



# Apples of Gold in Pictures of Silver



# Questions to Ponder

- + What am I lacking?
- + What is one big thing I really want in my life?
- + What is the massive need in my life?
- + What would be most meaningful to you?

- + 2Ch 1:7 In that night did God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, Ask what I shall give thee.
- + 2Ch 1:8 And Solomon said unto God, Thou hast shewed great mercy unto David my father, and hast made me to reign in his stead.
- + 2Ch 1:9 Now, O LORD God, let thy promise unto David my father be established: for thou hast made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude.
- + 2Ch 1:10 Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, *that is so* great?
- + 2Ch 1:11 And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king:
- + 2Ch 1:12 Wisdom and knowledge *is* granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that *have been* before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like.

# Solomon's Thirst for Wisdom

- + Wisdom is better than strength and weapons of war  
As stated by Solomon in Ecclesiastes 9
- + Wisdom is the principal thing  
As stated by Solomon in Proverbs 4:7

- + **Pro 4:7** Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *therefore* get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.
- + **Pro 4:8** Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.
- + **Pro 4:9** She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

- + How does Proverbs fit into the Canon of scripture
- + What is a proverb
- + How do English proverbs and biblical proverbs differ
- + What is the foundational aspect of wisdom
- + What to know before reading a biblical proverb
- + What is the value of wisdom
- + How to get wisdom

# Sources



- + *Proverbs, The Crossway Classic Commentaries* by Charles Bridges
- + *The Book of Proverbs Chapters 1-15* by Bruce K. Waltke

# A Key Part of the Bible

## + Old Testament Genres

Legal Literature

Prophetic Literature

Hymnic Literature

Wisdom Literature

## + Examples of Wisdom Literature

Ecclesiastes

Job

Certain Psalms (e.g. 37 and 49)

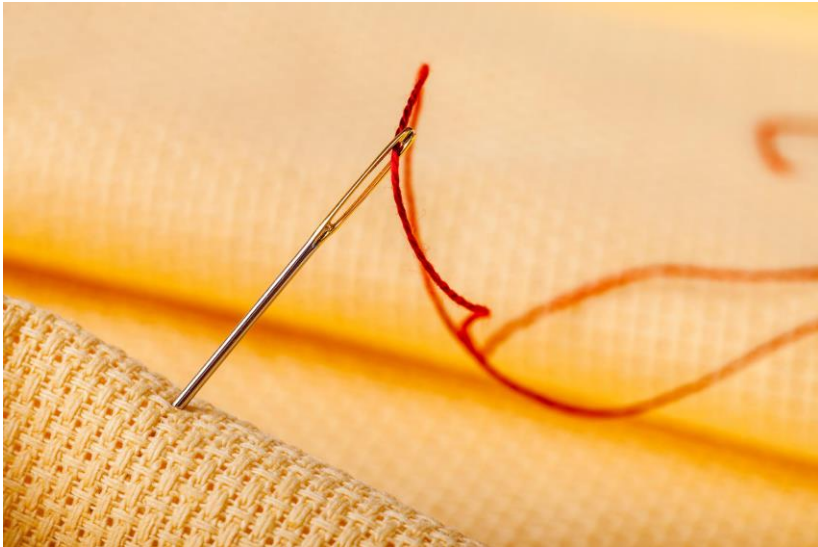
Song of Solomon

Proverbs





# English Proverbs



- + A pithy or terse saying that is short and forcefully expressive
- + Expresses a universally accepted truism
- + Example: 'A stitch in time saves nine'  
Conveys the idea of fixing a problem immediately to prevent it from becoming bigger  
Uses alliteration and a minimum of words to convey its meaning

*Source: B Alster in Studies in Sumerian Proverbs*

# Biblical Proverbs

Comparison	English Proverbs	Biblical Proverbs
Terse	Yes	Yes
Accepted by the masses	Yes	No
Rooted in the fear of the LORD	No	Yes

- + Biblical proverbs are pithy, terse, short, concise
- + Written in Hebrew, not English  
Sounds and puns are lost in translation
- + The fear of the LORD is foundational to Biblical proverbs (mentioned in many Biblical wisdom books)

# The Fear of the Lord

- + Response of fear, love and trust
  - Not just about following rules
  - Heartfelt prayer and diligent searching for wisdom
  - Fear of the Lord and humility are parallel terms in some Proverbs
- + Saved people walking with God also have fear of the LORD due to their love of Him
  - They believe God's promises and love him
  - They also believe God's warnings and fear Him



# What to Know Before Reading a Biblical Proverb





# Understanding a Proverb

- + Proverbs are composed according to the framework of biblical poetry
  - Includes terseness, imagery, and parallelism
  - Verses of poetry end in a 'click' like a slide show
- + Poetry tends to be more concise than prose
  - In Proverbs, terseness is a hallmark of its verses
  - Short, witty expressions of truth, sometimes paradoxical
  - Concentrate or distill truth, cannot express the whole truth about a topic

Pro 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it"

# Wealth in the Book of Proverbs

- + Dangers of money: Proverbs warns about allowing money to supplant one's trust in God.
- + Limitations of money: it can build a house, but not a home; it can put food on your table, but not fellowship around it; it can give a woman jewelry but not the love she craves. Wisdom gives both material well-being and abundant life.
- + Value of money: Money does though save one from losses associated with poverty, to avoid theft, helps create friendship and relationships to drive change in society, and the ability to enjoy life more fully.
- + Management of wealth: Enduring wealth is received through honoring God with one's first fruits, generosity, hard and timely work, contentment, not indulgence, patience, and providing for one's income before building a home. As these means of obtaining wealth show, it is a matter of character, not of method. Proverbs is a "how to be book", not a "how to book".





## Proverbs 26:9

"As a thorn goeth up into the hand of a drunkard, so is a parable in the mouth of fools."



# The Benefits of Godly Wisdom

- + Teaches us about practical everyday life
- + Seeing life from God's perspective
  - Events of life have a divine purpose
- + Establishing right thoughts
  - Contradiction to the world around us
- + Myriad of blessings
  - More precious than rubies
  - Ways of pleasantness and peace
  - Life to the soul and grace to the neck





# How to Get Wisdom

- + Pray and Ask for Wisdom (James 1:5-8)  
Ask in faith and believe that God will give it
- + Seek Wisdom with All Your Heart (Proverbs 2:1-6)  
Seek it as you would seek silver or hidden treasures
- + Develop a Fear of the Lord  
Wisdom is rooted in the fear of the Lord
- + Read (Proverbs 1:2-3)
- + Live by Faith (Proverbs 3:5-6)  
Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.  
In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.
- + Humility (Proverbs 3:7)  
Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

# Wisdom (summary)

- + Can help us to live life practically and favorably in the eyes of God.
- + Wisdom is the principle thing.
- + Wisdom gives us the many blessings such as peace, happiness, grace, stability.
- + It is better than rubies. It is better than all things
- + Wisdom gives sound thoughts





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# Sources



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