

20. Proverbs

1. **Overview:** The book consists of large collection of proverbs. A proverb is a short expression, or figure of speech, that presents an observation or an instruction. The Hebrew word for **Proverb** (mashal) means superiority in mental action (Strong's 4912), which alludes to the substantive truths contained within the expressions that take some time to ponder and meditate. A proverb is not to be confused with absolute promise from God.

2. **Penmen:**

Solomon: Chapters 1-29 appear to be proverbs that were first written or spoken by King Solomon. Those in Chapters 25-29 were copied out of an unknown original text by the men of King Hezekiah (J13), who reigned around 280 years after Solomon. Even though there are nearly 900 verses contained in the book, these would just represent a fraction of all the proverbs written by Solomon. *And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore. And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men . . . and he spoke three thousand proverbs; and his songs were a thousand and five.* (1 Kings 4:29-32. See Also Proverbs 1:1 and 25:1)

Others: The two final chapters are noted as being the words of King Agur ("gathered"), the Son of Jakeh ("obedient") and a King Lemuel ("belonging to God"). Neither of these names appear anywhere else in the Bible so it is unclear who they were.

3. **Purpose:** Solomon sets forth the purpose of the proverbs in the first seven verses.

*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, and judgment, and equity;
To give subtilty to the simple,
to the young man knowledge and discretion.*

*A wise man will hear, and
will increase learning; and
a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:
To understand a proverb, and the interpretation;
the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.*

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.* (Proverbs 1:1-7)

4. **Key Word Definitions:**

- **Abomination:** something disgusting (morally), an abhorrence, idolatry (Strong's 8441).
- **Discord:** a contest or quarrel, brawling, contention, strife (Strong's 4066 & 4090)
- **Err:** to stray away, deceive, dissemble (Strong's 8582)
- **Fat:** to be fat, figuratively to be satisfied (Strong's 1878).
- **Fear:** morally reverence (Strong's 3374).
- **Froward:** perversity, distorted, false (Strong's 6143 & 6141).
- **Hate:** to hate (personally): - an enemy, or foe (Strong's 8130).
- **Lying:** an untruth, a sham, deceitful, falsehood, feignedly (Strong's 8267).
- **Innocent:** blameless, clean, clear, guiltless (Strong's 5355).
- **Mischief:** a plan especially a bad one - heinous crime, lewd, wicked (Strong's 2154).
- **Pride:** arrogance, pomp, pride, proud, swelling (Strong's 1347).
- **Sluggard:** lazy, slack, slothful (Strong's 6102).
- **Surety:** to give or be security for a debt, like a loan co-signer (Strong's 6148).
- **Witness:** a witness; abstractly testimony (Strong's 5707).

These six things doth the LORD **hate**: yea, seven are an **abomination** unto him:
 a **proud look**,
 a **lying tongue**, and
hands that **shed innocent blood**,
 an **heart** that **deviseth wicked imaginations**,
feet that be **swift in running to mischief**,
 a **false witness** that **speaketh lies**, and
he that **soweth discord among brethren**.
 (Proverbs 6:16-19)

