

# INTRODUCTION, FALL 2022 PROVERBS & FAMOUS COUPLES

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## What We Will Study

- Proverbs, Les.9: Virtuous Woman
- Proverbs, Les.10: Unvirtuous Women
- Proverbs, Les.11: The Tongue
- Proverbs, Les.12: Friends & Neighbors
- Proverbs, Les.13: Solving Conflicts
- Proverbs, Les.14: Path to Maturity

## What We Will Study

- Couples 1: Adam & Eve
- Couples 2: Abraham & Sarah
- Couples 3: David & Bathsheba;  
David & Michal
- Couples 4: Samson & Delilah;  
Ahab & Jezebel
- Couples 5: Ananias & Sapphira;  
Aquila & Priscilla

## 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).

*Proverbs  
are general  
truths.*

## 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

## 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) = skillful 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

## Proverbs: A Book for Everyday Living

- Goal: “to put godliness into working clothes” (Kidner)
- We need to move God’s truth from our heads to our hearts so that it changes how we live.

## Central Teaching (1:7)

- *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.

## Central Teaching (1:7)

- *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge (1:7a).*
- Beginning = the first and controlling principle—a right relationship with God.
- The first step is to know Him as Savior.

## Central Teaching (1:7)

- 1:7b—*Fools despise wisdom and instruction.*
- Cf. v. 2—They show their foolishness by their rejection of what could give them physical and spiritual success in life.

## Central Teaching (1:7)

- 1:7b—*Fools despise wisdom and instruction.*
- “Fools” (Heb. *wîlîm*) = thick-brained; stubborn.
- They are morally unskilled and refuse correction.



## Wisdom especially calls to

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

## Lady Wisdom in Proverbs

§ Proverbs 1:20–33

§ Proverbs 8:1–36

§ Proverbs 9:1–6

## Interwoven Strands Proverbs 2:2, 5-6



**Fear of the LORD**

Wisdom

Understanding

Knowledge

*The fear of the LORD is the  
beginning of wisdom, and  
the knowledge of the Holy  
One is understanding.*

*Proverbs 9:10*