

## PROVERBS

Mostly written by Solomon around 970 B.C.

-some by Lemuel and Agur

A proverb is a short saying with practical implications.

-biblical proverbs teach wisdom, discipline, character and how to do what is right

-cover a variety of subjects:

-chastity, control of the tongue, laziness, success, knowledge, relationships, justice.

-Theme: "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom".

Proverbs are general statements

-not hard, fast rules

For example:

**Pro 22:6** Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Well, many of us know children who were trained in the ways of the Lord but departed from it anyway

-does that make the bible a lie?

-not at all

-if teaching a child the truth was the sure fire to keep a kid on the straight and narrow, every parent would make it the top priority

-but a general proverb does not override a person's free will

-Adam and even Lucifer were taught in the ways of the Lord and chose to rebel

Many people use Proverbs as a devotional because it has 31 chapters; one for each day of the month

Although this book contains many of Solomon's proverbs, it's only a small portion of the proverbs he wrote

-speaking of Solomon...

**1Ki 4:32** He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005.

Popular proverbs:

**Pro 15:1** A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

Pro 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Pro 22:7 The rich rules over the poor, And the borrower *becomes* the lender's slave.

Pro 17:22 A joyful heart is good medicine....

Pro 17:28 Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise; When he closes his lips, he is *considered* prudent.

Pro 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

And for you parents...

Pro 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.

Pro 23:13 Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you strike him with the rod, he will not die.

One topic it touches on a lot is very refreshing to me

- especially living in this community
- you don't have to live here long to feel the pull of materialism
- there seems to be a competition on who can build the biggest house, drive the most expensive vehicles and own the most toys
- before long, you find that you are comparing yourself to that standard
- even if you make a really good living for your family, it's still easy to feel down that you can't live the lifestyle that so many others are living

Pro 11:4 Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness delivers from death.

Pro 11:28 He who trusts in his riches will fall, But the righteous will flourish like the *green* leaf.

Pro 27:24 For riches are not forever, Nor does a crown *endure* to all generations.

Pro 23:4 Do not weary yourself to gain wealth, Cease from your consideration *of it*.

**Pro 23:5** When you set your eyes on it, it is gone. For *wealth* certainly makes itself wings Like an eagle that flies *toward* the heavens.

And the last mention of riches in Proverbs is:

Pro 30:7 Two things I asked of You, Do not refuse me before I die:

Pro 30:8 Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion,

Pro 30:9 That I not be full and deny *You* and say, "Who is the LORD?" Or that I not be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God.

- contentment...such a foreign concept today
  - the first thing people used to ask each other is “how are you doing?”
  - now it’s “so, you staying busy?”
  - We have been conditioned to believe that a busy life equals a quality life
- the older I get, the more I want to stop running and going full speed all the time and just enjoy my life a little

After struggling with all the successes of life, Solomon says:

**Ecc 5:18** Here is what I have seen to be good and fitting: to eat, to drink and enjoy oneself in all one's labor in which he toils under the sun *during* the few years of his life which God has given him; for this is his reward.

Jesus types:

Although these verses describe wisdom, listen to the similarities to Jesus:

**Pro 8:22** "The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old.

**Pro 8:23** "From everlasting I was established, From the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth.

**Pro 8:24** "When there were no depths I was brought forth, When there were no springs abounding with water.

**Pro 8:25** "Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills I was brought forth;

**Pro 8:26** While He had not yet made the earth and the fields, Nor the first dust of the world.

**Pro 8:27** "When He established the heavens, I was there, When He inscribed a circle on the face of the deep,

**Pro 8:28** When He made firm the skies above, When the springs of the deep became fixed,

**Pro 8:29** When He set for the sea its boundary So that the water would not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth;

**Pro 8:30** Then I was beside Him, *as* a master workman; And I was daily *His* delight, Rejoicing always before Him,

**Pro 8:31** Rejoicing in the world, His earth, And *having* my delight in the sons of men.

But more clearly here:

**Pro 30:4** Who has ascended into heaven and descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has wrapped the waters in His garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name or His son's name? Surely you know!