

# Proverbs

## Introduction / Chap. 1

### What is a Proverb?

- A short, pithy statement of wisdom; especially an insight into human character and behavior
  - § “Marry in haste; repent at leisure.”

### What is a Proverb?

- A short saying that provides a general truth
  - § “Like mother, like daughter!”
- A lesson drawn from experience (Ps. 78:2-6)

### What is a Proverb?

- An object lesson using a comparison or an analogy
  - § “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver” (Prov. 25:11, NKJV).

## Types of Parallelism

- Synonymous
  - § Second line restates the first.
  - § “A fool's lips bring strife,  
And his mouth calls for  
blows” (Prov. 18:6).

## Types of Parallelism

- Antithetical
  - § Second line contrasts with the first.
  - § “The memory of the righteous is blessed,  
But the name of the wicked will rot” (Prov. 10:7).

## Types of Parallelism

- Emblematic (or Comparative)
  - § One line gives a figurative illustration of the other line.
  - § “As a ring of gold in a swine’s snout,  
So is a beautiful woman who lacks discretion” (Prov. 11:22).

## Types of Parallelism

- Synthetic
  - § The second line amplifies the first.
  - § “The first to plead his case seems just,  
Until another comes and examines him” (Prov. 18:17).

## Overview of Proverbs

- I. Introduction to Wisdom; Contrast of Wisdom and Folly (chs. 1-9)
- II. Collection of Solomon's Proverbs (chs. 10-24)
- III. More of Solomon's Writings, Edited by Men of Hezekiah's Time (chs. 25-29)

## Overview of Proverbs

- IV. The Words of Agur (including the numerical proverbs, ch. 30)
- V. The Words of Lemuel (31:1-9)
- VI. The Virtuous Woman (31:10-31)—An Acrostic Poem

## Contrast of Wisdom and Folly

- I. Introduction to Wisdom (chs. 1-9)
  - A. Purpose of Proverbs is to give wisdom (1:1-7).
  - B. Folly may interrupt this purpose (1:8-33).

## Contrast of Wisdom and Folly

- I. Introduction to Wisdom (chs. 1-9)
  - C. Seeking wisdom is beneficial (2:1–4:27).
  - D. Folly may prevent one from seeking wisdom (5:1–6:19).

## Contrast of Wisdom and Folly

- I. Introduction to Wisdom (chs. 1-9)
  - E. Finding wisdom has advantages (6:20–9:12).
  - F. Folly may prevent one from finding wisdom (9:13-18).

## Who was Solomon?

- § Son of David and Bathsheba
- § 3rd king of Israel
- § Wisest man who ever lived (1 Kings 4:31)
- § Author of proverbs and songs (1 Kings 4:32)
- § Husband of 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kings 11:3).

## Purpose of Proverbs

- § To give moral skill and mental discernment (1:2)
- § Wisdom (1:2a) = skillfull living according to God's moral standards
- § Discipline (Instruction, 1:2a) = training of the moral nature

## Purpose of Proverbs

- § To give moral skill and mental discernment (1:2)
- § Discernment (Understanding, 1:2b) = to distinguish between good and evil
- § Words of Insight (1:2b) = lessons about life

## Purpose of Proverbs

- § To acquire discipline that will produce a wise (circumspect) life demonstrated by doing what is right and just and fair (1:3)
- § To give shrewdness (the ability to see & prepare for evil) to the naïve or inexperienced (1:4)

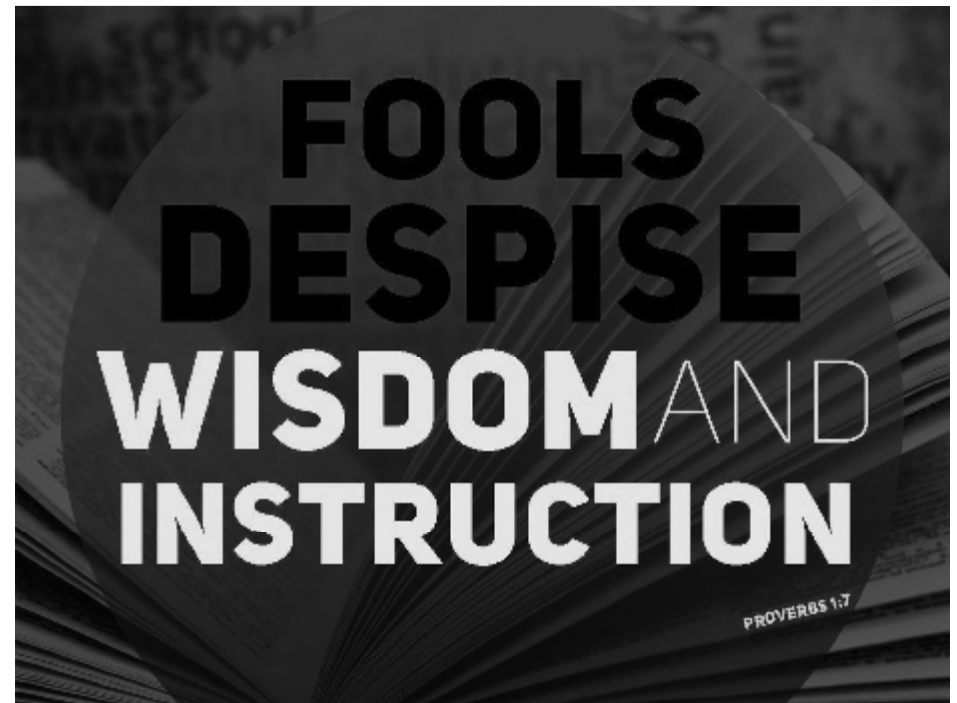
## Purpose of Proverbs

- § The wise /discerning person will listen and increase learning and obtain guidance (1:5). Thus, Proverbs is for everyone (not only the naïve or gullible youth).
- § To understand indirect language (proverbs, parables, riddles, 1:6)

Motto: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge (1:7a).

“Fear” (Heb. *Yir’āh*) includes dread, terror, awe, and reverence.

It motivates us to obey God and take His view of good and evil.



## A Graceful Wreath to Your Head



## Wisdom Shouts in the Street



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## Wisdom addresses

1. The naïve (inexperienced) simpletons
2. The defiant, cynical scoffers (mockers)
3. The morally insensitive dullards or fools (1:22)

- § Do you know the difference between wisdom and folly?
- § Do you fear the LORD?
- § Do you listen to the instruction of the godly authorities in your own life?
- § Do you resist the lure of the world to run with the crowd and be accepted?
- § Do you have the security and peace of a personal relationship with Jesus, Who is true Wisdom?