

SCHOOL *of the* BIBLE

PROVERBS

BOOK OF WISDOM



AUTHOR

- ♦ The main human author is Solomon (see 1:1).
- ♦ 1 Kings 4:32 tells us that Solomon spoke 3,000 proverbs. About 800 of them are in this book.

DATE

- ♦ Most proverbs were written ca. 950-900 B.C.
- ♦ They were likely collected together during Hezekiah's day (ca. 700 B.C.).

THEME

“LAWS FROM HEAVEN FOR LIFE ON EARTH”

- ♦ This is a book of divine wisdom for our daily walk.
- ♦ *Proverb* = a shrewd concentration of truth given in a striking way so that it is easier to remember than forget
- I. The Statement of Purpose (1:1-7)
 - ♦ Only a man who fears the Lord can truly be a wise man.

II. The Structure of the Proverbs

- ♦ Some are *contrastive* (i.e. 14:4, 17:22) - most common
- ♦ Some are *completive* (i.e. 9:10, 16:3)
- ♦ Some are *comparative* (i.e. 15:16, 16:8)
- ♦ Many are *colored* with vivid imagery (i.e. 25:12, 25:19, 25:25, 25:28, 26:20, 27:15)

OUTLINE

- I. Prologue - (1:1-7)
- II. Maxims - (1:8-ch. 29)
- III. Epilogue - (ch. 30-31)

KEY VERSE

“*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*”

Proverbs 1:7

SPECIAL FEATURES

- ♦ A comparison of Psalms & Proverbs:

<u>Psalms</u>	<u>Proverbs</u>
Our worship	Our walk
Devotional	Practical
Christian on his knees	Christian on his feet

- ♦ The virtuous woman - Prov. 31:10-31

CHRIST IN THE BOOK

- ♦ In chapter eight, wisdom is personified. This is a picture of Christ, who is Wisdom (see 1 Cor. 1:30).
- ♦ Christ is the Friend that sticks closer than a brother (18:24).

Book of Proverbs

Author: King Solomon is the principal writer of Proverbs. Solomon's name appears in 1:1, 10:1, and 25:1. We may also presume Solomon collected and edited proverbs other than his own, (Ecclesiastes 12:9). Indeed, the Hebrew title is translated "Proverbs of Solomon."

Date of Writing: Solomon's proverbs were penned around 900 B.C. During his reign as king, the nation of Israel reached its pinnacle spiritually, politically, culturally, and economically. As Israel's reputation soared, so did King Solomon's. Foreign dignitaries from the far reaches of the known world traveled great distances to hear the wise monarch speak (1 Kings 4:34).

Purpose of Writing: Knowledge is nothing more than an accumulation of raw facts, but wisdom is the ability to see people, events, and situations as God sees them. In the Book of Proverbs, Solomon reveals the mind of God in matters high and lofty and in common, ordinary, everyday situations, too. It appears that no topic escaped King Solomon's attention. Matters pertaining to personal conduct, sexual relations, business, wealth, charity, ambition, discipline, debt, child-rearing, character, alcohol, politics, revenge, and godliness are among the many topics covered in this rich collection of wise sayings.

Key Verses: Proverbs 1:5, Proverbs 1:7, Proverbs 4:5, Proverbs 8:13-14.

Brief Summary: Summarizing the Book of Proverbs is a bit difficult, for unlike many other books of Scripture, there is no particular plot or storyline found in its pages; likewise, there are no principal characters in the book. It is wisdom that takes center stage—a grand, divine wisdom that transcends the whole of history, peoples, and cultures. Even a perfunctory reading of this magnificent treasury reveals the pithy sayings of the wise King Solomon are as relevant today as they were some three thousand years ago.

Foreshadowings: The theme of wisdom and its necessity in our lives finds its fulfillment in Christ. We are continually exhorted in Proverbs to seek wisdom, get wisdom, and understand wisdom. Proverbs also tells us—and repeats it—that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (1:7; 9:10). Our fear of the Lord's wrath and justice is what drives us to Christ, who is the embodiment of God's wisdom as expressed in His glorious plan of redemption for mankind. In Christ, "*in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*" (Colossians 2:3), we find the answer to our search for wisdom, the remedy for our fear of God, and the "righteousness, holiness and redemption" that we so desperately need (1 Corinthians 1:30). The wisdom that is found only in Christ is in contrast to the foolishness of the world which encourages us to be wise in our own eyes. But Proverbs also tells us that the world's way is not God's way (Proverbs 3:7) and leads only to death (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25).

