

PROVERBS

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Poetry				
971 - 686 BC	Proverbs 31 Chapters	Godly wisdom	This book is about practical wisdom. It provides counsel and guidance for righteous living.	Wisdom comes from instruction to live righteously.	Jesus is our wisdom

PROVERBS

Proverbs is known for its short instructions for living an effective life.

Proverbs emphasizes:

- a. Listening to those who have gone before you, such as parents, teachers and older people.
- b. Display humility.

PROVERBS

Proverbs is also a poetic book. King Solomon penned chapters 1 to 29. A man named Agur wrote chapter thirty. King Lemuel wrote chapter thirty-one. Proverbs is a book of wise instruction in reference to every department of personal life and conduct.

Its warnings against evils are accompanied by instruction as to how to avoid them.

It presents things in their true light, so that the reader may form a proper and clear judgment.

It goes to the root of matters and shows the motives that produce certain actions, thus exposing the actual workings of the heart.

It deals with the thoughts, the mouth, the lips, the tongue, the ear, the eye, the hand, the foot, and how they connect to the conduct of the individual.

It shows the results of thoughts, words, or actions, good or bad; that is, the reaping of what is sown.

It teaches that only the true knowledge of the Lord Himself can preserve the soul in ways of truth.

PROVERBS

In the first several chapters of Proverbs, Solomon personifies “wisdom”, depicting “wisdom” as a woman.

In all her glory as well as the inverse...

PROVERBS

1. Choose wisdom! (1–9)
 - a. The excellence of wisdom (1–4)
 - b. Drawbacks of folly (5–7)
 - c. Wisdom calls (8–9)
2. Wisdom vs folly (10–18)
3. Life principles (19–24)
4. Wickedness, righteousness, and similarities (25–29)
5. Misc. advice (30–31 (An illustration of the life of one who has found wisdom))

PROVERBS

In the Book of Proverbs, Solomon reveals the mind of God in matters high and lofty and in common, ordinary, everyday situations.

It appears that no topic escaped King Solomon's attention. Matters pertaining to personal conduct, sexual relations, business, wealth, charity, ambition, discipline, debt, child-rearing, character, alcohol, politics, revenge, and godliness are among the many topics covered in this rich collection of wise sayings.

PROVERBS

The book of Proverbs was written to make its readers wise.

This wisdom, though, is not just an accumulation of knowledge and information, it is applied knowledge, centered around the fear of the Lord.

Pro. 3: 7

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and turn away from evil.

PROVERBS

It is a recognition that God has set certain parameters in the world.

If we live His way, the way of wisdom, we will be blessed and successful. If we reject the way God has outlined life for us, we will become foolish and hurt ourselves and others.

Pro. 10: 27

27 The fear of the Lord prolongs life, But the years of the wicked will be shortened.

PROVERBS

The book of Proverbs is a source of practical wisdom for living a life that pleases God.

It covers so many topics that there is not a situation in life that cannot be addressed by at least one of these proverbs.

Taken to heart, its instruction will result in healthier relationships, honest and productive business dealings, rewarding community experiences, and a moral life.

PROVERBS

Pro. 1: 1-7

1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:

2 To know wisdom and instruction, To discern the sayings of understanding,

3 To receive instruction in wise behavior, Righteousness, justice and equity;

4 To give prudence to the naive, To the youth knowledge and discretion,

5 A wise man will hear and increase in learning, And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel,

6 To understand a proverb and a figure, The words of the wise and their riddles.

7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

PROVERBS

The theme of wisdom and its necessity in our lives finds its fulfillment in Christ. We are continually exhorted in Proverbs to seek **wisdom**, get **wisdom**, and understand **wisdom**.

Proverbs also tells us—and repeats it—that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Pro. 1: 7; 9: 10).

Our fear of the Lord's wrath and justice plus our thankfulness are what drives us to Christ. He is the embodiment of God's wisdom as expressed in His glorious plan of redemption for mankind.

PROVERBS

In Christ, “in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Col. 2: 3), we find the answer to our search for wisdom, the remedy for our fear of God, and the “righteousness, holiness and redemption” that we so desperately need (1 Cor. 1: 30).

The wisdom that is found only in Christ is in contrast to the foolishness of the world which encourages us to be wise in our own eyes.

Proverbs also tells us that the world’s way is not God’s way (Pro. 3: 7), and leads only to death (Pro. 14: 12; 16: 25).

PROVERBS

1. Seek godly wisdom.

This is the exhortation from the very first chapter, both from parents (Pro. 1: 8), and from wisdom herself (Pro. 1: 20, 33).

