

# PROVERBS

**Author: Solomon & others**

**Date: Primarily 970 – 930 B.C.**

The book of Proverbs provides God's detailed instructions for His people to deal successfully with the practical affairs of everyday life: how to relate to God, spouses, children, parents, neighbors, and government. Proverbs also includes instruction concerning righteousness, folly, sin, goodness, wealth, poverty, the tongue, pride, humility, justice, vengeance, strife, gluttony, drinking, love, lust, adultery, laziness, work, friends, family, discipline, life and death.

Solomon, the principle author, uses a combination of poetry, parables, pithy questions, short stories, and wise sayings to give in memorable form the common sense and divine perspective necessary to handle life's challenges. The Bible tells us Solomon wrote 3,000 proverbs (1 Kings 4:32).

A proverb is a concise, wise, meaningful saying that conveys a moral truth. A proverb is easy to learn and calls a person to action. These teachings are timeless and applicable for people everywhere. A proverb is not prophesy and is not a promise.

Theme: Proverbs describes the importance of living wisely and in the fear of the Lord as opposed to following the path of folly and sinfulness.

Key verse: *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."* (1:7)

## Outline

- I. The Purpose of Proverbs (1:1-7)
- II. The Precepts of Wisdom to the Youth (1:8 – 9:18)
  - A. Obey Parents (1:8-9)
  - B. Avoid Bad Company (1:10-19)
  - C. Seek Wisdom (1:20 – 2:22)
  - D. Benefits of Wisdom (3:1-26)
  - E. Be Kind to Others (3:27-35)
  - F. Father Says Get Wisdom (4:1-13)
  - G. Avoid the Wicked (4:14-22)
  - H. Keep Your Heart (4:23-27)
  - I. Do Not Commit Adultery (5:1-14)
  - J. Do Be Faithful to Your Spouse (5:15-23)
  - K. Avoid Surety (6:1-5)
  - L. Do Not Be Lazy (6:6-19)
  - M. Do Not Commit Adultery (6:20 – 7:27)
  - N. Praise of Wisdom (8:1 – 9:12)
  - O. Foolish Woman (9:13-18)
- III. Proverbs of Solomon (10:1 – 24:34)
  - A. Proverbs Contrasting the Godly and the Wicked (10:1 – 15:33)
  - B. Proverbs Encouraging Godly Lives (16:1 – 22:16)
  - C. Proverbs Concerning Various Situations (22:17 – 24:34)
- IV. Proverbs of Solomon Compiled by Hezekiah's Men (25:1 – 29:27)
  - A. Proverbs Regulating Relationships with Others (25:1 – 26:28)
  - B. Proverbs Regulating Various Activities (27:1 – 29:27)
- V. The words of Agur (30:1-33)
- VI. The Words of King Lemuel (31:1-31)
  - A. Wisdom for Leaders (31:1-9)
  - B. Wise Women (31:10-31)