

## The Scriptures Summarized / Book 20 – Proverbs

The second of the 5 books we categorize as Hebrew poetry is the book of Proverbs. Whereas, Psalms is a chapter book of worship songs. Proverbs is a collection book of wisdom verses. Psalms helps our devotional life. Proverbs helps our daily life. The majority of the Psalms were written by David. The majority of this book was either written or edited by his son Solomon.

Proverbs 1:1 The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:

1 Kings 4:30 Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt... 32 He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five.

A proverb is a little phrase that is long on truth. The word comes from the Hebrew concept “to govern.” Proverbs are thus short sayings to rule your life. Their brevity is crucial to their genius. They engage the mind and are retained in the memory.

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

The key phrase “the fear of the Lord” (Dread displeasing the Lord) is found over a dozen times and is essential for obtaining wisdom. This is to be developed through the every day activities / situations of life.

Proverbs often make use of a literary device known as parallelism. Two items are put side by side for comparison; (than; so; as) contrast; (but) or as complementary concepts. (and, also)

This includes people, who are classified based upon their response to God and His the truth: 1) wise; 2) naive (simple); 3) scoffer (mockers); 4) foolish.

The book also takes a parental tone as it presents spiritual insight gained from experience and maturity.

Proverbs 1:8 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. (2:1; 3:1 & 11 etc.)

- I. The Wisdom of Solomon — chapters 1-29
  - A. Wisdom has Value
    1. It should be Prized
    2. It should be Pursued
  - B. Wisdom has Virtue
    1. It should be Practiced
    2. It should be Promoted
  - C. Wisdom has Variety
    1. It should be Pondered
    2. It should be Passed along
- II. The Wisdom of Agur — chapter 30
  - A. Living In view of our Creator
  - B. Lessons in view of His Creation
- III. The Wisdom of King Lemuel — chapter 31
  - A. The Right Kind of Governor for this World
    1. Be Conservative
      - a) With Women
      - b) With Wine
    2. Be Compassionate
      - a) Speak up for those Marginalized
      - b) Speak up for those Mistreated
  - B. The Right Kind of Girl to Wed
    1. She is Noble in Character
    2. She is Nurturing in Conduct