land.

God comes up with his way and his methods to cause this to happen. Now, if man will humble himself and trust in God's ways, God will provide everything needed to ensure victory.

God says...

Cross at a certain place in the Jordan

Joshua will lead the way

Start in Jericho

March around the walls

Shout with the voice of triumph

Abstain from their idols

Take the land one small piece at a time

It's impossible to conquer the Promised Land and be successful in it without God's wisdom.

The refusal of human knowledge is where God's wisdom begins; and his power manifests greater where his wisdom is greatest in abundance.

## **THINGS PERTAINING TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

The Kingdom of God is the main theme of Scripture. It was Jesus' main theme over his 3.5 years of ministry.

## **THE PANORAMIC VIEW OF ACTS: THE APOSTOLIC CYCLE**

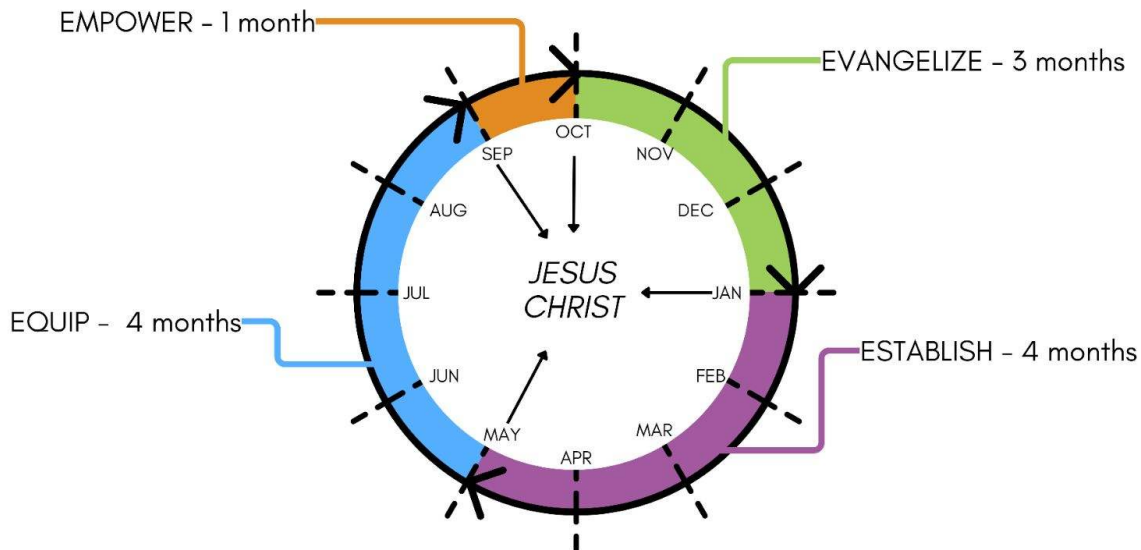
In the 28 chapters of the Book of Acts which cover the first 38 years of the church's history, mentioning 33 different congregations and 6 regions, you will never find a church building, a pulpit, a pew, or a choir. Each of these items can be traced historically to methods and ideas out of Rome and paganism from the second to fifth centuries; but we do not find their methodologies functioning in the first century church which took the known world by storm. The book of Acts must be prescriptive, not just descriptive; it exists as a text book not just a history book. Within its pages lies the methodology of preaching the gospel to all nations as well as establishing Christian communities around the world.

Rather than focusing on what is not present in the landscape of Acts we do better by concentrating on what is present. Anywhere you place your finger in the 1,007 verses in Acts you will find one of the following: ***Evangelism, Establishing, Equipping, and Empowering.***

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# The Apostolic Cycle

One Year



## EVERYTHING BEGINS WITH EVANGELIZATION: PREACHING JESUS

The Book of Acts most absolutely begins with evangelism; in fact, the very beginning of the book opens with a command to the apostles to evangelize the nations and ends in chapter 28 with preaching the Kingdom of God. By the end of chapter 2, the gospel of the Kingdom has already been preached to the Jews from 15 different nations and regions. By the end of chapter 4 about 5,000 have been saved. They went “everywhere preaching the gospel”. In Acts 5, through the witness of the Apostles, “multitudes” were added to the church. By chapter 6 even the priests and elders were saved by the preaching of the gospel. After Paul’s conversion in Acts 9, the gospel was preached again and the church multiplied greatly. In Acts 28 Paul declares that he preaches the gospel to “all” who come to him. The gospel is preached and many are “added to the Lord” or “added to the church”; over 30 congregations are begun and 6 regions have had the gospel of Jesus Christ preached to them. Nearly 1/3 of the entire book is dedicated to the proclamation of the gospel in various contexts. Evangelism took the form of preaching in public settings, individual witnessing, ministering to people’s needs by signs, miracles, and wonders, teaching from the Scriptures to those who had knowledge of the Old Testament Scriptures, and the heavy involvement in the churches in finance, providing co-workers, material support and prayer.

