

~UNDERSTANDING (1724)

[Hebrew, *bin*, Greek, *sy-ni'e-mi*]

- Source Of Understanding
- Those Turning From The Source
- Fields Of Human Understanding
- Relationship To Knowledge And Wisdom
- Gaining True Understanding.
- Time And Meditation Essential
- Accept Discipline
- Understanding Prophecy

• The original-language words rendered, understanding, can refer to **comprehension of a rather simple kind or can describe a full and profound realization of the inner nature, underlying reasons, and significance of complex matters.** Insight, discernment, and perception are all closely connected to understanding.

• The **Hebrew** verb *bin* and the noun *bi-nah'* are most frequently related to understanding. At times *bin* and *bi-nah'* may more particularly emphasize the specific aspects of discerning.

• So Yehowah called again for the third time; Samuel! At that he got up and went to Eli and said; Here I am, for you must have called me. And Eli began to discern that it was Yehowah that was calling the boy. (1 Samuel 3:8)

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• Mistakes, who can **discern**? From concealed sins pronounce me innocent. (Psalms 19:12)

• In the first year of his reigning I myself, Daniel, **discerned** by the books the number of the years concerning which the word of Yehowah had occurred to Jeremiah the prophet, for fulfilling the devastations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years. (Daniel 9:2)

• Giving thoughtful consideration.

• Remember the days of old, **consider** the years back from

- generation to generation; Ask your father, and he can tell you. Your old men, and they can say it to you. (**Deuteronomy 32:7**)
- Anyone inexperienced puts faith in every word, but the shrewd one **considers** his steps. (**Proverbs 14:15**)
 - In case you should sit down to feed yourself with a king, you should diligently **consider** what is before you. (**Proverbs 23:1**)
 - But pass over to the coastlands of the Kittim and see. Yes, send even to Kedar and give your **special consideration**, and see whether anything like this has happened. (**Jeremiah 2:10**)
 - And to the God of his fathers he will give **no consideration**, and to the desire of women and to every other god he will give no consideration, but over everyone he will magnify himself. (**Daniel 11:37**)
 - **Or attention**
 - A covenant I have concluded with my eyes. So how could I show myself **attentive** to a virgin? (**Job 31:1**)
 - And to you I kept my **attention** turned, and here there is no one reproving Job, none of you answering his sayings. (**Job 32:12**)
 - Do give ear to this, O Job, stand still and show yourself **attentive** to the wonderful works of God. (**Job 37:14**)
 - And just a little while longer, and the wicked one will be no more, and you will certainly give **attention** to his place, and he will not be. (**Psalms 37:10**)
 - **To a matter, and may be so rendered.** Professor R. C. Dentan, writing in *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible* [edited by G. Buttrick, 1962, Vol. 4, p. 733], says: The root *bin* means primarily to discern with the senses, to perceive distinctions, then to give close attention to, and finally particularly in the derived stems to gain comprehension or give it to others.
 - Hebrew scholar Gesenius gives the basic sense as to separate, to distinguish, hence to discern, to mark, to understand, all of which depend on the power of separating, distinguishing, discriminating. [*A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*, translated by E. Robinson, 1836, p. 140]

- Another noun, *tevu-nah'*, comes from the same root as *bi-nah'* and may be appropriately rendered, **discernment**.
- To the stupid one the carrying on of loose conduct is like sport, but wisdom is for the man of **discernment**. (**Proverbs 10:23**)
- The one in want of heart has despised his own fellowman, but the man of broad **discernment** is one that keeps silent. (**Proverbs 11:12**)
- **Understanding**
- And I shall fill him with the spirit of God in wisdom and in **understanding** and in knowledge and in every kind of craftsmanship. (**Exodus 31:3**)
- For they are a nation on whom counsel perishes, and among them there is no **understanding**. (**Deuteronomy 32:28**)
- According to the context.
- The basic meaning of these terms reveals the **understanding** person to be **one able to see into a matter and discern its composition by separating the individual factors or features that compose or act together to form the whole, then to perceive the relationship between them and thus comprehend, or grasp, the significance or meaning of the matter.**
- This may be illustrated with a language. If a person is to **understand** what is spoken in a certain tongue, he must be able to distinguish the individual words composing the sentences, know their meaning, and see how they relate to one another.
- Yehowah will raise up against you a nation far away, from the end of the earth, just as an eagle pounces, a nation whose tongue you will not **understand**. (**Deuteronomy 28:49**)
- However, even though a person may basically **comprehend** what is said to him, **understanding** can also go beyond such simple **comprehension**, it means that he gets the real significance and sense of the message, then is able to evaluate it, benefit by it, and know what action it calls for.

- When Ezra the priest read the Law before the people in Jerusalem, all **intelligent**, from Hebrew, *bin*, enough to listen were gathered. Even though these had mature minds able to understand all the words, the Levites were explaining the Law to the people instructing the people in the law, or giving **understanding**, form of *bin*, reading aloud from the book, from the Law of the true God, it being expounded, and there being a putting of meaning into it, and they continued giving **understanding** in the reading.
- Accordingly Ezra the priest brought the Law before the congregation of men as well as of women and of all intelligent enough to listen, on the first day of the seventh month. (**Nehemiah 8:2**)
- And he continued to read aloud from it before the public square that is before the Water Gate, from daybreak till midday, in front of the men and the women and the other intelligent ones, and the ears of all the people were **attentive** to the book of the Law. (**Nehemiah 8:3**)
- And Jeshua and Bani and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, even the Levites, were explaining the Law to the people, while the people were in a standing position. (**Nehemiah 8:7**)
- And they continued reading aloud from the book, from the Law of the true God, it being expounded, and there being a putting of meaning into it, and they continued giving **understanding** in the reading. (**Nehemiah 8:8**)
- In the **Greek Scriptures**, **understanding**, as signifying perception, getting the sense of a matter, is represented especially by the **Greek** verb *sy-ni'e-mi*, literally, **put together**, and the related noun *sy'ne-sis*. Other terms are *e-pi'sta-mai*, meaning, basically, **know well**, and *gi-no'sko*, meaning, **know**.

· Source Of Understanding

- Yehowah God is both the **Source of understanding** and the Supreme Example of its use. The splendid coordination and functioning of the universe, in which each creation serves a particular and harmonious purpose, with no clashes or problems resulting from a lack of discernment on their Creators part, manifest God's understanding.

