

Introduction to Proverbs

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Basic Concepts

What IS a 'Proverb'

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It's a pithy, pointed, perceptive precept promoting "wisdom"

What is 'Wisdom'?

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It's the skillful application of knowledge; the ability to discern what is the right course of action in a given situation.

What is the Prerequisite for Wisdom?

The 'fear' of God (see Prov. 1:7 & 9:10). This implies that true wisdom is only found by embracing a paradigm, a 'world-view', based upon acknowledging, respecting, obeying and worshipping the God of the Bible!

What a Proverb is Not!

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It's not a promise without exceptions, but a principle that is generally true in life.

Point:

While a Proverb does not guarantee a universal outcome, it does state a universal duty!

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Authorship

The Background of Proverbs

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See the appellation given Solomon in I Kings 4:29-34

See the Visit of the Queen of Sheba in I Kings 10

Questions Relating to Authorship

Note Proverbs 25:1. This indicates that the material following, while produced by Solomon, was compiled and added as an addendum in King Hezekiah's day.

Note Proverbs 30:1 & 31:1. Some see 'Agur' & 'Lemuel' to be pseudonyms for Solomon, much like "Jedikiah". Others see them as the names of unknown kings, contemporary with Solomon.

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Structure

A Basic Outline of Proverbs

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A 'Preface' in Proverbs 1:1-6

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A 'Parable' extolling wisdom in Proverbs 1:7-9:18

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'Classic Proverbs' in Proverbs 10-29

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'Classic Proverbs' in Proverbs 10-29

'Guest Appendices' in Proverbs 30-31