

Proverbs

Wisdom for Living

The book of Proverbs has been called the most _____ book in the Old Testament. It is a collection of over _____ practical statements of _____ dealing with wisdom and folly, laziness and work, justice and revenge, love and lust, masters and servants, poverty and riches, life and death. It is a book that tells us how to live in order to _____ God and how to _____ life to its fullest. _____ of these proverbs were written by King Solomon, the _____ man who has ever lived, whose wisdom was given to him by God in _____ to Solomon's _____ (see 1 Kgs. 3:5–12; 4:29–34). It should be noted that _____ of God's followers are encouraged to _____ God for wisdom (James 1:5).

Solomon spoke _____ proverbs (1 Kgs. 4:32), of which about _____ are included in the book of Proverbs. Dr. Charles Ryrie writes, "*Almost every facet of human relationships is mentioned, and the teaching of the book is applicable to all men everywhere*" (*Ryrie Study Bible*, Introduction to the Book of Proverbs).

Solomon's proverbs are recorded in sections 1:1 to 9:18, and 10:1 to 22:16, and 25:1 to 29:27. _____ is known about Agur, the author of chapter 30, or of King Lemuel, the author of chapter 31.

It is speculated that, "*Solomon probably wrote his proverbs in his middle years, before his _____ began to _____ into carnality, materialism, and idolatry*" (*Talk Thru the Bible*, Wilkinson and Boa, p. 163).

We are told at the beginning of the book that its purpose is to impart wisdom and instruction, leading to _____ thinking and _____ living (Prov. 1:2–6), and that "the _____ of the Lord" (Prov. 1:7) is the _____ point for true wisdom and knowledge.

It is important to realize that the proverbs are _____ to live by, not _____ that can be claimed. They are quick to read, easy to understand, simple to memorize, but may take a _____ to apply.

<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Subject</u>
1–9	Proverbs for the _____ presented through ten speeches by a father to a son, and through four poems given by Lady Wisdom
10–29	Proverbs on hundreds of topics for _____
30–31	The proverbs of Agur and King Lemuel, including a twenty-two verse _____, using the complete Hebrew alphabet, to extol the virtues of _____

Thirty-one key proverbs:

(Please note, these passages are in NLT unless stated otherwise.)

1. _____ of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but _____ despise wisdom and discipline. (Prov. 1:7)
2. Trust in the Lord with _____ your heart; do not _____ on your own understanding. (Prov. 3:5)
3. Guard your _____ above all else, for it determines the _____ of your life. (Prov. 4:23)
4. But the man who commits _____ is an utter _____ for he _____ himself. (Prov. 6:32)
5. So don't bother _____ mockers; they will only _____ you. But correct the _____, and they will _____ you. (Prov. 9:8)
6. Too much _____ leads to sin. Be sensible and keep your mouth _____. (Prov. 10:19)
7. The blessing of the Lord makes a person _____, and he adds no _____ with it. (Prov. 10:22)
8. The _____ will prosper; those who refresh others will _____ be refreshed. (Prov. 11:25)
9. A _____ child _____ a parent's discipline; a mocker _____ to listen to correction. (Prov. 13:1)
10. Those who _____ the rod of discipline _____ their children. Those who _____ their children care enough to _____ them. (Prov. 13:24)
11. Only simpletons believe _____ they're told! The prudent _____ consider their steps. (Prov. 14:15)

12. A _____ answer deflects anger, but _____ words make tempers flare.
(Prov. 15:1)
13. Better to have _____, with fear for the Lord, than to have great treasure and inner
_____. (Prov. 15:16)
14. _____ your actions to the Lord, and your plans will _____. (Prov. 16:3)
15. _____ can make our plans, but the _____ determines our steps. (Prov. 16:9)
16. Better a dry crust with _____ than a house full of feasting with _____.
(Prov. 17:1)
17. A _____ loves at all times, and a brother is born for a _____ time.
(Prov. 17:17 CSB)
18. Even a fool, when he keeps _____, is considered wise; When he _____ his
lips, he is considered prudent. (Prov. 17:28 NASB)
19. A fool does not delight in _____, but only in _____ his own
mind. (Prov. 18:2)
20. The _____ to plead his case seems _____, until another comes and
examines him. (Prov. 18:17 NASB)
21. There are “friends” who _____ each other, but a _____ friend sticks closer
than a brother. (Prov. 18:24)
22. The glory of the young is their _____; the gray hair of _____ is the
splendor of the old. (Prov. 20:29)
23. _____ a youth out on his way; even when he grows old he will not _____
from it. (Prov. 22:6)
24. Do not weary yourself to gain _____; stop dwelling on it. When you set your
eyes on it, it is _____. For wealth certainly makes itself wings like an eagle that
flies toward the heavens. (Prov. 23:4,5 NASB)
25. It's better to live _____ in the corner of an attic than with a _____
wife in a lovely home. (Prov. 25:24)
26. Like a maniac shooting flaming arrows of death is one who _____ their
neighbor and says, “I was only _____!” (Prov. 26:18,19 NIV)
27. Wounds from a friend can be _____, but an enemy multiplies kisses.
(Prov. 27:6)

28. As iron sharpens iron, so one _____ sharpens another. (Prov. 27:17 NASB)

29. Better to be poor and _____ than to be dishonest and rich. (Prov. 28:6)

30. Who can find a wife of _____ character? She is far more _____ than jewels. (Prov. 31:10 CSB)

31. Charm is _____, and beauty does _____ last; but a woman who _____ the Lord will be greatly praised. (Prov. 31:30)

Ecclesiastes

All Is Vanity

Ecclesiastes is the most unusual book in the Bible. It was the favorite book of the infamous French atheist, Voltaire. It is a book that stirs up _____ in the minds of many sincere Christians. It is a book that just _____ seem to fit into the normal framework of our Bibles. So what kind of book is Ecclesiastes?

