

Links between John's Logos Christology and Wisdom Traditions

John 1:1a: In the beginning was the Word

Proverbs 8:22-23: 'The Lord created me at the beginning of his ways, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth'.

Wisdom of Solomon 6:22: 'I will tell you what wisdom is and how she came to be... I will trace her course from the beginning of creation'.

Wisdom of Ben Sira 24:9: 'Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me, and for all the ages I shall not cease to be'.

1:1b: and the Word was with God

Proverbs 8:30: 'then I was beside him, like a master worker'.

Wisdom of Solomon 9:4: 'Give me the wisdom that sits by your throne'.

1:3: All things came into being through him

Proverbs 3:19: 'The Lord by wisdom founded the foundations of the earth'.

Wisdom of Solomon 7:22: 'For wisdom, the fashioner of all things, taught me'.

Wisdom of Solomon 9:1-2: 'O God of my ancestors and Lord of mercy, who has made all things by your *word*, and by your *wisdom* have formed humankind..'

1:4a: In him was life ..

Proverbs 8:35: 'For whoever finds me finds life'.

1:4b: and the life was the light of all men

Wisdom of Solomon 7:26: 'For she is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God'.

1:5: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it

Wisdom of Solomon 7:29-30: ‘Compared with the light she is found to be superior, for it is succeeded by the night, but against wisdom evil does not prevail’.

1:10a: He was in the world

Wisdom of Ben Sira 24:6: ‘Over all the earth, and over every people and nation I have held sway’.

1:10c: yet the world did not know him

Proverbs 1:29: ‘Because they hate wisdom and did not choose the fear of the Lord’.

1:11: He came to his own, and his own people did not accept him.

1 Enoch 42:1-2: ‘Wisdom could not find a place where she might dwell; then a dwelling place was assigned her in the heavens. Wisdom went forth to make her dwelling place among the children of human beings and found no dwelling place. Wisdom returned to her place and took her seat among the angels’.

1:12: But to all who received him...he gave power to become children of God.

Wisdom of Solomon 7:27 ‘In every generation she passes into holy souls, and makes them friends of God....’.

1:14: And the Word....dwelt [or ‘tabernacled’] (*eskēnōsen*) among us....

Wisdom of Ben Sira 24:8 ‘Then the Creator of all things gave me a command, and my Creator chose the place for my tent (*skēnē*). He said, “Make your dwelling in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance”.’