- Who put wisdom in the cloud layers, or who gave **understanding** to the sky phenomenon? (**Job 38:36**)
- To the One making the heavens with **understanding**, for his loving-kindness is to time indefinite. (**Psalms 136:5**)
- To the One laying out the earth above the waters, for his loving-kindness is to time indefinite. (**Psalms 136:6**)
- To the One making the great lights, for his loving-kindness is to time indefinite. (**Psalms 136:7**)
- Even the sun for dominion by day, for his loving-kindness is to time indefinite. (**Psalms 136:8**)
- The moon and the stars for combined dominion by night, for his loving-kindness is to time indefinite. (**Psalms 136:9**)
- Yehowah himself in wisdom founded the earth. He solidly fixed the heavens in discernment. (**Proverbs 3:19**)
- By his knowledge the watery deeps themselves were split apart, and the cloudy skies keep dripping down light rain. (**Proverbs 3:20**)
- He is the Maker of the earth by his power, the One firmly establishing the productive land by his wisdom, and the One who by his **understanding** stretched out the heavens. (**Jeremiah 10:12**)
- At his voice there is a giving by him of a turmoil of waters in the heavens, and he causes vapors to ascend from the extremity of the earth. He has made even sluices for the rain, and he brings forth the wind from his storehouses. (**Jeremiah 10:13**)
- God has given the animals instinctive **understanding**, each according to its kind. Men may spend years gaining **understanding** of aerodynamics, but the falcon instinctively knows just how to **read** and utilize the different types of air currents.
- Is it owing to your **understanding** that the falcon soars up, that it spreads its wings to the south wind? (**Job 39:26**)

- **Animals, however, do not have certain other aspects of **understanding** that are peculiar to man.**
- **Do not make yourselves like a horse or mule without **understanding**, whose spiritedness is to be curbed even by bridle or halter Before they will come near to you. (Psalms 32:9)**
- **Despite intensive research over centuries, many features and cycles operating according to divine Laws still elude man's full **comprehension**.**
- **Indeed, who can **understand** the cloud layers, the crashings from his booth? (Job 36:29)**
- **Where, now, is the way to where light resides? As for darkness, where, now, is its place. (Job 38:19)**
- **That you should take it to its boundary and that you should understand the roadways to its house? (Job 38:20)**
- **What men can grasp from their study of the material creation only approaches the fringes of God's ways, and is but a **whisper** as compared to **mighty thunder**. This is even more true of God's works of judgment and salvation, his thoughts being too deep for ungodly persons to grasp.**
- **He is stretching out the north over the empty place, hanging the earth upon nothing. (Job 26:7)**
- **Wrapping up the waters in his clouds, so that the cloud mass is not split under them. (Job 26:8)**
- **Enclosing the face of the throne, spreading out over it his cloud. (Job 26:9)**
- **He has described a circle upon the face of the waters, to where light ends in darkness. (Job 26:10)**
- **The very pillars of heaven shake, and they are amazed because of his rebuke. (Job 26:11)**
- **By his power he has stirred up the sea, and by his **understanding** he has broken the stormer to pieces. (Job 26:12)**

- By his wind he has polished up heaven itself, this hand has pierced the gliding serpent. (**Job 26:13**)
- Look! These are the fringes of his ways, and what a whisper of a matter has been heard of him! But of his mighty thunder who can show an **understanding**? (**Job 26:14**)
- How great your works are, O Yehowah! Very deep your thoughts are. (**Psalms 92:5**)
- No unreasoning man himself can know them, and no one stupid can understand this. (**Psalms 92:6**)
- **Consideration of the divine wisdom and **understanding** manifest in the material creation, however, enabled Job to discern his proper relationship to the Creator and humbly recognize his own lack of **understanding**.**
- And Job proceeded to answer Yehowah and say. (**Job 42:1**)
- I have come to know that you are able to do all things, and there is no idea that is unattainable for you. (**Job 42:2**)
- Who is this that is obscuring counsel without **knowledge**? Therefore I talked, but I was not **understanding** things too wonderful for me, which I do not know. (**Job 42:3**)
- Hear, please, and I myself shall speak. I shall question you, and you inform me. (**Job 42:4**)
- In hearsay I have heard about you, but now my own eye does see you. (**Job 42:5**)
- That is why I make a retraction, and I do repent in dust and ashes. (**Job 42:6**)
- **As regards man, Yehowah can exercise insight into the thoughts and doings of all mankind**
- And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a complete heart and with a delightful soul, for all hearts Yehowah is searching, and every inclination of the thoughts he is discerning. If you search for him, he will let himself be found by you, but if you leave him, he will cast you off

- forever. (**1 Chronicles 28:9**)
- O Yehowah, you have searched through me, and you know me. (**Psalms 139:1**)
 - You yourself have come to know my sitting down and my rising up. You have considered my thought from far off. (**Psalms 139:2**)
 - My journeying and my lying outstretched you have measured off, and you have become familiar even with all my ways. (**Psalms 139:3**)
 - For there is not a word on my tongue, but, look! O Yehowah, you already know it all. (**Psalms 139:4**)
 - Behind and before, you have besieged me, and you place your hand upon me. (**Psalms 139:5**)
 - Such knowledge is too wonderful for me. It is so high up that I cannot attain to it. (**Psalms 139:6**)
 - And as he chooses, he **gives thoughtful consideration**, Hebrew, *bin*, or attention to individuals and classes.
 - Such knowledge is too wonderful for me. It is so high up that I cannot attain to it. (**Psalms 139:6**)
 - To my sayings do give ear, O Yehowah, do **understand** my sighing. (**Psalms 5:1**)
 - Do **pay attention** to the sound of my cry for help, o my King and my God, because to you I pray. (**Psalms 5:2**)
 - He knows his own invincible purpose and what he will do in the future. His righteous standards are fixed, unchangeable. Hence, there is no wisdom, nor any discernment, nor any counsel in opposition to Yehowah.
 - There is no wisdom, nor any discernment, nor any counsel in opposition to Yehowah. (**Proverbs 21:30**)
 - And Yehowah says; For the reason that this people have come near with their mouth, and they have glorified me merely with

- their lips, and they have removed their heart itself far away from me, and their fear toward me becomes mens commandment that is being taught. (**Isaiah 29:13**)
- Therefore here I am, the One that will act wonderfully again with this people, in a wonderful manner and with something wonderful, and the wisdom of their wise men must perish, and the very **understanding** of their discreet men will conceal itself. (**Isaiah 29:14**)
 - The anger of Yehowah will not turn back until he will have carried out and until he will have made the ideas of his heart come true. In the final part of the days you people will give your consideration to it with **understanding**. (**Jeremiah 23:20**)
 - The burning anger of Yehowah will not turn back until he will have executed and until he will have carried out the ideas of his heart. In the final part of the days you people will give your **consideration** to it. (**Jeremiah 30:24**)
 - He needs to consult no one to understand a matter, such as how to help his servants effectively or how to relieve them from distress and oppression.
 - Look! The Sovereign Lord Yehowah himself will come even as a strong one, and his arm will be ruling for him. Look! His reward is with him, and the wage he pays is before him. (**Isaiah 40:10**)
 - Like a shepherd he will shepherd his own drove. With his arm he will collect together the lambs, and in his bosom he will carry them. Those giving suck he will conduct with care. (**Isaiah 40:11**)
 - Who has measured the waters in the mere hollow of his hand, and taken the proportions of the heavens themselves with a mere span and included in a measure the dust of the earth, or weighed with an indicator the mountains, and the hills in the scales? (**Isaiah 40:12**)
 - Who has taken the proportions of the spirit of Yehowah, and who as his man of counsel can make him know anything? (**Isaiah 40:13**)
 - With whom did he consult together that one might make him

understand, or who teaches him in the path of justice, or teaches him knowledge, or makes him know the very way of real **understanding**? (**Isaiah 40:14**)

