

The background of the slide is a vintage, sepia-toned map. A circular compass is positioned in the upper right quadrant, resting on the map. The compass has a brass-colored frame and a yellow face with black markings for degrees and cardinal directions (N, NE, E, SE, S, SW, W, NW). The map shows various geographical features, including rivers, coastlines, and some text labels like "SITRO" and "AMIN".

A PROVERBS DRIVEN LIFE

INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW OF PROVERBS

Author: King Solomon

Prov. 1:1

*“The proverbs of **Solomon** son of David, king of Israel:
for attaining wisdom.”*

SOLOMON

- King of Israel (966 to 926 B.C.)
- Built the Temple in Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 1-6)
- Author of Psalm 72, Psalm 127, most of the book of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Songs.

Solomon's **WORLDVIEW**

- **Entrusted with the throne and legacy of his godly father, King David (1 Kgs. 2:1–4; 3:3)**

David's Charge to Solomon (1 Kings 2:1-4)

¹ As David's time to die drew near, he charged Solomon his son, saying, ² "I am going the way of all the earth. Be strong, therefore, and show yourself a man.

³ "Keep the charge of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways...

³ ...to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the Law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn,

⁴ so that the LORD may carry out His promise which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons are careful of their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

Solomon's **WORLDVIEW**

- Entrusted with the throne and legacy of his godly father, King David (1 Kgs. 2:1–4; 3:3)
- **Trained in the Law of God (Deut. 17:18-20)**

Deut. 17:18-20

¹⁸ “Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests.

¹⁹ “It shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life,
that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes,

²⁰ **that his heart may not be lifted up** above his countrymen and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or the left, so that he and his sons may continue long in his kingdom in the midst of Israel.

Solomon's **WORLDVIEW**

- Entrusted with the throne and legacy of his godly father, King David (1 Kgs. 2:1–4; 3:3)
- Trained in the Law of God (Deut. 17:18-20)
- **Loved the Lord and walked in the statutes of David (1 Kgs. 3:3)**

Solomon's **WORLDVIEW**

- Entrusted with the throne and legacy of his godly father, King David (1 Kgs. 2:1–4; 3:3)
- Trained in the Law of God (Deut. 17:18-20)
- Loved the Lord and walked in the statutes of David (1 Kgs. 3:3)
- **Understood the centrality of fearing Yahweh and obeying His commands for life *and eternal life*** (Eccl. 12:13; Prov. 1:7).

Solomon's WISDOM

- Solomon asks for the Lord to grant him wisdom (2 Chron. 1:1-13)
- God blesses Solomon with extraordinary wisdom (1 Kings 4:29)
- The world marveled at Solomon's wisdom and at Israel's flourishing (1 Kings 4:29-34; 1 Kings 10:1-12)

Solomon's **WORSHIP**

- **Solomon builds the temple in Jerusalem in which God would dwell and be worshipped by His people (2 Chron 6:2)**
- **Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the temple displays a heart that is controlled with worshipping God truly (1 Kgs 8:22–53; 2 Chron 6:14–42).**

Solomon's **WAYWARDNESS**

- **Solomon accumulated wealth and military might (1 Kings 10:26)**
- **He loved foreign women and eventually had 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kings 11:1-10)**
- **These women turned his heart away from God and after idols (1 Kings 11:1-10)**

What is *WISDOM*?

“Skill for living in the fear of God.” *Dan Phillips*

“Wisdom is about using knowledge well.” *Anthony Selvaggio*

Wisdom is skillful, sensible, and sacrificial living that results from humility before God.

The Poetry of Proverbs

A Proverb is **Pithy**

intentionally terse, carefully crafted and compact,
brief, memorable, catchy.

Example: Prov. 26:11 *“Like a dog that returns to its vomit is a fool who repeats his folly.”*

The Poetry of Proverbs

A Proverb is **Picturesque**

drawing vivid imagery from everyday life to illustrate the point in a powerful way.

Example: Prov. 25:14 *“Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of his gifts falsely.”* (cf. Jude 12)

The Poetry of Proverbs

A Proverb is **Parallel**

Using parallelism, couplets, and contrasts to emphasize and reemphasize the main point. The first line states the point, the second line re-states the same point in a different way.

