

THE WISDOM OF HOPE

I. **Prayer and Introduction**

- a. A quick review of last week: "Eyes that See"
 - The Wisdom of Solomon's Prayer - 1 Kings 3:1-15
 - The Peace that Passes all Understanding - Philippians 4:6-7

II. **This Week's Lesson: "The Wisdom of Hope"**

- a. Primary Scripture: Proverbs 24:13-14

*My child, eat honey, for it is good,
and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste.
¹⁴ Know that wisdom is such to your soul;
if you find it, you will find a future,
and your hope will not be cut off. (NRSV)*

- b. A breakdown of the passage:
 - (i) Wisdom as Honey, to be sought after and 'tasted'
 - (ii) Your *soul* = Hebrew: "*NEHfesh*", activity of the mind, the inner life, "passionate vitality"
 - (iii) A "conditional clause": if you find it.
 - (iv) A hope never "cut off" = "what you look forward to will not disappoint you"
- c. Some Cross-References: the language of biblical hope
 - (i) Proverbs 10:27-28
 - (ii) Psalm 33:17-22
 - (iii) Romans 15:13
 - (iv) Isaiah 30:18
 - (v) 1 John 3:1-3
 - (vi) Hebrews 6:19-20

III. **For Your Personal Studies: The Book of Proverbs**

- a. The book's 'key': The Value of Wisdom, read Proverbs 2:1-11
- b. The three PILLARS of the Book of Proverbs:
 - (i) The fear of the Lord (mentioned 14 times!)
 - See all at: Proverbs 1:7; 1:29; 2:5; 8:13; 9:10; 10:27; 14:26; 14:27; 15:16; 15:33; 16:6; 19:23; 22:4; 23:27
 - (ii) Wisdom Personified, "She"
 - Proverbs 1:20-33
 - Proverbs 8:1-9:6
 - (iii) Righteousness and Wisdom (1:3; 2:9; 8:20; 18:5; 21:3; 21:15)

IV. **Closing Remarks and Prayer**