- Look! The nations are as a drop from a bucket, and as the film of dust on the scales they have been accounted. Look! He lifts the islands themselves as mere fine dust. (**Isaiah 40:15**)
- For what reason do you say; O Jacob, and do you speak out, O Israel, My way has been concealed from Yehowah, and justice to me eludes my God himself? (**Isaiah 40:27**)
- Have you not come to know or have you not heard? Yehowah, the Creator of the extremities of the earth, is a God to time indefinite. He does not tire out or grow weary. There is no searching out of his **understanding**. (**Isaiah 40:28**)
- He is giving to the tired one power, and to the one without dynamic energy he makes full might abound. (**Isaiah 40:29**)
- Boys will both tire out and grow weary, and young men themselves will without fail stumble. (**Isaiah 40:30**)
- But those who are hoping in Yehowah will regain power. They will mount up with wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not tire out. (**Isaiah 40:31**)
- Knowledge of Yehowah God and discernment of his will combined with faith and trust therefore form the foundation of all true **understanding** on the part of his intelligent creatures.
- Knowledge of the Most Holy One is what **understanding** is, and this includes **understanding** righteousness and judgment and uprightness, **the entire course of what is good**.
- The fear of Yehowah is the start of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Most Holy One is what **understanding** is. (**Proverbs 9:10**)
- For Yehowah himself gives wisdom. Out of his mouth there are knowledge and discernment. (**Proverbs 2:6**)
- And for the upright ones he will treasure up practical wisdom, for those walking in integrity he is a shield. (**Proverbs 2:7**)

- By observing the paths of judgment, and he will guard the very way of his loyal ones. (**Proverbs 2:8**)
- In that case you will **understand** righteousness and judgment and uprightness, the entire course of what is good. (**Proverbs 2:9**)
- He that is showing **insight** in a matter will find good, and happy is he that is trusting in Yehowah. (**Proverbs 16:20**)
- No matter of real importance can be fully **understood** unless all the factors are viewed from Yehowah's standpoint and seen in relation to his standards, qualities, and eternal purpose.

· Those Turning From The Source

- The person who turns to transgression begins to discount God as a factor to be considered when making decisions and plans.
- For the reason that they have turned aside from following him, and none of his ways have they **considered**. (**Job 34:27**)
- Such a person allows his heart to blind him to the wrongness of his ways and he **loses insight**.
- The utterance of transgression to the wicked one is in the midst of his heart, there is no dread of God in front of his eyes. (**Psalms 36:1**)
- For he has acted too smoothly to himself in his own eyes to find out his error so as to hate it. (**Psalms 36:2**)
- The words of his mouth are hurtfulness and deception, he has ceased to have insight for doing good. (**Psalms 36:3**)
- Hurtfulness is what he keeps scheming upon his bed. He stations himself on a way that is not good. What is bad he does not reject. (**Psalms 36:4**)
- Even if claiming to worship God, he puts mens precepts above God's, he prefers them.
- And Yehowah says; For the reason that this people have come near with their mouth, and they have glorified me merely with

- their lips, and they have removed their heart itself far away from me, and their fear toward me becomes mens commandment that is being taught. (**Isaiah 29:13**)
- Therefore here I am, the One that will act wonderfully again with this people, in a wonderful manner and with something wonderful, and the wisdom of their wise men must perish, and the very **understanding** of their discreet men will conceal itself. (**Isaiah 29:14**)
 - He rationalizes and excuses his loose conduct as mere **sport**.
 - To the stupid one the carrying on of loose conduct is like sport, but wisdom is for the man of **discernment**. (**Proverbs 10:23**)
 - And becomes perverted, brutish, stupid in his reasoning, to the extreme of assuming that the invisible God does not see or **discern** his wrongdoing, as though God's powers of **perception** had failed.
 - They keep bubbling forth, they keep speaking unrestrained, all the practicers of what is hurtful keep bragging about themselves. (**Psalms 94:4**)
 - Your people, O Yehowah, they keep crushing, and your inheritance they keep afflicting. (**Psalms 94:5**)
 - The widow and the alien resident they kill, and the fatherless boys they murder. (**Psalms 94:6**)
 - And they keep saying; Yah does not see, and the God of Jacob does not understand it. (**Psalms 94:7**)
 - Understand, you who are **unreasoning** among the people, and as for you stupid ones, when will you have any insight? (**Psalms 94:8**)
 - The One planting the ear, can he not hear? Or the One forming the eye, can he not look? (**Psalms 94:9**)
 - The One correcting the nations, can he not reprove, even the One teaching men knowledge? (**Psalms 94:10**)
 - Woe to those who are going very deep in concealing counsel from Yehowah himself, and whose deeds have occurred in a dark

place, while they say; Who is seeing us, and who is knowing of us? (**Isaiah 29:15**)

- The perversity of you men! Should the potter himself be accounted just like the clay? For should the thing made say respecting its maker; He did not make me? And does the very thing formed actually say respecting its former; He showed no **understanding**? (**Isaiah 29:16**)
- For the shepherds have behaved unreasoningly, and they have not looked even for Yehowah. That is why they **have not acted with insight**, and all their pastured animals have been scattered. (**Jeremiah 10:21**)
- By his course and actions he says, in effect, There is no Yehowah.
- The senseless one has said in his heart; There is no Yehowah. They have acted ruinously, they have acted detestably in their dealing. There is no one doing good. (**Psalms 14:1**)
- As for Yehowah, he has looked down from heaven itself upon the sons of men, to see whether there exists anyone having insight, anyone seeking Yehowah. (**Psalms 14:2**)
- They have all turned aside, they are all alike corrupt, there is no one doing good, not even one. (**Psalms 14:3**)
- And leaves him out of the picture. Not being guided by divine principles, he cannot judge matters correctly, see the issues clearly, evaluate the factors involved, and arrive at right decisions.
- Men given to badness cannot understand judgment, but those who are seeking Yehowah can understand everything. (**Proverbs 28:5**)

•• **Fields Of Human Understanding**

- **Understanding** may relate to knowledge and skill in mechanical activities, such as construction and designing of buildings or the making of articles of wood, metal, stone, or cloth.
- The Tyrian worker Hiram was a skillful man, experienced in **understanding** as a craftsman working with a wide range of materials.

- **And King Solomon proceeded to send and fetch Hiram out of Tyre. (1 Kings 7:13)**
- **He was the son of a widowed woman from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a Tyrian man, a worker in copper, and he was full of the wisdom and the **understanding** and the knowledge for doing every sort of work in copper. Accordingly he came to King Solomon and began to do all his work. (1 Kings 7:14)**
- **And now I do send a skillful man, experienced in **understanding**, belonging to Hiram-abi. (2 Chronicles 2:13)**
- **The son of a woman of the sons of Dan but whose father was a man of Tyre, experienced, to work in gold and in silver, in copper, in iron, in stones and in timbers, in wool dyed reddish purple, in blue thread and in fine fabric and in crimson and at cutting every sort of engraving and at designing every sort of device that may be given to him along with your own skillful men and the skillful men of my lord David your father. (2 Chronicles 2:14)**
- **Such **understanding** contributes to effective work, resulting in products of enduring quality.**
- **Others may be **expert**, form of *bin*, in matters of transportation or music due to their **understanding**.**
- **And Chenaniah the chief of the Levites in carrying, he giving instruction in carrying, for he was expert. (1 Chronicles 15:22)**
- **And the number of them together with their brothers trained in song to Yehowah, all experts, came to be two hundred and eighty-eight. (1 Chronicles 25:7)**
- **So they cast lots as to the things to be taken care of, the little being just the same as the great, the expert along with the learner. (1 Chronicles 25:8)**
- **And the men were acting in faithfulness in the work, and over them there were appointed Jahath and Obadiah the Levites, from the sons of Merari, and Zechariah and Meshullam, from the sons of the Kohathites, to act as overseers. And the Levites, each of whom was expert with the instruments of song. (2 Chronicles 34:12)**

