

# 20 Examples of Words of Wisdom

Pastor Jeremy Richardson, July 12, 2026

## New Testament Examples of the Word of Wisdom

### 1. Paul's Call and Future Ministry

Acts 9:15–16 (NKJV)

“But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.’”

Later Paul recounts this in Acts 26:16–18, where Jesus gives the future purpose of his life.

#### Why it is a Word of Wisdom

Revealed God's future plan.

Revealed Paul's calling.

Revealed future ministry.

Revealed future suffering.

### 2. Agabus Predicts the Coming Famine

Acts 11:27–30

“...Agabus...showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine...”

#### Why

Concerned a future event.

Came by the Spirit.

Allowed the church to prepare.

### 3. Agabus Prophesies Paul's Arrest

Acts 21:10–11

Agabus binds himself with Paul's belt.

“So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt...”

#### Why

Future event.

God's purpose was to prepare Paul.

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Supernatural revelation.

4. Paul Warns of the Shipwreck  
Acts 27:22–26

“There will be no loss of life among you...”

An angel had appeared to Paul.

## Why

Future revelation.  
Revealed God’s purpose.  
Revealed preservation.

5. Peter Receives Revelation About Cornelius  
Acts 10

The Holy Spirit tells Peter:

“Three men are seeking you...go with them...”

Peter learns that salvation is about to come to the Gentiles.

## Why

Future direction.  
Future expansion of the Gospel.  
God’s redemptive purpose.

6. Ananias Receives Revelation About Saul  
Acts 9

God tells Ananias exactly what Saul will become.

## Why

Future ministry.  
Future calling.  
God’s purpose.

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## 7. Jesus Predicts Peter's Death

John 21:18–19

Jesus tells Peter how he would die.

John says,

“This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God.”

### **Why**

Future event.

God's purpose.

## 8. Jesus Predicts the Destruction of Jerusalem

Luke 21

Jesus foretells Jerusalem's destruction decades before it occurred.

### **Why**

Future event.

Divine warning.

## 9. Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

Examples:

Matthew 16:21

Mark 8:31

Luke 18:31–33

### **Why**

God's redemptive plan.

Future events.

## 10. Jesus Reveals the Coming of the Holy Spirit

John 14–16

Jesus explains:

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the Holy Spirit will come,  
believers will receive power,  
He will guide into truth.

## Why

Future purpose.  
God's unfolding plan.

## Old Testament Examples

1. Noah Builds the Ark  
Genesis 6

God reveals:

a coming flood,  
the ark,  
preservation of mankind.  
Word of Wisdom

Future judgment and God's plan of salvation.

2. Abraham Will Become a Great Nation  
Genesis 12

God reveals:

future descendants,  
future blessing,  
Messiah's lineage.  
Pure future revelation.

3. Joseph's Dreams  
Genesis 37

Joseph sees:

brothers bowing  
parents honoring him

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Years before fulfillment.

4. Pharaoh's Dreams Interpreted  
Genesis 41

Seven years of plenty.

Seven years of famine.

Future national events.

5. Moses Called at the Burning Bush  
Exodus 3

God reveals:

deliver Israel  
confront Pharaoh  
future miracles  
Entire future ministry.

6. Samuel Anoints David  
1 Samuel 16

God reveals David's future kingship.

7. Elijah Predicts Rain  
1 Kings 18

Before any cloud appeared.

Future weather by revelation.

8. Elisha Predicts Food After the Famine  
2 Kings 7

Within 24 hours Samaria would have abundance.

Exactly fulfilled.

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## 9. Isaiah Predicts Cyrus by Name

Isaiah 44:28–45:1

Nearly 150 years beforehand.

One of Scripture's greatest examples.

## 10. Daniel Interprets Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2

Reveals successive world empires.

Hundreds of years into the future.

Perhaps the greatest Old Testament example of the word of wisdom.

Jesus Operated Frequently in the Word of Wisdom

Many of Jesus' supernatural revelations concerned the future:

His crucifixion

His resurrection

Pentecost

Peter's denial

Peter's death

Jerusalem's destruction

The end times

The Great Commission

The coming of the Holy Spirit

These all revealed God's plans and purposes.

Summary Definition

A word of wisdom is:

A supernatural revelation given by the Holy Spirit concerning God's future plans, purposes, or events.

It differs from the word of knowledge, which reveals facts about the present or past, while the word of wisdom reveals what is yet to come and how God intends to accomplish His purposes.

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Among the examples above, the clearest textbook illustrations are:

Acts 9 / Acts 26 — Paul's divine call and future ministry.

Acts 11 — Agabus predicts the famine.

Acts 21 — Agabus predicts Paul's arrest.

Acts 27 — Paul's revelation of the shipwreck and preservation.

Genesis 41 — Joseph interprets Pharaoh's future.

Daniel 2 — The succession of world kingdoms.

Isaiah 44–45 — Cyrus named long before his birth.

John 21 — Jesus foretells Peter's death.

These passages illustrate the hallmark of the gift: the Holy Spirit discloses part of God's wisdom by unveiling future events and His divine purposes before they occur.