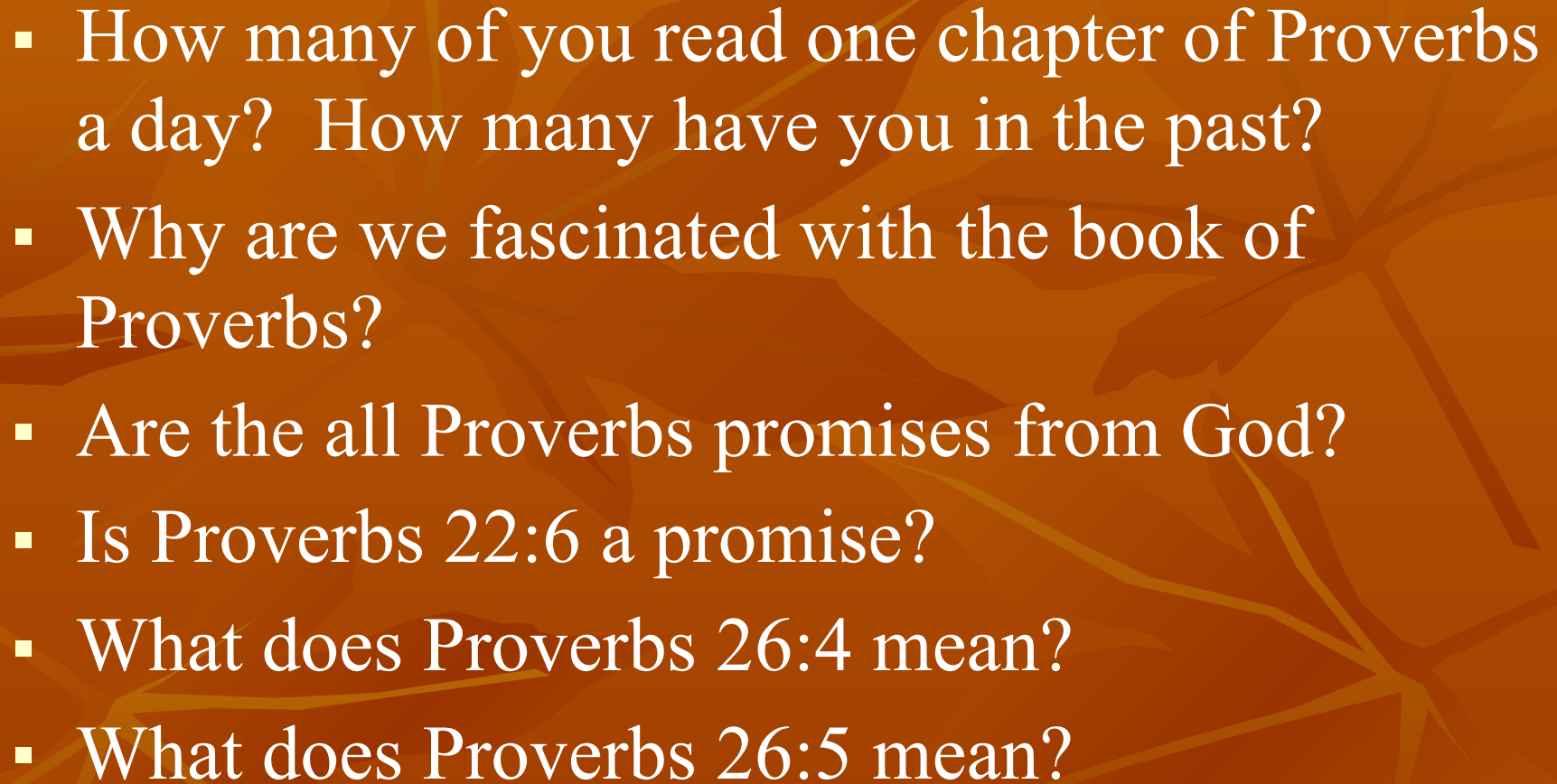




# Proverbs

Wisdom in a Wicked World

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- The background of the slide features a pattern of overlapping autumn leaves in various shades of orange, brown, and tan. The leaves are scattered across the entire frame, creating a textured, seasonal backdrop for the text.
- How many of you read one chapter of Proverbs a day? How many have you in the past?
  - Why are we fascinated with the book of Proverbs?
  - Are the all Proverbs promises from God?
  - Is Proverbs 22:6 a promise?
  - What does Proverbs 26:4 mean?
  - What does Proverbs 26:5 mean?

- Definition of a proverb
  - “Short sentences drawn from long experience.”
  - “The wisdom of many, the wit of one.”
  - “Proverbs are brief sayings that are memorable, embody the wisdom of many, possess a fullness of meaning with a wide application, and have a bit of a kick or bite to them to ensure their saltiness and continued usefulness.”
- Two Primary Purposes:
  - Leadership training: Proverbs 1:2-7, 22:17-21
  - Guidance in avoiding life’s personal pitfalls.

# The Types of Proverbs

Form	Example	Reference
1. Instruction	Listen my son	Prov. 4:1
2. Admonition	Guard your heart	Prov. 4:23
3. Numerical Saying	Three things...four	Prov. 30:18
4. “Better-than”	Better wisdom	Prov. 16:16
5. Comparative Saying	For as churning milk	Prov. 30:33
6. Abomination Saying	The LORD detests	Prov. 15:8
7. Beatitude	Blessed is he who	Prov. 14:21
8. Paradoxical Saying	A gentle tongue	Prov. 25:15b
9. Acrostic	Virtuous woman	Prov. 31:10ff
10. Pairs	Do this/do not do that	Prov. 26:4-5

# Structure of Proverbs

- Chapters 1-9: Well-crafted discourse on the nature of wisdom. This discourse is constructed around fatherly exhortations and the personal appeals of Lady wisdom.
- Chapter 10-24: A collection of Solomon's proverbs made by Solomon or his courtiers.
- Chapter 25-29: A collection of Solomon's proverbs made by Hezekiah or his courtiers.
- Chapter 30: The words of Agur.
- Chapter 31: The words of King Lemuel

# Guidelines for Interpretation

- Accept a proverb for what it is.
- Look for verifying examples and counter-examples within the collection of proverbs.
- Recognize the poetic ways that sages expressed their wisdom.
- Look for pairs and strings of proverbs.
- Look for evidence of the setting of the proverb.
- Identify the specific value the proverb is communicating.

# Beware of Several Pitfalls

- Taking the proverbs as promises for success, wealth, and happiness.
- Focusing on the rewards as trying to motivate.
- Trying to split hairs over the meaning of synonymous terms.
- Trying to read ideas into the proverbs when those ideas are not explicitly stated.
- Using Proverbs to provide simplistic solutions to complex modern problems.