

Outline of The Proverbs

A.	Proverbs 1:6-9:18: Proverbs for Solomon .
B.	Proverbs 10:1-19:19: Proverbs for all
C.	Proverbs 19:20-24:34: Proverbs for Solomon .
D.	Proverbs 25:1-26:28: Proverbs for all .
E.	Proverbs 27:1-29:27: Proverbs for Solomon
F.	Proverbs 30:1-31:31: The Words of Agur and The Words of king Lemuel.

Our assumption remains that 1-6-9:18 are “words of the wise”(1:6) directed **to** Solomon, and written by David, his father (supplemented by Bathsheba, his mother, 1:8). Many of these words of the wise are prophetic regarding Israel. And why shouldn’t they be if they were written by David, the prophet (See Acts 2:29-30)? We should expect anything written by David to have prophetic content (e.g. The Psalms).

Wisdom’s Call |(1:6) - 2:1-15

Over the next several sessions we are going to hear *Wisdom’s Call*, followed by a warning against making an ally with *the Foreign Woman*.

- A¹ | 1:6–2:15. Wisdom’s Call.
- B¹ | 2:16–22. The Foreign Woman.
- A² | 3:1–4:27. Wisdom’s Call.
- B² | 5:1–23. The Foreign Woman.
- A³ | 6:1–23. Wisdom’s Call.
- B³ | 6:24–35. The Foreign Woman.
- A⁴ | 7:1–4. Wisdom’s Call.
- B⁴ | 7:5–27. The Foreign Woman.
- A⁵ | 8:1–9:12. Wisdom’s Call.
- B⁵ | 9:13–18. The Foolish Woman.¹

Verse 1-5--

My son. We saw last session the proverbs (beginning at 1:6 and continuing through 9:18) are directed for Solomon. They are *words of the wise*—which could be described as words from a teacher to his student. Although only speculation, perhaps they are words written to Solomon by his father and mother, David and Bathsheba? Nevertheless, they are not general proverbs, but are intended to instruct Solomon or perhaps any ruler sitting on the throne of Israel.

If thou wilt receive my words and hide my commandments. The king is exhorted to **receive the words**, or the *speech/utterances*, “if you listen to what I am telling you.” **And hide**, that is do more than just listen, but take the words and put them into action. The Hebrew word **hide** is the same used in Psalm 119:11.

Incline thine ear. Actually, turn your ear toward **wisdom**. **Apply thine heart**, stretch it out toward understanding.

Criest after knowledge. “*I am over here!*” The same-- **liftest up thy voice for understanding** (discretion).

¹ Bullinger, Ethelbert W. *The Companion Bible: Being the Authorized Version of 1611 with the Structures and Notes, Critical, Explanatory and Suggestive and with 198 Appendixes*. Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2018. Print.

If thou sleekest her as silver. Silver being a rare element found deep within the earth, it takes hard work and labor to seek after Wisdom. **Searchest for her as for hid treasures.** Treasure hunting is done with relentless passion. When one searches for a treasure, he is hopeful and anticipating finding it!

All of the above work results in a ruler who will **understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.** In chapter one (1:7) we saw “*the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.*”

Verse 6—

Where does wisdom come from? **For the LORD giveth wisdom.** There is a Giver and all one needs to do is cry out for it (vs. 3). Biblical examples of those given wisdom **out of his mouth:** Joseph (Genesis 41:38); Moses (Exodus 4:12); Solomon (1Kings 3:12; 4:29); Daniel (1:17; 2:23); Stephen (Acts 6:5, 10); Lydia (Acts 16:14); Paul prayed for believers to have wisdom (Ephesians 1:17; Colossians 1:9).

Verse 7—

He layeth up is the same Hebrew word as *hide* in verse 1. For the **righteous**, God keeps **sound wisdom** hidden so that the enemy cannot find it. Yet if a **righteous** king will dig for it he will find it. **Sound wisdom** means stable or wisdom of substance. **Buckler** is a shield. A ruler on the throne of Israel who finds **sound wisdom** is shielded by the LORD himself.

Verse 8, 9—

Paths of judgment, the LORD preserves the *righteous paths*. **Preserveth**, he watches over the **way of his saints** on that **path**. **Saints** (used only once in Proverbs) = refers later to the Jews or Israel (in the Psalms it is used 25 times). It means *holy* or *holy ones*. In the New Testament the Greek word Saints can translate as *holy* as well.

If a king wants to understand **righteousness, and judgment, and equity...every good path**. He will pay attention to wisdom. God will secure the righteous ruler of Israel.

Verses 10-11—

When wisdom entereth into thine heart...pleasant...preserve...keep. Wisdom is satisfying to the king.

Verses 12-15—

Froward (not forward), it means perverse, or to turn. Therefore, a king of Israel must keep himself from godless men, and only Wisdom can deliver him from that.

The Foreign Woman | Proverbs 2:16-22

Verse 16-17—

Essentially the **strange woman** is the *stranger, or foreigner*. She is one that is not of Abraham's seed. And these foreign women were a constant snare to Israel (Solomon-1 Kings 11:4)

This **strange woman**, and we will see the term is used eight times in Proverbs. There are two Hebrew words used, *zwur* and *nokriy* in fact both words are used in 2:16; **strange**, and **stranger**. She's not an Israelite. The word **God** (elohiyim) is capitalized in verse 17, but it should be a little “g” god. This does not refer to Jehovah or Yahweh, but her own national gods. This is not a good thing for a ruler of Israel to embrace. The Messiah will come from the line of David; the foreign woman would imperil the dynasty. Satan will attempt it inject a foreign woman into the mix to try and mess up God's plan.

It was God's Divine intention that Israel be separate from all the other nations. Deuteronomy 7:6. They were not to serve *wood and stone* (Ezekiel 20:31,32 like the other nations and these would be introduced by the foreign woman.

Here in 2:17 she **forgetteh the covenant of her god**. She leaves behind her own people and her own gods and comes among the community of whose God she knows nothing. God is not anti-foreigner, he is for "His" people whoever they may be, and a foreigner could certainly enter into the commonwealth of Israel. Therefore, the *words of the wise* (the parents?) are to instruct Solomon in the ways of his father's God (although Solomon will fail when it comes to the foreign woman).

Verses 18-22—

The foreign woman will set up house within the Land and will bring nothing but **death**, likewise she serves **dead** gods (Isaiah 26:13,14).

The *words of the wise* are not without promise; that **thou mayest walk in the way of good, and keep the paths of the righteous**.

The prophetic result will be **the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it**. There will come a day when all the wicked shall be **cut off from the earth**. 1 Corinthians 15:27-28 speaks of that time when all things will be put under the Messiah's feet, and all things shall be subdued in him, that God may be all in all.