The book of Ecclesiastes is the most _____ book in the Bible... but its perspective is from _____ viewpoint and _____ wisdom. Written by the wisest, wealthiest, and perhaps the most hedonistic man who has ever lived, King Solomon, the book reveals the _____ (emptiness) of trying to be happy _____ from God. Solomon vividly reveals the _____ of his own life when he was seeking personal _____ rather than a personal _____. In his description of his life, Solomon uses the word “vanity” 39 times and the phrase “under the sun” 29 times, a sad commentary on a life not lived “under the SON.”

Not power, prestige, popularity, pleasure, nor anything else but God Himself, can fill the _____-shaped vacuum that exists in the heart of every man and woman. A life lived for any other purpose other than the _____ of God is a life of vanity, a life of _____, a life without true purpose or meaning. And to emphasize this _____, Solomon spends twelve chapters describing life’s emptiness, and two verses revealing the only One who can fill this empty void:

“The _____, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil” (Eccles. 12:13,14)

The book of Ecclesiastes can be outlined as follows:

<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Theme</u>
1:1–3	Solomon’s _____: “All is vanity”
1:4–12:12	Solomon’s _____: “Life is vain”
12:13,14	Solomon’s _____: “Fear God”

Some key verses:

1. All is _____. (Eccles. 1:1,2)
2. There is nothing _____ under the sun. (Eccles. 1:9)
3. The more you _____, the more you _____. (Eccles. 1:18)
4. Solomon tested himself with _____. (Eccles. 2:1)
5. Solomon acquired for himself _____ that could possibly bring _____ and concluded it was all _____. (Eccles. 2:2-11)
6. There is an appointed _____ for everything. (Eccles. 3:1-8)
7. Solomon laments over the _____, stating that it would have been better not to have been _____. (Eccles. 4:1-3)
8. _____ are better than _____. (Eccles. 4:9-11)
9. Don't be _____ with your words before God. (Eccles. 5:1,2)
10. _____ doesn't satisfy. (Eccles. 5:10)
11. The day of your _____ is better than the day of your _____. (Eccles. 7:1)
12. Don't _____ for the "good ole days." (Eccles. 7:10)
13. Pursue _____. (Eccles. 7:16,17)
14. _____, _____, and be _____. (Eccles. 8:15)
15. Better is a live _____ than a dead _____. (Eccles. 9:4,5)
16. Enjoy your _____. (Eccles. 9:9)
17. The heart of the wise inclines to the _____, but the heart of the fool to the _____. (Eccles. 10:2 NIV)
18. _____ is the answer to everything. (Eccles. 10:19)
19. Follow the _____ of your heart while you are young, but know you will be _____ by God. (Eccles. 11:9)
20. The conclusion: _____ God and _____ His commandments. (Eccles. 12:13,14)

Song of Solomon

A Love Song

_____! God thought it up, God designed it, and God set its _____. Is it any wonder then that He would include a book in the Bible that deals with the beautiful and wholesome sexual love between a young _____ and his _____? Song of Solomon is that book. It majestically and poetically portrays the romantic love of a young couple as they meet, fall in love, and later are united in love through _____. Even their first misunderstanding and their subsequent and passionate making up are vividly portrayed.

In its original Hebrew poetic form, Song of Solomon was considered by the Jewish rabbis to be too sexually _____ for men under the age of _____ years old to read. For modern readers, Song of Solomon offers a refreshing view of romantic love as _____ designed it, with the poetic Hebrew imagery masking from the English reader the more sexually explicit aspects of this love.

Song of Solomon is the actual account of how King Solomon fell in love with, and _____, a poor young Shulamite farm girl. The book is arranged like a drama starring three main characters: the _____ (the Shulamite girl), the _____ (King Solomon), and a _____ of singers (the daughters of Jerusalem).

The book Song of Solomon can be outlined as follows:

<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Theme</u>
1-3	_____ in Love
4	_____ in Love
5-6	_____ in Love
7-8	_____ in Love

Some key verses:

1. Her _____ fantasies described (Song. 1:1-4)
2. He says she's _____; she says he's _____. (Song. 1:15,16)
3. She's like a _____ of Sharon, the _____ of the valleys, a lily among the _____. (Song. 2:1,2)
4. She dreams of _____ him, then _____ him, then not letting him _____. (Song. 3:1-4)
5. Love _____ (Song. 4:12; 5:1)
6. A little _____, _____, and _____ (Song. 5:2,3,6,8; 6:1-5a)
7. Racy metaphors describing her _____ (Song. 7:1-9)