



# Weekly Inspirations

By Pastor Pat Thompson

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*The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago (Proverbs 8:22).*

*(Note: A version of this installment first appeared here on May 22, 2016).*

The Book of Proverbs is part of the larger Wisdom Tradition of ancient Israel. Chapters 8 and 9 personify Wisdom (*Sophia*) as a female companion to the High and Holy One who was with God even before the act of creation. She is portrayed as a worker right alongside the LORD who helped him bring all things to pass, and it clear that God created her as well. Some biblical scholars detect an early theme of the pre-existent Christ in all of this. That's a topic for another time, however.

Several years ago, the mainline Protestant world was all in a tither when a group of mostly Christian women scholars and others convened a forum that they called the "Reimagining Conference" which used this very imagery of Lady Wisdom to open consideration of the *sacred feminine* as a valid expression of the many facets of God. It caused quite a stir in some circles, but the contribution to theology as a discipline was nonetheless valuable.

The ancient Jewish tradition includes an understanding that all good Jews are obliged to engage in *tikkun olam* ("repair of the world"). It presupposes the initial creation of the cosmos by the Supreme Architect, as noted above—but it also recognizes that the universe has been fractured by the disobedience of humanity. The tradition has been passed along in Christian and Muslim thought, such that we now embrace this redemptive responsibility.

As Freemasons, we are all about the acquisition of light (knowledge). Hopefully, we are also about the reality of wisdom as it comes to us in our varied and accumulated experiences. When faithfully applied, wisdom enables us to smooth off the corners and surface of the rough ashlar that we might become smooth stones that are more appropriately utilized by the Builder—not just to make us better men—but to help us help God repair all of the fractured Creation. That's right; we are to be workers right alongside the Supreme Architect—just like Lady Wisdom—in bringing about the redemption of the world!

It's a big job, but somebody has to do it.

Faithfully and fraternally,

*Pat*