

Proverbs 1 – 10 September 2026

“The Path To Wisdom”

Introduction

Read 1:1 - Proverbs were mostly written by King Solomon

- *I Kings 4:32 says he wrote 3k proverbs & 1k songs
- *The Book of Proverbs is broken into sections
 - *Chap 1-9 (Solomon – the only long form)
 - *Chap 10-24 (Solomon – short form)
 - *Chap 25-29 (Solomon – compiled later by Hez)
 - *Chap 30 (Unknown man Agur)
 - *Chap 31 (Unknown King Lemuel)
 - *Chap 1:1-7, 31:10-31 (Unknown book compiler)
- *So these were mostly written 950-900 BC
- *This wisdom book came from God (II Chr 1:7-12)
- *It's unique that it's almost all about succeeding thru life on earth rather than knowing God & eternity

*The word proverb means *a pithy* (short but punchy) *maxim* (a general rule of conduct)

*From the root word meaning *a superior saying*

*Sometimes translated *parable or byword*

*It's possible to misuse the proverbs (Read Prov 26:7)

*A proverb must be used as general principles to live by not as hard & fast unbreakable rules

*As we begin the 1st section (Chap 1-9) we quickly see the entire section is about wisdom

Today, we'll see 3 characteristics of the path that leads to God's wisdom

#1 – It begins with the Fear of Yahweh (Chap 1:2-7)

Read 1:2-3

1. This is what can happen for *everyone* that tunes into these proverbs that God have to Solomon

- a. (2b) We will perceive the words of knowledge
 - b. (2a) We can know wisdom and have instruction that will correct our path
2. Verse 3 tells us what the path will look like for everyone that seeks after this discipline
- a. We'll be led toward insight, righteousness, justice & equity
 - b. None of us have these things perfectly, but we certainly want to run toward them

Read 1:4-5

1. Here we're giving just what these proverbs will do to help many different types of people
- a. (4a) the *simple* or seducible will learn prudence or discretion – how to choose wisely
 - b. (4b) the *young* will gain the knowledge they need to develop an intentional plan for life
 - c. (5a) even those that are *already wise* will grow

- d. (5b) they'll gain what's needed to properly steer themselves for the days ahead

Read 1:6

1. We're meant to go deeper than surface level with these proverbs
2. Accept that some of these will be hard to dig into
3. We need to take these expressions and apply them to more situations

Read 1:7

1. Two other passages say 'the fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom' (Psm 111:10, Pro 9:10)
2. 14 times in Proverbs 'the fear of Yahweh' is used
 - a. It leads us away from evil and pride
 - b. It leads us to seek knowledge & wisdom from God
 - c. It gains us honor and life

3. John Bevere interviewed disgraced TV preacher Jim Bakker in prison asking, “when did you stop loving God?”
 - a. Bakker replied, “I never stopped loving God. I stopped fearing God.”
 - b. The fear of God is the foundation of this entire book
 - i. Will we reverence God thru the receiving of these proverbs unto life

#2 – It has deceptive thieves along the way (Chap 1:8-19)

Read 1:8-9

1. We’ll go on to compare this to being enticed by sinners to listen to them
 - a. We have a choice whom we’ll listen to
 - b. Those that love us or those that don’t know what they’re doing
2. When we receive true discipline & instruction from God, it beautifies us from the inside out (I Pet 3:3-4)

Read 1:10-14

1. The enticement of sin and evil isn't that it will harm others (though it will), the draw is that it will prosper you
2. At the root of doing ungodly, foolish or even evil deeds is a desire to gain for self
 - a. Satan in the garden – “Your eyes will be opened & you will be as gods knowing good & evil” (Gen 3:5)
3. See the deception of sin, in that, it actually harms us

Read 1:15-19

1. The innocent ones are like birds that can't be caught in their net
 - a. These tactics for self-gain will be turned against themselves (Read Gal 6:7)
2. What do we do about it when enticed?
 - a. Simply don't go down that road
 - b. When tempted, don't take the bait

#3 – It is available to all people (Chap 1:20-33)

Read 1:20-21

1. Regarding character & conduct, may it never be said that we just don't know what is right
2. God's wisdom is explicitly available to anyone that wants it
3. What is wisdom?
 - a. It's when knowledge is properly applied
 - b. It's seeing from God's perspective & doing what He would do in that situation

Read 1:22-27

1. Wisdom is designed to....
 - a. Bring truth to the simple ones
 - b. Shut the mouths of the scoffers
 - c. Show the way to the foolish
2. Wisdom is available, so if it's refused, it was willful

3. Now if the simple, the scoffers and the foolish refuse wisdom, the natural result is to watch them suffer

Read 1:28-33

1. There is a day in which it's too late to call out to God
2. And what brought them here? Being secure in their foolish ways (i.e. Ignorance is bliss)
3. But on the contrary, vs 33, may we listen to the knowledge of God and gain the proper fear of Yahweh

Conclusion

As we begin to discuss the high virtue and value of wisdom, we walk down the path to wisdom to see....

- 1. It begins with the fear of Yahweh**
- 2. It has deceptive thieves along the way**
- 3. It is available to all people**