

J. I. Packer's **Knowing God**

Chapter 10—"God's Wisdom and Ours"

{p. 99} What word pops into your head when you hear the word "communicable?"

[READ GENESIS 1:26-27]

{p.99-100}

What does it mean when the Bible says God created humans in his own image?

In this chapter Dr. Packer relies heavily upon the Old Testament Book of Ecclesiastes as he shows us what wisdom is or should be.



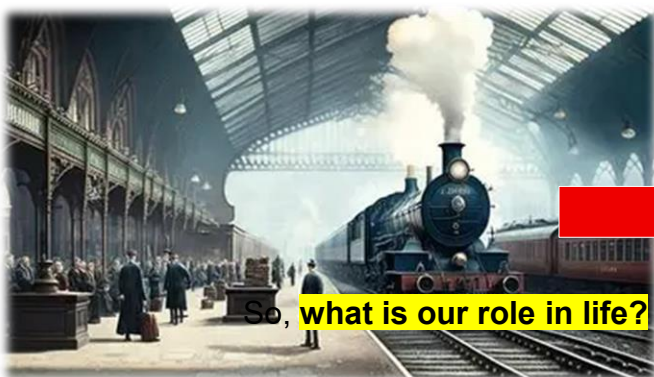
But don't be confused:

Ecclesiastes "collector" or "assembler" or "preacher"	≠	Ecclesiasticus "of the Church"
Accepted by all Christians and Jews as canonical.		Accepted only by Catholics and some Orthodox Christians, who consider it "deuterocanonical."
Philosophical thought on the meaning of life, though rather skeptical (e.g., "all is vanity").		Guide for moral conduct in general. Practical, ethical teachings.

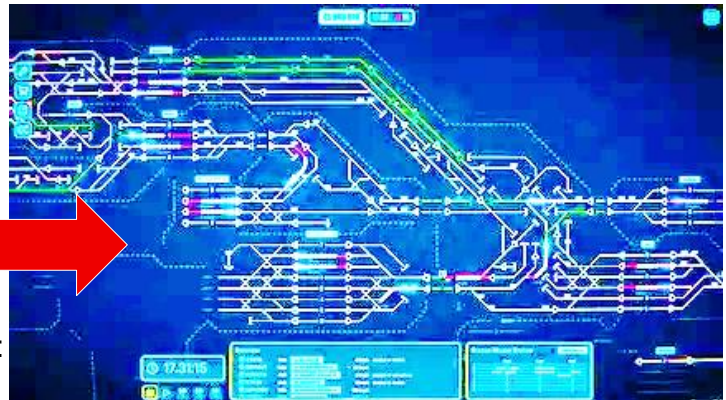
{p. 101} How do we obtain this wisdom that the Bible mentions?

1. We must be humble and teachable.
2. "Soak ourselves in the Scriptures."

{p.102} **The York Signal Box misconception of wisdom.**



See p. 107:



“Leave to God [life’s] issues; let him measure its ultimate worth; your part is to use all the good sense and enterprise at your command in exploiting the opportunities that lie before you.” This, says Dr. Packer, is the way of wisdom!

Here is how Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 (NIV) states it:

11 Ship your grain across the sea;
after many days you may receive a return.

2 Invest in seven ventures, yes, in eight;
you do not know what disaster may come upon the land.

3 If clouds are full of water,
they pour rain on the earth.

Whether a tree falls to the south or to the north,
in the place where it falls, there it will lie.

4 Whoever watches the wind will not plant;
whoever looks at the clouds will not reap.

5 As you do not know the path of the wind,
or how the body is formed^[a] in a mother’s womb,
so you cannot understand the work of God,
the Maker of all things.

6 Sow your seed in the morning,
and at evening let your hands not be idle,
for you do not know which will succeed,
whether this or that,
or whether both will do equally well.

Q: What kind of wisdom does God want for us?

A.: “A wisdom that will find expression in a spirit of faith and a life of faithfulness.” {p. 108}

Amen.

Select bibliography: --Encyclopedia Britannica (online), “Ecclesiasticus,”
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Ecclesiasticus>, revised 3/14/2025.

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Oxford Univ. Press, England, 1974.

