

## **The Book Of Proverbs, Detailed Bible Study Outline**

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### **Exciting Prelude to the Study!**

1. Proverbs are pithy sayings that impart divine wisdom (2 Timothy 3:16).
2. The Book of Proverbs is the third of the five poetry books in the Bible: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon.
3. Solomon wrote Proverbs 1-29 for sure (25-29 having been compiled by Hezekiah's scribes between 715-686 BC). Proverbs 30 and 31 are attributed to other authors (Agur and King Lemuel), but an etymological case can be made for either or both of these to have originated with Solomon. Solomon is also the author of Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Psalms 72, 127, and possibly Psalms 128, 129, and 130. See also 1 Kings 4:32 and Ecclesiastes 12:9.
4. Date written: Between 970 BC and 931 BC, Cf. 1 Kings 3 (Solomon asked for and received great wisdom at the beginning of his reign).
5. Main Themes of the Book of Proverbs (Sampling of Proverbs)
  - a. Fear of the Lord (1:7, 3:7, 15:16)
  - b. Pride and Humility (16:18-19, 18:12, 29:23)
  - c. Wisdom and Foolishness (10:21, 12:15, 23:9)
  - d. God's Pathways and Sin's Pathways (3:5-6, 4:14-15, 20:24)
  - e. The Greatest Theme, Jesus Christ, the Attribute of Divine Wisdom Personified, Cf. John 5:39 (The Old Testament is Christocentric), (Proverbs 8:1-11), Cf. Isaiah 11:2; Revelation 1:4, 3:1, Cf. Daniel 2:20; Romans 16:27; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 13:54, the greatest glory in getting the greatest theme (Proverbs 4:7-9 applied)

## **Proverbs Bible Study, Detailed Outline, Verse by Verse**

1. 1:1-7, The Inspired Introduction
  - a. 1:1, “proverbs” are pithy sayings that impart divine wisdom, “of Solomon” (the third human) king of Israel, “son of David”, a type of the greater Son of David who also spoke with great wisdom (Matthew 1:1,6, 13:3)
  - b. 1:2-3, these things are spiritually discerned, and we do well to make application to prayer (Philippians 1:9-11)
  - c. 1:3, “equity” is impartial administration of justice and implies sincerity in all dealings, Cf. Psalm 99:4; Isaiah 59:14; Micah 3:9; Malachi 2:6, it does not mean equality of results attained even at the cost of impartiality as the term has been hijacked to mean today
  - d. 1:4, “simple” of mind, lacking and needing basic understanding, “young man” is needful of it, “knowledge” of the right kind is profitable (2 Peter 3:17-18), but the wrong kind of knowledge can be destructive, “discretion” is prudence, cautious reserve, and not overly impetuous
  - e. 1:5, the “wise” hear and do not shoot off the lip or come to the table seeking to fault find, “increase learning” is to gain useful knowledge, “attain wise counsel” to a right use of knowledge, wisdom is knowledge used rightly to and for the glory of God
  - f. 1:6, the wise put effort into understanding Bible truths (Acts 17:11; John 5:39)
  - g. 1:7, the first of our major themes is introduced directly, “The fear of the LORD” is healthy reverence for our Creator, God, Savior, Lord, and Judge, it is where it all begins, fools think they know everything, but having despised divine wisdom and doctrine, all they know is unrestrained sin, lawlessness, rebellion against authority, strife, societal disorder (Judges 21:25 applied)

## 2. 1:8-19, Shun Evil

- a. 1:8-9, filial honor and obedience lead to divine blessing as general principle (Ephesians 6:1-3; Exodus 20:12), Apply- the respect we give our earthly parents is often indicative of our hearts towards our heavenly Father
- b. 1:10, resist temptation as general principle (Cf. Proverbs 4:14-15), “Do not consent” even in the face of pressure, boundaries set firm internally and externally as aids
- c. 1:11-12, Cf. Exodus 23:2
- d. 1:13, robbery, looting, etc.
- e. 1:14, for there is no honor among thieves
- f. 1:15-16, *ibid.* prelude 5d, sin’s pathways, evil activity and rioting are in that path
- g. 1:17-18, sin is destructive, none escape, Numbers 32:23
- h. 1:19, the misery of greed (Cf. Matthew 27:5; Luke 12:16-21; 1 Timothy 6:9)
- i. Case Study, Gang Activity
  - i. 1:8, or its absence entirely
  - ii. 1:11a, a place to “belong”
  - iii. 1:11b, initiation rites
  - iv. 1:14, getting in deep
  - v. 1:17, the net is spread, then death, suicide, or jail

## 3. 1:20-33, Hear Wisdom

- a. 1:20, Jesus Christ is “Wisdom”, Cf. 1 Corinthians 1:24, Romans 16:25-27, He calls out to us today loudly and not in a secret unknown way (Isaiah 45:19,22; Acts 26:26)
- b. 1:21-22, there are two competing exhortations at every city square and life crossroads, Will it be the church house or the bar house?
- c. 1:23, repentance (Acts 3:19), the Spirit (1 Samuel 10:6; Psalm 51:11; Acts 1:8, 2:38; Ephesians 1:13-14), and God’s Word and words (1 Corinthians 2:14-16)

- d. 1:24, divine pleading, “stretched out my hand” in love and mercy, to disregard is to invite the stretching out of God’s hand in wrath (Isaiah 9:12,17,21),the gospel application (John 3:36)
  - e. 1:25-29, those who do “not choose the fear of the LORD” (v.29) will have other “terror” (v.27), Cf. Isaiah 2:10-11, note “calamity...terror...destruction...distress...anguish” all come but fools seek to find remedy apart from God—even the unbeliever knows the hopelessness and futility of it
  - f. 1:28, the frightening warning to those who might be inclined to come but too late, with a parable and an actual event (Matthew 25:1-13; Luke 16:19-31)
  - g. 1:30-33, v.31 Cf. Numbers 32:23, sin’s fruit for “fools” (v.32) contrasted with righteousness’ fruit of “whoever listens” (v.33) to the wisdom of God, let us both live and die according the wisdom of God “without fear of evil” (Cf. Psalm 23:4; Numbers 23:10)
4. Proverbs Chapter 1, Self-Test
- a. Who was the human author of the Book of Proverbs, and what other inspired books did he write?
  - b. Write out the last verse of the introduction (Proverbs 1:7).
  - c. “If sinners entice you”, how should you respond? What should we set as an aid?
  - d. Who is wisdom personified? Give Bible reference(s).
  - e. In Proverbs 1:23, what three major things are profitable for the godly individual?