Pro. 1: 8

8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction And do not forsake your mother's teaching;

Pro. 1: 20

20 Wisdom shouts in the street, She lifts her voice in the square;

Pro. 1: 33

33 "But he who listens to me shall live securely And will be at ease from the dread of evil."
The innumerable number of proverbs in this book is also an indirect call for the pursuit of wisdom. These proverbs are meant to be read, considered, meditated upon, applied, and read again.

PROVERBS

2. Fear the Lord.

A. True wisdom is associated with the “fear of the Lord”.

Pro. 1: 7

7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Pro. 9: 10

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

There will be consequences for the man or woman who lives their life apart from wisdom. To fear these consequences is to fear the Lord.

PROVERBS

2. Fear the Lord.

B. The Lord, Himself, created the world through wisdom.

Pro. 3: 19

19 The Lord by wisdom founded the earth, By understanding He established the heavens.

PROVERBS

2. Fear the Lord.

C. The one who fears the Lord will have “strong confidence” and the fear of the Lord is a “fountain of life”.

Pro. 14: 26-27

26 In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, And his children will have refuge.

27 The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, That one may avoid the snares of death.

PROVERBS

3. *Be teachable.*

There's a lot to learn in the book of Proverbs!

A. In order to gain wisdom, one must have a heart that is willing to learn and accept God's truth.

Pro. 1: 28-33

28 “Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently but they will not find me,

29 Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the Lord.

30 “They would not accept my counsel, They spurned all my reproof.

31 “So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way And be satiated with their own devices.

32 “For the waywardness of the naive will kill them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them.

33 “But he who listens to me shall live securely And will be at ease from the dread of evil.”

PROVERBS

3. *Be teachable.*

B. Over and over again, the reader is exhorted to “Listen”

Pro. 1: 8

8 Hear, my son, your father’s instruction And do not forsake your mother’s teaching;

C. “Accept my words”

Pro. 2: 11

11 My son, if you will receive my words And treasure my commandments within you,

D. “Don’t forget my teaching”

Pro. 3: 1

1 My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments;

PROVERBS

3. *Be teachable.*

E. “Pay attention”

Pro. 4: 20

20 My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.

F. “Listen closely”

Pro. 5: 1

1 My son, give attention to my wisdom, Incline your ear to my understanding;

PROVERBS

3. *Be teachable.*

G. There are many proverbs which encourage a willingness to listen to instruction, among them are:

Pro. 11: 14

14 Where there is no guidance the people fall, But in abundance of counselors there is victory.

Pro. 12: 1

1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, But he who hates reproof is stupid.

Pro. 13: 1

1 A wise son *accepts his* father's discipline, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

Pro. 15: 31

31 He whose ear listens to the life-giving reproof Will dwell among the wise.

32 He who neglects discipline despises himself, But he who listens to reproof acquires understanding.

Pro. 19: 20

20 Listen to counsel and accept discipline, That you may be wise the rest of your days.

PROVERBS

4. *Don't be foolish.*

As much as Proverbs advocates acquiring wisdom, it warns against living like a fool.

A fool:

A. Brings destruction through his speech

Pro. 10: 14

14 Wise men store up knowledge, But with the mouth of the foolish, ruin is at hand.

B. Spreads slander

Pro. 10: 18

18 He who conceals hatred *has* lying lips, And he who spreads slander is a fool.

PROVERBS

4. *Don't be foolish.*

A fool:

C. Loves shameful conduct

Pro. 10: 23

23 Doing wickedness is like sport to a fool, And so *is* wisdom to a man of understanding.

D. Displays his stupidity

Pro. 13: 16

16 Every prudent man acts with knowledge, But a fool displays folly.

E. Is easily angered and careless

Pro. 14: 16

16 A wise man is cautious and turns away from evil, But a fool is arrogant and careless.

PROVERBS

4. *Don't be foolish.*

A fool:

F. Doesn't want to learn, but only wants to share his opinions

Pro. 18: 2

2 A fool does not delight in understanding, But only in revealing his own mind.

G. Doesn't learn from his mistakes

Pro. 26: 11

11 Like a dog that returns to its vomit Is a fool who repeats his folly.

H. Annoys others

Pro. 27: 3

3 A stone is heavy and the sand weighty, But the provocation of a fool is heavier than both of them.

PROVERBS

4. *Don't be foolish.*

A fool:

I. Trusts in himself

Pro. 28: 26

26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But he who walks wisely will be delivered.

J. Lacks self-control

Pro. 29: 11

11 A fool always loses his temper, But a wise man holds it back.

PROVERBS

Proverbs is profitable unlike any source of information.

Proverbs teaches us how to fear the Lord and live properly.

