

Proverbs

- 1) Proverb – “A pithy saying, especially one that condenses the wisdom of experience into an adage or maxim.”
- 2) Most were written by Solomon (1 Kg. 4:32). Chapter 30 was written by Agur and 31 was written by king Lemuel.
- 3) Proverbs is full of statements that use comparison to set forth truths – 25:28.
Proverbs uses parallelism to teach various truths:
 - a) Synonymous parallelism – 19:29.
 - b) Antithetical (contrasting) parallelism – 13:9.
 - c) Synthetic parallelism (a second phrase explains the first) – 20:2.
- 4) Wisdom literature can be abused and misunderstood:
 - a) Ecclesiastes 3:2.
 - b) Proverbs 22:6.
- 5) Four types of people are addressed in Proverbs:
 - a) The simple (naïve, gullible). 7:7; 14:15; 22:3.
 - b) The fool. Three Hebrew words used to describe this person. The *kesil*, meaning, “one who stubbornly clings to foolishness.” 17:16, 24. The *ewil* meaning, “morally indecent.” 14:9, 16. The *nabal* meaning, “closed to reason.” 17:7. 1 Sam. 25:17.
 - c) The mocker (one who shows contempt for wisdom and instruction). 9:7; 11:9.
 - d) The wise (a description of one’s heart toward God and His word). 6:6; 13:20; 15:31.
- 6) The overall theme of the book – 1:7.
- 7) Proverbs in the NT:

a) 3:11-12	Hebrews 12:5-6
b) 3:34	James 4:6
c) 4:26	Hebrews 12:13
d) 11:31	1 Peter 4:18
e) 13:7	2 Corinthians 6:10
f) 22:8	Galatians 6:7
g) 25:7	Luke 14:10
h) 25:21-22	Romans 12:20
i) 26:11	2 Peter 2:22
j) 27:1	James 4:14,16

Proverbs

1:1-7 – Introduction and theme of the book.

- We learn who the author is (Solomon) and what his purpose is in verses 4-5:
 - To give prudence (common sense) to the simple (naïve).
 - To give the young man (inexperienced) knowledge and discretion (sound advice) from experience.
 - A wise man is willing to gather more wisdom.
 - Men of understanding are willing to take guidance.
- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. Who can better tell us how to live than the One who created us?

1:8-19 – Son, listen to your parents and watch the company you keep.

1:20-33 – Wisdom (personified as “she”) calls out to you. Wisdom should be based on the fear of the Lord (v. 29).

2:1-9 – Let God give you wisdom (v. 3-5).

2:10-22 – What that wisdom will do for you:

- It will give you discretion and understanding (v. 11).
- It will deliver you from evil people (v. 12-15).
- It will deliver you from an evil woman (v. 16-19).
- Wisdom will cause you to walk with righteous men (v. 20).

3:1-4 – Son, follow my advice.

3:5-26 – Lean on God’s wisdom.

- What is wisdom better than (v. 13-15)? Why?
- Trusting in God and relying on His wisdom is a lot easier when we keep in mind that He is the Creator and Sustainer of all (v. 19-20).
- Discretion (v. 21) – found 6 times in Proverbs (1:4; 2:11; 3:21; 5:2; 11:22; 19:11). 5 times from a Hebrew word that means purpose. Once (19:11) from a word that means insight.

3:27-35 – Be a good person.

- 27-30 – Treat people fairly.
- 31-32 – Don’t be unjust (perverse - NKJ).
- 33-35 – Don’t be wicked (criminal), scornful (arrogant talk), or foolish.

A Study of Proverbs

4:1-13 – Gaining wisdom – “Listen to a voice of experience.”

- The early chapters of Proverbs brings our attention to the need for parental care and guidance!
- Wisdom is again personified in verses 5-9.

4:14-19 – A contrast between the path of the wicked and the path of the just.

- Notice in verses 14-15 that there is no compromise!
- 1 John 2:15-17.

4:20-27 – Your heart is the spring of the issues of life.

- How? Guard your lips (v. 24), your eyes (v. 25), and your feet (v. 26-27).
- 2 Peter 1:5-11.

5 – Pay attention to “MY” wisdom about women.

