

2. Why is God the starting point of wisdom?

God is the starting point of all wisdom because he is the originator and source of all wisdom and knowledge. The Bible says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight." (Proverbs 9:10) God is "Before all things, and in him all things hold together." (Colossians 1:17) Thus, all that is known can only be known and understood because of God. He is the basis of all knowledge and understanding. For example, $2 + 2 = 4$ because of the wisdom and constant nature of the unchanging God. Math is constant because God is constant. All logic and reason are based on the wisdom and knowledge of God. The reason we have the law of non-contradiction is because God cannot contradict Himself. If you reject God, you reject the only foundation for understanding wisdom and knowledge. All who reject God immediately contradict themselves.

Without God life makes no sense. If you reject God as the revealer of absolute truth, you will never understand the particular details of life. For example, if you reject God's purpose for life (universal truth) you will never know your life purpose (particular truth or application). Particulars focus on the here and now, or the "what" of life; while the universals focus on issues regarding ultimate meaning, or the "why" of life. God reveals the "why" so that everything can be understood from his perspective. Scripture plainly teaches, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction." (Proverbs 1:7) Wisdom occurs when you embrace the "why" along with the "what" of God's word. God and God alone is the starting point for all wisdom and knowledge. King Solomon, one of the wisest men who ever lived, tried to find meaning and purpose without God, and found that it was all vanity – a chasing after the wind. Listen to his conclusion, "The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

Bible passages to read: Proverbs 1; Ecclesiastes 1, 12

Questions to ponder:

1. What is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge? What does that mean?
2. Why is God always the starting point for all wisdom and knowledge?
3. How does God give wisdom and knowledge to every area of life?
4. How does the world reject God as the beginning of wisdom?
5. Why should all education be based on the "fear of the Lord?"