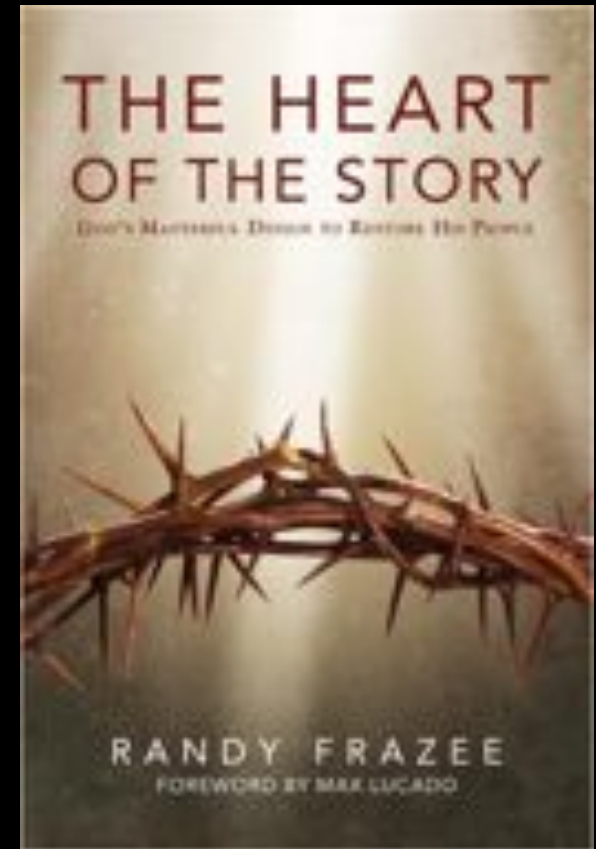


# The Heart of the Story

Chapter 13: The Frog King

January 11, 2012



# How the Other Half Lives



# Royal Succession

- *“At this point in history, royal succession in England is orderly and predictable. Not quite the case in ancient Israel.” (p. 119)*



# *“Be Honest...”*

- *“If you could have anything by just asking for it, what would it be?” (p. 120)*



- [http://www.cleveland.com/pdq/index.ssf/2010/02/for\\_these\\_lottery\\_winners\\_a\\_dr.html](http://www.cleveland.com/pdq/index.ssf/2010/02/for_these_lottery_winners_a_dr.html)

“Solomon asks for wisdom.”



“It takes wisdom to know  
how to use wisdom.”



# Proverbs

- **Definition and purpose (1:1-7):**

<sup>1</sup> *The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:*

<sup>2</sup> *for attaining wisdom and discipline;  
for understanding words of insight;*

<sup>3</sup> *for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life,  
doing what is right and just and fair;*

<sup>4</sup> *for giving prudence to the simple,  
knowledge and discretion to the young—*

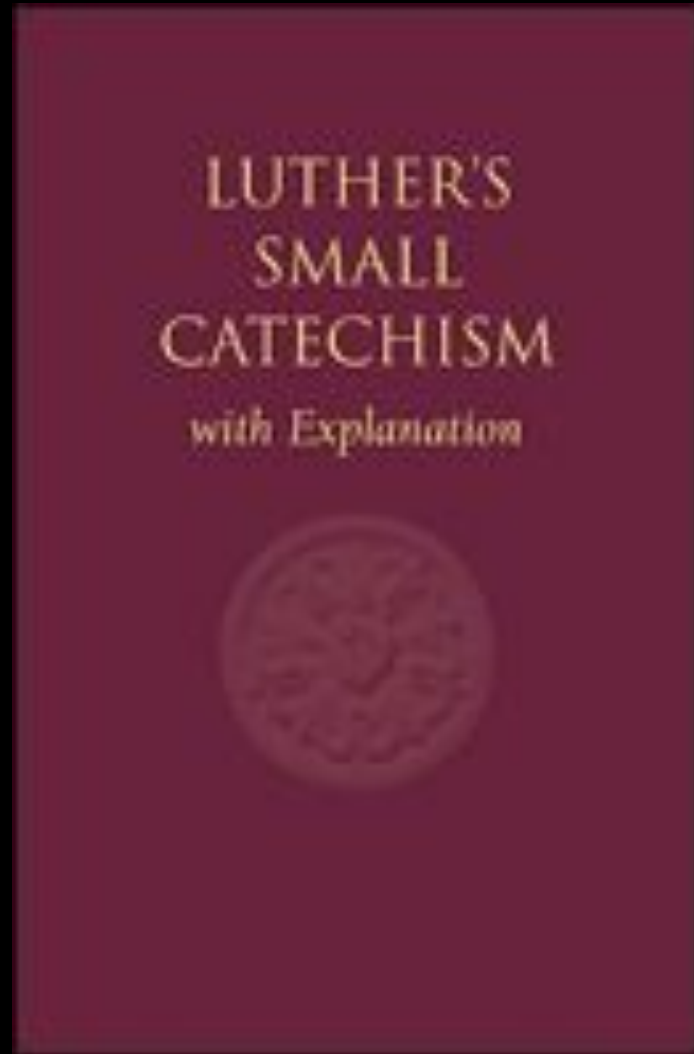
<sup>5</sup> *let the wise listen and add to their learning,  
and let the discerning get guidance—*

