

Proverbs – Outline (Sections) of the Book

Section #1 – Proverbs 1-9 – Solomon is the author.

Proverbs 1:1 says, “1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel...”

1 Kings 4:32 tells us Solomon wrote 3,000 proverbs.

And Solomon was so very wise as we can see from 1 Kings 3:11-12 & 4:29-31,34.

Proverbs 1:2-7 gives the REASONS for this book of Proverbs.

Proverbs 1:8-9:18 give 15 sets of instructions from a father to a son.

Section theme: The value of wisdom and the consequences of not having it.

Section #2 – Proverbs 10-24 – Solomon is the author.

Proverbs 10:1 says, “1 The Proverbs of Solomon...”

Now, some see this as having 3 sub-sections.

Sub-section #1 – Proverbs 10-15 – Many contrasts (and many related to chapters 1-9).

Sub-section #2 – Proverbs 16:1-22:16 – Many comparisons and parallels.

Sub-section #3 – Proverbs 22:17-24:34 – Solomon went back to speaking very personally to his son(s) or children, like the first 9 chapters.

Proverbs 22:17 says, “17 Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise...”

Section theme: The contrast between righteous and wicked living.

This section was given with details to backup the Proverbs 1-9 fatherly instructions.

Section #3 – Proverbs 25-29 – Solomon is the author.

Proverbs 25:1, “1 These also are proverbs of Solomon...”

Section theme: Further random proverbs of Solomon copied by men of Hezekiah.

Section #4 – Proverbs 30 – Agur the son of Jakeh was the author.

Proverbs 30:1, “1 The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, his utterance.”

Section #5 – Proverbs 31 – King Lemuel was the author.

Proverbs 31:1, “1 The words of King Lemuel, the utterance which his mother taught him:”

Proverbs 1-9 – Section #1 Sub-sections

Each sub-section starts with the phrase “My son...” or “My children”

The Introduction...

#1 – Proverbs 1:1 – The introduction to the book and the first section.

#2 – Proverbs 1:2-6 – The six reasons for the book.

#3 – Proverbs 1:7 – How can we get this wisdom?

Major sub-sections... “My son...” or, “My children...”

#1 – Proverbs 1:8-9 – “8 “My son, hear the instruction of your father.”

#2 – Proverbs 1:10-15 – “10 My son if sinners entice you, do not consent.”

#3 – Proverbs 1:16-33 – “16 My son, do not walk in the way with them...”

Proverbs 1:20-33 – Personification of wisdom #1.

#4 – Proverbs 2:1-32 – “1 My son if you receive my words and treasure my commands...”

#5 – Proverbs 3:1-10 – “1 My son, do not forget my law.”

#6 – Proverbs 3:11-20 – “11 My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord.”

Proverbs 1:13-20 – Personification of wisdom #2.

#7 – Proverbs 3:21-35 – “21 My son, let not wisdom and discretion depart from your eyes.”

#8 – Proverbs 4:1-9 – “1 Hear, my children, the instruction of a father.”

#9 – Proverbs 4:10-19 – “10 Hear, my son, and receive my sayings.”

#10 – Proverbs 4:20-27 – “20 My son, give attention to my words.”

#11 – Proverbs 5:1-23 – “1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom.”

#12 – Proverbs 6:1-19 – “1 My son, if you become surety for your friend...”

#13 – Proverbs 6:20-35 – “20 My son, keep your father’s command.”

#14 – Proverbs 7:1-23 – “1 My son, keep my words and treasure my commands within you.”

#15 – Proverbs 7:24-27 – “24 Now therefore, listen to me, my children.”

Proverbs 8-9 – Personification of wisdom #3 & #4 (each chapter).

Proverbs – Most Commonly Used Words

Word #1 – Wisdom or wise or cunning (90 times – hakam, hokmah, hakmot).

This word means “wise” or “wisdom” or “wits”.

Wise (46 times) or wisdom (44).

Word #2 – Understand(ing) (63 times – bin, habin, tebunah (from bin)).

This word speaks of “understanding” or “intelligence” or “insight” or “skill”.

Understanding (32 times), Understand (19), Consider (2), Prudent (2). Perceive (2), Discern (2), Consider carefully (2), Wise (1), Discernment (1).

Word #3 – Knowledge (39 times - daat).

This word “knowledge” means just that or “skill” or “ability”.

Knowledge (37 times), Has or to have knowledge (2).

Word #4 – Instruction (27 times - musar).

This word “instruction” speaks of “discipline” or of “training” and of “correction”.

Instruction (22 times), Correction (5).

Word #5 – Discretion (8 times - mezimmah).

This word speaks of “discretion” or of a “plan” or “scheme”.

Discretion (5 times), Wicked or wicked intentions (2), Schemer (1).

The Need for “The Fear of the Lord”

The Fear of the Lord is...

- #1 – Proverbs 1:7 – “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.”
- #2 – Proverbs 2:5 – “Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.”
- #3 – Proverbs 8:13 – “The fear of the LORD is to hate evil.”
- #4 – Proverbs 9:10 – “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.”
- #5 – Proverbs 10:27 – “The fear of the LORD prolongs days...”
- #6 – Proverbs 14:26 – “In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence...”
- #7 – Proverbs 14:27 – “The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life.”
- #8 – Proverbs 15:33 – “The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom”
- #9 – Proverbs 16:6b – “...by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil.
- #10 – Proverbs 19:23 – “The fear of the LORD leads to life”
- #11 – Proverbs 22:4 – “By...the fear of the LORD are riches and honor and life.”

And some warning for NOT having a fear of the Lord...

- #12 – Proverbs 1:29-30a – “29 Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD, 30 They would have none of my counsel.”
- #13 – Proverbs 15:16 – “Better is a little with the fear of the LORD, Than great treasure with trouble.
- #14 – Proverbs 23:17-18 – “17 Do not let your heart envy sinners, But be zealous for the fear of the LORD all the day; 18 For surely there is a hereafter, and you hope will not be cut off.

Proverbs 10-24 – Section #2 Sub-sections

Sub-section #1 – Chapters 10-15 – Many contrasts.

- **This section is made up on many contrasts.**
 - Many of these contrasts relate to chapters 1-9.
 - And, we can see the many contrasts with the use of the word, “BUT...”
 - The word “BUT” appears some 143 times in these chapters.
 - And, the word “AND” only 34 times.
- **How personal was this section?**
 - The word “YOU” appeared 1 time and “YOUR” none.

Subsection #2 – Chapters 16-22:16 – Many comparisons & parallels.

- **This section is more random than chapters 10-15.**
 - So, we will see more random thoughts.
 - And, we will see much fewer comparisons with a heavy use of the “AND...”
 - The word “BUT” appears some 36 times in these chapters.
 - And, the word “AND” only 101 times.
- **How personal was this section?**
 - The word “YOU” 7 times & “YOUR” 6 times (13 total).

Subsection #3 – Chapters 22:17-24:34 – Let’s get personal again.

- **Solomon will now take all of this wisdom and get personal again.**
 - 22:17-23:14 – Solomon got very personal with his son(s) or children again.
 - 23:15-24:34 – Solomon went back to the using of the phrase “My son...” like chapters 1-9 (back to directions and choice).
- **How personal was this sub-section (22:17-24:34)?**
 - He used the word “YOU” 32 times & “YOUR” 41 times (73 total).
 - FYI: Chapter 1-9 used “YOU” 87 times & “YOUR” 92 times (179 times).
- **And, we see “My son...” statements in 23:15-18, 19-25, 23:26-24:12, 13-20, 21-22.**