- Some may show **understanding** in linguistics, writing, or other scholarly subjects.
- Children in whom there was no defect at all, but good in appearance and having insight into all wisdom and being acquainted with knowledge, and having discernment of what is known, in whom also there was ability to stand in the palace of the king, and to teach them the writing and the tongue of the Chaldeans. (**Daniel 1:4**)
- And as for these children, the four of them, to them the true God gave knowledge and insight in all writing and wisdom, and Daniel himself had **understanding** in all sorts of visions and dreams. (**Daniel 1:17**)
- And as regards every matter of wisdom and **understanding** that the king inquired about from them, he even got to find them ten times better than all the magic-practicing priests and the conjurers that were in all his royal realm. (**Daniel 1:20**)
- Such **understanding** can be gained through natural abilities and effort. Of course, God's spirit can augment, or enhance, such **understanding** in persons and qualify them to teach others their craft or profession.
- See, I do call by name Bezalel the son of Uri the son of Hur of the tribe of Judah. (**Exodus 31:2**)
- And I shall fill him with the spirit of God in wisdom and in **understanding** and in **knowledge** and in every kind of craftsmanship. (**Exodus 31:3**)
- For designing devices, for working in gold and silver and copper. (**Exodus 31:4**)
- And in working of stones to set them and in working of wood to make products of every kind. (**Exodus 31:5**)
- Then Moses said to the sons of Israel; See, Yehowah has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri the son of Hur of the tribe of Judah. (**Exodus 35:30**)
- And he proceeded to fill him with the spirit of God in wisdom, in **understanding** and in **knowledge** and in every sort of

- craftsmanship. (**Exodus 35:31**)
- And for designing devices, for working in gold and silver and copper. (**Exodus 35:32**)
 - And in working of stones to set them and in working of wood to make ingenious products of every sort. (**Exodus 35:33**)
 - And he has put it into his heart that he should teach, he and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan. (**Exodus 35:34**)
 - He has filled them with wisdom of heart to do all the work of a craftsman and an embroiderer and of a weaver in blue thread and wool dyed reddish purple, in coccus scarlet material and fine linen, and of a loom worker, men doing every sort of work and designing devices. (**Exodus 35:35**)
 - And Bezalel must work, also Oholiab and every wise-hearted man to whom Yehowah has given wisdom and **understanding** in these things in order to know how to do all the work of the holy service according to all that Yehowah has commanded. (**Exodus 36:1**)
 - He gave insight for the entire thing in writing from the hand of Yehowah upon me, even for all the works of the architectural plan. (**1 Chronicles 28:19**)
 - Some may have keen discernment of human nature, being observant and able to put two and two together. David, noting the way his servants were whispering, discerned that his child by Bathsheba had died.
 - He gave insight for the entire thing in writing from the hand of Yehowah upon me, even for all the works of the architectural plan. (**1 Chronicles 28:19**)
 - Rehoboam was guided by his **understanding** of fallen human nature and its tendency toward envy and jealousy when assigning his sons inheritances.
 - And Rehoboam was more in love with Maacah the granddaughter of Absalom than all his other wives and his concubines, for there were eighteen wives that he had taken, also sixty concubines, so that he became father to twenty-eight sons and sixty daughters. (**2 Chronicles 11:21**)

- **Consequently Rehoboam put Abijah the son of Maacah in office as head, as leader among his brothers, for he thought of making him king. (2 Chronicles 11:22)**
- **However, he acted **understandingly** and distributed some out of all his sons to all the lands of Judah and of Benjamin, to all the fortified cities, and gave them food in abundance and procured a multitude of wives for them. (2 Chronicles 11:23)**
- **Similarly, men or communities of men may show considerable discernment in business operations, a factor in their successfully enriching themselves, as did the leader of Tyre.**
- **Son of man, say to the leader of Tyre, This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; For the reason that your heart has become haughty, and you keep saying; I am a god. In the seat of god I have seated myself, in the heart of the open sea, whereas an earthling man is what you are, and not a god, and you keep making your heart like the heart of god. (Ezekiel 28:2)**
- **By your wisdom and by your discernment you have made wealth for your own self, and you keep getting gold and silver in your storehouses. (Ezekiel 28:4)**
- **Rulers may have **understanding** of military warfare and strategy.**
- **And it must occur that when Yehowah terminates all his work in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, I shall make an accounting for the fruitage of the insolence of the heart of the king of Assyria and for the self-importance of his loftiness of eyes. (Isaiah 10:12)**
- **For he has said; With the power of my hand I shall certainly act, and with my wisdom, for I do have **understanding**, and I shall remove the boundaries of peoples, and their things stored up I shall certainly pillage, and I shall bring down the inhabitants just like a powerful one. (Isaiah 10:13)**
- **Or be expert in political diplomacy.**
- **And in the final part of their kingdom, as the transgressors act to a completion, there will stand up a king fierce in countenance and **understanding** ambiguous sayings. (Daniel 8:23)**

- Yet their **understanding** may be narrow and of short-range benefit, as in the foregoing cases.
- It can be seen, then, that the Scriptures refer to **understanding** obtainable by natural means. Yet any such, **comprehension**, *sy'ne-sis* of worldly **intellectual men**, *sy-ne-toi'* becomes foolishness, in vain, when God's purposes are not considered.
- For it is written: I will make the wisdom of the wise men perish, and the **intelligence of the intellectual men I will shove aside**. (**1 Corinthians 1:19**)
- Where is the wise man? Where the scribe? Where the debater of this system of things? Did not God make the wisdom of the world foolish? (**1 Corinthians 1:20**) [Int]
- The Scriptures, therefore, primarily urge a **superior understanding**, one that is **spiritual**, having God as its foundation. No matter how much men may exploit the earth's resources, exploring its depths and the depths of the seas or studying the skies, they can never by their own efforts find **the place of understanding** and wisdom that leads to successful life in righteousness and happiness.
- Indeed, for silver there exists a place to find it and a place for gold that they refine. (**Job 28:1**)
- Iron itself is taken from the very dust and from stone copper is being poured out. (**Job 28:2**)
- An end to the darkness he has set, and to every limit he is searching out stone in the gloom and deep shadow. (**Job 28:3**)
- He has sunk a shaft far from where people reside as aliens, places forgotten far from the foot, some of mortal men have swung down, they have dangled. (**Job 28:4**)
- As for the earth, out of it food goes forth, but underneath it, it has been upturned as if by fire. (**Job 28:5**)
- Its stones are the place of the sapphire, and it has gold dust. (**Job 28:6**)
- A pathway, no bird of prey has known it, nor has the eye of a black kite caught sight of it. (**Job 28:7**)

- **The majestic wild beasts have not trodden it down solid, the young lion has not paced over it. (Job 28:8)**
- **Upon the flint he has thrust out his hand, he has overthrown mountains from their root. (Job 28:9)**
- **Into the rocks he has channeled water-filled galleries, and all precious things his eye has seen. (Job 28:10)**
- **The places from which rivers trickled he has dammed up, and the concealed thing he brings forth to the light. (Job 28:11)**
- **But wisdom, where can it be found, and where, now, is the place of **understanding**? (Job 28:12)**
- **Mortal man has not come to know its valuation, and it is not found in the land of those living. (Job 28:13)**
- **The watery deep itself has said; It is not in me! The sea too has said; It is not with me! (Job 28:14)**
- **Pure gold cannot be given in exchange for it, and silver cannot be weighed out as its price. (Job 28:15)**
- **It cannot be paid for with gold of Ophir, with the rare onyx stone and the sapphire. (Job 28:16)**
- **Gold and glass cannot be compared to it, nor is any vessel of refined gold an exchange for it. (Job 28:17)**
- **Coral and rock crystal themselves will not be mentioned, but a bagful of wisdom is worth more than one full of pearls. (Job 28:18)**
- **The topaz of Cush cannot be compared to it. It cannot be paid for even with gold in its purity. (Job 28:19)**
- **But wisdom itself, from where does it come, and where, now, is the place of **understanding**? (Job 28:20)**
- **It has been hidden even from the eyes of everyone alive, and from the flying creatures of the heavens it has been concealed. (Job 28:21)**

