Title: Theological implications on the use of wisdom expressions in the book of Daniel in the light of Old Testament wisdom literature

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Abstract:

The purpose of this study is twofold. First, it seeks to augment the understanding of apocalypse through the investigation of the wisdom terms in the book of Daniel. Second, the study is an attempt to evaluate the theological implications of the wisdom terms in Daniel in the context of the Old Testament Wisdom literature (OTWL). The method preferred for this study is to utilize the text-centered approach. All the passages with wisdom terms in the book of Daniel are analyzed.

The significance of the inclusion of wisdom terms in the book of Daniel levels the ground upon which the message of apocalypse could easily be accessible to the Gentile world. As a way of contribution, the wisdom terms show that biblical apocalypse is a form of revelation from God. Wisdom terms here demonstrate that understanding of biblical apocalypse is caused by God. No one understands prophecies through their own wisdom. More importantly, the future is all about the Messiah, and the wisdom terms whose ultimate fulfillment is with Him play a vital role in identifying the true Messiah and His character. In this regard, the wisdom terms in Daniel give a complete picture of the Messiah in both His roles as priest and king.
This study has also established that the book of Daniel as well makes as significant contribution to the OTWL. One of its main contributions is that while the OTWL focuses on the present while basing on the past, only the book of Daniel focuses on the future while including the past and present. As a whole, the wisdom terms complement the OTWL by including an eschatological thrust of wisdom whose focus is on understanding the prophecies.

On the major contributions of this dissertation is that the wisdom terms in their contexts in Daniel demonstrate that prophecy is not a presentation of obscure figures and dates, but rather an impact on the individual lives of both believers and non-believers. While sin entered this earth through humanity’s quest for wisdom, God in Daniel uses the desire for wisdom as a means of taking humanity back to Himself. Thus, the book of Daniel depicts the hopelessness of acquiring wisdom from sources other than the God of heaven.