<sup>6</sup> *for understanding proverbs and parables,  
the sayings and riddles of the wise.*

- <sup>7</sup> *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,  
but fools despise wisdom and discipline.*

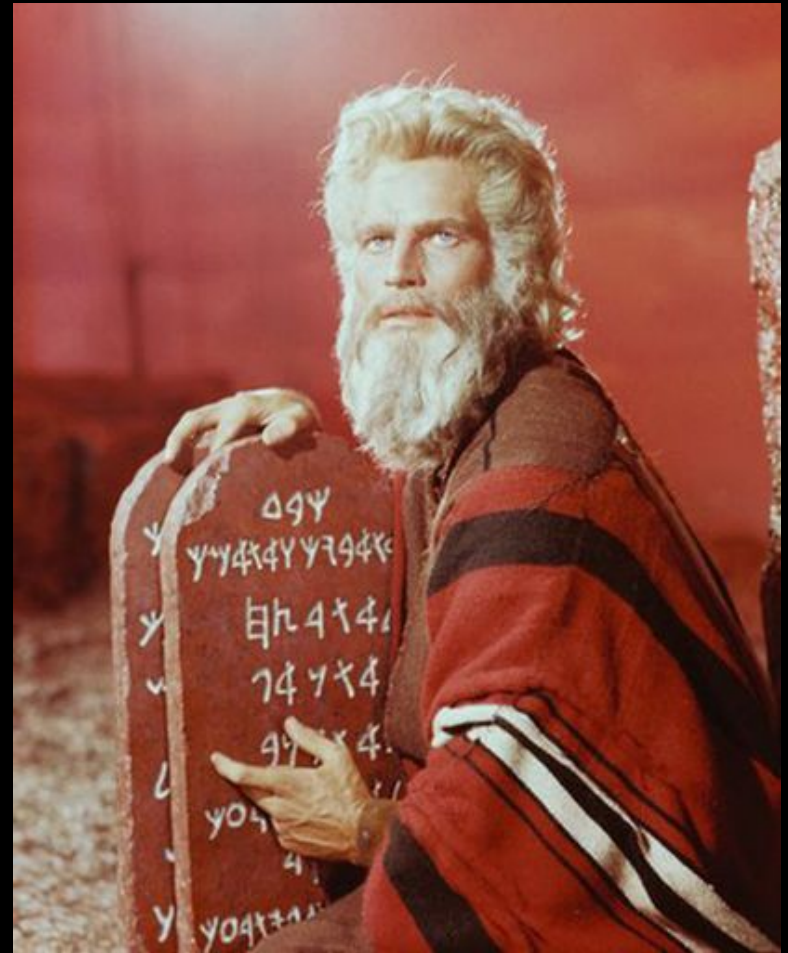
# “Fear of the Lord...”

- Where does Luther start in the Catechism?
- ***“We should fear and love God, so that...”***
- Why start here?



# The First Commandment

- You shall have no other gods.
- *What does this mean?*
  - We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.



# Proverbs 2:6-15

<sup>6</sup> For the LORD gives wisdom,  
and from his mouth come  
knowledge and understanding.

<sup>7</sup> He holds victory in store for the  
upright, he is a shield to those  
whose walk is blameless,

<sup>8</sup> for he guards the course of the  
just and protects the way of his  
faithful ones.

<sup>9</sup> Then you will understand what is  
right and just and fair—every  
good path.

<sup>10</sup> For wisdom will enter your heart,  
and knowledge will be pleasant  
to your soul.

<sup>11</sup> Discretion will protect you,  
and understanding will guard  
you.