- And he went on to say to man, Look! The fear of Yehowah, that is wisdom, and to turn away from bad is **understanding**. (**Job 28:28**)
- Such **understanding is better than silver** and can bring the desired future that fleeting worldly riches and honor fail to bring.
- The getting of wisdom is O how much better than gold! And the getting of **understanding** is to be chosen more than silver. (**Proverbs 16:16**)
- To its owners insight is a well of life, and the discipline of the foolish ones is foolishness. (**Proverbs 16:22**)
- Do not toil to gain riches. Cease from your own **understanding**. (**Proverbs 23:4**)
- Have you caused your eyes to glance at it, when it is nothing? For without fail it makes wings for itself like those of an eagle and flies away toward the heavens. (**Proverbs 23:5**)
- Those who are trusting in their means of maintenance, and who keep boasting about the abundance of their riches. (**Psalms 49:6**)
- Not one of them can by any means redeem even a brother, nor give to God a ransom for him. (**Psalms 49:7**)
- And the redemption price of their soul is so precious that it has ceased to time indefinite. (**Psalms 49:8**)
- Like sheep they have been appointed to Sheol itself, death itself will shepherd them, and the upright ones will have them in subjection in the morning, and their forms are due to wear away, Sheol rather than a lofty abode is for each one. (**Psalms 49:14**)
- Earthling man, although in honor, who does not understand, is indeed comparable with the beasts that have been destroyed. (**Psalms 49:20**)

•• Relationship To Knowledge And Wisdom

- **Understanding** must be based on **knowledge**, and it works with **knowledge**, though it is itself more than mere **knowledge**. The extent

and worth of ones **understanding** is measurably affected by the quantity and quality of ones **knowledge**.

- **Knowledge** is acquaintance with facts, and the greatest and most fundamental facts relate to God, his existence, his invincible purpose, his ways. **Understanding** enables the person to relate the knowledge he acquires to God's purpose and standards, and thereby he can assess or evaluate such **knowledge**.
- The **understanding** heart is one that searches for **knowledge**, it is not satisfied with a mere superficial view but seeks to get the full picture.
- The **understanding** heart is one that searches for **knowledge**, but the mouth of stupid people is one that aspires to foolishness. (**Proverbs 15:14**)
- **Knowledge** must become pleasant to ones very soul if **discernment** is to safeguard one from perversion and deception.
- When wisdom enters into your heart and **knowledge** itself becomes pleasant to your very soul. (**Proverbs 2:10**)
- **Thinking ability** itself will keep guard over you, **discernment** itself will safeguard you. (**Proverbs 2:11**)
- The heart of the **understanding** one acquires **knowledge**, and the ear of wise ones seeks to find **knowledge**. (**Proverbs 18:15**)

See Also KNOWLEDGE

- The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, the king of Israel. (**Proverbs 1:1**)
- For one to know wisdom and discipline, to **discern** the sayings of **understanding**. (**Proverbs 1:2**)
- To receive the discipline that gives insight, righteousness and judgment and uprightness. (**Proverbs 1:3**)
- To give to the inexperienced ones shrewdness, to a young man **knowledge** and **thinking ability**. (**Proverbs 1:4**)
- A wise person will listen and take in more instruction, and a man

of **understanding** is the one who acquires skillful direction.
(**Proverbs 1:5**)

- To understand a proverb and a puzzling saying, the words of wise persons and their riddles. (**Proverbs 1:6**)
- Shows that the **man of understanding** is the one who acquires skillful direction, to understand a proverb and a puzzling saying; the words of wise persons and their riddles.
- These must not be things said merely to pass the time away in idle conversation, for wise persons would not customarily waste time in such manner, but must refer to instruction, questions, and problems that discipline and train the mind and heart in right principles, thereby equipping the learner for wise action in the future.
- My own mouth will speak things of wisdom, and the meditation of my heart will be of things of **understanding**. (**Psalms 49:3**)
- To a proverbial utterance I shall incline my ear, on a harp I shall open up my riddle. (**Psalms 49:4**)
- **Knowledge** and **understanding** together bring wisdom, which is **the prime thing**, the ability to bring a fund of **knowledge** and keen **understanding** to bear on problems with successful results.
- Wisdom is the prime thing. Acquire wisdom, and with all that you acquire, acquire **understanding**. (**Proverbs 4:7**)
- The person who is rightly motivated seeks **understanding**, not out of mere curiosity or to exalt himself, but for the very purpose of acting in wisdom, wisdom is before his face.
- Wisdom is before the face of the **understanding** one, but the eyes of the stupid one are at the extremity of the earth. (**Proverbs 17:24**)
- He is not like those in the apostle Paul's day who assumed to be teachers of others but were, **puffed up with pride, not understanding anything**, unwisely letting themselves become mentally diseased over questionings and debates about words, things that produce disunity and a host of bad results.
- If any man teaches other doctrine and does not assent to

healthful words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, nor to the teaching that accords with godly devotion. (**1 Timothy 6:3**)

- He is puffed up with pride, not **understanding** anything, but being mentally diseased over questionings and debates about words. From these things spring envy, strife, abusive speeches, wicked suspicions. (**1 Timothy 6:4**)
- Violent disputes about trifles on the part of men corrupted in mind and despoiled of the truth, thinking that godly devotion is a means of gain. (**1 Timothy 6:5**)

See Also WISDOM

•• Gaining True Understanding.

- The person seeking true **understanding** prays to God; Make me understand, that I may observe your Law and that I may keep it with the whole heart, that I may keep living.
- Make me **understand**, that I may observe your Law and that I may keep it with the whole heart. (**Psalms 119:34**)
- The righteousness of your reminders is to time indefinite. Make me **understand**, that I may keep living. (**Psalms 119:144**)
- Make me **understand** the way of your own orders, that I may concern myself with your wonderful works. (**Psalms 119:27**)
- Your own hands have made me, and they proceeded to fix me solidly. Make me **understand**, that I may learn your commandments. (**Psalms 119:73**)
- I am your servant. Make me **understand**, that I may know your reminders. (**Psalms 119:125**)
- May my entreating cry come near before you, O Yehowah. According to your word, O make me **understand**. (**Psalms 119:169**)
- This is the right motive. The apostle prayed that the Colossian Christians might be filled with the **accurate knowledge of God's will** in all wisdom and spiritual **comprehension**, *sy-ne'sei*, in order to walk worthily of Yehowah.

