

Wisdom Communicates the Function of Justice & the Principles of Righteousness; Nothing Crooked or Twisted; Quatrain 2: Virtue & Value of Wisdom: Operation Double Z

14. The principles that Wisdom recommends to the naïve and the foolish find their origin in the integrity of God with emphasis on justice. When she makes reference to her personal possession of divine integrity, its principles are emphasized and therefore divine righteousness is the issue.
15. The word “integrity” is defined in the English as follows from the *Oxford English Dictionary*:

Integrity. 2. The condition of not being marred or violated; unimpaired or uncorrupted condition; original perfect state; soundness. 3. In moral sense. a. Unimpaired moral state; freedom from moral corruption; innocence, sinlessness. b. Soundness of moral principle; the character of uncorrupted virtue, especially in relation to truth and fair dealing; uprightness, honesty, sincerity.
16. Here is how we will translate the first half of the verse to include these concepts:

Proverbs 8:8a - “The utterances from my mouth are marked by integrity: toward believers with an emphasis on the function of justice; regarding self with emphasis on the principles of righteousness ...
17. What Wisdom will not communicate is something “crooked”: עֲקָשׁ *‘iqqesh*.
18. This word is a derivative of the root verb עֲקָשׁ *‘aqash*; it and its derivatives have a wide array of meanings, none of which are good:

The root *‘aqash* emphasizes the perversion and twisted nature of sin and its derivatives are used to describe the twisted and perverted acts of sinful men. In Deuteronomy 32:5 *‘iqqesh* is translated “crooked” [NET] and used to describe a desperately wicked generation. Other synonyms for *‘aqash* are *hapak* “to turn;” *luz* “to go the wrong way;” *‘awa* “to pervert the right;” *salap* “to twist;” *‘awat* “to make crooked, pervert.” Wicked rulers “twist everything that is straight” (Micah 3:9, NASB).¹
19. It is impossible for Wisdom to teach, command, or convey any concept that deviates from the standards of divine righteousness. It is impossible for the application of Wisdom from the souls of believers to function in perverse, twisted, evil, or deceitful ways.
20. The verse concludes with a synonym of *‘iqqesh*: פָּתַל *patal*: “twisted.”

Proverbs 8:8 - “All the utterances from my mouth are marked by integrity: toward believers with an emphasis on the function of justice; regarding self with emphasis on the principles of righteousness; there is nothing crooked or twisted in them.” (CTL)
21. Truth has no need to deceive or distort its message. Righteousness is eternal and its standards are immutable absolutes. That which is true needs no alteration, amendment, or redaction.
22. Therefore what Wisdom utters is the truth; it is the expression of divine righteousness and the manifestation of divine veracity.

¹ R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer, and Bruce K. Waltke, “עֲקָשׁ (*‘aqash*),” in *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1980), 693.

23. Truth never resorts to rhetorical veils to conceal while advancing any hidden agenda. That which is infallible, inerrant, and absolute is immutable and therefore can be trusted without reservation.

Exhortation to the Audience: Stanza 2: Quatrain 2: vv. 9-10

Verse 9: The Virtue and Value of Wisdom:

Proverbs 8:9 - "They are all straightforward to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge." (NASB)

1. "They are all" leads off this verse and repeats the idea that introduces verse 8, "All the utterances of my mouth." "They are all" refers to every principle communicated by Wisdom since, according to verse 8, they never include anything that is "crooked or twisted."
2. Those concepts that are crooked and twisted refer to teachings that result in misunderstanding and false application of doctrine. These can include heretical teachings that cause believers to unwittingly make false application of what they assume to be biblical.
3. This is exactly what led to a lifetime of confusion for Sergeant Alvin C. York. The misunderstanding of one Hebrew word caused his pastor, Rosier Pile, to lead York astray regarding the issue of killing the enemy in warfare.
4. In the Sixth Commandment, recorded in Exodus 20:13, the word "kill" is the masculine Hebrew noun **רָצַח** *rasah* and it refers to premeditated murder. Had Pile understood this and communicated it to York then the sergeant would not have spent a lifetime in confusion and self-doubt.
5. If a person is twisted in his understanding then his thinking is distorted and results in inaccurate application.
6. In verse 9, Wisdom declares that every word she teaches is "straightforward," the adjective **נָכוֹן** *nachoch*. What Wisdom teaches is in direct contrast to that which is crooked and twisted.
7. Truth is made clear and obvious to those who "understand": the Hiphil participle of **בִּין** *bin* which is causative: "They are all clear and obvious to those who are caused to understand."
8. Understanding refers to doctrine transferred to the *kardia* where it is retained for application. So far in our study we have encountered all five of the key words that describe the believer's advance from inculcation to application.
9. As an amplification of this process we have also noted the function of the cerebral cortex that functions as the soul's hard disk for storage of biblical information.

NOTE: See visual: "Operation Double Z"