Wisdom Books (PROVERBS)

Proverbs: The Book

- The KEY WORD in Proverbs is WISDOM (חכֹחַ m’k.x’ chokmah (khok-maw’)) and has the idea of being skillful.
- The word WISE is חכֹמָה chakam (khaw-kawm’) which also means to be skillful as in Exodus 28:3; 35:30-36:2 and 1 Chronicles 22:15.
- The book of Proverbs gives God instructions on how to live successfully with the practical affairs of everyday life. It instructs us how to relate to God, parents, children, neighbors, and government.
- A Biblical definition: “Wisdom means being skillful and successful in one’s relationships and responsibilities . . . observing and following the Creator’s principles of order in the moral universe.” (Dr. Roy Zuck)
  - To be wise begins with a right relationship with the LORD.
    • Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; Psalm 111:10
    - “A wise person is one believes that there is a God, the He is the Creator and Ruler of all things, and that He has put within His creation a divine order that, if obeyed, leads to success.” (Warren Wiersbe)

Proverbs: The Author

- SOLOMON: Solomon’s name appears over three of the section he wrote: 1-9; 10-22; and 25-29.
  - Solomon spoke 3000 proverbs (1 Kings 4:32) and 1005 songs. Only about 800 of his proverbs are recorded in the book of Proverbs.
  - Solomon was a perfect candidate for compiling proverbs:
    1. He asked for wisdom. (1 King 3:5-9). We, too, are called to ask for wisdom and God promises to give it to us. (James 1:5)
    2. God granted Solomon great wisdom. (1 Kings 4:29-31)
    3. Solomon became the wisest man on earth. (1 Kings 4:34; 10:1-13, 24)
    4. Solomon collected and “set to order” many proverbs. (Ecclesiastes 12:9)

- THE MEN OF HEZEKIAH: Scholars during King Hezekiah’s days collected the proverbs of Solomon – see Proverbs 25:1.
  - Isaiah and Micah may have participated in this work.
- AGUR: Proverbs 30
- LEMUEL: Proverbs 31 – a king.

★ WARNING FROM the LIFE of SOLOMON: Solomon was given wisdom from God but died a fool! See 1 Kings 11 and Deuteronomy 17:14-20.
  - Unless we live according to the wisdom of God we, too, will die fools. (See Hebrews 5:12-14. ONLY with GOD’s wisdom can we discern good from evil.

★ 2 TIMOTHY 3:16 All Scriptures (including Proverbs) is profitable for:
  1. DOCTRINE: What is RIGHT.
  2. REPROOF: What is NOT RIGHT.
  3. CORRECTION: How to GET RIGHT.
  4. INSTRUCTION: How to STAY RIGHT.

★ KEY VERSE: Proverbs 1:7 – “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”
  - See Proverbs 9:10; Psalm 111:10; Job 28:28.

★ KEY CHAPTERS: Proverbs 2-3 – finding true wisdom, knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs: Time

- Solomon wrote his proverbs by 931 BC.
- The men of Hezekiah collected (Proverbs 25-29) about 230 years later.
  - Hezekiah ruled from ca. 715 to 686 BC.

Proverbs: A Selection

- Avoiding the Path of the Wicked: Proverbs 4:14-15 (see Psalm 1:1)
- Keeping Your Heart: Proverbs 4:23-27
- Do not be lazy: Proverbs 6:6-11
- Six things that God hates: Proverbs 6:16-19
- Avoid adultery: Proverbs 6:20-7:27
### Origin of Wisdom
- In God (22)
- From everlasting (23)
- Before all things (23-30)

### Teaching of Wisdom
- Prudence (5, 12)
- Understanding (5)
- Excellent things (6)
- Truth (7)
- Hatred of wickedness (7)
- Knowledge (12)
- Discretion (12)
- Fear of the Lord (13)

### Value of Wisdom
- Yields riches and honour (18)
- Greater than gold and silver (19)
- Blessed (32, 34)
- Finds life (35) - contrasted with a fool who finds death (36)

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### Additional Topics
- Counsel of the Wicked: Proverbs 12:5
- Choosing friends: Proverbs 12:26 (Proverbs 13:20; 1 Corinthians 15:33)
- The lazy man and diligent man: Proverbs 13:4 see also Proverbs 14:23
- The real rich man: Proverbs 13:7
- A soft answer: Proverbs 15:1
- The eyes of the LORD are everywhere: Proverbs 15:3
- Absolute sovereignty of God: Proverbs 16:1, 4, 9, 33 also see Proverbs 19:21; 20:24; 21:1
- Wicked Judges: Proverbs 17:15
- A fool’s opinion: Proverbs 18:2
- Hearing Two Sides of a Story: Proverbs 18:17
- The King’s heart in the hand of the Lord: Proverbs 21:1
- Victory in War: Proverbs 21:31
- Buy TRUTH: Proverbs 23:23
- Confidence is an unfaithful man: Proverbs 25:19
- “Only Joking!”: Proverbs 26:19
- Boasting about tomorrow: Proverbs 27:1 (James 4:13-16)
- Trusting in your own heart: Proverbs 28:26 (Jeremiah 17:9)
- Fear of Man: Proverbs 29:25
- Two Desires of Life: Proverbs 30:7-8
- Wisdom for Leaders: Proverbs 31:1-9
- A Wise Woman: Proverbs 31:10-31 (See also 12:4; 18:22)