- That is also why we, from the day we heard of it, have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the **accurate knowledge** of his will in all wisdom and spiritual **comprehension**. (**Colossians 1:9**)
- In order to walk worthily of Yehowah to the end of fully pleasing him as you go on bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the **accurate knowledge of God**. (**Colossians 1:10**)
- Age and experience are natural factors that can help one to develop greater **understanding**.
- Is there not wisdom among the aged and **understanding** in length of days? (**Job 12:12**)
- Age and experience alone are not the decisive factors, however. Job's comforters prided themselves on the **understanding** they and their aged associates had, but they were reprov'd by the younger man Elihu.
- Were you the very first man to be born, or before the hills were you brought forth with labor pains? (**Job 15:7**)
- To the confidential talk of God do you listen, and do you limit wisdom to yourself? (**Job 15:8**)
- What do you actually know that we do not know? What do you understand that is not also with us? (**Job 15:9**)
- Both the gray-headed and the aged one are with us, the one greater than your father in days. (**Job 15:10**)
- And Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite proceeded to answer and say; Young I am in days and you men are aged. That is why I drew back and was afraid To declare my knowledge to you men. (**Job 32:6**)
- I said; Days themselves should speak, and a multitude of years are what should make wisdom known. (**Job 32:7**)
- Surely it is the spirit in mortal men and the breath of the Almighty that gives them **understanding**. (**Job 32:8**)

- It is not those merely abundant in days that prove wise, nor those just old that understand judgment. (**Job 32:9**)
- Therefore I said; Do listen to me. I shall declare my knowledge, even I. (**Job 32:10**)
- Look! I have waited for the words of you men. I kept giving ear to your reasonings, until you could search for words to say. (**Job 32:11**)
- And to you I kept my attention turned, and here there is no one reproving Job, none of you answering his sayings. (**Job 32:12**)
- **Yehowah, the Ancient of Days.**
- I kept on beholding in the visions of the night, and, see there! with the clouds of the heavens someone like a son of man happened to be coming, and to the Ancient of Days he gained access, and they brought him up close even before that One. (**Daniel 7:13**)
- Has **understanding** infinitely superior to that of all mankind, whose days cover only a few thousand years and who do not even understand just how the planet they live on came to be formed.
- Where did you happen to be when I founded the earth? Tell me, if you do know **understanding**. (**Job 38:4**)
- Who set its measurements, in case you know, or who stretched out upon it the measuring line? (**Job 38:5**)
- Into what have its socket pedestals been sunk down, or who laid its cornerstone. (**Job 38:6**)
- When the morning stars joyfully cried out together, and all the sons of God began shouting in applause? (**Job 38:7**)
- And who barricaded the sea with doors, which began to go forth as when it burst out from the womb. (**Job 38:8**)
- When I put the cloud as its garment and thick gloom as its swaddling band. (**Job 38:9**)
- And I proceeded to break up my regulation upon it and to set a

bar and doors. (**Job 38:10**)

- **And I went on to say; This far you may come, and no farther, and here your proud waves are limited? (**Job 38:11**)**
- **Was it from your days onward that you commanded the morning? Did you cause the dawn to know its place. (**Job 38:12**)**
- **To take hold on the extremities of the earth, that the wicked ones might be shaken out from it? (**Job 38:13**)**
- **Have you come to know because at that time you were being born, and because in number your days are many? (**Job 38:21**)**
- **Hence, God's written Word is a principal means for gaining **understanding**.**
- **The very disclosure of your words gives light, making the inexperienced ones understand. (**Psalms 119:130**)**
- **Children and young persons should thoughtfully consider the instruction of their older and more experienced parents, particularly so when these are devoted servants of God.**
- **My son, if you will receive my sayings and treasure up my own commandments with yourself. (**Proverbs 2:1**)**
- **So as to pay attention to wisdom with your ear, that you may incline your heart to discernment. (**Proverbs 2:2**)**
- **If, moreover, you call out for **understanding** itself and you give forth your voice for discernment itself. (**Proverbs 2:3**)**
- **If you keep seeking for it as for silver, and as for hid treasures you keep searching for it. (**Proverbs 2:4**)**
- **In that case you will **understand** the fear of Yehowah, and you will find the very knowledge of God. (**Proverbs 2:5**)**
- **My son, my Law do not forget, and my commandments may your heart observe. (**Proverbs 3:1**)**
- **Because length of days and years of life and peace will be added to you. (**Proverbs 3:2**)**

- **May loving-kindness and trueness themselves not leave you. Tie them about your throat. Write them upon the tablet of your heart. (Proverbs 3:3)**
- **Listen, O sons, to the discipline of a father and pay attention, so as to know **understanding**. (Proverbs 4:1)**
- **My son, to my wisdom O do pay attention. To my discernment incline your ears. (Proverbs 5:1)**
- **Serious **consideration**, Hebrew, *bin*, of the history of earlier generations can bring **understanding**, and older persons are often familiar with this.**
- **Remember the days of old, consider the years back from generation to generation. Ask your father, and he can tell you. Your old men, and they can say it to you. (Deuteronomy 32:7)**
- **Association should be sought, not with inexperienced ones, but with the wise, feeding on their counsel and instruction so as to keep living, and **walk straight in the way of understanding**.**
- **Come, feed yourselves with my bread and share in drinking the wine that I have mixed. (Proverbs 9:5)**
- **Leave the inexperienced ones and keep living, and walk straight in the way of **understanding**. (Proverbs 9:6)**
- **Listening and also observing, the person can cease to be naive and credulous, can **understand shrewdness**, and can avoid many bitter experiences.**
- **To you, O men, I am calling, and my voice is to the sons of men. (Proverbs 8:4)**
- **O inexperienced ones, **understand shrewdness**, and you stupid ones, understand heart. (Proverbs 8:5)**
- **Diligence in studying and applying God's Word and commands can enable a person to have greater insight than those set as his teachers and more **understanding** than those who are older men.**
- **More **insight** than all my teachers I have come to have, because**

- your reminders are a concern to me. (**Psalms 119:99**)
- With more **understanding** than older men I behave, because I have observed your own orders. (**Psalms 119:100**)
 - The very disclosure of your words gives light, making the inexperienced ones **understand**. (**Psalms 119:130**)
 - Well, after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers and listening to them and questioning them. (**Luke 2:46**)
 - But all those listening to him were in constant amazement at his **understanding** and his answers. (**Luke 2:47**)
 - This is because wisdom and **understanding** are, in effect, built into God's pure regulations and judicial decrees, hence Israel's faithful observance of these would cause surrounding nations to view them as a wise and **understanding** people.
 - See, I have taught you regulations and judicial decisions, just as Yehowah my God has commanded me, for you to do that way in the midst of the land to which you are going to take possession of it. (**Deuteronomy 4:5**)
 - And you must keep and do them, because this is wisdom on your part and **understanding** on your part before the eyes of the peoples who will hear of all these regulations, and they will certainly say; This great nation is undoubtedly a wise and understanding people. (**Deuteronomy 4:6**)
 - For what great nation is there that has gods near to it the way Yehowah our God is in all our calling upon him? (**Deuteronomy 4:7**)
 - And what great nation is there that has righteous regulations and judicial decisions like all this Law that I am putting before you today? (**Deuteronomy 4:8**)
 - The works of his hands are truth and judgment, trustworthy are all the orders he gives. (**Psalms 111:7**)
 - Well supported forever, to time indefinite, done in truth and uprightness. (**Psalms 111:8**)