Example: Prov. 16:11

*“Pride goes before destruction
A haughty spirit before stumbling.”*

The Poetry of Proverbs

A Proverb is **Parental**

It is the loving pleading and guidance of a seasoned father, urging his son to walk on the right path.

Example: Prov. 1:8

*“Hear, my son, your father’s instruction
And do not forsake your mother’s teaching.”*

— Many proverbs communicate
general principles, not guaranteed
promises.

*They are **descriptive** of what normally
happens, **not prescriptive** of what will happen.*

Distinguish between Absolute and Axiomatic Truths

“Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.” (10:4)

Axiomatic

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” (9:10a)

Absolute

4 Ways to Rightly Read Proverbs

- 1. Use Basic Logic*
- 2. Don't Read Any Proverb in Isolation*
- 3. Don't Put God on Your Timetable*
- 4. Make God the Goal of Your Obedience*

7 Benefits from studying Proverbs

Prov. 1:1-6

1. *To know wisdom and instruction (2a)*
2. *To discern the sayings of understanding (2b)*
3. *To receive instruction in wise behavior (3)*
4. *To give prudence to the naïve (4)*

7 Benefits from studying Proverbs

Prov. 1:1-6

5. To increase in learning (5a)

6. To acquire wise counsel (5b)

7. To understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles (6)

**“The Fear of Yahweh is the
beginning of knowledge.**

**Fools despise wisdom and
instruction.”**

Prov. 1:7

The Key to Proverbs...and Wisdom: *THE FEAR OF GOD*

“the ‘fear of I AM’ entails responding to the revelation in fear, love, and humility.” (Waltke)

“[The fear of YHWH is] that affectionate reverence, by which the child of God bends himself humbly and carefully to his Father’s law .” (Bridges)

The fear of God is the humility, reverence, and loving trust that results from knowing God truly.

Two Types of People in Proverbs:

The Righteous Wise

—VS—

The Wicked Fools

The Righteous Wise

- not wise in their own opinion (26:5, 11, 12, 16)
- teachable and seek knowledge (18:15)
- accept discipline and reproof (13:1; 3:11-12)
- accept commands (10:8)
- invite accountability and love those who reprove them (9:8)
- walk with the wise (13:20)
- ever increase their wisdom (1:5)
- become teachers (4:1–4)
- spread knowledge (15:7)
- fountains of life to the community (13:14)
- control their temper (29:11)
- gracious and forgiving (19:11)
- lead and rule over fools (11:29)
- bring joy to their parents (15:20; 23:24)
- Their words bring healing to others (12:18)
- They will be rewarded (22:4; 23:18)

The Wicked Fools

- They are right in their own eyes (12:15)
- lack understanding and life-skill (10:21)
- Their foolishness is embarrassingly on display (14:33)
- They despise discipline and correction (15:5 and 15:20)
- They are unteachable (5:7-13)
- speech is unrestrained and impulsive (10:8, 9, 19)
- lack self-control and are hot-tempered (12:16)
- quarrelsome and spoil for a fight (20:3)
- Hopelessly bound to their folly (27:22)
- They live in fear of being caught and exposed (28:1)
- They will come to regret their wasted life (5:7-13)
- cannot manage their homes/finances (11:29 21:20),
- lazy and love ease and sleep (20:13; 26:14)
- disorderly, unhygienic, and gluttonous (24:30-31; 26:15)
- avoid hard work, complain, and make excuses (26:13)
- They are enslaved (addicted) to their folly (26:11)
- They are dominated by sexual lust (7:6-23)
- They are hedonistic at the expense of their own bodies (23:29-35)
- They waste money (17:16)
- They will be punished for their folly (10:14; 14:3; 19:29; 26:3).

Reasons why this study is timely

1. *We have excess access to information*
2. *Busyness and distractions*
3. *A lack of focus on the inner-man*
4. *A tendency toward ease, entertainment, and shortcuts*
5. *The individualistic bent of our culture*
6. *The sinful foolishness of our own hearts*