

# **The Divine Institutions**

**Individual Responsibility, Marriage,  
Family—all prior to sin**

**Government, National identity and  
distinctions—developed as additional  
controls to sin.**

**Acts 17:26, “and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation,”**

**Prov. 1:7,**

**“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of  
knowledge;**

**Fools despise wisdom and instruction.”**

**The writer is showing that God blesses the nation in obedience to him and will bring judgment on the nation when it disobeys him, and the most egregious form of disobedience is idolatry.**

**But fundamentally, the lesson is related to God's discipline on the nation for idolatry, and that he brings this about by giving them a leader who is foolish rather than wise, and how that foolishness adversely affects the lifestyle and the destiny of the people and the entire nation.**

**Prov. 1:7,**

**“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of  
knowledge;**

**Fools despise wisdom and instruction.”**

**Psa. 111:10,**

**“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;**

**A good understanding have all those who do His commandments;  
His praise endures forever.”**

**Prov. 8:13,**

**“The fear of the LORD is to hate evil;  
Pride and arrogance and the evil way  
and the perverted mouth, I hate.”**



**Prov. 9:10,  
“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of  
wisdom,  
and the knowledge of the Holy One is  
understanding.”**

Psa. 19:7,

“The **law of the LORD** is perfect,  
restoring the soul;

The **testimony of the LORD** is sure,  
making wise the simple.

Psa. 19:8, “The **precepts of the LORD** are  
right, rejoicing the heart;

The **commandment of the LORD** is pure,  
enlightening the eyes.”

Psa. 19:9, “The **fear of the LORD** is clean,  
enduring forever;  
The **judgments of the LORD** are true;  
they are righteous altogether.

Psa. 19:10, “They are more desirable  
than gold, yes, than much fine gold;  
Sweeter also than honey and the  
drippings of the honeycomb.”

**Psa 14:1, 53:1, “The fool has said in his heart, ‘there is no God.’”**

**Prov. 12:15,  
“The way of a fool is right in his own  
eyes,  
but a wise man is he who listens to  
counsel.”**

**Prov. 14:16,**

**“A wise man is cautious and turns away  
from evil,  
but a fool is arrogant and careless.”**

**Prov. 15:5,  
“A fool rejects his father’s discipline,  
but he who regards reproof is sensible.”**

**Rom. 1:21, “For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.**

**Rom. 1:22, “Professing to be wise, they became fools,**

**Rom. 1:23, “and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.”**