- **The fear of Yehowah is the beginning of wisdom. All those doing them have a good insight. His praise is standing forever. (Psalms 111:10)**
- **And you must keep the obligation to Yehowah your God by walking in his ways, by keeping his statutes, his commandments and his judicial decisions and his testimonies, according to what is written in the Law of Moses, in order, that you may act prudently in everything that you do and everywhere that you turn. (1 Kings 2:3)**
- **The **understanding** person recognizes the inviolability of God's Word, wants to see his own course in relation thereto, and petitions God's aid in this.**
- **May my entreating cry come near before you, O Yehowah. According to your word, O make me understand. (Psalms 119:169)**
- **He lets God's message sink down deep.**
- **Where anyone hears the word of the kingdom but does not get the sense of it, the wicked one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart, this is the one sown alongside the road. (Matthew 13:19)**
- **As for the one sown upon the rocky places, this is the one hearing the word and at once accepting it with joy. (Matthew 13:20)**
- **Yet he has no root in himself but continues for a time, and after tribulation or persecution has arisen on account of the word he is at once stumbled. (Matthew 13:21)**
- **As for the one sown among the thorns, this is the one hearing the word, but the anxiety of this system of things and the deceptive power of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. (Matthew 13:22)**
- **As for the one sown upon the fine soil, this is the one hearing the word and getting the sense of it, who really does bear fruit and produces, this one a hundredfold, that one sixty, the other thirty. (Matthew 13:23)**

- **Writes it on the tablet of his heart.**
- **May loving-kindness and trueness themselves not leave you. Tie them about your throat. Write them upon the tablet of your heart. (Proverbs 3:3)**
- **And so find favor and good insight in the eyes of God and of earthling man. (Proverbs 3:4)**
- **Trust in Yehowah with all your heart and do not lean upon your own **understanding**. (Proverbs 3:5)**
- **In all your ways take notice of him, and he himself will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:6)**
- **My son, keep my sayings, and may you treasure up my own commandments with you. (Proverbs 7:1)**
- **Keep my commandments and continue living, and my Law like the pupil of your eyes. (Proverbs 7:2)**
- **Tie them upon your fingers, and write them upon the tablet of your heart. (Proverbs 7:3)**
- **Say to wisdom; You are my sister, and may you call **understanding** itself, Kinswoman. (Proverbs 7:4)**
- **And comes to develop a hatred for every false path.**
- **Owing to your orders I behave with **understanding**. That is why I have hated every false path. (Psalms 119:104)**
- **God's Son, when on earth, showed **understanding** in this way, even refusing to seek escape from death on the stake because the fulfillment of the Scriptures called for his dying in that manner.**
- **But, look! One of those with Jesus reached out his hand and drew his sword and struck the slave of the High Priest and took off his ear. (Matthew 26:51)**
- **Then Jesus said to him; Return your sword to its place, for all those who take the sword will perish by the sword. (Matthew 26:52)**

- Or do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father to supply me at this moment more than twelve legions of angels? (**Matthew 26:53**)
- In that case, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that it must take place this way? (**Matthew 26:54**)

•• Time And Meditation Essential

- The **overhasty** person usually fails to **consider** or **give thoughtful attention to**, form of Hebrew *bin*, **knowledge**.
- And the heart itself of those who are overhasty will consider **knowledge**, and even the tongue of the stammerers will be quick in speaking clear things. (**Isaiah 32:4**)
- Have you beheld a man hasty with his words? There is more hope for someone stupid than for him. (**Proverbs 29:20**)
- The **understanding** person characteristically knows when to keep quiet.
- The one in want of heart has despised his own fellowman, but the man of broad discernment is one that keeps silent. (**Proverbs 11:12**)
- Does not speak rashly, and keeps cool even though the discussion may become heated.
- He that is slow to anger is abundant in discernment, but one that is impatient is exalting foolishness. (**Proverbs 14:29**)
- Anyone holding back his sayings is possessed of knowledge, and a man of discernment is cool of spirit. (**Proverbs 17:27**)
- Even anyone foolish, when keeping silent, will be regarded as wise, anyone closing up his own lips, as having **understanding**. (**Proverbs 17:28**)
- The insight of a man certainly slows down his anger, and it is beauty on his part to pass over transgression. (**Proverbs 19:11**)
- Look! I have waited for the words of you men, I kept giving ear

- to your reasonings, until you could search for words to say. (**Job 32:11**)
- For I have become full of words, spirit has brought pressure upon me in my belly. (**Job 32:18**)
 - Who is wise and **understanding** among you? Let him show out of his fine conduct his works with a mildness that belongs to wisdom. (**James 3:13**)
 - But if you have bitter jealousy and contentiousness in your hearts, do not be bragging and lying against the truth. (**James 3:14**)
 - This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is the earthly, animal, demonic. (**James 3:15**)
 - For where jealousy and contentiousness are, there disorder and every vile thing are. (**James 3:16**)
 - But the **wisdom** from above **is first of all chaste**, then peaceable, reasonable, ready to obey, full of mercy and good fruits, not making partial distinctions, not hypocritical. (**James 3:17**)
 - Moreover, the fruit of righteousness has its seed sown under peaceful conditions for those who are making peace. (**James 3:18**)
 - He meditates on counsel so as to determine the significance of the words and message.
 - I would know the words with which he answers me, and I would consider what he says to me. (**Job 23:5**)
 - My own mouth will speak things of wisdom, and the meditation of my heart will be of things of **understanding**. (**Psalms 49:3**)
 - He asks questions aimed at discerning the whys and wherefores so he can determine the cause of success or failure, divine blessing or cursing, he ponders the logical future consequences to which each course will lead.
 - As for me, my feet had almost turned aside, my steps had nearly been made to slip. (**Psalms 73:2**)

- **For I became envious of the boasters, when I would see the very peace of wicked people. (Psalms 73:3)**
- **And I kept considering so as to know this, it was a trouble in my eyes. (Psalms 73:16)**
- **Until I proceeded to come into the grand sanctuary of God. I wanted to discern their future. (Psalms 73:17)**
- **Surely on slippery ground is where you place them. You have made them fall to ruins. (Psalms 73:18)**
- **But pass over to the coastlands of the Kittim and see. Yes, send even to Kedar and give your special consideration, and see whether anything like this has happened. (Jeremiah 2:10)**
- **Has a nation exchanged gods, even for those that are no gods? But my own people have exchanged my glory for what can bring no benefit. (Jeremiah 2:11)**
- **Stare in amazement, O you heavens, at this, and bristle up in very great horror, is the utterance of Yehowah. (Jeremiah 2:12)**
- **Because there are two bad things that my people have done: They have left even me, the source of living water, in order to hew out for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, that cannot contain the water. (Jeremiah 2:13)**
- **Is Israel a servant, or a slave born in the household? Why is it that he has come to be for plunder? (Jeremiah 2:14)**
- **Against him maned young lions roar, they have given out their voice. And they went making his land an object of astonishment. His own cities have been set afire, so that there is no inhabitant. (Jeremiah 2:15)**
- **Even the sons of Noph and Tahpanes themselves kept feeding on you at the crown of the head. (Jeremiah 2:16)**
- **Is not this what you proceeded to do to yourself by your leaving Yehowah your God during the time of his walking you in the way? (Jeremiah 2:17)**