It teaches us how to apply knowledge to all of life's situations.

Godly wisdom is highly valuable and necessary for living a successful life (Prov. 1: 1-6; Prov. 2) and is available for anyone who seeks it.

PROVERBS

The recurring principle of the Book of Proverbs is that those who choose wisdom and follow God will be blessed in numerous ways:

1. With long life (9: 11)
2. Prosperity (2: 20-22)
3. Joy (3: 13-18)
4. The goodness of God (12: 21).

Those who reject Him will suffer shame and death (3: 35; 10: 21).

To reject God is to choose folly over wisdom and is to separate ourselves from God, His Word, His Wisdom, and His Blessings.

ECCLESIASTES

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Poetry				
940 - 931 BC	Ecclesiastes 12 Chapters	Life without God is empty	This is the result of Solomon's quest for meaning in life during a period of his life when he was away from God. His conclusion is that life is empty apart from God.	Life, to have meaning, must be lived in the Fear of God.	Jesus is our meaning of life

ECCLESIASTES

The book of Ecclesiastes never mentioned the writer. Nevertheless, Solomon was the author of Ecclesiastes. We can conclude this with the following verses.

He was a son of David and a king.

Ec. 1: 1

1 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

He ruled all of Israel in Jerusalem.

Ec. 1: 12

12 I, the Preacher, have been king over Israel in Jerusalem.

He was a wise man of great renown.

Ec. 12: 9-10

9 In addition to being a wise man, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge; and he pondered, searched out and arranged many proverbs.

10 The Preacher sought to find delightful words and to write words of truth correctly.

ECCLESIASTES

Solomon, inspired by God, declared the results of all human wisdom, of earthly advantages and aspirations, of indulgence in everything that wealth and wisdom could procure which might show fair promise of producing utmost happiness on earth.

There is an emptiness in Ecclesiastes that comes from not having a relationship with God.

ECCLESIASTES

The first seven chapters of the book of Ecclesiastes describe all of the worldly things “under the sun”.

The Preacher tries to find fulfillment in the following:

A. He tries scientific discovery.

Ecc. 1: 10-11

10 Is there anything of which one might say, “See this, it is new”? Already it has existed for ages Which were before us.

11 There is no remembrance of earlier things; And also of the later things which will occur, There will be for them no remembrance Among those who will come later *still*.

ECCLESIASTES

The Preacher tries to find fulfillment in the following:

B. He tries wisdom and philosophy.

Ecc. 1: 13-18

13 And I set my mind to seek and explore by wisdom concerning all that has been done under heaven. *It* is a grievous task *which* God has given to the sons of men to be afflicted with.

14 I have seen all the works which have been done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and striving after wind.

15 What is crooked cannot be straightened and what is lacking cannot be counted.

16 I said to myself, "Behold, I have magnified and increased wisdom more than all who were over Jerusalem before me; and my mind has observed a wealth of wisdom and knowledge."

17 And I set my mind to know wisdom and to know madness and folly; I realized that this also is striving after wind.

18 Because in much wisdom there is much grief, and increasing knowledge *results in* increasing pain.

ECCLESIASTES

The Preacher tries to find fulfillment in the following:

C. He tries pleasure.

Ecc. 2: 1

1 I said to myself, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure. So enjoy yourself.” And behold, it too was futility.

D. He tries alcohol.

Ecc. 2: 3

3 I explored with my mind *how* to stimulate my body with wine while my mind was guiding *me* wisely, and how to take hold of folly, until I could see what good there is for the sons of men to do under heaven the few years of their lives.

E. He tries architecture.

Ecc. 2: 4

4 I enlarged my works: I built houses for myself, I planted vineyards for myself;

ECCLESIASTES

The Preacher tries to find fulfillment in the following:

F. He tries to acquire property.

Ecc. 2: 7

7 I bought male and female slaves and I had homeborn slaves. Also I possessed flocks and herds larger than all who preceded me in Jerusalem.

G. He tries luxury.

Ecc. 2: 8

8 Also, I collected for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I provided for myself male and female singers and the pleasures of men—many concubines.

ECCLESIASTES

The Preacher turned his mind towards different philosophies to find meaning, such as materialism, and even moral codes (including chapters 8-9).

Ecc. 2: 19-20

19 And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the fruit of my labor for which I have labored by acting wisely under the sun. This too is vanity.
20 Therefore I completely despaired of all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun.

He found that everything was meaningless, a temporary diversion that, without God, had no purpose or longevity.

ECCLESIASTES

Chapters 8-12 of Ecclesiastes describe the Preacher's suggestions and comments on how a life should be lived.

