

Proverbs



St. Rose Community Church EQUIP

1 The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: 2 To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, 3 to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; 4 to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth— 5 Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, 6 to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles. 7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1:1-7

What are some verses in Proverbs that have been most meaningful to you, and why?

Literary Context

Author - Mostly Solomon, but other authors

Date - Mid 10th century BC

30 so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. 31 For he was wiser than all other men, wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol, and his fame was in all the surrounding nations. 32 He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005. 33 He spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of the wall. He spoke also of beasts, and of birds, and of reptiles, and of fish. 34 And people of all nations came to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and from all the kings of the earth, who had heard of his wisdom.

1 Kings 4:30-34

Main Sections

1. Chapters 1-9
2. Chapters 10-29
3. Chapters 30-31

Historical Context

The book characterizes the wisdom that a king needs to rule over God's people.

The book points to Christ! The Great King who possesses the greatest wisdom to rule over God's people.

“The Book of Proverbs is a gospel book, because it is part of the Bible. That means the book of Proverbs is good news for bad people. It is about grace for sinners. It is about hope for failures. It is wisdom for idiots. This book is Jesus himself coming to us as our counselor.”

- Ray Ortlund

Central Theme

Wisdom is fearing the Lord, being teachable, and having skill in Godly living. The source, the means and goal of all wisdom is the Lord!

What is the fear of the Lord?

Proverbs 1:7, “*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge*; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

What is being teachable?

Proverbs 1:7, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; *fools despise wisdom and instruction.*”

How do we have skill in Godly living?

“There is a way it works and a way it doesn’t work and Proverbs helps us to see that.”

- Ray Ortlund

What are the Proverbs?

- They are general principles and observations, seen in the created order by those who fear the Lord.

General Principles

Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, and a stone will come back on him who starts it rolling.

Proverbs 26:27

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- Some Proverbs are always true because they describe eternal truths about God and the hardwired workings of the universe

Eternal Truths

The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is
from the Lord.

Proverbs 16:33

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Interpreting Proverbs - Proverbs 10:8

“The wise of heart will receive commandments,
but a babbling fool will come to ruin.”

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3. Summarize in your own words
4. Apply to your own life

One More Interpretive Suggestion

Consult different translations

Four Themes of Wisdom

1. The fool and sluggard

a. Prov. 5:23; 7; 14:29; 17:24, 28

“The sluggard does not commit himself to refusal, but deceives himself by the smallness of his surrenders. So, by inches and minutes, his opportunity slips away.”

- Derek Kidner

Four Themes of Wisdom

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2. Personal Relationships

a. Prov. 3:29; 6:1-5; 10:12; 14:21; 17:18; 19:18; 24:1; 25:17;
27:6

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4. The Outcome of Wisdom

a. Prov. 16:6; 19:6

Where is Jesus in the Proverbs?

1. They describe the beauty of Jesus

*“The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, **and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.**”*

Matthew 12:42

Where is Jesus in the Proverbs?

1. They describe the beauty of Jesus
2. They show our need for Jesus