

The Writings of Solomon

PROVERBS

Book: 20; Chapter(s): 31; Verse: 915

Meaning of Title: Pro-verbs are words put forward. *Mashal* (Hb. 4912) - a superior simile usually of metaphorical tone. A parable and proverb is essentially the same. They both are derived from the same Hebrew and Greek words. A common way some differentiate a proverb from a parable (Cp. Pr. 25:6-7; Lk. 14:7-11) is by those which teach lessons by telling a story. However, they are the same. Proverbs are prophecy (Pr. 30:1, 31:1) but its fulfillment is based on your action and therefore a “burden” (Hb. 4853 - *massa*). Thus, proverbs are concluded with prophetic promises of consequences or blessings depending upon the effort to obey.

Author: Solomon did not have the same experiences of his father who experienced many troubles and fighting. God gave Solomon wisdom and favor to have an easier life than his father as David paved the way for his son to succeed (1 Chr. 22:18). See *Ecclesiastes*

Date and Place: Proverbs was written in sections. We can ascertain that Pr. 1-24 was written during the time of Solomon, Pr. 25-29 was copied during the time of Hezekiah (12 Kings later), and Pr. 30-31 was taken as excerpt from Solomon’s collection (1 Kgs. 4:30). The proverbs were kept in the historical records of the kingdom and the first sections were given to the scribes to be kept with religious writings. Hezekiah took proverbs from the writings (Pr. 25:2) and added them as Scripture or the writings kept in the temple (2 Chr. 29:3-5).

Purpose: This book is important considering it is full of wisdom which is the principal thing (Pr. 4:7). The purpose of Proverbs is two-fold: 1. To teach how and why to keep the Law and 2. To explain how and why to fulfill the Law (1 Kgs. 3:3). The Law was established by Moses, but wisdom on how to obey the Law was not passed down by him. This book focuses on the following:

- How and why to obey the Law (Pr. 1:8, 3:5, 4:2, 6:20, 23, 7:2, 13:14, 28:4, 7, 9, 29:18, 31:5, 31:26).
- Avoid Taking His name in vain - 30:5-10
- Avoid Idolatry - 2:16-22

- Avoid Adultery - 6:24-26, 32-35
- Avoid Coveting - 1:19, 6:27-29, 21:25-26, 28:16
- Avoid Theft - 6:30-31, 28:24
- Avoid Murder - 1:10-19, 3:30, 6:17, 12:6, 28:17
- Honoring thy Father and Mother - Pr. 22:6, 15
- Against Bearing False Witness - Pr. 6:19, 12:17-20, 14:5, 19:5, 9, 21:28, 25:18
- Loving Your Neighbor - 3:29 {False Witness & Love deal with the rest of the issues such as speech}
- Firstfruits - 3:9-10
- Avoid Talebearers - Pr. 11:13, 18:8, 20:19, 26:20, 22

The second purpose, which is to ensure the covenant of God is accomplished, still has requirements such as working and training children in order to be blessed. God promised that as long as they keep the covenant, Israel would be blessed (Dt. 8:18, 21:18, 28:1-37); however, effort must be made whole-heartedly (Gen. 3:17-19; Isa. 48:15).

Main Theme(s): Life (34); Instruction (25); Law (14); Commandments (12); Poverty (12); Blessed (9); Favor (15); Work Ethic - Mentioned at least 20 times (6:6-11, 10:1-4, 15-16, 26, 11:24-28, 12:24, 27, 13:4, 11, 18, 14:23, 15:19, 16:26, 18:9, 19:24, 20:4, 13, 21:25, 22:13, 23:19-21, 24:30-34, 26:13-16, 28:19-22, 30:7-10).

