

Proverbs

1. Titles:

- A. Proverb = comparison
- B. The Book of Instruction
- C. The Book of Wisdom

2. Author:

Written and collected by Solomon with the possible exception of the last two chapters. (1 Kings 4:32; Ecclesiastes 12:9).

3. Date: Written mostly by Solomon (about 950 B.C.), but not completed until the time of Hezekiah (about 715 B.C.; see 25:1).

4. Key Words:

- A. Wise (ly, r), Wisdom - 124
- B. Fool (s, ish), Folly - 97
- C. Heart (s) - 85
- D. Understand (ing, eth) - 66
- E. Knowledge - 42
- F. Instruction (ed) - 27
- G. Judgment - 18

Key Phrase:

- A. "fear of the Lord" - 16

5. Key Verses: 1:7; 9:10

6. Purpose:

- A. The purpose of the book is plainly stated in Ch. 1:2-6
- B. To show the application of divine wisdom to the various aspects of the daily life in this evil world.
- C. To define and contrast wisdom and foolishness.

7. Message:

- A. Godliness is intensely practical.
- B. The end results of wisdom are vastly superior to the evil end of folly.

8. Outline:

- I. Introduction -- The Purpose Ch. 1:1-7
- II. Words of Wisdom For "My Son" Ch. 1:8-9:18
A Collection of Didactic Poems
- III. Proverbs of Solomon Ch. 10-22:16
A Collection of 375 Single-Verse Proverbs
 - A. Contrastive Proverbs Ch. 10-15
 - B. Completive and Comparative Proverbs Ch. 16-22:16
- IV. Words of The Wise Ch. 22:17-24:34
A Collection of 35 Proverbs & Short Poems
- V. Proverbs Collected by Hezekiah Ch. 25-29
A Collection of 127 Proverbs
- VI. The Words of Agur Ch. 30
- VII. The Words of Lemuel Ch. 31:1-9
- VIII. The Virtuous Woman Acrostic Ch. 31:10-31

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9. Summary:

It has been said that "What the Psalms are to the devotional life, the Proverbs are to the practical life." This book contains no prophecy and little doctrine, but instead is an instructional book, applying the divine wisdom to daily life. It warns against such things as bad company, impurity, slothfulness, pride, and avarice. It commends liberality to those in need. It teaches the fear of the Lord, obedience of children to parents, duty of parents to properly train their children, and the woman's role in the home. It also contains special instruction for the young man just going out into the world.

10. Christ Seen:

Christ is seen as "the Wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:24, 30), "in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3). Note especially the sections where wisdom is personified and speaks (1:20-33; 8:1-36).