



His Wisdom for Our Lives

Proverbs 3:5-13



Terminology found in Proverbs/Mishlei

- **Chochmah/Wisdom** – The attainment of chochmah is a major goal. Rabbeinu Yonah defines it as knowing the way of righteousness- truth and justice. 1 Cor. 1:30
- **Mussar** – Depending on the context mussar is translated as discipline, ethical teaching or affliction. **Mussar also refers to perfection of character traits**, which is inextricably linked to wisdom. God is more concerned about our character than our comfort.
- **Binah/Understanding or Discernment** – Binah refers to one's ability to deduce one thing from another
- **Mussar Haskel** – Wise discipline related to intelligence



Definitions of Types of Wisdom in Proverbs/Mishlei

- ▶ **Simpleton – Scoffer-Fool** A simpleton, is easily swayed toward evil ways. A scoffer mocks chochmah because it cannot be proven through logic and a fool, knows chochmah, but he rejects it because it demands that he not indulge his every desire.
- ▶ **Shrewdness-Cleverness** – An Arum is a shrewd person who uses the art of persuasion to convince others to do wrong
- ▶ **Skeptic** – Is one who lacks fear of God

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Areas where we need to Grow in Our Walk with Him

- **Proverbs 3:5-6** – Trust in Adonai
- **Proverbs 3:7-8** – Do Not Be Wise in Your Own Eyes
- **Proverbs 3:9-10**- Honor Adonai
- **Proverbs 3:11-12** – Do not despise His Discipline

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Trust/Bit-ta-chon in Adonai/YHVH

► **Artscroll Translation**

► *Proverbs 3:5-6 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*



Trust in Adonai/YHVH

► Artscroll Commentary Mishlei

- *Proverbs 3:5-6 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*
- Rashi applies this to the study of Torah. Trust in Hashem and spend extravagantly in search of a teacher; do not depend exclusively on your own understanding.
- Ephesians 4:11-15
- R'Yonah states: A person is obligated to trust in Hashem with his whole heart, fully and without reservation.



Trust in Adonai/YHVH

➤ **Artscroll Commentary Mishlei**

➤ **Ten progressive levels of human trust- Trust is a growing process**

- 1. A newborn infant trusts in his mother's breasts, for they are his sustenance and lifeline
- 2. As he grows and begins to sense reality, he transfers his trust to his mother because she cares for him devotedly
- 3. When he observes that his mother depends on his father for her own protection, he transfers his trust to his father



Trust in Adonai/YHVH

- **Artscroll Commentary Mishlei**

- **Ten progressive levels of human trust**

- 4. When he becomes able to earn his own livelihood, he transfers his trust to his own strength and skill.
- 5. If his livelihood depends on others, he places his trust in them
- 6. As his understanding grows, man recognizes human deficiencies and realizes his need of the Creator. At first, he transfers his trust to God only in matters where he knows he is helpless, trusting Him to provide rains for crops, or salvation from storms at sea, robbers and wild animals in a desert



Trust in Adonai/YHVH

- **Artscroll Commentary Mishlei**

- **Ten progressive levels of human trust**

- 7. A more complete level of trust entails reliance on God even in areas where he himself is not completely helpless. He gives up perilous or exhausting occupations, and trusts God will provide other ways to earn a livelihood.
- 8. Eventually he will trust God in all his affairs, difficult and easy, and directs all his efforts to Hashem's service and the observance of His Commandments



Trust in Adonai/YHVH

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- 9. When he reaches a higher realization of Divine Mercy, a person happily accepts the Divine Will, desiring what only God desires for him. **My Note: God reveals His will in the Torah and through our Messiah Yeshua in the Brit Hadasha/New Testament.**
- 10. When man's knowledge of God becomes still stronger, he understands why he was created and realizes the enduring value of the World to come.



Trust in Adonai/YHVH

- **Artscroll Commentary Mishlei**

- *Proverbs 3:6 – In ALL your ways, know Him and He will smooth your paths.*

- IN all you do, know Adonai/YHVH. Create a “mindset” that the purpose of whatever you do is the fulfillment of God’s will. Then He will direct your path and you will succeed. (Metzudos)

- The entire Torah is a guide to the application of God’s Will to life and human behavior. **My Notes:**
Yeshua taught this and is our example



Trust in Adonai/YHVH

- **Artscroll Commentary Mishlei**

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- A person who considers each of his actions carefully, trying to determine that whatever he does will contribute to the service of God, will be serving Him all his life in every minute of human existence.

- **Luke 12:22-31**



Trust in Adonai/YHVH

➤ **Artscroll Commentary Mishlei**

- *Proverbs 3:6 – In ALL your ways, know Him and He will smooth your paths.*
- In the same way, one can infuse his eating and drinking and all his seemingly mundane affairs with holiness by utilizing them to service God.
- **1 Cor. 10:31** **Therefore, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. TLV**
- This is so even when the major part of a person's day is spent working and only a few hours are devoted to Torah Study (Study of the Word). The litmus test of this primacy is his being uncompromising about this daily designation time for Torah study.



