

Reality Is Real

Proverbs 22-23

1. THE WISDOM OF EGYPT: The book of Proverbs (especially Proverbs 22-23) has many similarities with _____ collections of wisdom, even some that likely existed _____ Solomon.

And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and breadth of mind like the sand on the seashore, so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. (1 Kings 4:29-30)

- a. Though some find this troubling, it actually makes all sorts of _____, because God's wisdom is describing reality, and reality is _____ and knowable.
- b. This tells us something about Christ as the desire of the _____, the one who restores and renews life in his _____ creation.
2. IT SPROUTS WINGS: Wisdom says both to _____ and _____ to work; sorting this out requires, well, _____.

Do not toil to acquire wealth;
be discerning enough to desist.
When your eyes light on it, it is gone,
for suddenly it sprouts wings,
flying like an eagle toward heaven. (23:4-5)

- a. Proverbs and Ecclesiastes _____.
- b. Receive this wisdom as both _____ and _____.
3. THE DRUNKARD AND THE GLUTTON: Wisdom _____ warns of the _____ of idolizing pleasure and consumption.

Hear, my son, and be wise,
and direct your heart in the way.
Be not among drunkards
or among gluttonous eaters of meat,
for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty,
and slumber will clothe them with rags. (23:19-21; cf. 29-35)

- a. Drunkenness and gluttony are defined in terms of _____ consequences.
- b. There is also a broader biblical picture of the right use of food and wine as _____, including Wisdom personified spreading a feast in Proverbs 9.

You cause the grass to grow for the livestock
and plants for man to cultivate,
that he may bring forth food from the earth
and wine to gladden the heart of man,
oil to make his face shine
and bread to strengthen man's heart. (Psalm 104:14-15)

- c. There is no way to get around the need for a _____ that is oriented toward God, his Son, his church, his wisdom, and life as he made it to be.