

Bible Tuesday for Holy Trinity, 2019

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Does not wisdom call,  
and does not understanding raise her voice?  
<sup>2</sup> On the heights, beside the way,  
at the crossroads she takes her stand;  
<sup>3</sup> beside the gates in front of the town,  
at the entrance of the portals she cries out:  
<sup>4</sup> 'To you, O people, I call,  
and my cry is to all that live.  
<sup>22</sup> The Lord created me at the beginning\* of his work,  
the first of his acts of long ago.  
<sup>23</sup> Ages ago I was set up,  
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.  
<sup>24</sup> When there were no depths I was brought forth,  
when there were no springs abounding with water.  
<sup>25</sup> Before the mountains had been shaped,  
before the hills, I was brought forth—  
<sup>26</sup> when he had not yet made earth and fields,\*  
or the world's first bits of soil.  
<sup>27</sup> When he established the heavens, I was there,  
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,  
<sup>28</sup> when he made firm the skies above,  
when he established the fountains of the deep,  
<sup>29</sup> when he assigned to the sea its limit,  
so that the waters might not transgress his command,  
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,  
<sup>30</sup> then I was beside him, like a master worker;\*  
and I was daily his\* delight,  
rejoicing before him always,  
<sup>31</sup> rejoicing in his inhabited world  
and delighting in the human race.

The book of Proverbs sets forth two female archetypes for learning. One is the strange woman who acts as a fem fatal prostitute who is to be avoided and shunned. The other is Wisdom who is to be befriended and learned from.

Wisdom describes herself as God's first creation in verse 23. Wisdom is not to be confused with the Holy Spirit, which the Bible never says was created. Rather Wisdom is a personification of the manner of God: creative, loving, prudent, humble, joyful.

Verse 30: "This is one of the most disputed verses in the Bible and has weighty theological implications. The word translated "confidant" [in many translations or "delight" in this one] is in Hebrew 'amon.' There are three basic ways of interpreting this word. 1. Artisan (which is elsewhere 'oman') this translation implies wisdom aided God in creation. In

similar vein, a midrash [ancient Jewish scholarly teaching] likens wisdom to a tool God used in creation, as an architect looks at a blueprint when constructing a palace. 2. Constantly/faithfully; a confidant. 3. Ward or nursing or growing up/maturing. Wisdom was with God as His ward, like a child for which God was caring. Definition 3 is what fits this context best. Nowhere does the chapter imply that Lady Wisdom helped God create the earth. On the contrary, 30-31 emphasize that she played while God worked. Wisdom's playing before God represents the 'play' of the wise, which is study." Jewish Study Bible

## Psalm 8

O Lord, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

<sup>2</sup> Out of the mouths of babes and infants  
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,  
to silence the enemy and the avenger.

<sup>3</sup> When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have established;

<sup>4</sup> what are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
mortals\* that you care for them?

<sup>5</sup> Yet you have made them a little lower than God,\*  
and crowned them with glory and honour.

<sup>6</sup> You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under their feet,

<sup>7</sup> all sheep and oxen,  
and also the beasts of the field,

<sup>8</sup> the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

<sup>9</sup> O Lord, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

"Oh Lord, our Sovereign..." – The title "Lord", used by those in lower echelons of society, applies to any landowners or otherwise powerful people. While it is commonly used to refer to God, the second term, Sovereign, designates God's function far above that of a mere lord. Whereas most lords are known only in their own territory and among their own subjects, God is known throughout the earth, because God created all the earth.

Verse 4 asks the odyssey question, why does God pay attention to mere mortal human beings? No answer is given, only marveling.

"You have made them little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor." – This verse is frequently translated "little lower than the angels" because it seems

blasphemous to call humans demi-gods. The Hebrew (and Greek Septuagint) is clear that the original meaning is more accurately translated above.

#### Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we<sup>\*</sup> have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access<sup>\*</sup> to this grace in which we stand; and we<sup>\*</sup> boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.<sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we<sup>\*</sup> also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,<sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,<sup>5</sup> and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

“Justified by faith” – In a “justified” margin on a page of writing, “justified” means “all lined up, each line measures up on one or both ends.” This is the kind of “justified” implied in this verse. Faith in Jesus Christ lines people up with God commands and Law.

Boast – We tend to equate “boast” and “brag”. We are not to brag that “God's loves me best because Jesus died for ME!” Rather, boasting is speaking loudly, broadly, out loud, and joyfully about something, in this case, Jesus' suffering and death purchasing God's glory for all people.

Paul teaches that we should rejoice in our suffering, knowing that suffering in the company of God will change us into hopeful, faithful people. When you get a diagnosis of a fatal disease, is that your first thought? “Oh joy, this will draw me closer to being the person God created me to be!!!”

#### John 16:12-15

‘I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.<sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.<sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.<sup>15</sup> All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

In the gospels, strongest in the gospel of John, Jesus says that the only way for the Holy Spirit to come was for Jesus to leave. Jesus, as a human, is finite, but the Holy Spirit is infinite and can fill each person on earth.

Glorify – In Greek and Hebrew, the words translated “glorify” means to give weight to, add credibility to, to reinforce. The Holy Spirit will take what God has given to Jesus, be it mission or wisdom, and make it explicit to all who believe. In so doing, the Holy Spirit gives weight to and reinforces who Jesus is and what Jesus does.