## THOSE WHO ARE EVANGELIZED FOR CHRIST MUST BE ESTABLISHED: JESUS THE FOUNDATION

The New Birth plants us into Christ and his Kingdom. Water baptism puts us into Christ and Spirit baptism puts Christ into us. With the new birth a person is now made alive unto God. They are a new



species, a new creation. They must have a foundation that is solid; and Paul said “what other foundation can be laid than that which is already laid, Jesus Christ.” It is in establishing that those who are born again realize the Lordship and preeminence of Jesus Christ; that all else is empty. They will be set on a foundation of who he is, who their family is, and who they are. Along with their identity and His identity, they are trained to converse with Him, hear from Him, and seek after and pursue Christ as their new Lord. His history becomes their destiny.

Jesus did not only command the apostles to go out and preach the gospel and baptize those who believed. He also commanded the apostles to be “teaching them to observe all that I commanded you”. Acts 2 reveals how all the apostles went house to house teaching and establishing new believers. After the dispersion of Jews from Jerusalem into Judea, Samaria, and Syria the apostles eventually left Jerusalem and continued going house to house to establish. Acts 11 reveals how Paul and Barnabas poured their lives out to establish the new believers in Antioch. Paul spent months at a time in different locations establishing groups of new believers in Jesus Christ.

It is important to take a group of new believers, all on the same level, into a specific place for the intentional purpose of unveiling Jesus Christ to them and establishing them in Him. Without this kind of foundation there is no way they can stand in the identity and function for which they are called by Christ.

## **EQUIPPING THE SAINTS: THE MINISTRY OF CHRIST**

The word “equipping” should give forth the image of handing out tools in order to carry out a specific job. As Jesus walked on the earth all that he did, from teaching, ministering, healing, and travelling was considered the ministry of reconciliation. He was very equipped to do this ministry. He was apostolic because he was sent out and went from village to village even into Gentile territory, he was evangelistic in that he preached the gospel of the Kingdom everywhere, he was shepherding (pastoral) in that he said, “My sheep hear my voice” as a watchman and a compassionate nurturer and protector, he was prophetic in that he walked and lived by the mind of God in real time doing only what he saw the Father do and saying on what he heard the Father say, and he was teaching in that he was certainly a master Rabbi. These five giftings all resided in his completely and for the purpose of doing the ministry that he was anointed to do.

When Christ ascended, he took these gives which he held alone in himself and dispersed them among the body of Christ. Certain members of his body now operate in these gifts individually; apostle, prophet, evangelist, shepherd, and teacher.

Jesus also ascends to heaven to become the Head of the church; and as he ascends he takes his ministry, the ministry of reconciliation, and commends it into the hands of the church, all believers. However, although the saints have this ministry before them they must be equipped to do it. This is God’s great call for the unity of the body to come together for the sake of equipping.

Ephesians 4 calls those who operate in these five giftings to unite in serving the body of Christ by equipping and perfecting the saints for the work of the ministry. This is the strategic and intentional training by apostolic workers so that the saints become apostolic, prophetic, evangelistic, shepherding, and teaching.

## **THE PEOPLE OF GOD MUST BE EMPOWERED: AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST**

Scripture is very clear: every member of the body must be evangelized, established, and equipped. None of this is beneficial if they are not released to the ministry to which God has called them individually. Discovering and developing the individual giftings of each member of the body must

accompany their salvation, foundation, and equipping. No true empowerment has taken place until those individuals are released to operate and function according the diversity of gift and difference in operation that the Spirit has given them. The body of Christ must be an all-member fully-functioning body, not an active minority with a passive majority. The ministry of reconciliation must continue so that the progression and advancement of the kingdom of God among the nations.