- Solomon deals with the danger of adultery. He should know! 1 Kings 11:1-8.
- She can attract you with words, but the end is destruction (v. 3-6).
- The consequences of adultery are far reaching (v. 7-14).
- Enjoy a happy, successful marriage instead (v. 15-20).
- You reap what you sow (Gal. 6:7-8)!

A Study of Proverbs

Proverbs 6 – A collection of wise saying on various subjects.

- 6:1-5 – Don't make dangerous promises. This is not a condemnation on making promises, but a warning about doing it without forethought. Jesus teaches on this as well (Matt. 5:33-37). If you make a foolish decision, humble yourself, get out of it, and run like a deer that's being hunted (v. 3-5).
- 6:6-11 – Don't be lazy. There is a difference between being well rested and being a sluggard. Poverty will catch up with you (v. 11)!
- 6:12-15 – A description of the wicked. These people use their bodies for evil – mouth, eyes, feet, and fingers. The heart is mentioned in verse 14.
- 6:16-19 – 7 things God hates. *Proud look* – arrogance. *Lying tongue* – wrapped up in dishonesty. *Hands that shed innocent blood* – lack of regard for human life. *Heart that devises wicked imaginations/plans* – premeditated wrongdoing. *Swift feet to mischief* – a person who will do what is wrong when they think they can get away with it. *A false witness speaking lies* – perjury, lying. *Sowing discord among brethren* – we are to seek harmony and unity, but some do not want it.
- 6:20-35 – The dangerous sin of adultery. Solomon addresses this topic several times in Proverbs. This section records parents trying to warn their children about this evil (v. 20-23). "Strange" (v. 24) means outlandish or immoral. Verses 26-27 teach the concept of staying far away, don't entertain the idea! This sin will not be overlooked (v. 30-35).
- Adultery is a very specific, sexual term. It refers to a husband or wife who violates God's law of sexual faithfulness in marriage. In the NT it is a breach of the marital covenant and is the one and only reason a person may divorce and remarry (Matt. 19:9). When this sin is committed it impacts many people and changes many lives and relationships, sometimes forever.

A Study of Proverbs

Proverbs 7 – Solomon’s wise advice for his son concerning crafty women.

- 7:1-5 – A plea for his son to heed his advice in order to keep away from the seductress (NKJ).
- 7:6-9 – She will seduce a naïve man who is in the wrong place at the wrong time.
- 7:10-20 – She will dress to attract and act out to catch his attention. She tells him “you’re the one” (v. 15). She makes these plans when her husband is out of town (v. 16-20).
- 7:21-23 – The naïve man will believe everything she says, follow her, and suffer the consequences.
- 7:24-27 – Solomon knows what he is talking about and knows the results.

Proverbs 8 – The personification of wisdom.

- 8:1-11 – Wisdom cries out. She is better than material wealth (v. 7-11).
- 8:12-21 – Wisdom will cause you to hate evil (v. 13), give you strength (v. 14), provide justice (v. 15-17), and righteousness (v. 20).
- 8:22-31 – Wisdom has always been with God, even as He was creating.
- 8:32-36 – The one who listens to wisdom is blessed (v. 34) and favored by the Lord (v. 35).

Proverbs 9 – We must choose – Wisdom or Folly.

- 9:1-6 – Wisdom is ready to be accepted by anyone who will take it.
- 9:7-9 – The difference between a wise man and a scorner (scoffer – NKJ). Scorners means, “an arrogant talker, a boaster.” There are some people who can’t be taught!
- 9:10-12 – Wisdom begins with fearing God. When one has knowledge of God’s ways he has understanding for life.
- 9:13-18 – Another warning concerning the “foolish woman.” She is boisterous, obnoxious, and ignorant. She appeals to the same people that wisdom calls out to (v. 16 & 4). We have a choice to make concerning wisdom and instruction.

