



The Call of Wisdom (Proverbs 1:1-33)

Introduction to Proverbs

Israel understood that the Creator had placed an order in his world that could be discovered. The book of Proverbs captures these lessons in compact, memorable sayings passed down from the wisest among their elders. Many of them are from Solomon, a king renowned for his wisdom (See 1 Kings 4:29-34). These proverbs are especially designed to help younger people avoid common pitfalls and find the path to prosperity, health and security.

After a short section of teaching, wisdom itself, personified as a woman, calls out to the simple and invites them to grow in knowledge. This section (Chapters 1-9) ends by presenting two banquets, one hosted by Wisdom and one by Folly, illustrating the essential choice to be made in life. A collection of 375 proverbs of Solomon follows (Chapters 10-24:22), reflecting the numerical value of his name in Hebrew. (Hebrew letters were also used as numbers, so words had a value equal to the sum of their letters.) After some "sayings of the wise," (Chapter 24:23-34) next is a collection of Solomon's wisdom compiled by the men of Hezekiah

(Chapters 25-29), king of Judah. Here the count is 130, equaling the value of Hezekiah's name.

The book closes with sayings from Agur and Lemuel (Chapters 30-31), ending with a poem whose 22 parts begin with consecutive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. The character qualities praised throughout the book are seen in a description of the ideal wife.

This rich book of short, pithy wisdom presents a consistent theme: the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.

(Credit: intro to Proverbs NIV Bible)

Let's begin there in the seventh verse of the first chapter...

☑ *"The **fear of the Lord** is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction." Proverbs 1:7 NKJV*

☑ **You can sum up all 31 Proverbs with this simple, yet infinitely profound, idea:**

☑ Any meaningful information you might obtain over the course of a lifetime must be rooted in reverence for the ONE TRUE GOD!

☑ Anything else is foolishness:

☑ AKA: despising the only true source of wisdom and instruction.

☑ AKA: embracing wisdom and instruction rooted in some authority other than the ONE TRUE GOD!

The Fear of the Lord and Knowledge

"The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: **To know** wisdom and instruction, **To perceive** the words of understanding, **To receive** the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity; **To give prudence** to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion— **A wise man** will hear and increase learning, **And a man of understanding** will attain wise counsel, To understand a proverb and an enigma, The words of the wise and their riddles. **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.**" Proverbs 1:1-7 NKJV

Proverbs 1:1-7

☑ *"The **proverbs of Solomon** the son of David, king of Israel:"*

Proverbs 1:1 NKJV

☑ Solomon

☑ A man, who bent humbly before the Lord as if a child not capable of ruling well under his own strength, who asked of the Lord, not for a long life, nor riches, nor power over his enemies, but to have a wise and understanding heart to rule well over God's people. Because of this request, God granted what he asked for, PLUS riches and honor.

There was one requirement, an “if” inserted into God’s promises: “Solomon, must obey God’s laws!”

- ☑ Most of these proverbs were born from a lifetime of experiences—both those that satisfied God’s requirement and those that certainly did not!

☑ References

- ☑ *“And Solomon said: “You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, **but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.** And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. **Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil.** For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?” The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. Then God said to him: **“Because you have asked this thing,** and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself,*

*nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, behold, I have done according to your words; see, **I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you. And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days. So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.**”* I Kings 3:6-14 NKJV

☑ **What Solomon should have known!**

- ☑ Don't multiply horses, wives, silver no gold for yourself!
- ☑ “But **he shall not multiply horses for himself**, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the Lord has said to you, ‘You shall not return that way again.’ **Neither shall he multiply wives for himself**, lest his heart turn away; **nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.**” Deuteronomy 17:16-17 NKJV

☑ **Why should he have known?**

- ☑ Because EVERY KING of Israel was commanded to know!

