

1. Word and Wisdom:

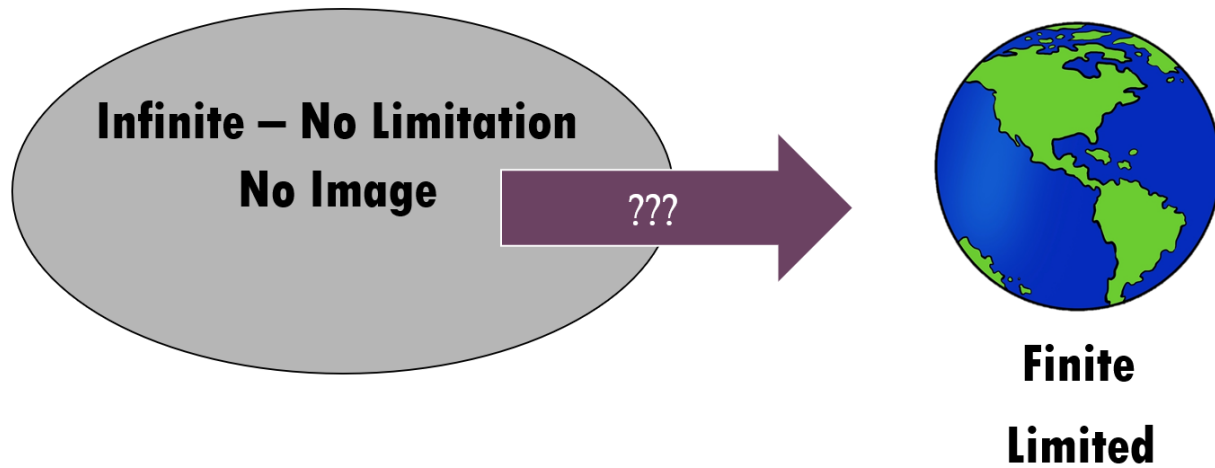
- Jesus is identified as both Word and Wisdom. See the background icon “Wisdom Hath Built Her House,” which identifies Jesus with Wisdom (Greek *Sophia*).
- Both Word and Wisdom interact with creation.

2. Jesus is the “Word” -

- Whether it is Hebrew (*dvr*), Greek (*logos*), or Aramaic (*memra*).
- What was the first-century conception of “Word”?

3. Cosmic Conception –

- How does an infinite, limitless God interact with the finite?



4. Hebrew Word for “Word” -

- *Dabar* (variant *Davar*)
- Not found in Genesis 1, but it is clear that “speaking” is God’s preferred method of creation.
- Psalm 33:6 – By God’s Word, the heavens were created.
- Psalm 107:20 – God’s Word heals and saves.
- Isaiah 55:10-11 – God’s Word interacts with finite creation and accomplishes a purpose.

5. Hebrew Wisdom (*Chokmah (f)*):

- Proverbs 3:19
- Proverbs 8:22-27
- Wisdom was there at the beginning and interacted with creation.

6. Wisdom in Apocryphal Writings:

Wisdom Literature	
Old Testament	Apocrypha
- Job	- Sirach (Catholic Ecclesiasticus)
- Proverbs	- Wisdom of Solomon (or just Wisdom)
- Ecclesiastes	- Baruch

Sirach 24:4-8:¹

4 I dwelt in the highest heavens,
and my throne was in a pillar of cloud.
5 Alone I compassed the vault of heaven
and traversed the depths of the abyss.
6 Over waves of the sea, over all the earth,
and over every people and nation I have held sway.

7 Among all these I sought a resting-place;
in whose territory should I abide?
8 ‘Then the Creator of all things gave me a
command, and my Creator chose the place
for my tent.
He said, “Make your dwelling in Jacob, and
in Israel receive your inheritance.”

Wisdom of Solomon 7:22-26:²

There is in her a spirit that is intelligent, holy,
unique, manifold, subtle,
mobile, clear, unpolluted,
distinct, invulnerable, loving the good, keen,
irresistible, 23 beneficent, humane,
steadfast, sure, free from anxiety,
all-powerful, overseeing all,
and penetrating through all spirits
that are intelligent, pure, and altogether
subtle.

²⁴ For wisdom is more mobile than any
motion;
because of her pureness she pervades and
penetrates all things.
²⁵ For she is a breath of the power of God,
and a pure emanation of the glory of the
Almighty;
therefore nothing defiled gains entrance into
her.
²⁶ For she is a reflection of eternal light,
a spotless mirror of the working of God,
and an image of his goodness.

¹ <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Sirach+24%3A4-8&version=NRSVCE>

² <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Wisdom+7%3A22-26&version=NRSVCE>

Wisdom of Solomon 9:1 & 9:9:³

‘O God of my ancestors and Lord of mercy,
who have made all things by your word,

⁹ With you is wisdom, she who knows your
works and was present when you made the
world; she understands what is pleasing in
your sight and what is right according to your
commandments.

Baruch 3:35-37:⁴

- ³⁵ This is our God;
no other can be compared to him.
³⁶ He found the whole way to knowledge,
and gave her (Wisdom) to his servant Jacob
and to Israel, whom he loved.
³⁷ Afterwards she (Wisdom) appeared on earth
and lived with humankind.

7. Word and Wisdom:

- Manifestation or emanation of God
- Existed prior to creation.
- Orders and sustains all things
- Manifest/Dwelt with God’s People

³ <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Wisdom+9%3A1-9&version=NRSVCE>

⁴ <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=baruch+3%3A35-37&version=NRSVCE>