



Proverbs

Get Smart!
Wisdom and Fools

FROM THE BIBLE'S WISDOM LITERATURE

GET SMART!!!

- A book of great wisdom topics – spread out all over the book...
- Similar to Law – Pr 6:21,22/Dt 6:7,8; Pr 3:3/Dt 10:12,16...; Pr 4:27/Dt 5:32...
- Quoted by Jesus (Pr 14:12,28 – Mt 7:13,14; Pr 25:7,8 – Lk 14:10; Pr 11:28 – Mk 10:24...)
- But, one must use wisdom to study wisdom...
 - Figures of speech, riddles, nature pictures and allusions...
 - Broad brush statements meant to give a concept, not teach a “fact”
 - Statements of not always meant to be taken at face value [Prov 23:1,2]
 - Read and studied... yes.... BUT, they are meant to cause reflection!
 - Proverbs are NOT promises!!

A THOUGHT FOR EVERY DAY...

- Studying Jewish Literature is an art...
- Poetic in nature: uses poetic formats...
 - Repetition - 2 phrases, expressing the same thought
Prov 3:13 How blessed is the man who finds wisdom,
And the man who gains understanding.
 - Opposing thoughts – one statement contradicting the first
Prov 9:8 Do not reprove a scoffer, lest he hate you,
Reprove a wise man, and he will love you.
 - Combined Parallel – 2 thoughts with a third completing the concept
Prov 26:3 A whip is for the horse, a bridle for the donkey,
And a rod for the back of fools.

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THE WORDS FOR WISDOM IN PROVERBS

- *chokmah* – 42x, knowledge, understanding, applied skill (1:2)
- *sakal* – 13x, insight, prudence, intelligence, instruct (1:3; 12:8)
- *ormah* – 3x, shrewdness, discretion, subtlety (1:4; 8:5, 12)
- *biynah* – 14x, understanding (1:2; 2:3; 3:5...)
- *leb* – heart, sense (6:32; 7:7; 10:21; 11:12; 15:21; 19:18...)
- *tushiyah* – ability, 2:7; 3:21; 8:14; 18:1

THE PROVERBS BEGIN: CH 1 IS DEFINING FOR BOOK

- Powerful definitions in vs. 1-6
- 7-9 – the first statement that wisdom is in God alone
- 10-19 – the influence of evil companions
- 20-23 – Wisdom's Call
- 24-33 – consequences of refusal