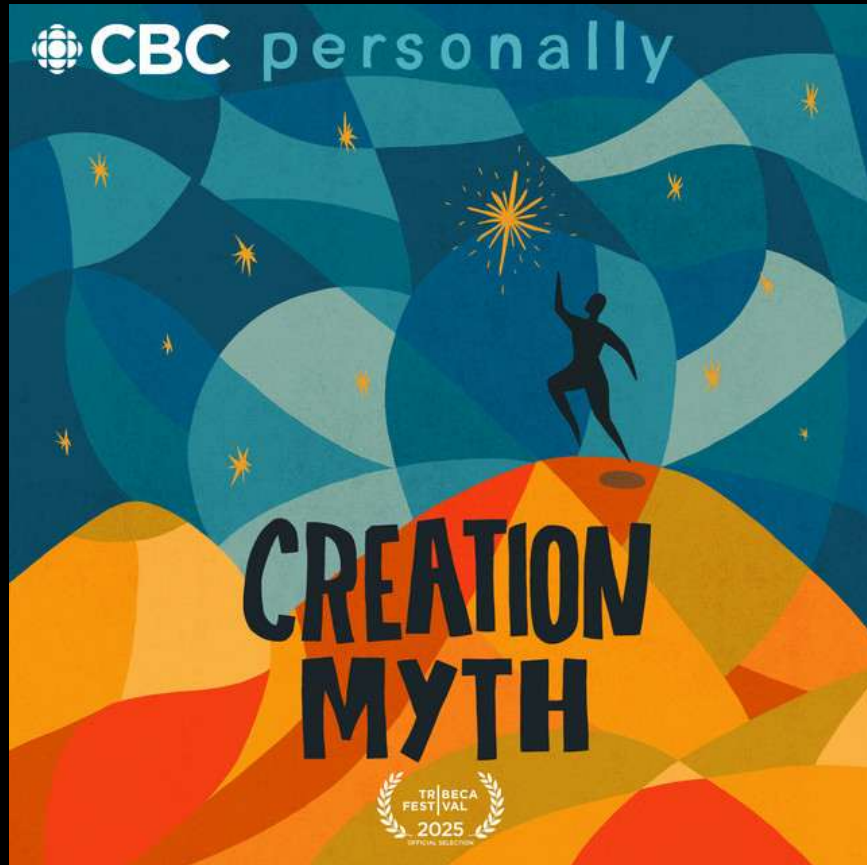


An introduction to wisdom

Proverbs 1:1-7

Slides from John Percival's sermon at the morning service
Sunday 10th May 2026



1. The teacher of wisdom (v1)

“A poetic, terse, thought-provoking saying that conveys a world of truth in a few words.”

Tim Keller



Proverbs 26v17

Like one who grabs a stray dog by the ears is someone who rushes into a quarrel not their own.

1 Kings 4v29-30

²⁹ God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. ³⁰

Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt.

1 Kings 4v32

He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs numbered a thousand and five.

2. The colours of wisdom (v2-6)

² for gaining wisdom and instruction;

for understanding words of insight;

³ for receiving instruction in prudent behavior,
doing what is right and just and fair;

⁴ for giving prudence to those who are simple,
knowledge and discretion to the young—

⁵ let the wise listen and add to their learning,
and let the discerning get guidance—

⁶ for understanding proverbs and parables,
the sayings and riddles of the wise.

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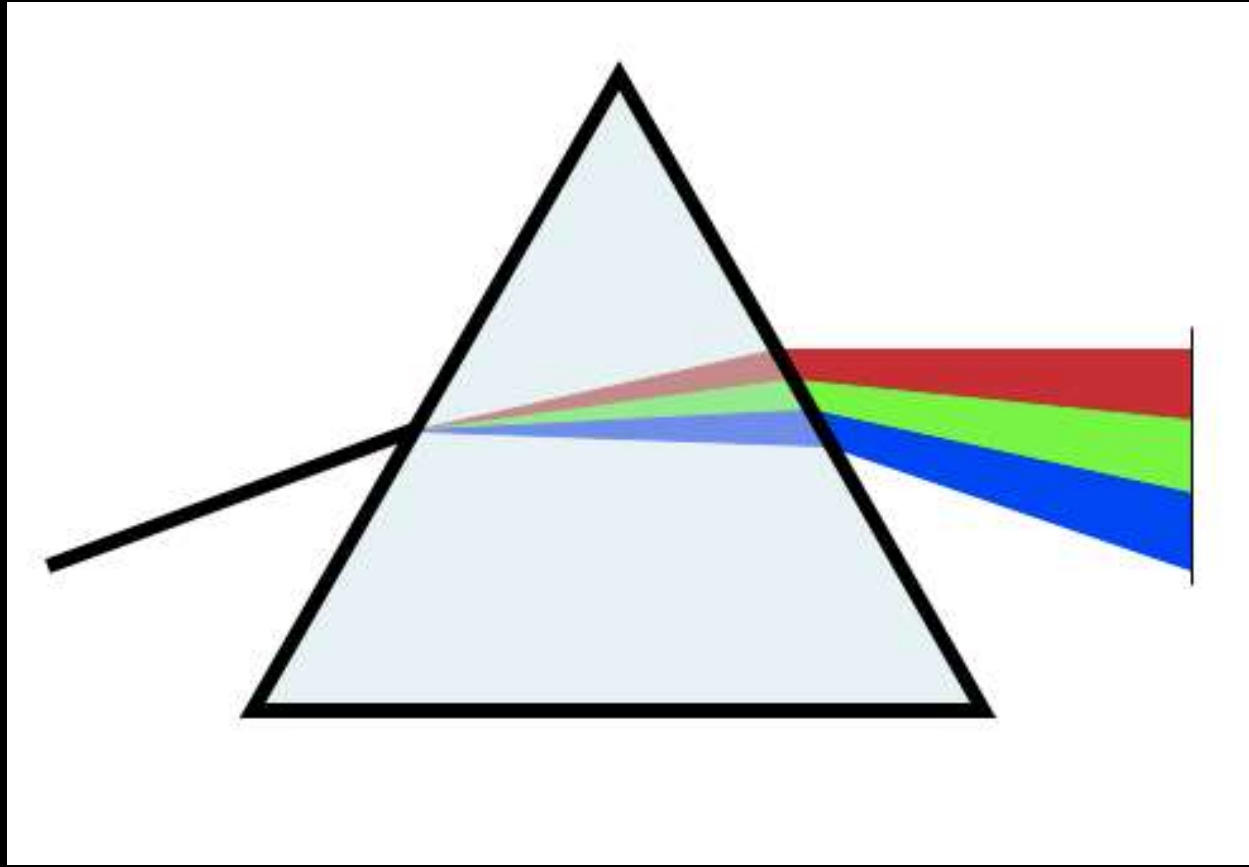
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Proverbs 8v12

I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence,
I possess knowledge and discretion.

3. The foundation of wisdom (v7)

Proverbs 1v7

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 9v10

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,
and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.



“I do all mine actions as in his presence, as in his sight; I reverence his holy and glorious majesty, doing all things as with fear and trembling before him.”



John Bunyan

Luke 11v31

The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the people of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom; and now something greater than Solomon is here.