



**Proverbs**

*Prologue: Purpose and Theme*  
The proverbs of Solomon son of David,  
king of Israel:  
attaining wisdom and discipline;  
understanding words of insight;  
for attaining a disciplined and prudent

*Exhortations to Embrace Wisdom*

*Warning Against Enticement*  
"Listen, my son, to your father's instruction  
and do not forsake your mother's

makes her speech.  
2<sup>nd</sup> How long will you simple ones<sup>b</sup> lo  
your simple ways?  
How long will mockers delight in  
and fools hate knowledge?  
3<sup>rd</sup> If you had responded to my rebuke,  
I would have poured out my heart  
to you  
and made my thoughts known to  
you.  
4<sup>th</sup> But since you rejected me when I  
called  
and no one gave heed when I  
stretched out my hand,  
5<sup>th</sup> since you ignored all my advice  
and would not accept my rebuke,  
6<sup>th</sup> in turn will laugh at your disaster;  
I will make ...

**Proverbs Introduction**  
**September 15, 2022**

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Fall 2022

- 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 2<sup>nd</sup> line: same thought in a different way

The 2<sup>nd</sup> line amplifies the 1<sup>st</sup> line

The 2<sup>nd</sup> line presents a contrast to the first

Figurative illustration in one of the parallel units

1<sup>st</sup> line = condition; 2<sup>nd</sup> 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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“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.*"

D Garrett

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

Col 2:2-3

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"...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