

Wisdom for Today

Proverbs - Wisdom for Living

Proverbs 1:1-9

Everyone wants wisdom but few seek it wholeheartedly

- The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord.

Proverbs - Or the Proverbs of Solomon

Meaning of title - in Hebrew - “parallel or similar”

In Greek - “being like or similar”

Author - Solomon - **1 Kings 3:3** and **12** and **4:29-32**

God granted his request for wisdom

He became the collector of wisdom - wrote 3000 proverbs

Other authors mentioned in the book

Wise men, Agur (**30**) and King Lemuel (**31**)

To Whom - people in every phase of life

Young people, parents, business men, sick or healthy,

Depressed or happy

Date - 10th century to 4th century before Christ

Some seem to be clearly before the exile of Israel

Some seem to be post exile or even later.

Was set by the time of Ezra

Form - Hebrew Poetry - 2 lines that take different forms

Many are similes -- with an “as” or “like” as the connector

Timely advice is lovely,

like golden apples in a silver basket. Proverbs 22:11

Some are metaphors -- with “is” as the connector

The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life

To turn aside from the snares of death.

Proverbs 13:14

Most are some form of figurative speech

Sowing and reaping is used both positively and negatively

A unique form used is the personification of characteristics

Wisdom and Folly are spoken of as women

This leads us to seeing Christ as the fulfillment of Proverbs

1 Corinthians 1:30 (NIV) ³⁰ *It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.*

Colossians 2:3 (NIV) ³ *in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

Purpose - Given in **Proverbs 1:1-7** as:

To teach wisdom and discipline

To give understanding and insight

To teach what is right, just and fair

To give discernment to the young

To increase the wisdom of the wise

All this comes from the Fear (reverence) of the Lord

This phrase is used 14 times in Proverbs.

They are not:

Promises or prophecies but clear possibilities.

1. The reverence of the Lord

They reveal Him as creator, full of wisdom and mercy

They urge us to trust and commit our ways to Him

2. The revelation of the mind of God

(about - personal conduct, sexual relations, business, wealth, charity, ambition, discipline, debt, child rearing, character, alcohol, politics, revenge, godliness and many more topics)

3. The rewards of godly living

Proverbs 3:5-18

How to Apply the Proverbs to life

1. Read them!

A. as a devotional

There are 31 - take a month to read them

B. as a resource

Take one topic and seek wisdom

C. as a commentary on life

Read them making your own list

2. Apply them to life

Allow the Word of God to become your standard

For how you view and reverence God

For how you treat others around you

Proverbs proclaim that a right relationship with God leads to a pleasant life with others

Video for Proverbs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzmYV8GNAIM>

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