He comes to the conclusion that without God, there is no truth or meaning to life. He has seen many evils and realized that even the best of man's achievements are worth nothing in the long run.

ECCLESIASTES

He advises the reader to acknowledge God from youth and to follow His will.

Ecc. 12: 1

1 Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, “I have no delight in them”;

Ecc. 12: 13-14

13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, *is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.*

14 For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

ECCLESIASTES

Ecclesiastes gives Christians a chance to see the world through the eyes of a person who, though very wise, is trying to find meaning in temporary, human things. Most every form of worldly pleasure is explored by the Preacher, and none of it gives him a sense of meaning.

In the end, the Preacher comes to accept that faith in God is the only way to find personal meaning. He decides to accept the fact that life is brief and ultimately worthless without God. The Preacher advises the Christian to focus on an eternal God instead of temporary pleasure.

ECCLESIASTES

Ecclesiastes offers the Christian an opportunity to understand the emptiness and despair that those who do not know God grapple with.

Those who do not have a saving faith in Christ are faced with a life that will ultimately end and become irrelevant. If there is no salvation, and no God, then not only is there no point to life, but no purpose or direction to it.

In Christ, life is but a shadow of the glories to come in a heaven that is only accessible through Him.

ECCLESIASTES

For all of the vanities described in the Book of Ecclesiastes, the answer is Christ.

God judges the righteous and the wicked.

Ecc. 3: 17

17 I said to myself, “God will judge both the righteous man and the wicked man,” for a time for every matter and for every deed is there.

In Christ all sinners are reconciled to God.

2 Cor. 5: 17-19

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

18 Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

ECCLESIASTES

For all of the vanities described in the Book of Ecclesiastes, the answer is Christ.

God has placed the desire for eternity in our hearts.

Ecc. 3: 11

11 He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.

God has provided the Way to eternal life through Christ.

John 3: 16

16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

ECCLESIASTES

For all of the vanities described in the Book of Ecclesiastes, the answer is Christ.

We are reminded that striving after the world's wealth is vanity and it does not satisfy.

Ecc. 5: 10

10 He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance *with its* income. This too is vanity.

Without Christ we would lose our souls.

Mk. 8: 36

36 “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?”

ECCLESIASTES

The Preacher lived in a world where God worked behind the scenes and judged everyone.

Ecc. 12: 13-14

13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, *is*: fear God and keep His commandments, because this *applies to every person*.

14 For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

ECCLESIASTES

Christians don't live in the same world as the Preacher's.

Christians have something he didn't experience: the continuous indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

ECCLESIASTES

God is at work in us every single day. The world may be a messed up place, but if Christ is in us, we always have hope.

Col. 1: 25-27

25 *Of this church* I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the *preaching* of the word of God,

26 *that is*, the mystery which has been hidden from the *past* ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints,

27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

ECCLESIASTES

We all desire meaning in life. Often that search takes us along winding, up-and-down paths filled with bursts of satisfaction that shine bright for a time but eventually fade.

When we attempt to find meaning in the pursuit of pleasure, the commitment to a job, or through plumbing intellectual depths, we all eventually find in each of these pursuits a dead end.

ECCLESIASTES

Ecclesiastes shows us a man who lived through this process and came out on the other side with a wiser, more seasoned perspective.

When we're surrounded by the temptation to proclaim life's ultimate emptiness, we can find in Ecclesiastes a vision tempered by experience and ultimately seen through divinely colored lenses.

Life is destined to remain unsatisfying apart from our recognition of God's intervention.

It only remains to be seen whether or not we will place our trust in His sure and able hands.

ECCLESIASTES

For all of the vanities described in the Book of Ecclesiastes, the answer is Christ.

God judges the righteous and the wicked.

Ecc. 3: 17

17 I said to myself, “God will judge both the righteous man and the wicked man,” for a time for every matter and for every deed is there.

The righteous are only those who are in Christ.

2 Cor. 5: 21

21 He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

ECCLESIASTES

God has placed the desire for eternity in our hearts.

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11 He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.

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16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His ^conly begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

ECCLESIASTES

We are reminded that striving after the world's wealth is vanity because it does not satisfy.

Ecc. 5.10

10 He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance *with its* income. This too is vanity.

Even if we could attain worldly wealth, without Christ we would lose our souls and what profit is there in that.

Every disappointment and vanity described in Ecclesiastes has its remedy in Christ, the wisdom of God and the only true meaning to be found in life.

ECCLESIASTES

Every material thing “under the sun” considers things from an earthly viewpoint.

Jesus provides a superior purpose that will provide satisfaction to the heart of man.

That is God’s grace and mercy to give man eternal life through Jesus Christ.