<p style="text-align: center;">Pride</p> <p><i>Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. Better it is to be of humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. (16:18-19)</i></p> <p><i>Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. (3:7)</i> See Also: 8:13, 11:2; 12:9, 13:10, 16:5, 17:19, 18:10-12, 19:4, 19:6-7, 20:6, 21:4, 21:24, 22:16, 25:14, 25:27, 26:12, 27:1-2, 28:6, 28:25, 29:23, 30:13, 30:32</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Humility</p> <p><i>Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth. Let another man praise thee and not thine own mouth, a stranger and not thine own lips. (27:1-2)</i></p> <p><i>When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom. (11:2)</i> See Also: 15:33, 18:12, 20:6, 22:4, 25: 6-7, 25:27, 27:21-22, 28:25-26, 29:23, 30:32</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Lies</p> <p><i>Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, But those who deal truly are His delight. (12:22)</i></p> <p><i>Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. (4:24)</i></p> <p>See Also 6:12-15, 10:18, 11:18, 12:17-22, 13:5, 17:4, 17:7, 17:20, 18:7-8, 19:1, 20:14, 20:17, 20:25, 21:6, 25:14, 25:19, 26:28, 27:6, 28:13, 29:12, 30:7-8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Honesty</p> <p><i>Hear, for I speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things. For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. (8:6-7)</i></p> <p><i>A righteous man hateth lying: but a wicked man is loathsome, and cometh to shame. (13:5)</i> See Also 11:18, 12:17-22, 13:5, 27:6, 28:13, 30:7-9</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Injuring the Innocent</p> <p><i>Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate: For the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul those that spoiled them (22:22-23).</i></p> <p><i>The robbery of the wicked shall destroy them; because they refuse to do judgment. (21:7)</i></p> <p>See Also 1:10-19, 3:29-33, 4:14-19, 10:11, 12:2-3, 12:5-6, 12:10, 12:12-13, 14:20-21, 14:31, 16:8, 16:29-30, 17:5, 17:11, 17:13-15, 18:5, 21:5-7, 21:10, 22:16, 24:15-20, 28:3, 28:24, 29:10, 29:24, 30:11-14, 31:1-9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Caring for the Innocent</p> <p><i>If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain, If thou sayest, Behold we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? And he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? And shall not he render to every man according to his works? (24:11-12)</i></p> <p><i>He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor. (14:31)</i></p> <p>See Also 3:27-28, 12:6, 12:10, 14:20-21, 20:26-28, 21:13, 22:9, 24:10-12, 28:27, 29: 7, 29:10, 29:14, 31:1-9</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Evil Plans</p> <p><i>Do they not err that devise evil? But mercy and truth shall be to them that devise good. (14:22)</i></p> <p><i>The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of wicked are deceit. (12:5)</i> See Also 8:12, 14:22, 15:26, 17:20, 19:3, 20:10, 20:17, 20:23, 21:2-4, 21:8, 21:15, 21:29, 22:28, 23:10-11, 24:1-2, 24:8-9, 24:28-29, 28:4-10, 28:28, 29:27,</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Desiring Righteousness</p> <p><i>He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends. (17:6)</i></p> <p><i>He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour. (21:21)</i> See Also: 3:31-35, 8:12-21, 10:16, 11:10-11, 15:29, 16:1-9, 19:11, 19:22, 20:7, 20:11, 21:1-3, 21:8, 21:15, 22:11, 24:1-2, 27:5-6, 28:4-5, 28:20, 29:2, 29:27, 31:10-31</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Doing Mischief</p> <p><i>It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom (10:23)</i></p> <p><i>He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail. (22:8)</i></p> <p>See Also 8:13, 10:27, 11:1, 12:5-8, 12:19-21, 19:2, 22:5, 22:12, 24:1-2, 28:14, 28:18-19, 29:16, 29:25, 30:11-14</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fearing and Trusting the Lord</p> <p><i>Happy is the man that feareth alway, but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief. (28:14)</i></p> <p><i>The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the forward mouth, do I hate. (8:13)</i> See Also 1:5-7, 2:1-9, 3:1-10, 3:21-26, 9:10, 10:27, 14:16, 14:26-27, 15:16, 15:33, 16:6, 16:20, 16:33, 18:10, 19:21, 19:23, 21:29-31, 22:4, 22:17-19, 23:17-18, 24:21, 28:1, 28:25-26, 29:25-26, 30:4-6</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">False Witnesses</p> <p><i>A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape. (19:5)</i></p> <p><i>An ungodly witness scorneth judgment: and the mouth of the wicked devoureth iniquity. (19:28)</i> See Also 11:9, 12:17-22, 14:5, 14:25, 19:9, 19:28-29, 21:28, 24:23-26, 24:28, 25:18-19, 25:28-29, 28:21</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Faithful Witnesses</p> <p><i>A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies. (14:5)</i></p> <p><i>A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies. (14:25)</i></p> <p>See Also 3:3, 16:6, 24:23-26, 25:25</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sowing Discord</p> <p><i>An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is as a burning fire. A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends. (16:27-28)</i></p> <p><i>He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips. (20:19)</i> See Also 3:30, 11:12-13, 18:7-8, 18:19, 20:2, 22:10, 26:17-28, 28:25, 29:4-6, 29:8, 29:22, 30:32-33</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Peace Makers</p> <p><i>Deceit is in the heart of them at imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace is joy (12:20)</i></p> <p><i>He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends. (17:9)</i> See Also 3:13-17, 11:12-13, 17:8, 19:11, 20:3, 20:22, 21:14, 24:21, 25:8-11, 25:15, 25:17, 25:21-22, 25:23, 29:6</p>

Finances	
1. Integrity in Business	<p>Bribes <i>A wicked man taketh a gift out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment. (17:23)</i> See Also 15:27, 18:5, 19:6, 24:23-25, 28:21, 29:4</p>
	<p>Cheating <i>A false balance is abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is his delight. (11:1)</i> See Also 16:11, 20:10-11, 20:14, 20:23, 22:1, 22:22-23, 22:28, 23:10-11, 28:8,</p>
	<p>Evil Company <i>Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth (announces) it not. (29:24)</i> See Also 1:10-19, 13:20, 16:19, 22:24-25, 23:6-8, 28:7, 29:3</p>
2. Work Ethic	<p>Diligent Labor <i>He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough. (28:19)</i> See Also 6:6-11, 10:3-5, 12:10-11, 12:24, 13:4, 13:11, 14:4, 14:23, 24:27, 27:23-27, 28:19-22, 30:24-28, 31:10-31</p>
	<p>Laziness <i>The soul of the sluggard desireth and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat. (13:4)</i> See Also 10:26, 12:27; 15:19, 18:9, 19:15, 19:24, 20:4, 20:13, 20:21, 21:25, 22:13, 24:30-34, 25:13-16</p>
3. Money Management	<p>Debts/Surety <i>The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender. (22:7)</i> See Also: 3:28, 6:1-5; 11:15, 17:18, 20:16; 22:26-27, 27:13 and Psalm 37:21</p>
	<p>Savings <i>There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up. (21:20)</i> See Also 13:22, 15:6, 19:14</p>
	<p>Spending <i>He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich. (21:17)</i> See Also 3:9-10, 23:1-5, 23:19-21, 25:16, 31:10-16</p>
4. Wealth is Not the Top Priority	<p>Contentment/Generosity <i>Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith (15:16)</i> See Also 11:4, 11:24-26, 13:7-8, 14:20-21, 14:31, 15:15-17, 16:8, 17:1, 19:1, 19:17, 21:9, 21:20, 21:26 22:1, 22:9, 25:16, 25:21-22 25:27, 28:6, 28:27, 29:7, 30:7-9, 30:15-16, 31:20</p>
	<p>Envy/Greed <i>Labor not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom. (23:4)</i> See Also 1:10-19, 3:31, 10:15, 11:28, 14:30, 15:27, 18:10-12, 18:23, 21:13, 21:26, 22:16, 22:22-23, 23:4-5, 23:17, 24:1, 24:19-20, 27:4, 27:24, 28:3, 28:8, 28:20, 28:22</p>