- And now what concern should you have for the way of Egypt in order to drink the waters of Shihor? And what concern should you have for the way of Assyria in order to drink the waters of the River? (**Jeremiah 2:18**)
- Your badness should correct you, and your own acts of unfaithfulness should reprove you. Know, then, and see that your leaving Yehowah your God is something bad and bitter, and no dread of me has resulted to you, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord, Yehowah of armies. (**Jeremiah 2:19**)
- There is one whose business is to cut down cedars, and he takes a certain species of tree, even a massive tree, and he lets it become strong for himself among the trees of the forest. He planted the laurel tree, and the pouring rain itself keeps making it get big. (**Isaiah 44:14**)
- And it has become something for man to keep a fire burning. So he takes part of it that he may warm himself. In fact he builds a fire and actually bakes bread. He also works on a god to which he may bow down. He has made it into a carved image, and he prostrates himself to it. (**Isaiah 44:15**)
- Half of it he actually burns up in a fire. Upon half of it he roasts well the flesh that he eats, and he becomes satisfied. He also warms himself and says; Aha! I have warmed myself. I have seen the firelight. (**Isaiah 44:16**)
- But the remainder of it he actually makes into a god itself, into his carved image. He prostrates himself to it and bows down and prays to it and says; Deliver me, for you are my god. (**Isaiah 44:17**)
- They have not come to know, nor do they understand, because their eyes have been besmeared so as not to see, their heart so as to have no insight. (**Isaiah 44:18**)
- And no one recalls to his heart or has knowledge or **understanding**, saying; The half of it I have burned up in a fire, and upon its coals I have also baked bread. I roast flesh and eat. But the rest of it shall I make into a mere detestable thing? To the dried-out wood of a tree shall I prostrate myself? (**Isaiah 44:19**)

- He is feeding on ashes. His own heart that has been trifled with has led him astray. And he does not deliver his soul, nor does he say; Is there not a falsehood in my right hand? ([Isaiah 44:20](#))
- Israel failed to do this and did not give consideration in their hearts as to what would be their end afterward.
- For they are a nation on whom counsel perishes, and among them there is no **understanding**. ([Deuteronomy 32:28](#))
- O that they were wise! Then they would ponder over this. They would consider their end afterward. ([Deuteronomy 32:29](#))
- How could one pursue a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight? Not unless their Rock had sold them and Yehowah had surrendered them. ([Deuteronomy 32:30](#))

•• **Accept Discipline**

- **Pride, stubbornness, self-will, and independence are enemies of understanding.**
- For my people is foolish. Of me they have not taken note. They are unwise sons, and they are not those having **understanding**. Wise they are for doing bad, but for doing good they actually have no knowledge. ([Jeremiah 4:22](#))
- I shall not hold an accounting against your daughters because they commit fornication, and against your daughters-in-law because they commit adultery. For, as to the men, it is with the harlots that they get off to themselves, and with the female temple prostitutes that they sacrifice, and a people that does not understand will be trodden down. ([Hosea 4:14](#))
- For, like a stubborn cow, Israel has become stubborn. Is it now that Yehowah will shepherd them like a young ram in a roomy place? ([Hosea 4:16](#))
- The person with true **understanding** does not think he knows everything, hence;
- Also, that the soul should be without knowledge is not good, and he that is hastening with his feet is sinning. ([Proverbs 19:2](#))

- Says that there should be a reproving of the **understanding** one, that he may discern knowledge.
- Instruct me, and I, for my part, shall be silent, and what mistake I have committed make me **understand**. (**Job 6:24**)
- The sayings of uprightness have been, O not painful! but what does reproving on the part of you men reprove? (**Job 6:25**)
- Mistakes, who can **discern**? From concealed sins pronounce me innocent. (**Psalms 19:12**)
- Also from presumptuous acts hold your servant back, do not let them dominate me. In that case I shall be complete, and I shall have remained innocent from much transgression. (**Psalms 19:13**)
- Because he **is** an **understanding** person, he is ready to listen, discerns the basis for the reproof, and benefits by it more than a stupid one would from a hundred strokes.
- A rebuke works deeper in one having **understanding** than striking a stupid one a hundred times. (**Proverbs 17:10**)

·· Understanding Prophecy

- Inspired prophetic messages are understood only by those cleansed ones who humbly pray for **understanding**.
- And he proceeded to impart **understanding** and speak with me and say; O Daniel, now I have come forth to make you have insight with **understanding**. (**Daniel 9:22**)
- At the start of your entreaties a word went forth, and I myself have come to make report, because you are someone very desirable. So give consideration to the matter, and have **understanding** in the thing seen. (**Daniel 9:23**)
- And he went on to say to me; Do not be afraid, O Daniel, for from the first day that you gave your heart to **understanding** and humbling yourself before your God your words have been heard, and I myself have come because of your words. (**Daniel 10:12**)
- Many will cleanse themselves and whiten themselves and will be

- refined. And the wicked ones will certainly act wickedly, and no wicked ones at all will **understand**, but the ones having insight will understand. (**Daniel 12:10**)
- **Though the general time period of their fulfillment may be comprehended, full discernment of the prophecy's application may have to await God's due time for its being carried out.**
 - **So he came beside where I was standing, but when he came I got terrified so that I fell upon my face. And he proceeded to say to me; **Understand**, O son of man, that the vision is for the time of the end. (**Daniel 8:17**)**
 - **And I have come to cause you to discern what will befall your people in the final part of the days, because it is a vision yet for the days to come. (**Daniel 10:14**)**
 - **Now as for me, I heard, but I could not **understand**, so that I said; O my lord, what will be the final part of these things? (**Daniel 12:8**)**
 - **And he went on to say; Go, Daniel, because the words are made secret and sealed up until the time of the end. (**Daniel 12:9**)**
 - **Many will cleanse themselves and whiten themselves and will be refined. And the wicked ones will certainly act wickedly, and no wicked ones at all will **understand**, but the ones having insight will understand. (**Daniel 12:10**)**
 - **For he was teaching his disciples and telling them; The Son of man is to be delivered into mens hands, and they will kill him, but, despite being killed, he will rise three days later. (**Mark 9:31**)**
 - **However, they were not **understanding** the saying, and they were afraid to question him. (**Mark 9:32**)**
 - **He now said to them; These are my words which I spoke to you while I was yet with you, that all the things written in the Law of Moses and in the Prophets and Psalms about me must be fulfilled. (**Luke 24:44**)**
 - **Then he opened up their minds fully to grasp the meaning of the Scriptures. (**Luke 24:45**)**

- **And he said to them; In this way it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from among the dead on the third day. (Luke 24:46)**
- **And on the basis of his name repentance for forgiveness of sins would be preached in all the nations, starting out from Jerusalem. (Luke 24:47)**
- **You are to be witnesses of these things. (Luke 24:48)**
- **Those placing their confidence in men and disdaining God's power and discounting his purpose as a factor worth considering cannot understand the prophecies, and they remain blind to their significance until the disastrous effects of their fulfillment begin to hit them.**
- **These things you have done, and I kept silent. You imagined that I would positively become like you. I am going to reprove you, and I will set things in order before your eyes. (Psalms 50:21)**
- **Understand this, please, you forgetters of God, that I may not tear you to pieces without there being any deliverer. (Psalms 50:22)**
- **As often as it passes through, it will take you men away, because morning by morning it will pass through, during the day and during the night, and it must become nothing but a reason for quaking to make others understand what has been heard. (Isaiah 28:19)**
- **The One telling from the beginning the finale, and from long ago the things that have not been done, the One saying; My own counsel will stand, and everything that is my delight I shall do. (Isaiah 46:10)**
- **The One calling from the sunrising a bird of prey, from a distant land the man to execute my counsel. I have even spoken it, I shall also bring it in. I have formed it, I shall also do it. (Isaiah 46:11)**
- **Listen to me, you the ones powerful at heart, you the ones far away from righteousness. (Isaiah 46:12)**