

Proverbs

“Get Wisdom”

By Timothy Sparks

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Human Authors

- Solomon (reign ~970-931 BC) is the author of most of the Proverbs
 - 1:1; 10:1; 25:1
 - 1 Kings 4:29-34
 - King Hezekiah's scribes copied Proverbs 25-29
 - Solomon is likely the penman of Proverbs 1-29

Human Authors

- Agur wrote Proverbs 30 (v. 1)
- King Lemuel wrote Proverbs 31:1-9 (words his mother taught him—31:1)
- Lemuel or an unknown author wrote the acrostic on the worthy woman—wisdom personified (31:10-31)

Proverbs Illustrated

Think of someone who has seen and experienced much in this life:

- godly people & ungodly people
- hard workers & lazy people
- motivated people & those without purpose
- poverty & wealth
- fame & dishonor

Proverbs Illustrated

One who has also seen and experienced:

- failure & success
- discouragement
- those who listen, think and learn & those who talk endlessly

Proverbs is the inspired record of accumulated experiences, observations and the recommended course of action

Thematic Statement

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Prov. 1:7)

- God gave us Proverbs to instruct us in living wisely for him
 - to think clearly and make right choices
 - The clear thinking begins with the “fear of the Lord”—having a fear of displeasing God, motivating obedience

Key Words

- **Heart, לֵב *leb* (97 times)**

- 2:2; 3:1, 3, 5; 4:23; 6:18, 21; 7:3; 10:20; 14:30; 16:1, 9 (Man proposes, God disposes); 16:5; 17:22; 19:21; 22:15; 28:26

- **Wisdom, חֵכְמָה *chokmah* (39 times)**

- 4:5-7; 9:10; 10:13, 31; 13:10; 16:16; 23:23; 24:3

Wisdom

Wisdom refers to skill gained through

- knowledge and understanding, plus
- experience gained from the application and use of that knowledge & understanding

A wise person is a sensible person—one who lives skillfully because he/she has learned right and wrong through learning, observation and experience (e.g. 1:2-5; 2:2-10; 3:13; 8:11)

Wisdom in Speaking

- “A chattering fool comes to ruin” (10:8)
- Know what to say and when (10:19-21)
- Speaking to inform/teach (15:7)
 - What are we spreading?
- “A wise man's heart guides his mouth” (16:23)
- Think before you speak (17:27-28)
- Mind closed, mouth opened (18:2)

Verses to Remember

- 6:6-11—Learn from the ant
- 6:16-19—Seven things God hates
- 10:12—Peace breaker/maker
 - 1 Pet. 4:8; 1 Cor. 13:7; Jas. 5:20
- 10:16—Quality of life is determined by character and revealed by what you do with what you have; Rom. 6:23

Verses to Remember

- 10:25—The wicked have no anchor;
the righteous will not be moved
 - 12:3, 7—No righteousness, no roots
 - Ps. 1:3-4; Mt. 7:24-27
- 11:30—Winning souls to wisdom
 - Capturing people with ideas or influences
 - Lk. 5:10

Verses to Remember

- 13:24—Hateful parents spare discipline
 - 19:18; 22:6, 15; 23:13-14; 29:15-17
- 14:12; 16:25—The road that seems “straight”
 - Things aren't always what they seem
 - There is no shortcut to success
- 20:1—Under the influence; out of control
 - 23:29-35
 - The drunkard as he is seen (v. 29)
and as he sees (vv. 33-35)

Overview Outline

Chs. 1-9: Proverbs about wisdom

Chs. 10-24: Proverbs about right living

Chs. 25-29: Hezekiah's collection of
Solomon's proverbs

Ch. 30: Proverbs of Agur

Ch. 31: Proverbs of Lemuel

31:10-31: ABCs of Wisdom

Trivia

How many daughters does the leech have and what are their names?

30:15

What do these identical twins feed on?

The same thing as their mother—other people's blood (devouring the poor and needy, v. 14; a menacing and pathetic craving—Sheol & the fire; the childless & the parched, v. 16)

Memory Verse Review ***(Ezra—Psalms)***

- Ezra 7:10—“For Ezra...”
- Neh. 8:8—“So they read distinctly...”
- Esther 4:14b—“Yet who knows...”
- Job 23:12b—“I have treasured...”
- Ps. 119:30—“I have chosen...”

Memory Verse for Proverbs

3:5

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and do not lean on your own
understanding”

(NASB)