

Proverbs

Breakdown

- Proverbs is a collection of short sayings that give us guidelines for practical, godly living.
- Proverbs itself mentions Solomon as the writer and collector of its content, including the proverbs copied by King Hezekiah's men. There are also proverbs from Agur, King Lemuel, and a group called "the wise".
- Most of Proverbs was written during King Solomon's reign around 900 B.C., but the book likely wasn't completed until sometime during King Hezekiah's reign from 715 to 686 B.C.

Main Points

- The purpose of the book of Proverbs is to describe what wisdom is and to help God's people become wise so they can live disciplined and successful lives. The "fear of the Lord" is the foundation of wisdom which enables believers to express their faith in the practical details of everyday life.
- Proverbs urges its readers to be wise, which means embracing God's covenant and living out that covenant in everyday situations. That can only happen if we receive the divine wisdom from God. The New Testament tells us that God made Jesus to be wisdom for us (1 Corinthians 1:30), so looking to Jesus for wisdom opens up the book of Proverbs as a powerful word from a loving God directly to us.

Did you know?

- Even though there is no particular plot or storyline to the book of Proverbs, there is a main character who takes center stage throughout the book. Who is she?
- The word "fool" appears 83 times in the NLT version of Proverbs, so it must be pretty important for us know about. How does Proverbs define a fool?
- It is clear throughout the Bible that a good work ethic is important to God. That can be clearly seen in Proverbs. What does this book tell us are the consequences of laziness?
- Proverbs teaches us that there are six things the Lord hates and one He detests. What are they?
- God's people who seek His wisdom and apply it to their lives will take a path that leads to righteousness and fulfillment. What happens to people who ignore or reject wisdom?
- According to Proverbs, we must pursue wisdom to gain it. How do we pursue wisdom?

Further Thought

- Proverbs teaches us that the "fear of the Lord" is the beginning of wisdom. What does it mean for us to fear God, and how does wisdom come from that fear?
- Proverbs isn't just a collection of wise and clever sayings. Solomon addressed Proverbs to his children who would become the primary keepers of God's covenant as future kings of Israel. How does Proverbs relate to the covenant and what does that mean for us?
- The Bible calls the Church the bride of Christ. Take a couple of minutes to read Proverbs 31 considering the church to be the wife. What does that teach us about what the church should be doing?