



"Counsel" in the Bible

"Through insolence comes nothing but strife,
but wisdom is with those who receive counsel."

Proverbs 13:10 NASB

Please read these scriptures and answer the related questions:

- (A) Ephesians 1:11 God works all things after the what of His will? _____
- (B) 2 Kings 18:20 Hezekiah is accused of vainly believing that he had "counsel and strength for war." Who was right? Hezekiah or Rabshakeh? _____
- (C) 2 Chronicles 10:6-13 Is all counsel good counsel? _____
- (D) Job 15:8-9 Does God give some counsel in secret? _____
- (E) Job 38:2 & Job 42:3 What diminishes the value of counsel? _____
- (F) Psalm 33:8-18 How reliable is God's advice? _____
- (G) Proverbs 13:10 What is a way to gain wisdom? _____

**Through insolence comes nothing but strife,
But wisdom is with those who receive counsel.**

~ Proverbs 13:10



© 2014 Trish Carden

(H) In Romans 11:34 & Isaiah 40:13 we learn something about God. What?

(I) Isaiah 28:29 What is the difference between God's advice and God's commands?

Think & Pray _____

----- POSSIBLE ANSWERS -----

Counsel

- (A) Ephesians 1:11 God works all things after the what of His will? Counsel
- (B) 2 Kings 18:20 Hezekiah is accused of vainly believing that he had "counsel and strength for war."
Who was right? Hezekiah or Rabshakeh? Hezekiah 2Kgs 19:35-36 Hezekiah listened to counsel of God delivered by Isaiah. (See also Isaiah 36:5)
- (C) 2 Chronicles 10:6-13 Is all counsel good counsel?
No. It can't be. Sometimes it is contradictory. 2Chr 10:7 vs. 2Chr 10:10-11.
- (D) Job 15:8-9 Does God give some counsel in secret? Yes
- (E) Job 38:2 & Job 42:3 What diminishes the value of counsel? Ignorance
- (F) Psalm 33:8-18 How reliable is God's advice? Totally reliable.
- (G) Proverbs 13:10 What is a way to gain wisdom? Humbly and peacefully listen to good advice
- (H) In Romans 11:34 & Isaiah 40:13 we learn something about God. What? He does not need advice
- (I) Nothing. There is no difference. His advice is always right. If you do not take God's advice you will bear the consequences, just as you do when you disobey Him.

In Hebrew the word for counsel or advice is *ya-ats*. It's range of sense is a little wider than the English. It can also mean a "decision" or "plan." Similarly the Greek *boulah* sometimes translated "counsel" can also mean the "purpose" or "plan" that someone has decided. This can be seen in Luke 7:30 where it is translated "counsel" by the King James but "purpose" by the New American Standard and the other modern versions that I checked. My definition of *counsel* is "expanding your own point of view by considering the views of others."

For further thought:

[j] Compare the decision making processes described in Acts 1:15-26, Acts 5:33-42 and Acts 6:1-6. Which one is the most like the process your church uses to make decisions? So what?

[k] What does 1 Corinthians 2:16 teach us about a saved person's mind? So what?

[l] Read John 18:14. Is it possible for an evil person to give correct advice?

[m] The word "counsel" and words related to it like "counseled, advice, and advise" appear almost 150 times in the Bible. Use a concordance to find some of these appearances to read and discuss.

My further thought:

[j] Casting lots (rolling dice or flipping a coin) as they did in Acts 1:15-26 is used in more than one place in the Bible. Perhaps the most interesting use of it is in 1 Samuel 10:17-24. They chose Saul as king by lots, but it was the confirmation of what Samuel had already been told in 1 Sam 9:15-16. Unless God tells you as He did Samuel, I do not recommend this for making decisions.

The elders came to a decision based on the advice of Gamaliel in Acts 5:33-42. That is not a bad idea, but unlike in earlier times when God selected the elders, these elders were selected by political favoritism and nepotism. I prefer the method used in Acts 6:1-6 where God's people prayerfully come together in unity and consensus.