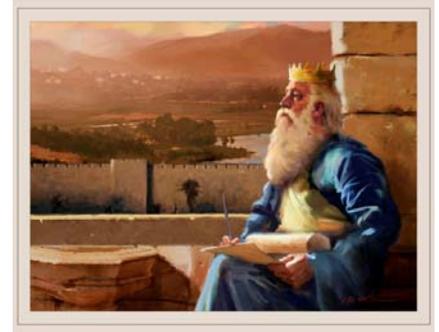


## 20 – Proverbs: How to Live Smart and Right

- This little book is filled with the **wisdom of the ages**, and makes a remarkable book of instruction for anyone, not just young people. It should be taught from cover to cover in the home. It is sadly neglected. We often read it devotionally, but without studying its content. A fascinating guidebook to living life wisely and pleasing God.
- Psalms was about comfort and identification with the people of God. Proverbs is about **instruction in living**. It is like holding up a mirror, seeing ourselves – the good, the bad, and the ugly!
- A proverb is a saying that conveys a specific truth in a pointed way. **Proverbs are short sentences drawn from long experience.** A proverb is a truth that is stated in a form that is easy to remember, a philosophy based on experience, and a rule for conduct. Also called, maxim, old saying, saw, bromide, epigram.
- **SOLOMON** wrote 3 books of poetry: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. Proverbs is on wisdom. Ecclesiastes is on folly. Song of Solomon is on love. Solomon was an expert on all 3 subjects! The Word of God tells us that he spoke 3000 proverbs and wrote 1005 songs. We only have a handful of the proverbs and one song. We are also told that Solomon had knowledge and spoke of all sorts of things in the natural world and that people came from all over the world to hear his wisdom and teaching. (1 Kings 4:33–34).
- You don't READ the book of Proverbs, you take it a little at a time and think on it, memorize it.
- This **Book of Proverbs**: 1) contains nothing unscientific or inaccurate (*highly unusual for a proverb!*); 2) is always on high moral ground; 3) doesn't contradict; 4) transcends the ages; 5) is not a hodgepodge but is carefully arranged; 6) tells a story (*the challenge given to a young man that he be a wise man; exhorted to hear, to increase his learning. Starts learning from parents in the home; gets his basic lesson before school. Even after he graduates, basic lesson will still be good for him. (1:7)*
- **KEY to this book** is in verse 7 of the first chapter: ***“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.”***
- Solomon states the purpose of the proverbs (1:2-7). The **ten main characteristics of a wise person** are given: wisdom, instruction, understanding, discernment, justice, judgment, equity, prudence, knowledge and discretion. A statement in verse 5 reveals a common characteristic of all great people: ***“A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel.”*** They never felt they had learned everything, continued learning, listened carefully, and chose friends and advisers with care.



<b>WISDOM</b>	Wisdom = The ability to use knowledge right. 37X in Proverbs
<b>INSTRUCTION</b>	In Hebrew the word means chastening. It is really chastisement, or correction that results in learning. To teach by discipline.
<b>UNDERSTANDING</b>	Understanding means intelligence. We need to recognize that God expects us to use our intelligence. He expects us to use a great deal of sanctified common sense.
<b>DISCERNMENT</b>	English is “wisdom” again, but different word in Hebrew. This is <i>Sakhal</i> , which means circumspection, insight, expertise, mindfulness. It is discernment.
<b>JUSTICE</b>	Justice is righteousness, “right behavior.” In Hebrew it means the right thing. Right is what God says is right. Right and wrong are not relative terms, they are absolutes.
<b>JUDGMENT</b>	In Hebrew it means a fair verdict or decision. It is the same as making a decision. The believer must make decisions about which way to go. This is about making right choices.
<b>EQUITY</b>	Hebrew word means doing with evenness and fairness – another definition is “straightness.” We walk the path of life down the center of God’s will, not right or left. We also walk evenly and fairly with others.
<b>PRUDENCE</b>	This is about acting with intelligent thought, not foolishness. The actual meaning of the Hebrew word is <b>CUNNING</b> . (see Matthew 10:16)
<b>KNOWLEDGE</b>	Knowledge is information that is useful. In Hebrew, this word implies knowledge gained through the senses, and experience, not book learning. Can be technical know-how that enhances life experience. Not knowledge for the sake of knowledge. Common sense.
<b>DISCRETION</b>	This means acting with thoughtfulness. The Hebrew word implies meditation – forethought before action, having a plan and purpose.

**JUST SOME OF WHAT PROVERBS CONTAINS....Information on:**

- The challenge to be wise
- In times of temptation
- Invitation to wisdom
- Source of true wisdom
- Common sense wisdom
- Power and dangers of evil, enemies to wisdom
- Good and evil
- The tongue and the heart
- Heart over ritual
- Responsibility – listening/obeying God’s Laws
- Material blessings have spiritual significance
- Material wealth in perspective
- God’s discipline (chastening)
- Pursuit of wisdom brings happiness
- As we grow, remember Father’s words
- Sex education, sexual sins
- Holiness of marriage
- The right wife
- Good business principles
- Great life principles
- Wisdom in child rearing
- Children of God vs “fools”
- Fool = one who rejects God
- Friendships
- Description of the wicked man
- **7 Things God Hates** (proud look (pride), lying, hands that shed innocent blood, heart that devises wicked plans, feet swift in running to evil, false witness, one who sows discord among brothers)

**FULL OF COUPLETS: Parallelism**

Synonymous (compares)	Antithetic (Contrasts)	Synthetic (completes)
2 <sup>nd</sup> clause restates the 1 <sup>st</sup> (expresses the same thought in a different way)	2 <sup>nd</sup> clause contrasted, makes 1 <sup>st</sup> stronger (a truth stated in the 1 <sup>st</sup> clause is made stronger in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> clause with an opposite truth)	2 <sup>nd</sup> clause completes, develops 1 <sup>st</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> clause develops the thought of the first)
“Judgments are prepared for scorners, and stripes for the back of fools.” (19:29)	“The light of the righteous rejoiceth, but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.” (13:9)	“The terror of a king is as the roaring of a lion; He that provoketh him to anger sinneth against his own life.” (20:2)

- **Vivid Pictures and Analogies**
- The sluggard who is like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes of his employer
- The offended brother who is harder to win than a strong city
- The coming of poverty like “an armed man” to the slothful
- Wise reproof to an earring of gold on an obedient ear
- Riches flying away on wings like those of an eagle

*Highlights*

- **Proverbs 8** is Wisdom personified. There are remarkable comparisons to wisdom and to Jesus in this Proverb. Wisdom is only called a “she” here because in Hebrew, as in many languages, words have a masculine and feminine neuter. The word for wisdom is a feminine neuter, thus the SHE. This in no way diminishes the comparison to Jesus – clearly a HE. Proverbs 8 is a startling description of wisdom personified in our Lord Jesus. Jesus said: *“The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed One greater than Solomon is here.”* Matthew 12:42, Luke 11:31
- **WISDOM = Jesus.** *“But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”* 1 Corinthians 1:30-31
- **Proverbs 31** – King Lemuel? Who is that? There was no king named Lemuel. The name that God gave to Solomon is *Jedidiah*, which means “beloved of the Lord” (2 Sam. 12:25); the name *Lemuel* means “devoted to the Lord.” Some have speculated that this was a name Bathsheba had for her son, a sort of “pet” name. This sounds like a mother’s advice to her son. Proverbs 31 is the one you will most likely hear on Mother’s Day.