A Topical Study of Proverbs

The contrast of wickedness and righteousness

- 10:2-3, 6-7, 27-32 – addresses the values, reputation, and manner of both.
- 11:3-12, 16-23, 30-31
- 12:2-3 (*devices = intentions*) 12:5, 10
- 13:5-6, 9, 21-22, 25
- 14:32
- 15:6, 8-9, 26, 29
- 17:23
- 28:1
- 29:2

A Topical Study of the Proverbs

Proverbs on dishonesty

- 11:1, 24-28
- 18:5
- 20:10, 23
- 24:23-25

Proverbs on the fear of the Lord

- 1:7; 9:10; 15:33 – The term here is used in a positive sense and has to do with reverence for Him and His word. The fear of the Lord can be understood (2:5).
- 14:26-27 – It will cause us to conduct ourselves in a certain way.
- 16:6 – What it will cause us to do.
- 23:17 – Where to stay.

Proverbs on lying

- 14:5, 25; 19:5, 9 – A false witness.
- *Lie* is "a deception, a falsehood, non-truth."
- 25:18 - A liar is a deadly weapon.

A Topical Study of Proverbs

Proverbs on the improper use of the mouth/tongue

- Lying – “a willful perversion of truth in order to deceive or mislead.”
- 11:20; 12:22; 25:18

- Gossip, tale-bearing, whispering.
- 11:13; 16:27-28; 17:9; 18:8; 20:19; 26:20-22

- Sowing discord (*strife, contention*).
- 6:19 (among brethren!); 12:18; 15:4

- Flattery – “insincere praise.”
- 6:23-24; 7:21 (marriages); 26:28; 29:5

- Foul language.
- 15:1; 17:28; 20:20; 29:20; 30:11
- Ex. 21:17; Lev. 20:9

A Topical Study of Proverbs

Proverbs on the proper use of the mouth/tongue

- Keep it guarded
- 15:1-2; 21:23

- Giving wisdom
- 10:11-13, 20-21

- With restraint
- 10:19; 11:12; 15:28; 17:27-28; 29:11

- To cheer-up others
- 12:25; 16:24

- To build friendships
- 17:17; 18:24; 27:9

- Rebuke when necessary
- 27:5-6

- Evangelism
- 11:30

A Topical Study of Proverbs

Proverbs on pride

- Defined – “inordinate self-esteem; conceit.”
- Not much hope – 26:12
- Leads to destruction – 11:2; 15:25; 16:5, 18-19; 29:23 (Pharaoh, Goliath, Nebuchadnezzar)
- What it does to relationships – 13:10; 28:25
- Your reputation – 21:24

Proverbs on friends

- Bad friends – 14:20; 19:4, 6-7; 22:24-25 (14:17)
- Good friends – 17:17; 18:24; 27:5-6; 27:10, 17
- A warning – 25:17

A Topical Study of Proverbs

Proverbs on wise people vs foolish people

- 10:8-10, 14 - difference in behavior.
- 12:8, 23
- 13:15-17 – difference in outcome.
- 14:6-9, 15-19 – difference of mindset.
- 15:5, 14 – difference in desire.
- 19:25 – fools don't like being corrected.
- 26:7-12

Proverbs on drinking

- 20:1
- 23:29-35

A Topical Study of Proverbs

Proverbs on anger

- 14:29
- 15:18
- 16:32
- 17:14
- 19:11
- 25:28

Proverbs on a "way"

- 14:12, 14
- 16:2-3, 7, 17, 25

Proverbs on the unwillingness to be corrected

- 10:17
- 12:1, 15
- 13:1
- 15:10, 12, 31-33
- 16:22
- 17:10

A Topical Study of Proverbs

Proverbs on work ethic

- Defined – “a belief in work as a moral good: a set of values centered on the importance of doing work and reflected especially in a desire or determination to work hard.”
- 6:6-11
- 10:4-5
- 12:27
- 18:9
- 19:15, 24
- 20:4
- 24:30-34
- 26:13-16
- The NT – 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12; Ephesians 4:28

Proverbs on riches

- 13:7, 11
- 15:16-17, 27
- 16:8
- 19:1, 4
- 20:15
- 22:2, 7
- 23:4-5
- 28:6
- 30:7-9

A Topical Study of Proverbs

Proverbs on discipline

- 13:24
- 19:18
- 20:30
- 23:13-14
- 29:15, 17

Proverbs on domestic life

- 12:4
- 17:21, 25
- 18:22
- 19:14, 26
- 21:9, 19
- 25:24