☑ *“Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that **he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book**, from the one before the priests, the Levites. And **it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes**, that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may **not turn aside from the commandment** to the right hand or to the left, and **that he may prolong his days in his kingdom**, he and his children in the midst of Israel.” Deuteronomy 17:18-20 NKJV*

☑ **Solomon ultimately violated the very wisdom he received!**

☑ The violations Solomon committed as he foolishly ignored the wisdom he received. (See I Kings 10:14-29)

☑ ***“The weight of gold that came to Solomon** yearly was six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold, [26] **And Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen;** he had one thousand four hundred chariots and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king at Jerusalem.” I Kings 10:14, 26 NKJV*

- ☑ *“And **he had seven hundred wives**, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart.” I Kings 11:3 NKJV*
- ☑ And because ignored wisdom, his kingdom WAS NOT prolonged but instead lost:
- ☑ *“Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, “Because you have done this, and **have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you** and give it to your servant.” I Kings 11:11 NKJV (See I Kings 11:1-13)*
- ☑ **Dying with Regrets!**
- ☑ Solomon knew better, yet he ignored wisdom. It’s all meaningless when you ignore the wisdom of God!
- ☑ *“The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. **“Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher; “Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.”** What profit has a man from all his labor In which he toils under the sun? [12] I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. And **I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom** concerning all that is done under heaven; this burdensome task God has given to the sons of man, by which they may be exercised. **I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping***

for the wind. What is crooked cannot be made straight,
And what is lacking cannot be numbered. I communed
with my heart, saying, **“Look, I have attained greatness,
and have gained more wisdom than all who were
before me in Jerusalem. My heart has understood great
wisdom and knowledge.”** And I set my heart to know
wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived
that this also is grasping for the wind. **For in much
wisdom is much grief, And he who increases
knowledge increases sorrow.”** Ecclesiastes 1:1-3, 12-18
NKJV

- ☑ *“The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: **To know** wisdom and instruction, **To perceive** the words of understanding, **To receive** the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity; **To give prudence** to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion—”* Proverbs 1:2-4 NKJV

☑ **The Purpose of these Proverbs!**

- ☑ **To know...** (to understand with intimate certainty)
 - ☑ **Wisdom:** the application of Godly knowledge.
 - ☑ **Instruction:** God’s instructions are equal to God’s word, His heart or mind on any matter as governed by His laws.

- ☑ **To perceive... (to comprehend God's true intention)**
 - ☑ **Words of understanding:** God's word is not meant for private interpretation for an individual to use as rationalization for his personal choices that would otherwise be contrary to God's intention. What God says about any matter is uncompromisable!
- ☑ **To receive... (to actively pursue God's truth)**
 - ☑ **...the instruction of Wisdom:** to apply God's truth to every life circumstance!
 - ☑ **...the instruction of Justice:** to use to God's righteousness as the measuring rod in every decision.
 - ☑ **...the instruction of Judgment:** to discern God's proper legal ruling to govern every choice.
 - ☑ **...the instruction of Equity:** to adhere to God's sincere and peaceful impartiality in every situation.
- ☑ **To give... (to impart God's grace)**
 - ☑ **...prudence to the simple:** demonstrate shrewd decision-making for those who are easily influenced.
 - ☑ **...knowledge and discretion to the young man:** to emphasize and display proper preparation and purposeful intention for those who are still immature in the faith.

☑ *"A **wise man** will hear and **increase learning**, And a **man of understanding** will attain **wise counsel**, To understand a proverb and an **enigma**, The words of the wise and their **riddles**." Proverbs 1:5-6 NKJV*

☑ **Who will heed these words?**

☑ Who will take the advice of wise counsel, and add them to his bank of knowledge, his tool-kit for life?

☑ **A wise man:** who puts Godly knowledge into practice, who applies God's truth to every life circumstance!

☑ **A man of understanding:** will not engage in rationalization to justify personal choices that are contrary to God's intention. God's ways are uncompromisable.

☑ **Proverbs: words of the wise man are like understanding...**

☑ **...an enigma:** an idea that is difficult to understand and often mysterious. The greater meaning is often hidden below the surface.

☑ **...a riddle:** a question or statement intentionally phrased so as to require ingenuity and deep thought in ascertaining its answer or meaning.

