

STUDY WHAT GOD HAS MADE

***Dan 1:3** And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;*

***Dan 1:4** Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.*

The children of Israel, Daniel and his companions, were actually captives, the enemies of the Babylonians. However, this did not stop the Babylonians from recognizing and appreciating the knowledge and learning they exhibited. From the beginning of time, prudent people have learned to respect the value of knowledge and learning. The Babylonians wished to capitalize on the learning of the Hebrew children and, the Hebrew children in turn experienced a change in their status and prestige due to this.

Knowledge blesses the one who recognizes it and honors it, while at the same time blessing the possessors of knowledge. Furthermore, knowledge is like a world currency; its value is recognized across borders. Daniel and his friends had to leave everything behind by force, but no one could separate them from their love of God and their excellent knowledge. Everything else they left behind.

Why should we study the world around us? Whether one chooses to study humans or nature, God created them both. Hence, to dedicate oneself to the study humans or nature is to desire to know God better. Whatever is in existence has its origin in God; all quest for knowledge is premised in this great understanding. When David looked up at the heavens perhaps while looking after his father's sheep, he was in awe at the majestic sight of the spectrum of stars twinkling in the expanse of God's sky. This consideration led him to say:

***Psalm 8:3** When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;*

***Psalm 8:4** What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?*

God himself will open the book of nature to the young Christian who fears him and wants to know God through study. Remember that Solomon only asked God for wisdom to lead Israel and judge judiciously between the people of God. However, it pleased God to bestow upon Solomon knowledge both of people and of nature.

***1Ki 4:30** And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt.*

***1Ki 4:31** For he was wiser than all men; than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol: and his fame was in all nations round about.*

***1Ki 4:32** And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five.*

***1Ki 4:33** And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall: he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes.*

1Ki 4:34 *And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom.*

God made Solomon both a social scientist, botanist and zoologist. A social scientist because he displayed deep insight into the behavior of humans when he ordered the baby in dispute between the two mothers to be cut in half. In addition, as a botanist and zoologist he spoke expertly on the behavior of trees, plants and animals.

Consider knowledge to be a secret that God reveals to those who love him. ‘The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant’ (Psalm 25:14). If Christian youth understand this, they will excel in any field of study they choose. Let us remember that God took Moses to the house of Pharaoh so he could learn to read, write and study the knowledge of the Egyptians. Moses was perhaps the only Hebrew who could read and write. Later, he wrote the five most famous books of the world – what is referred to as the Law of Moses. We Apostolics love to cite Acts 2:38, and rightly so, but we forget that God took a highly educated man of Syrian-Greek descent, a doctor by the name of Luke, and guided him to write these words. Yes, God values education and will use those who dedicate it to him mightily.

Especially in these last days, as the Lord revealed to Daniel, there has been an explosion in knowledge and learning.

Dan 12:4 *But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.*

More than ever before, the Christian youth will need the wisdom of Jesus to navigate through this torrent of information.