

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Another series from the desk of Rabbi Yochanan Hammond.

Our world is crying out for “Words of wisdom”! This not a new need, but it has been a constant need throughout the history of the human race. We have always been given “words of wisdom” but on the whole we have ignored them to our peril. Those of us who study the Word of HaShem are well aware of our historical foolishness in rejecting words of wisdom.

“And HASHEM commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Bad, you must not eat thereof; for on the day you eat of it, you shall surely die.’” Genesis 2:16-17 [AST]

We know the result of Adam and Chava ignoring these words of wisdom. Unfortunately, we don't seem to have learnt from the mistakes of our “parents”. Time and time again we have had HaShem “speak” to us through various means and we have ignored or totally rejected His words of wisdom. These words of wisdom are still available today, but as in yesteryear we continue to ignore and reject them and go our own way. We continue to put our faith in the words of man instead of the words or Word of HaShem. Our young people are more inclined to put the “words of wisdom”, spoken by rock “stars”, movie actors, sportsmen and women, humanistic socialists, and secular psychologists into action than any counsel from the Word of HaShem. This brings the same results as the disobedience of our first “parents” brought them.

I can understand those who have no interest in biblical matters of faith ignoring and rejecting the wisdom found in the words and Word of HaShem. I do not understand those who claim to follow and worship the One Who brought us the Word and words of wisdom, ignoring and rejecting His wisdom and commandments.

“The beginning of wisdom is fear of HASHEM, good understanding to all their practitioners.” Psalm 11:10 [AST]

“For HASHEM grants wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.” Proverbs 2:6

“The beginning of wisdom is to acquire wisdom....” Proverbs 4:7a [AST]

“My child, be attentive to my wisdom, give ear to my understanding, to heed wise designs and let your lips guard wisdom.” Proverbs 9:1-2 [AST]

“How much better than fine gold is the acquisition of wisdom, and the acquisition of understanding is choicer than silver.” Proverbs 16:16 [AST]

“It [wisdom] is a tree of life to those who grasp it, and its supporters are praiseworthy.” Proverbs 3:18

There is no doubt that the wisdom of HaShem is to be embraced and applied by the Children of Israel. Without His wisdom as the basis for our lives we can but expect more and more problems and challenges in our lives and communities.

The human race is in the absolute mess it finds itself in because of the rejection of the words and Word of HaShem. Remarkably we have to make the same statement regarding the nation of Israel, the chosen nation. We Children of HaShem have neglected the wisdom and counsel found in the Word of HaShem and thus we need to readjust our focus and re-learn the wisdom found therein. We must give thanks to the mercy and patience of HaShem as He willingly waits for His people to come and sit at His feet seeking His wisdom through learning His Torah.

It is with this hope that we approach this series and I pray that we bring glory to HaShem, the Holy One of Israel, and to His Torah and HaMoshiach. Without HaShem, without HaMoshiach and without Torah we are a doomed people without hope. In this series we hope to bring the building blocks that all can apply to their lives. We are seeking the wisdom of HaShem in our approach, so all can understand and apply if they so wish. We do not want to over

complicate the Word of HaShem, thus making it only for the elite and “educated”. The Word of HaShem is for all His Children, and we need to teach and explain it to all who have ears to listen. The majority of our people do not have the time to spend on countless hours of study and are looking for clear, concise directions that are easily understood and adhered too. It is the opinion of this author that we have overcomplicated the Word and words of HaShem applying so many rules and regulations in an attempt to guard the torah that we can no longer see the Wood for the Trees. Our people are suffering from want of the simplicity that can be found in the Word and words of HaShem.

We presently lack Wisdom in our midst, so let us seek it out with intent and persistence, in an effort to change our direction and build happy, healthy and fruitful communities.

Until we meet next, may we remember the wisdom found in these words, ***“My child, do not forget My Torah, and let your heart guard My commandments, for they add to your length of days and years of life and peace. Kindness and truth will not forsake you. Bind them upon your neck; inscribe them on the tablet of your heart, and you will find favour and goodly wisdom in the eyes of God and man. Trust in HASHEM with all your heart and do not rely upon your own understanding. In all your ways know Him, and He will smooth your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear HASHEM and turn away from evil.”*** Proverbs 3:1-7
[AST]

Shalom berakhah ve-tovah

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