☑ **And then:** *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction." Proverbs 1:7 NKJV*

Wise Counsel

"My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother; For they will be a graceful ornament on your head, And chains about your neck. My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent. If they say, "Come with us, Let us lie in wait to shed blood; Let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause; Let us swallow them alive like Sheol, And whole, like those who go down to the Pit; We shall find all kinds of precious possessions, We shall fill our houses with spoil; Cast in your lot among us, Let us all have one purse"— My son, do not walk in the way with them, Keep your foot from their path; For their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed blood. Surely, in vain the net is spread In the sight of any bird; But they lie in wait for their own blood, They lurk secretly for their own lives. So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; It takes away the life of its owners." Proverbs 1:8-19 NKJV

Proverbs 1:8-19

☑ ***"My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother; For they will be a graceful ornament on your head, And chains about your neck."***

Proverbs 1:8-9 NKJV

☑ **Listen and obey your parents advice!**

- ☑ When your father teaches you and your mother gives you rules to live by, don't ignore them.
- ☑ When you live life in compliance to the wisdom passed on by your father and mother, it will be like a crown of glory and honor on your head and your success will be as if you were weighed down by heavy gold chains.

- ☑ *" **My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent.** If they say, "Come with us, Let us lie in wait to shed blood; Let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause; Let us swallow them alive like Sheol, And whole, like those who go down to the Pit; We shall find all kinds of precious possessions, We shall fill our houses with spoil; Cast in your lot among us, Let us all have one purse"— **My son, do not walk in the way with them, Keep your foot from their path; For their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed blood.** "" Proverbs 1:10-16 NKJV*
- ☑ **Do not get tied up with those who promote iniquity!**
 - ☑ If they plan violence—run from them!
 - ☑ If they wish to victimize the innocent—stop them!
 - ☑ They think they can take a man's life and abscond his possessions and they will promise to share the spoils with you—do not be tempted!

- ☑ These evil men don't casually intend to harm others; they are passionate and aggressive to do so!
- ☑ Whatever path these men are on...don't be on it with them!
- ☑ So poignant are the words of Y'shua!
 - ☑ *"Enter by the narrow gate; for **wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction**, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."* Matthew 7:13-14 NKJV
- ☑ *"Surely, in vain the net is spread In the sight of any bird; **But they lie in wait for their own blood, They lurk secretly for their own lives. So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; It takes away the life** of its owners."* Proverbs 1:17-19 NKJV
- ☑ **They will be caught in their own trap!**
 - ☑ The attempt to set a trap for good men will be unsuccessful, as if the intended target is standing by watching.
 - ☑ Like in the story of Esther, when Haman, who built gallows to hang Mordecai as part of an evil scheme, only to be hung on those very gallows himself, these sinful

evil men will become victims of their very own scheme —trapped in the snare they set for others.

☑ *"Then his [Haman's] wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, "**Let a gallows be made, fifty cubits high, and in the morning suggest to the king that Mordecai be hanged on it; then go merrily with the king to the banquet.**" And the thing pleased Haman; so he had the gallows made."* Esther 5:14 NKJV

☑ *"Now Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said to the king, "Look! **The gallows, fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai,** who spoke good on the king's behalf, is standing at the house of Haman." Then the king said, "**Hang him on it!**" So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided."* Esther 7:9-10 NKJV

Wisdom Personified

"Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares. **She cries out** in the chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city **She speaks her words:** "How long, **you simple ones,** will you love simplicity? For **scorners** delight in their scorning, And **fools** hate knowledge. **Turn at my rebuke;** Surely **I will pour out my spirit** on you; **I will make my words known** to

you. Because I have called and you **refused**, I have stretched out my hand and **no one regarded**, Because you **disdained all my counsel**, And would have none of my rebuke, **I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes**, When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you. **“Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me.** Because **they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the Lord**, They would have none of my counsel And despised my every rebuke. **Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full with their own fancies.** For the turning away of the simple **will slay them**, And the complacency of fools **will destroy them; But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, And will be secure, without fear of evil.”** Proverbs 1:20-33 NKJV