Trust in Adonai/YHVH

➤ Artscroll Commentary Mishlei

- *Proverbs 3:6 – In ALL your ways, know Him and He will smooth your paths.*
- Adonai/YHVH in His kindness will consider even the working hours upright and straight and reward him for them. However, this is true only when he devotes his spare time, especially on Shabbat to hear and study the Torah/Word. But if he wastes his free time on frivolous things not only will he lose the reward he could have earned during those hours, he will also lose the reward for all his working hours. For he will have made it obvious he was not working for the sake of Heaven. **Must be a good steward of the time He has allotted us in our life.**



Trust in Adonai/YHVH

► Artscroll Commentary Mishlei

- *Proverbs 3:6 – In ALL your ways, know Him and He will smooth your paths.*
- Example: There are people who turn to God before a huge or dangerous undertaking, such as a crucial business trip, but do not think of Him in their “small” undertakings. It is regarding such cases that Solomon instructs in **ALL your ways**, know Him, whether they be big or small. Should someone succeed in his undertaking without thinking that he needs God’s assistance, he will have fallen short of his spiritual obligation. One should also realize that the reward for trusting in Adonai/YHVH far surpasses any benefits he may stand to gain from success of the undertaking itself.



Trust in Adonai/YHVH

➤ **Artscroll Commentary Mishlei**

- *Proverbs 3:6 – In ALL your ways, know Him and He will smooth your paths.*
- Summery R.Yonah derives four teachings from this verse
 - Regarding all of life's path's place your trust in God
 - Your goal should be to know, serve and honor Adonai/YHVH, by doing everything for Heaven's sake
 - Never let pursuit of a livelihood or any other worldly goal drown out the Divine message
 - Prior to any pursuit, make sure that is in accord with God's wishes and goals; whatever you do, know Him and reckon with His values and priorities.



Do Not Be Wise in Your Own eyes

► **Artscroll Translation Mishlei**

► *Proverbs 3:7-8 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear Hashem/YHVH and turn away from evil. It will be health to your navel and marrow to your bones.*



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- Rashi - Do not be wise in your own eyes and say that with your own wisdom you will gain the straight path. R.Yonah – Explains once Hashem/YHVH smooths your ways and grants you success and wealth, do not credit the good fortune to your own wisdom, as the wealthy often do.
- **Proverbs 28:11, Deuteronomy 8:11-18**



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- Meiri explains that the navel represents the entire body, for it is the conduit through which a baby in the womb receives its nourishment. **In the same way we must constantly maintain wisdom/chochmah by continually studying the Word. Just as human bones constantly need marrow to strengthen them, so, too, a person's level of perfection needs constant reinforcement from it's source of life.**
- **1 Peter 2:2, 2 Peter 1:3-11**



Honor Hashem with your wealth

- **Artscroll Translation Mishlei Commentary**

- *Proverbs 3: 9-10 Honor Hashem/YHVH with your wealth and with the first of all your produce. Then your storehouses will be filled with plenty, and the wine of your vats will burst forth.*

- **Commentary;** Recognize that your success is from Hashem/YHVH by honoring Him from your wealth and the first of your produce. To Honor Hashem/YHVH with your wealth means setting some of it aside for charity (i.e. supporting local community). This first of all your produce refers to Terumah, the portion of the produce which was set aside and given to the Kohanim, and masechet, tithes- the tenths of the produce were given to the Levites (spiritual leaders in the Community) and to the poor, or eaten in Jerusalem (these are the 3 tithes of Torah). See page 76-77 Artscroll



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- **Commentary;** By giving the first of your possessions to Hashem/YHVH you acknowledge that it was He who gave you strength to make wealth (Deuteronomy 8:13)
- R.Yonah points out that when a person uses his wealth for mitzvos and charity, he demonstrates his Bit-ta-chon- Trust in Hashem. These verses teach a person to trust that God will bless him for his generosity and cause his possessions to increase. The more one depletes, the more Hashem increases; as the Jerusalem proverb expressed it, 'To salt money, diminish it, i.e. the way to preserve money is to give a great deal to charity – God's work.



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► **Commentary;** Material possessions make it possible for us to advance the aims which God has entrusted to human care. If we faithfully put our material possessions to the use ordained by God, we may look forward to receiving His lasting blessing. If we give priority to God's honor and His purpose, he will appoint us as custodians (stewards) of His goods and increase our wealth . **My Note: This includes the spiritual gifts He give us.**

► Read story page 76 Beneficial effect of taking tithes.



