

A Tour Through the Divine Library
(Proverbs)

I. General Introduction to the Proverbs

-Title: a collection of inspired mashals (משל): a short saying or parable with a moral lesson; Hebrew, Greek: 'Proverbs of Solomon'; Latin: 'Book of Proverbs'

-Authors: Solomon (1:1; 10:1; 25:1), Agur (30:1), Lemuel (31:1, 4) Others? (22:17, 24:23)

-Date: written and compiled ~ 950 BC–700 BC

-Structure:

- I. Introduction (1:1-7)
- II. Proverbs for Young People (chs. 1-9)
- III. Proverbs for All People (chs. 10-29)
- IV. Proverbs of Agur (ch. 30)
- V. Proverbs of Lemuel (ch. 31)

-Types of Proverbs: analogies (25:14; 26:17); comparisons (15:1; 17:1); assertions (18:2; 19:19); commands (3:27; 9:8); interrogations (22:29; 26:12); short stories (ch. 7; 24:30-34)

II. Overview of the Proverbs

III. Prominent Themes in the Proverbs

-God's Character: Sovereignty (3:6; 16:1, 3, 4, 9, 33; 19:21; 21:1, 30, 31); Omniscience (5:21; 15:3, 11); Wisdom (2:6, 3:19);

-Primary Theme: Wisdom (1:7)

-Secondary Themes: Work, Diligence, and Laziness (12:11, 24; 13:4; 14:23); Wisdom and Folly (14:16); Pride and Humility (11:2; 16:18); Speech (16:24; 25:11; 29:20); Anger (29:22); Love (10:12); Righteousness (11:4); Fear (of the Lord and of man: 9:10; 29:25); Plans (21:5); Truth (23:23); Self-Control (16:32); Sexual Immorality (chs. 2, 5, 6, 7, other references); Counsel (12:15; 15:12); Parents (30:17); Companions (13:20); others

IV. Christ in the Proverbs

-Chapter 8?

-The Virtues Commended in the Proverbs a transcript of the character of the man, Jesus Christ; point us to the eternal Son as the perfect embodiment of wisdom (1 Cor. 1:24; Col. 2:3); constitute the righteousness we all need; are the wisdom and graces that the risen Christ communicates to His people by His Spirit.

V. Practical Lessons in the Proverbs

1) Read, study, and memorize the Proverbs.

2) Prayerfully desire and pursue the wisdom of the Proverbs (1:7, 8, 10).

3) Think carefully about the choice we are confronted with in the Proverbs (14:12; 16:25; 1 Cor. 1:30).