Proverbs 1:20-33

☑ *“**Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares. She cries out in the chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words:** “How long, **you simple ones**, will you love simplicity? For **scorners** delight in their scorning, And **fools** hate knowledge. **Turn at my rebuke;***

Surely ***I will pour out my spirit*** on you; ***I will make my words known*** to you.” Proverbs 1:20-23 NKJV

☑ **Solomon personifies wisdom as a woman!**

☑ The similarity must be noted here to how Y’shua referred to the Holy Spirit as the Helper like Eve (Genesis 2:18)

☑ “But ***when the Helper comes***, whom I shall send to you from the Father, ***the Spirit of truth*** who proceeds from the Father, ***[She]*** will testify of Me.” John 15:26 NKJV

☑ And Her ministry is personified much like wisdom:
“Wisdom calls aloud; She raises her voice; She cries out; She speaks her words...”

☑ “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, ***[She]*** will guide you into all truth; for [She] will not speak on His own authority, but whatever [She] hears [She] will speak; and ***[She]*** will tell you things to come. [She] will glorify Me, for [She] will take of what is Mine ***and declare it to you***. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that [She] will take of Mine ***and declare it to you***.” John 16:12-15 NKJV

- ☑ Wisdom warns! Wisdom Corrects! “Turn from My rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.”
- ☑ “And when [She] has come, [She] **will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:**” John 16:8 NKJV

- ☑ “Because I have called and you **refused**, I have stretched out my hand and **no one regarded**, Because you **disdained all my counsel**, And would have none of my rebuke, **I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes**, When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you. **“Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me.”** Proverbs 1:24-28 NKJV

☑ The Calamity of Ignoring Wisdom

- ☑ Only a fool will ignore wisdom and wisdom will not insist that fools hear her voice.
- ☑ If you persist in shutting out the voice of wisdom, as if you have a hatred for wise counsel; if you mock any thought of correction for your follies, then like Haman, you will become the victim of your own gallows.

☑ And at the moment of truth, as the lever is being pulled and the trap is about to be released from under your straining toes, as the noose of your destruction tightens and grinds against the skin of your neck, if you call out to wisdom then for her counsel, your straining voice will fall on deaf ears. All you might hear in those final moments is the laughter of the enemy who basks in your calamity—a man trapped in his own nightmare!

☑ Why you might ask?

☑ *"Because **they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the Lord**, They would have none of my counsel And despised my every rebuke. **Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full with their own fancies.**" Proverbs 1:29-31 NKJV*

☑ **Enmity against Knowledge and Wisdom**

☑ If you choose to hate God's wisdom you are choosing to NOT fear God and that is the height of stupidity!

☑ *"The **fear of the Lord** is the beginning of knowledge, **But fools despise wisdom and instruction.**" Proverbs 1:7 NKJV*

☑ **Eating the fruit of their own way!**

- ☑ It cannot be repeated too often; a fool who ignores God, an evil sinner who insists on his own way, will be destroyed by his own craftiness by his own evil schemes.
- ☑ It's as if a man need not be punished for his sins because he is punished by his sins!

- ☑ *"For the turning away of the simple **will slay them**, And the complacency of fools **will destroy them**; But whoever listens to me **will dwell safely**, And **will be secure**, without fear of evil."* Proverbs 1:32-33 NKJV
- ☑ **AND AGAIN... Just as we began, you can sum up all 31 Proverbs with this simple, yet infinitely profound, idea:**
 - ☑ *"The **fear of the Lord** is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction."* Proverbs 1:7 NKJV
 - ☑ The shunning of knowledge, wisdom and instruction is the fuel that destroys those who mock God.
 - ☑ And the converse is also true: those who hear the voice of wisdom, they are safe from destruction and will live without fear.
 - ☑ *"Love has been perfected among us in this: **that we may have boldness in the day of judgment**; because as He is, so are we in this world. **There is no fear in love; but***

***perfect love casts out fear**, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.*“ I John 4:17-18 NKJV

NEXT TEACHING

The Value of Wisdom (Proverbs 2:1-22)