Practical Application: There is an undeniable practicality found in this book, for sound and sensible answers to all manner of complex difficulties are found within its thirty-one chapters.

Certainly, Proverbs is the greatest "how-to" book ever written, and those who have the good sense to take Solomon's lessons to heart will quickly discover godliness, prosperity, and contentment are theirs for the asking.

The recurring promise of the Book of Proverbs is that those who choose wisdom and follow God will be blessed in numerous ways: with long life (9:11); prosperity (2:20-22); joy (3:13-18); and the goodness of God (12:21). Those who reject Him, on the other hand, suffer shame and death (3:35; 10:21). To reject God is to choose folly over wisdom and is to separate ourselves from God, His Word, His wisdom and His blessings.

Proverbs Memory Verses

Prov 1:10 *My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.*

Prov 2:20 *That thou mayest walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous.*

Prov 3:5, 6 *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

Prov 4:7 *Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.*

Prov 5:21 *For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.*

Prov 6:6 *Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:*

Prov 7:2 *Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.*

Prov 8:13 *The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.*

Prov 9:10 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.*

Prov 10:12 *Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.*

Prov 11:30 *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.*

Prov 12:15 *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.*

Prov 13:20 *He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.*

Prov 13:24 *He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.*

Prov 14:12 *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

Prov 15:1 *A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.*

Prov 16:7 *When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.*

Prov 17:17 *A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*

Prov 18:24 *A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.*

Prov 19:27 *Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.*

Prov 20:1 *Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.*

Prov 21:31 *The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD.*

Prov 22:6 *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

Prov 23:17 *Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.*

Prov 24:9 *The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an abomination to men.*

Prov 25:28 *He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.*

Prov 26:5 *Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.*

Prov 27:1 *Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.*

Prov 28:13 *He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.*

Prov 29:1 *He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.*

Prov 30:17 *The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.*

Prov 31:30 *Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.*

The People of Proverbs

The goal of the Book of Proverbs is for Solomon to help his son find wisdom and avoid the way of a fool. Perhaps the most intriguing person you meet in Proverbs is the “simple.” In between the wise & the fool is the simple.....**WISE—SIMPLE—FOOL**

The Biblical Description of the “Simple”

- He lacks **judgment** (Prov. 7:7).
- He believes **anything** (Prov. 14:15).
- He stumbles through life without regard for **consequences**
- He drifts into the path of **fools** and **mockers** (Prov. 22:3).

We must acquire wisdom or remain a “simpleton”.

1. Avoid Friends who Lack Character (vs. 10)

A Scornor...

- Deliberately stirs up **strife** (Prov. 11:9).
- Disliked by **godly** people (Prov. 24:9).
- Refuses **correction** (Prov. 9:7).
- Is proud and **angry**.

2. Learn from the Mistakes of Others (vs. 22-23)

- People who refuse **instruction** will eat of the fruit of their own way (Prov. 1:31).
- People who refuse instruction will be with their own **desires** (Prov. 1:31)
- People who **refuse** instruction will become self-destructive (Prov. 1:32).

3. Seek Wisdom from God (20-33)

- **Wisdom** comes from God's grace (Prov. 1:20, 24)
- Wisdom comes from responding to the **fear** of the Lord (Prov. 1:23).
- Wisdom comes in the multitude of **counselors**.

Four Types of People in Proverbs

There are four types of people represented in the book of Proverbs.

- The **Wise** (Prov. 3:13)
- The **Simple** (Prov. 22:3)
- The **Fool** (Prov. 12:15)
- The **Scornor** (Prov. 13:1 and 22:10)

The Scripture gives instructions on how to deal with each of the three problem attitudes. We try to practically apply this wisdom to the discipleship process of the school and thereby strengthen the spiritual atmosphere.

THE SIMPLE

Proverbs 1:4 To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.

