

COMMENTARY

BACKGROUND OF THE BOOK:

This book was written primarily by King Solomon. Others, such as Agur and Lemuel, did contribute.

A proverb is a brief saying, which is designed primarily for the young to educate in the way to success. Success, however in Proverbs, revolves around the fear of the Lord being first and utmost in importance. Many of the topics handled, are discussed over and over throughout the book. This form of repetition, increased the learning process.

BOOK OF PROVERBS:

Chapter 1:

This chapter introduces the purpose of the book, which is to promote wisdom. Other topics are introduced which will also be discussed at later points, among these topics are: Instruction, Understanding, Righteousness, Justice, Equity, Prudence, Knowledge, Discretion, Learning and Sound Counsels.

The starting point for all of this, is the fear of the Lord (vs. 7). Giving heed to Parental Instruction is given next (vs. 8 & 9), followed by suggestion of avoidance of bad companions (vs. 10-19) and finally, 'wisdoms' warnings (vs. 20-33).

Chapter 2:

Wisdom is to sought whole-heartedly. It can be found in God's Word (vs. 6). The chapter then concludes with a warning against evil women.

Chapter 3:

This chapter speaks concerning heeding the wisdom taught. Trust God for in Him and the wisdom that He offers, you will find things of value that money will never be able to buy. Wisdom of God will bring peace, happiness and security. Wisdom was essential in creation and is essential in our everyday lives, now.

Chapter 4:

Wisdom is the principal thing. One should strive to obtain wisdom. The path of the righteous is fruitful but the way of the wicked is barren and will end in death.

Chapter 5:

This chapter challenges one to enjoy the marital joy and loyalty which God has given to man. It warns against unchaste love. It recommends being faithful to the one spouse that you have married.

Chapter 6:

This is a chapter of warning. Warnings against: questionable business practices, laziness, hypocrisy, pride, lying, trouble-making, disregarding of parents and illegitimate love are expounded.

Chapter 7:

This warns men about the adulteress. Chapters 5-7 contain such warnings and given the space devoted; must have been a problem in Solomon's day.

Chapter 8:

This chapter contrasts the practices of the adulteress (sly and cunning) with the open appeal of wisdom. Wisdom is honoes and the value of such instruction is priceless.

Chapter 9:

This summarizes what has been said. Wisdom and Folly both call out to man. Wisdom offers life and folly offers death. It is up to each individual to decide which one to go after.

Chapter 10:

This chapter shows the contrast between Wise Men and Fools, the righteous and the wicked, the Diligent and Lazy and finally the rich man and the poor.

Chapter 11:

This chapter shows that those who cheat are repulsive in God's sight. Women who are "beautiful" yet unchaste have very little to offer. A generous person shall be blessed and the one that wins souls is to be considered wise.

Chapter 12:

The following teachings are propounded: A worthy woman is the glory of her husband, lying lips are detestable to God, the diligent are blessed and the pathway of the righteous does not end in death.

Chapter 13:

He that wathches his tongue protects himself. Hope deferred makes the heart sick. The sinner faces difficult trials in life. Being around wise people will rub off and you will become wise.

Chapter 14:

The impatient man is often foolish in what he does; whereas the patiens man is one of great understanding. Fear God brings life just as peacefulness brings life. Those who take advantage of the poor, insult God.

Chapter 15:

Man is reminded that: a soft answer turns away wrath and leads to life; the prayer of the uprights is pleasing to God, cheerfulness brings happiness and a wise son will make a father glad.

Chapter 16:

A man may decide and make his choices, but God is in control. Pride leads to destruction and old age is a crown of glorious if it has followed the way of righteousness.

STUDY GUIDE

Book of Proverbs:

CHAPTER 1

1. What are the proverbs of Solomon for?
2. What is the beginning of wisdom?
3. What is the end of those who go after ill-gotten gain?
4. According to verse 33, what is the result of those that listen to wisdom?

CHAPTER 2

5. What comes from the mouth of the Lord? (see verse 2)
6. In verse 12, what will wisdom save one from?
7. What will happen to the righteous and to the wicked? (see vs. 21,22)

CHAPTER 3

8. What will Solomons teaching and commands do?
9. In whose eyes, should we not be wise?
10. What are we not to despise according to verse 11?
11. What are we to preserve according to verse 21?
12. What should we not say to our neighbor, according to verse 28?

CHAPTER 4

13. What should we get, though it cost us everything?
14. What should not come near our mouth or lips?

CHAPTER 5

15. What is the result of not obeying teachers or listening to instructors?
16. In what should we rejoice, according to verse 18?
17. What are in full view of the Lord and examined?

CHAPTER 6

18. What is to be learned from the ant? (see verse 6-8)
19. What will happen to the sluggard, according to verse 11?
20. What are the 7 things that are detestable to the Lord?
21. What is to be bound on our heart and around our neck?
22. What is the result of one who commits adultery? (see vs. 32)

CHAPTER 7

23. What will wisdom and understanding keep one from?
24. What is the wayward wife's house according to verse 27?

CHAPTER 8

25. What are the simple and the foolish to gain from wisdom?
26. What attributes go along with wisdom, according to verses 12-14?
27. What happens to the one who finds wisdom? (see verse 35)

CHAPTER 9

28. What is the result of rebuking a wise man or teaching a righteous one?
29. Where are the guests of the woman Folly?

CHAPTER 10

30. What's the difference between a wise and foolish son?
31. What is the difference between lazy hands and diligent hands?
32. What's the difference between the wages of the righteous and the income of the wicked?
33. What's the difference between one who heeds discipline and one who ignores correction?
34. What do the lips of the righteous know compared to the lips of the wicked?

STUDY GUIDE

Book of Proverbs:

CHAPTER 11

35. What comes with pride and what comes with humility?
36. What happens when the wicked man dies?
37. What makes victory sure?
38. What is like a gold ring in a pig's snout?
39. According to verse 30, who is wise?

CHAPTER 12

40. What does the one who loves discipline, love?
41. What's the difference between a wife of noble character & a disgraceful wife?
42. What seems right to a fool? What does a wise man listen to?
43. What does the Lord detest and in what does He delight?
44. What can be found in the way of righteousness and along that path?

CHAPTER 13

45. Who heeds their father's instruction?
46. What does righteousness guard?
47. How can one make money grow?
48. What happens to the one who ignores discipline? (see vs. 18)
49. Who is the one who hates his son and who is the one who loves his son?

CHAPTER 14

50. What do the wise and foolish women do to their houses?
51. What is the end of the way that seems right to a man?
52. Describe the wise man, according to verse 16.

CHAPTER 14 contd.

53. What does hard work, bring?
54. What's the difference between a patient and quick-tempered man?
55. What exalts a nation?

CHAPTER 15

56. What's the difference between a gentle answer and a harsh word?
57. What are the eyes of the Lord keeping watch on?
58. According to verse 8, what does the Lord detest and what pleases Him?
59. What is better than great wealth with turmoil?
60. Why do plans fail or succeed?
61. What comes before honor?

CHAPTER 16

62. What are weighed by the Lord?
63. What is better than much gain with injustice?
64. What is better than silver or gold?
65. What goes before destruction and a fall?
66. Who prospers, according to verse 20?
67. How is gray hair attained?