

Proverbs

Introduction

What They Are	Divisions	Themes
What they are not - not promises or guaranteed outcomes - express general truth BUT there can be exceptions due to unpredictable behavior of fallen man - “mashal” = comparisons, similar, parallel - Figure of speech using comparisons to present observations or instructions - Timeless truths in the form of simple illustrations that expose a fundamental reality of life - Practical, easy to memorize, applicable to real life situation - Divine guidelines and wise observations - By studying them and applying them we contemplate the mind of God - His character, attributes, works, and blessings - Short instructions for living an effective life on earth - All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge expressed in the Proverbs, they are hidden in the life of Christ (Col 2:3)	Purpose - 1:1-7 Proverbs to Youth - 1:8-9:18 Proverbs of Solomon - 10:1-24:32 Proverbs of Solomon (Hezekiah’s men transcribed) - 25:1-29:27 Words of Agur - 30:1-33 Lemuel (Solomon) - wisdom for leaders (31:1-9) - Virtuous wife (31:10-31)	Fear of the Lord (1:7; 9:10) - viewing God with the respect that He deserves - Living our lives in light of what we know about Him - Holding Him in the highest estimation - Depending on Him with humble trust 2 kinds of fear - that God will hurt me - selfish - I will hurt Him - founded in love producing holiness of character and righteousness of conduct (Ez 6:9-10) Wisdom versus folly - wisdom - knowledge, understanding (applying the knowledge), instruction, discretion, obedience all built on the fear of the Lord - Folly = all the opposite of wisdom

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Chapter 1	Chapter 2-3	Chapter 4-5
1-7 - purpose - to live rightly in the world 8-19 - precaution for spending time with sinners (throwing your lot in with them) - don't consent to sinners enticing you - Keep your feet from their path - Sinners set up traps for themselves - Those who gain wealth by violence - it will take the life of their possessors Wisdom Warns (20-33) - calamity and dread that will come to those who spurn wisdom - They did not choose the fear of the Lord - They will eat of the fruit of their own ways (Gal 5:16-24) - He who listens to me will live securely and be at ease from the dread of evil	Security of Wisdom - chapter 2 1-5 - Discover the knowledge of God - passionate desire of our lives 6-15 - discernment helps to steer us away for the evil ones - God speaks through the revelation of His Word (He 1:1-2; II Pe 1:20-21) - Upright - true believers (7-8) - Truth protects us (God's Word Ps 119:11; 97-104) 16-22 - stay away from the strange woman (adulteress; harlot) - irreversible nature of continuing sin (habitual sin) - Physical death (cut off, uprooted) - Spiritual death - cut off from God's kingdom Chapter 3 - Rewards of Wisdom 1-4 - rooted in sound teaching 5-6 - rest in God (trust) 7-10 - healing for those who obey 11-18 - chastening brings profound benefits to the believer 19-26 - wisdom will keep us walking securely and not stumble 27-35 - Righteous living God will bless	Father's Instructions - chapter 4 1-9 - acquire wisdom - acquire wisdom - striving - Understanding is wisdom applied to life - Adornment of your life 10-19 - stay away from the evil ones - don't enter the path of the wicked - Stay on the righteous bright path 20-27 - pay attention to my words - follow the path that God has put you on - Don't deviate Chapter 5 - Immorality 1-6 - seduction begins with deceptive flattery - Wormwood = suffering - Sword = death - She is headed for destruction - doesn't know it, doesn't care 7-14 - high price is paid for adultery - Slavery, disease, death (Dt 22:22) 15-23 - refreshment only in the marriage relationship - God watches all that we do - Gal 6:6-10; II Pe 3:9

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Chapter 6	Chapter 7	Chapter 8-9
1-5 - Surety - don't become responsible for someone else's debt - Give to people in need, lend without interest to a brother, don't be involved in usury 6-11 - warning against laziness - industrious, diligent, planning - Laziness - lack of self-control 12-15 - staying away from the evil one 16-19 - things the Lord hates - haughty eyes - Lying tongue - Shedding innocent blood - Devising wicked plans - Feet that run to evil - A false witness - Someone who spreads strife 20-35 - keep to your parents' teachings - Staying away from the adulteress	1-5 - keep your father's instructions 6-23 - woman on the prowl - looking for man lacking sense - Religious woman - seeks for an innocent life - Flirting with danger (II Tim 2:22) 24-27 - she is destructive	8:1-11 - wisdom proclaims herself from the housetop - understand prudence (thoughtful decision making) - understand wisdom - utters truth (I Cor 1:18-25) - Wisdom is all that is noble, right, true, and righteous - The most valuable thing we can have 8:12-21 - fear of the Lord is to hate evil - Wisdom hates what God hates - God puts highest virtue on humility (submission to God) - Counsel, sound wisdom, understanding, and power are wisdom 8:22-31 - Wisdom is part of God's character, God is love (I Jn 4:8), righteousness (Ro 3:21-22), faithfulness (Dt 7:9; I Pe 4:19) - His wisdom dwells in us (I Cor 1:24; Jn 1:1-3) 8:32-36 - blessed to keep the ways of wisdom - Hate wisdom = love death 9:1-6 - 7 pillars - completeness - plenty of room for everyone - Wine that is mixed - 1-8 parts - unmixed wine = strong drink 9:7-12 - don't waste your time trying to correct a fool - The wise will accept reproof and increase his learning - Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom 9:13-18 - woman of folly - foolish - adulteress - harlot - Boisterous - noisy, cheerful (overly), rowdy, energetic, unruly - associated with taverns and drunkenness - Naive - knowing nothing - having no sense