

Are you wise enough? - An intro to proverbs

“Are you wise
enough?”

An Intro to Proverbs
Proverbs 1:1-7

1 Group

Proverbs 1:1-7

¹The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: ²To know wisdom and instruction,
To discern the sayings of understanding, ³To receive instruction in wise behavior,
Righteousness, justice and equity; ⁴To give prudence to the naive,
To the youth knowledge and discretion, ⁵A wise

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man will hear and increase in learning,
And a man of understanding will acquire wise
counsel,⁶To understand a proverb and a figure,
The words of the wise and their riddles. ⁷The fear
of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;
Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

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An Intro to Proverbs - Proverbs 1:1-7

Theme: True wisdom begins with reverence for God and grows through humble learning.

Theme of Proverbs: Wisdom for the details of life

I. The Source of the Proverbs (v. 1)

1 Kings 4:34

³⁴Men came from all peoples to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom.

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Four sources of credibility for Solomon:

1. Revelation

1 Kings 3:5-15

⁵In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night; and God said, “Ask what you wish Me to give you.” ⁶Then Solomon said, “You have shown great lovingkindness to Your servant David my father, according as he walked before You in truth and righteousness and uprightness of heart toward You; and You have reserved for him this

1 Kings 4:29

²⁹Now God gave Solomon wisdom and very great discernment and breadth of mind, like the sand that is on the seashore.

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Four sources of credibility for Solomon:

1. Revelation
2. Deliberation

Ecclesiastes 12:9-10

⁹In addition to being a wise man, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge; and he pondered, searched out and arranged many proverbs. ¹⁰The Preacher sought to find delightful words and to write words of truth correctly.

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Outline of Proverbs:

- Chapters 1-9 > Parental section
- Chapters 10-24 > Pithy section
- Chapters 25-29 > Hezekiah's collection
- Chapter 30 > Agur's proverbs
- Chapter 31 > Lemuel's proverbs

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Four sources of credibility for Solomon:

1. Revelation
2. Deliberation
3. Experimentation
4. Deterioration

1 Kings 11:1-8

¹Now King Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, ²from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the sons of Israel, “You shall not associate with them, nor shall they associate with you, for they will surely turn your heart away after their

1 Kings 11:1-8

“ gods.” Solomon held fast to these in love. ³He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives turned his heart away. ⁴For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. ⁵For

1 Kings 11:1-8

Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites. ⁶Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not follow the LORD fully, as David his father had done. ⁷Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable idol of Moab, on the mountain which is east of

1 Kings 11:1-8

Jerusalem, and for Molech the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon. ⁸Thus also he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

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“Unless there is within us, that which is above us, we will soon yield to that which is around us.” – **Vance Havner**

“Unfortunately, those who need the Proverbs most relish it least, and we have for the most part to rediscover its truths for ourselves by our own, often bitter, experience.” – **Alexander McLaren**

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Theme: True wisdom begins with reverence for God and grows through humble learning.

Theme of Proverbs: Wisdom for the details of life

- I. The Source of the Proverbs (v. 1)
- II. The Purpose of the Proverbs (v. 2-4)

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Five things the Proverbs are not:

1. Promises
2. Formulas
3. Temporary gains
4. Guarantee against suffering
5. A replacement for fearing the Lord

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What the Proverbs are for:

- To shape righteous, just, and upright living and while guiding the young and naïve in discernment.

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“Youth is rash, heady, proud and inconsiderate; man is born like the wild donkey, and therefore needs to be broken by the restraints and graciously managed by the rules we find here. And, if young people will but take heed to their ways according to Solomon's proverbs, they will soon gain the knowledge and discretion of the ancients. Solomon had an eye to posterity in writing this book, hoping by it to season the minds of the rising generation with these generous principles of wisdom and virtue.” – **Matthew Henry**

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- III. The Scope of the Proverbs (v. 5-6)

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“True wisdom does not outgrow listening, rather, it grows by listening.” – **C.H. Spurgeon**

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- III. The Scope of the Proverbs (v. 5-6)
- IV. The Foundation of Proverbs (v. 7) - The Fear of the LORD

Proverbs 15:3

³The eyes of the LORD are in every place,
Watching the evil and the good.

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The fear of the Lord in action:

- **Husbands**
- **Wives**
- **Fathers**
- **Mothers**
- **Sons**
- **Daughters**
- **Workers**
- **Employers**
- **Students**
- **Children**
- **Friendships**
- **Speech**
- **Money**
- **Entertainment**

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“The fear of the Lord is not abstract, it reshapes every role, relationship, responsibility, and recreation of life.” – **Kevin DeYoung**

Proverbs 12:15

¹⁵The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,
But a wise man is he who listens to counsel.

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Response:

1. Surrender to wisdom

1 Corinthians 1:30

³⁰But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

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Response:

1. Surrender to wisdom
2. Ask for wisdom

James 1:5-6

⁵But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

James 3:13-16

¹³Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. ¹⁵This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶For where

James 3:13-16

jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

James 3:17

¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

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