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- **Commentary;** Not only will you not lack anything because of your charity/giving for the sake of the Kingdom, your produce will be blessed and increase, as will the wine in the vats.

- **Luk 6:38** Give, and it will be given to you—a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, overflowing, will be given into your lap. For whatever measure you measure out will be measured back to you.”



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- **Commentary;** The translation of “as will burst forth” follows Meire and Ibn Ezra who explain that this is related to the meaning of “As to break, i.e. to breach barriers”. There will be such plenty that the wine will burst forth from it’s vats. **BREAKTHROUGH!**



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- **Commentary;** The Torah prohibits testing of Hashem- Deuteronomy 6:16. His people have neither the right to doubt Hashem/YHVH or test His prowess. A person may not say “I will perform this commandment in order to succeed financially”
- The commandments of giving charity and separating tithe, however, are exceptions to this prohibition. Regarding this the verse in Malachi 3:10 Bring all the tithes...and test me in this...and see if I do not shower you with endless blessings. Verses 9-10 refer to his permissible test. (R. Bachya) See Taanis 9a commentary



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- **Commentary;** R'Yonah comments that his verse gives the outcome of the previous verse's urging that one should dedicate one's wealth and faculties to God's honor. **This verse calls for faith that such devotion will be rewarded with full storehouses and bursting vats.**



Do not Despise Hashem's/YHVH's Discipline

- **Artscroll Translation Mishlei**

- *Proverbs 3:11-12 – My child, do not despise Hashem's/YHVH's discipline, and do not be disgusted with His reproof. For Hashem admonishes the one He loves, and like a father, He mollifies a child.*

- If suffering comes upon you, cherish it (Rashi) If you despise afflictions, you will not receive the benefits they were to have brought you. According to R. Yonah, Divine chastisements are not to be despised. Hashem purifies him and cleanses him of sin, this increasing his reward in the World to Come. Ex. Prophetic words to us

- **Apostolic Scriptures regarding Suffering:**

- **Acts 1:3, Romans 5:1-5, 2 Thes. 1:5, 2 Tim. 1:8, 2:3-13, James 5:10, 1 Pet. 5:8-11, Romans 8:8**



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- ▶ The benefits of God's Chastisements – Read page 78 #1, 79 1a
- ▶ Isaiah 53 – Yeshua took God's Chastisement on our behalf



Do not Despise Hashem's/YHVH's Discipline

- ▶ Isaiah 53 **Isa 53:1** 'Who has believed our report? To whom is the arm of Adonai revealed?
- ▶ Isa 53:2 For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, like a root out of dry ground. He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, nor beauty that we should desire Him.
- ▶ Isa 53:3 **He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief, One from whom people hide their faces. He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.**



Do not Despise Hashem's/YHVH's Discipline

- Isa 53:4 Surely **He has borne our griefs and carried our pains.** Yet we esteemed Him stricken, struck by God, and afflicted.
- Isa 53:5 **But He was pierced because of our transgressions, crushed because of our iniquities. The chastisement for our shalom was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.**



Do not Despise Hashem's/YHVH's Discipline

- ▶ Isa 53:7 **He was oppressed and He was afflicted** yet He did not open His mouth. Like a lamb led to the slaughter, like a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth.
- ▶ Isa 53:8 **Because of oppression and judgment He was taken away.** As for His generation, who considered? For He was cut off from the land of the living, for the transgression of my people—the stroke was theirs
- ▶ Isa 53:9 His grave was given with the wicked, and by a rich man in His death, though He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth.



Do not Despise Hashem's/YHVH's Discipline

- ▶ Isa 53:10 **Yet it pleased Adonai to bruise Him. He caused Him to suffer. If He makes His soul a guilt offering,** He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, and the will of Adonai will succeed by His hand.
- ▶ Isa 53:11 **As a result of the anguish** of His soul He will see it and be satisfied by His knowledge. The Righteous One, My Servant will make many righteous and He will bear their iniquities.
- ▶ Isa 53:12 Therefore I will give Him a portion with the great, and He will divide the spoil with the mighty—because He poured out His soul to death, and was counted with transgressors. **For He bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors. TLV**



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- **Commentary:** If a wayward child disregards his father's verbal rebuke, the father will continue to admonish him, even resorting to corporal punishment. Since a concerned father is pained by his child's errors and longs for his improvement, he punishes only for the sake of the child. Proof of this is that as soon as the punishment is over, the father tries to console his child. Therefore do not despise Heavenly afflictions, for it is an indication of your preciousness in Hashem's/YHVH's eyes. Eventually He will placate you and fulfill your desires, like a father. **Hebrews 12:5-11**

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Wisdom for Life In Conclusion

- **Proverbs 3:5-6** – Trust in Adonai
- **Proverbs 3:7-8** – Do Not Be Wise in Your Own Eyes
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- **Proverbs 3:11-12** – Do not despise His Discipline