



Proverbs Introduction September 15, 2022

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- Lesson 9. Proverbs 31: The Virtuous Woman
- Lesson 10. The Unvirtuous Woman:
 - The Adulteress
 - The Contentious Woman
 - Other Unvirtuous Women in Proverbs
- Lesson 11. The Tongue.
- Lesson 12. Friends and Neighbors
- Lesson 13. Solving Conflicts
- Lesson 14. The Path to Maturity

“The book of Proverbs...It’s a wonderful, wonderful place to go and spend time to meditate on ***who God wants us to be, how He wants us to behave...*** It’s a real place where you get teaching—***basic teaching—on aspects of life, all aspects of life.*** They’re all covered in the book of Proverbs.”

Wisdom Literature in the Bible:

Job

Proverbs

Ecclesiastes

Song of Solomon (or Song of Songs)

“[The] law, the narratives, and the prophets stress the imperatives of ‘Believe!’ and ‘Obey!’ while ***the wisdom books stress the imperative ‘Think!’*** However, just as believing and obeying result in action, ***the challenge to think likewise results in action.***”

Proverb: MASHAL= suggests the idea of likeness, to become like, be comparable with

“A proverb...an object lesson using some comparison or analogy....a short saying that provides a general truth, a lesson drawn from experience, a common example, or a pattern of future blessing or cursing.”

Varieties of Parallelism in Proverbs:

The 2nd line: same thought in a different way

The 2nd line amplifies the 1st line

The 2nd line presents a contrast to the first

Figurative illustration in one of the parallel units

1st line = condition; 2nd line = consequence

Authors:

**Solomon*

(some compiled by
Hezekiah)

**Agur*

**Lemuel*

Prov 1:1 “The proverbs of **Solomon**
the son of David, king of Israel...”

Prov 25:1 “These are the proverbs of
Solomon which the men of **Hezekiah**,
king of Judah, **transcribed.**”

Prov 30:1 “The words of **Agur** the son
of Jakeh, the oracle...”

Prov 31:1 “The words of **King Lemuel**,
the oracle which his mother taught him.”

Where did Solomon get his wisdom?

- **I Kings 3:5-13:** The LORD told Solomon to ask for anything; Solomon asked for an ***understanding heart to judge and discern between good and evil***; none like him before or after!
- **I Kings 4:29-34:** Solomon spoke 3000 proverbs and 1005 songs.
- **I Kings 10:1-13,24:** Queen of Sheba heard of Solomon’s wisdom and came to see it for herself.

Proverbs can
be broken
into four
sections:

Proverbs 1-9 = reflections on life and
admonitions to his son to pursue wisdom

Proverbs 10-29 = collection of
“proverbs,” usually 2 lines of poetry
expressing one general truth. These are
rather random in their placement and can
stand alone.

“The very disorder of ... Proverbs can
serve a didactic purpose... The Proverbs
are present in the seemingly haphazard
way we encounter the issues of life.”

D Garrett

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Proverbs 30:1-31:9 = the sayings of
Agur and the teaching King Lemuel
received from his mother

Proverbs 31:10-31 = an acrostic
describing the wife of true and wise
character.

“Note the balance in Proverbs regarding men and women. The book begins with a father speaking primarily to young men (chs. 1-9) and closes with words from a mother (31:1-9), followed by the model of a perfect wife (31:10-31).”

Foundational concepts in Proverbs: Wisdom

“In Proverbs, wisdom is personified as a woman who serves as a model of one who walks with God, a model of one who speaks for God, who leads people in the right direction.”

Wisdom = skillful living; the ability to make wise choices and live successfully according to the moral standards of God's law and the covenant community.

Wisdom = that combination of knowledge and character that allows one to live in the real world in a right and godly manner.

Foundational concepts in Proverbs: Discernment

Discernment = being able to distinguish between things, form evaluations, discern lessons about life, distinguishing permanent values from immediate gratification.

Foundational concepts in Proverbs: The fear of the LORD

Key verse for Proverbs:

Proverbs 1:7 “**The fear of the LORD** is the beginning of knowledge”

Fear of the LORD = an attitude of reverence and awe; of carefulness toward God and submission to Him that result in obedience to God and hatred of evil.

A principle that is set forth in Proverbs and must be taught to our children as well is that “...in their pursuit of wisdom *they will be surrounded by others going the opposite direction who will be encouraging them to do likewise.*”

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Christ Himself “**in Whom** are hidden all the treasures of **wisdom and knowledge.**”

Col 2:2-3

“...If anyone is **IN CHRIST**, he is a new creature; the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.”

II Cor 5:17