



Chapter 15 speaks to God's mercy: "But you, our God, are kind and true, patient, and ruling all things in mercy."

The Holy Book of "Wisdom of Solomon" consists of 19 chapters. The Holy Book is divided into 3 main parts:

1. Chapter 1 through 6:
Talks to us about the importance of seeking Heavenly Wisdom
2. Chapter 7 through 10:
Reveals to us Wisdom and Her attributes.
3. Chapter 11 through 19:
Gives us a glimpse of God's gentle and merciful wisdom as well as warning about Idolatry.

I invite you my beloved reader to experience for yourself living a life that is filled with the Heavenly Wisdom. You will find success following you everywhere you go. Joy will fill your heart. You will feel the continuous presence of our awesome God.

Where to start from?
In your morning prayers ask God to give you His Wisdom, you may also want to put a little piece of folded paper on the altar with this request.

Obtain a personal version of the Orthodox or Catholic Holy Bible based upon the Greek Septuagint which will

include the Book of "The Wisdom of Solomon". And always remember our Lord said "seek and you will receive" May the Lord fill you with His Wisdom.

—A Mighty Arrows, St. Mary, Atlanta GA

¹ You will not find it in the Protestant compilation of the Bible, when the Protestant split from the Catholic Church they excluded this book along with a few other books. However, our orthodox church firmly accepts the Wisdom of Solomon as part of the Holy Bible that is inspired from the Holy Spirit. Written

Held today with equal sacredness
and reverence...

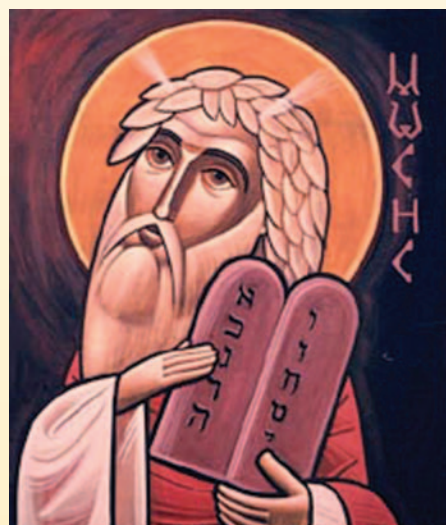
Holy Book of Sirach

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The Holy Book of "The Wisdom of Jesus, the Son of Sirach" (or simply "Wisdom of Sirach") or perhaps more widely known as the Book of Ecclesiasticus is mostly made up of unconnect-



Solomon, Prophet and King, Speaking to God's Mercy, "Buy You, our God, are kind and true, patient and ruling all things in mercy."



Moses with Ten Commandments.
The wisdom in the Law of Moses state that the people perished for the lack of prudence.



ed sayings which bear on all kinds of topics.

The author of this blessed book is thought by many scholars to be a man by the name of Jesus Ben Sira, a **“man of Jerusalem”** (50:27). Ben Sira ran a Biblical studies school for young Jewish men and was believed to be a philosophical observer of life, as easily inferred from the nature of his written thought. Ben Sira himself speaks with a wider knowledge, only acquired by one who traveled a great deal.

The principal doctrines of Jesus, the son of Sirach were that just like all other inspired writers in the Old Testament, that God is One and eternal, also that there is no other God besides Him. The Wisdom of Sirach deals with a variety of subjects such as the individual, the family, and the community in their relations with one another and with God. It addresses friendship, education, poverty and wealth, the law, religious worship, and many other matters which reflect the religious and social customs of the time. The basic theme of the author of the Holy Book of Ecclesiasticus is that of **“wisdom.”** This book is said to have split into two sections, in which both sections contain the theme of wisdom.

The first part of the book directly instills the fear of God and the fulfillment of His commands, wherein consist true wisdom. The second part of the book depicts the Divine wisdom and the practice of wisdom in various actions of everyday existence.

The first chapter in the Holy Book of Sirach begins with praise of the Lord. Rejoicing, saying **“All wisdom cometh from the Lord and is with Him forever”** (1:1). Ben Sira then begins to explain the qualifications to obtain the Lord’s wisdom. He says that the root of wisdom is fear of the Lord and when this is attained one will receive long life.

Ben Sira then further explains what one shall do if he desires the wisdom of the Lord which is to follow His commands. As said in the Holy Book of Sirach 2:8, **“You who fear the LORD, trust him, and your reward will not be lost.”** This is one of the verses in Sirach in which summarize the first section of the Holy Book of Ecclesiasticus.

In the second part of the Wisdom of Sirach advice is given in all parts of one’s life. Advice is handed to the parents of children, to never close their eyes in a decision and to hold firm, advice is also given to friends and the rich and also the poor. In the Holy Book of Sirach, it says to be faithful to thy neighbor and you will never have to worry for your own part.

“Lend to your neighbor in his hour of need, and pay back your neighbor when a loan falls due; Keep your promise, be honest with him, and you will always come by what you need.” (Sirach 29: 2-3). In all of his advices and explanations of how one shall act in specific events, Ben Sira reminds the reader not to forget the Lord. Ben Sira continually brings the Lord’s name in between pauses to constantly remind the person that Lord is great and will repay the person in multitudes if they follow His commands.

In conclusion to the appraisal of the Wisdom of Sirach, Ben Sira carries on about the blessed followers of the Lord in which occupy seven of the last eight chapters in the Holy Book Wisdom of Sirach.

The last chapter is that of praise and thanksgiving. Just as we shall always end a chapter of our wisdom in prayer and thanksgiving in the Lord for the blessings He has handed us, this is exactly what Ben Sira does.

Jesus Ben Sira’s continuous praise of the Lord is truly exemplified in this last chapter and in his last words; Ben Sira once again selflessly gives advice to his brethren. He says **“Let your spirits rejoice in the mercy of God, and be not ashamed to give Him praise; Work at your tasks in due season, and in His own time God will give you your reward.”**(51:29-30).



The Alpha and Omega