Manifestations of God: Wisdom (8:12-36; 1 Cor. 1:24)

Key Scriptures: Pr. 3:5, 16:18, 31:10-31

Outline: This book primarily has five sections: Pr. 1:1, 10:1, 25:1, 30:1, 31:1; NOTE: some proverbs are repetitive, probably caused as they copied the writings of Solomon at different times (6:10, 24:33)

Canonical: Pr. 22:18-21, 26:11; 2 Pet. 2:22

<p><i>Purpose Of Proverbs</i></p>	<p>1:1 - The writing of your</p>	<p>us lurk privily for the innocent</p>
<p>1 <u>The proverbs of</u>⁹¹² Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;</p>	<p>position was customary since Num. 22:24. See Proverbs (C)</p>	<p>without cause: 12 Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:</p>
<p>2 To know wisdom and instruction; <u>to perceive</u>⁹⁹⁵ the words of understanding;⁹⁹⁸</p>	<p>1:2 - The purpose of this book is established v. 2-4; this Hebrew word <i>muw-car</i> translated instruction is used 30 times in Proverbs out of the 51 times in the O.T.</p>	<p>13 We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:</p>
<p>3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;</p>	<p>1:3 - This book will make corrections in paradigm of what is smart, right, good, and fair.</p>	<p>14 Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:</p>
<p>4 To give subtilty <u>to the simple</u>,⁶⁶¹²_a <u>to the young man</u>⁵²⁸⁸ knowledge and discretion,_b</p>	<p>1:4 - a. The young man is mentioned in 7:7, 20:11, 22:6, 15, 23:13, 29:15. The simple was mentioned 14 other times; b. Mt. 10:16</p>	<p>15 My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:</p>
<p>5 A wise <i>man</i> will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:</p>	<p>1:6 - a. Hab. 2:6. b. Ps. 49:4, 78:2</p>	<p>16 For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.</p>
<p>6 To understand a proverb, and the interpretation,⁴⁴²⁶_a the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.²⁴²⁰_b</p>	<p>1:7 - Ps. 111:10; Pr. 2:5; See Fear of the Lord (T.I)</p>	<p>17 Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.</p>
<p>7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; <i>but</i> fools despise wisdom and instruction.</p>	<p>1:8 - 1 Kgs. 3:3</p>	<p>18 And they lay wait for their <i>own</i> blood; they lurk privily for their <i>own</i> lives.</p>
<p>8 My son,¹¹²¹ hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:</p>	<p>1:9 - a. "they" is parental law and instruction; b. Pr. 4:9</p>	<p>19 So <i>are</i> the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; <i>which</i> taketh away the life of the owners thereof.</p>
<p>9 For they_a <i>shall be</i> an ornament of grace unto thy head,_b and chains about thy neck.</p>	<p>1:10 - The first warning is against fellowship with sinners. Wisdom calls for us to separate from sinners (Ps. 1:1). Some "Christians" still do not get that.</p>	<p><i>Warning From Wisdom</i> 20 Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:</p>
<p><i>Avoid Violent Men</i></p>	<p>1:11 - The first warning is against fellowship with sinners. Wisdom calls for us to separate from sinners (Ps. 1:1). Some "Christians" still do not get that.</p>	<p>21 She crieth in the chief place of concourse,¹⁹⁹³ in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, <i>saying</i>,</p>
<p>10 My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.</p>	<p>1:12 - Wisdom is personified (v. 24) as a woman who speaks to all men even the simple, scorner, and a fool v. 22.</p>	<p>22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?</p>
<p>11 If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let</p>	<p>1:14 - Solomon share; not divide wealth (Pr. 16:33).</p>	<p>1:20 - Wisdom is personified (v. 24) as a woman who speaks to all men even the simple, scorner, and a fool v. 22.</p>

1:14 - Solomon share; not divide wealth (Pr. 16:33).

1:15 - Ps. 119:101

1:19 - Murdering thieves are greedy and they are laying a trap for themselves to fall in. Ex. 20:13, 15; Dt. 17:24

1:20 - Wisdom is personified (v. 24) as a woman who speaks to all men even the simple, scorner, and a fool v. 22.

1:21 - Concourse or a loud place, seemingly a market place or crowded place (Isa. 22:2)