Proverbs 1:22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scornors delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

Proverbs 1:32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

Proverbs 7:7 And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,

Proverbs 8:5 O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.

Proverbs 9:4 Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: *as for* him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,

Proverbs 9:13 A foolish woman is clamorous: *she is* simple, and knoweth nothing.

Proverbs 9:16 Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: and *as for* him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,

Proverbs 14:15 The simple believeth every word: but the prudent *man* looketh well to his going.

Proverbs 14:18 The simple inherit folly: but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.

Proverbs 19:25 Smite a scorner, and the simple will beware: and reprove one that hath understanding, *and* he will understand knowledge.

Proverbs 21:11 When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise: and when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge.

Proverbs 22:3 A prudent *man* foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.

Proverbs 27:12 A prudent *man* foreseeth the evil, *and* hideth himself; *but* the simple pass on, *and* are punished.

THE WISE

Proverbs 1:5 A wise *man* will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

Proverbs 9:8 Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

Proverbs 9:9 Give *instruction* to a wise *man*, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just *man*, and he will increase in learning.

Proverbs 14:16 A wise *man* feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident.

Proverbs 16:14 The wrath of a king *is as* messengers of death: but a wise man will pacify it.

Proverbs 17:10 A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.

Proverbs 21:22 A wise *man* scaleth the city of the mighty, and casteth down the strength of the confidence thereof.

Proverbs 24:5 A wise man *is* strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.

Proverbs 29:9 *If* a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, *there is* no rest.

THE FOOL

Proverbs 11:29 He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool *shall be* servant to the wise of heart.

Proverbs 14:16 A wise *man* feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident.

Proverbs 26:3 A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back.

Proverbs 26:10 The great *God* that formed all *things* both rewardeth the fool, and rewardeth transgressors.

Proverbs 7:22 He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;

Proverbs 10:18 He that hideth hatred *with* lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, *is* a fool.

Proverbs 10:23 *It is* as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom.

Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.

Proverbs 12:16 A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent *man* covereth shame.

Proverbs 13:16 Every prudent *man* dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open *his* folly.

Proverbs 15:5 A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.

Proverbs 17:7 Excellent speech becometh not a fool: much less do lying lips a prince.

Proverbs 17:10 A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.

Proverbs 17:12 Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly.

Proverbs 17:16 Wherefore *is there* a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing *he hath* no heart *to it*?

Proverbs 17:21 He that begetteth a fool *doeth it* to his sorrow: and the father of a fool hath no joy.

Proverbs 17:24 Wisdom *is* before him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool *are* in the ends of the earth.

Proverbs 17:28 Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: *and* he that shutteth his lips *is esteemed* a man of understanding.

Proverbs 18:2 A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself.

Proverbs 18:6 A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.

Proverbs 18:7 A fool's mouth *is* his destruction, and his lips *are* the snare of his soul.

Proverbs 19:1 Better *is* the poor that walketh in his integrity, than *he that is* perverse in his lips, and is a fool.

Proverbs 19:10 Delight is not seemly for a fool; much less for a servant to have rule over princes.

Proverbs 23:9 Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.

Proverbs 24:7 Wisdom *is* too high for a fool: he openeth not his mouth in the gate.

Proverbs 26:1 As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honour is not seemly for a fool.

Proverbs 26:4 Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.

Proverbs 26:5 Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.

Proverbs 26:6 He that sendeth a message by the hand of a fool cutteth off the feet, *and* drinketh damage.

Proverbs 26:8 As he that bindeth a stone in a sling, so *is* he that giveth honour to a fool.

Proverbs 26:11 As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.

Proverbs 26:12 Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? *there is* more hope of a fool than of him.

Proverbs 27:3 A stone *is* heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's wrath *is* heavier than them both.

Proverbs 27:22 Though thou shouldest bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, *yet* will not his foolishness depart from him.

Proverbs 28:26 He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

Proverbs 29:11 A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise *man* keepeth it in till afterwards.

Proverbs 29:20 Seest thou a man *that is* hasty in his words? *there is* more hope of a fool than of him.

Proverbs 30:22 For a servant when he reigneth; and a fool when he is filled with meat;