<sup>12</sup> Wisdom will save you from the  
ways of wicked men,  
from men whose words are  
perverse,

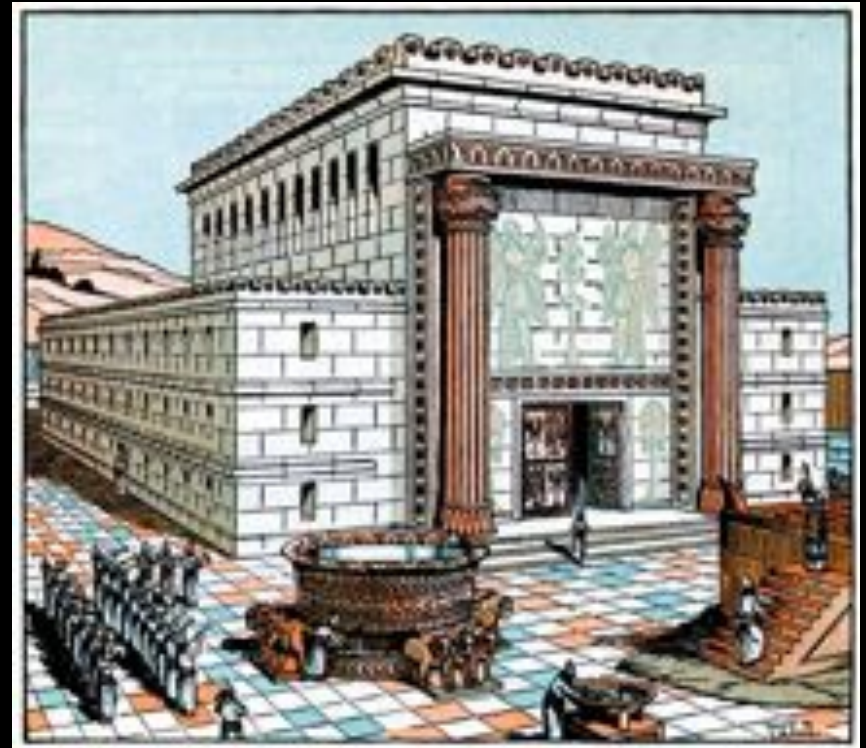
<sup>13</sup> who leave the straight paths  
to walk in dark ways,

<sup>14</sup> who delight in doing wrong  
and rejoice in the perverseness  
of evil,

<sup>15</sup> whose paths are crooked  
and who are devious in their  
ways.

# The Temple

- *“...so that as his people worshiped him, they would be reminded of the awesome and majestic God they served.”* (p. 122)
- **Is this the reason for the temple?**



# The Upper Story??

- “It is the same Upper Story message God has been telling his people from the beginning: If you just do what I say and make me the Lord over everything in your life, I’ll be able to come down and live with you and give you everything you ever need. Forever!” (p. 122)
- THIS IS NOT THE UPPER STORY MESSAGE!!!

# The Upper Story!!

- God does not wait for us.
- He leaves the Upper Story of heaven and comes down to the Lower Story of our lives.
- John 1
- All the wisdom of Solomon could not force God to come down. In fact, he turns his back on the wisdom and fear of the Lord and worships other gods. (Irony??)

# The Upper Story!!

- The Upper Story is this:
  - <sup>6</sup> *You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
  - Romans 5:6-8

“...twenty-five *tons* of gold”

• \$1,304,888,000

– As of January 10, 2012



# Accumulation of Wealth

*“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”*

-Matthew 19:23-24

# Accumulation of Wealth

- Wealth itself is not condemnable.
- Why does it cause problems?
  - Ephesians 4:27
- How did it effect Solomon?
- What lesson can we learn from this?
  - 1 Timothy 6:6-10



# What is the point?

- Is the point of this story, *“If we do what God says, we will be blessed with material wealth”*?
- But what about all those people who don't do what God wants and still have wealth?
- The health and wealth gospel (name it and claim it)
  - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTc\\_FoELt8s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTc_FoELt8s)

# John 16:33

*33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*



# My Stuff...is NOT My Stuff



# The Frog King



# A 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment Problem

- Solomon has a 1<sup>st</sup> commandment problem.
- He sat in the pot too long.
- He gets cooked.
- *“The water didn’t seem too hot at first.”* (p. 125)



Have you  
ever found  
yourself in  
Hot Water?



# Wisdom

- *“True wisdom leads us to depend on God and humbly trust that he knows what is best for us.”* (p. 125)
- The fear of the Lord leads to true wisdom and brings the ability to humbly trust that he knows what is best for us.

