

Book of Proverbs – Chapters 1-4

Introduction

- Authorship: The Holy Spirit though Solomon
- Solomon wrote 3000 proverbs (1 Kings 4:32)
- Solomon given wisdom by God: 1 Kings 3:5-13)
- *⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?” ¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³ I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days.*
- Solomon reigned 971- 931 – 10th century BC

Outline of the Book of Proverbs

- Chapters 1-9 Wisdom and Folly are Contrasted
- Chapters 10-24 Proverbs of Solomon
- Chapters 25-29 Additional Proverbs of Solomon compiled under Hezekiah
- Chapter 30 Oracle of Agur
- Chapter 31 Proverbs of Lemuel’s Mother

Proverbs Chapter 1

The Purpose of Proverbs – vs 2-7

- To gain wisdom and understanding
- Discernment
- Instruction in righteousness, wise behavior, justice, and equity
- Prudence to the naïve
- To give youth knowledge and discretion
- To gain increase in learning
- To gain wise counsel

VS 7 Fools despise wisdom and instruction

VS 8-19 – Avoid Bad Associations and Bad Company – Notice “my son”.

VS 20 – 33 – The Cry of Wisdom and to Folly of the Scoffer

Fools and Scoffers

- Hate knowledge
- Do not choose the fear of the Lord
- Do not accept Godly counsel
- Spurn reproof
- They reap what they sow (Galatians 6:7-9)
- Leads to death
- Their prayers will not be heard

Chapter Two – Wisdom Protects Our Paths

- God’s word is
 - Treasure
 - Silver
 - Hidden Treasure
- God Word Gives:
 - Wisdom
 - Understanding
 - Knowledge
 - Is a shield
 - Guards and protects
 - Preserves the way of the Godly
 - Discretion
- God Word Delivers You From
 - Evil Men
 - Adultery

Chapter 3 – Wisdom Directs our Path

- Gods Teaching and Commandments Bring
 - Long life
 - Peace
- Trusting in the Lord
 - From the heart
 - Not human understanding
 - Fear of the Lord to turn from evil
 - Healing for your body
 - Refreshment for your soul
 - Abundance

- Fatherly discipline in love
- Benefits of Wisdom Continued
 - Greater than gold or jewelry
 - Long life
 - Peaceful ways
 - Tree of life
 - Life to your soul
 - Freedom from fear
 - Sweet sleep
- Wisdom in Dealing with Others
 - Don't withhold payment
 - Do not devise harm against your neighbor
 - Do not content with another without cause
 - Do not envy the violent
 - God's blessing and curse
 - The wise receive honor, the wicked receive dishonor

Chapter Four – Wisdom Perfects Your Path

- The Fathers Instruction
 - Keep my commandments and live
 - Acquire wisdom and understanding
 - Love, honor, and prize wisdom
 - Choose the right path, avoid the wicked
 - My words are life
 - My words bring health
 - My words are to reign in your heart