

## WEEK 21 — SOLOMON'S WISDOM, PART 2

**Date:** about 930-970 BC (the mention of King Hezekiah in Proverbs 25:1 indicates that Proverbs came into its final form no earlier than his reign, about 715-686 BC)

**The Story:** God continues to teach Israel godly wisdom through the words of Solomon in the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. Both contain a combination of short proverbs and longer teachings; most are attributed to Solomon, though Proverbs also includes passages from other wise teachers, as well (“the wise,” 22:17, 24:23; Agur, 30:1; Lemuel, from his mother, 31:1). A second collection of proverbs, “compiled by the men of Hezekiah king of Judah” around the late 700s BC, is included in Proverbs (25:1). Proverbs offers general teaching on how to live wisely. Ecclesiastes is more focused in its purpose: it explores the meaning and purpose of life, particularly apart from God. Does life without God ultimately have any meaning?

\* Kids' readings may not align with the daily full readings. Parents, see the content ratings on the back page.

### MAY 22 PROVERBS 15-17

**Today's reading** presents more of Solomon's short, two-line proverbs. Watch for topics that come up repeatedly in this section and throughout Proverbs. What do the proverbs say about how to build a good relationship with the Lord? What produces a healthy home life? What kind of conduct brings joy or sorrow?

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**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Proverbs 15-16

**Kids' Reading\*:** Proverbs 15

### MAY 23 PROVERBS 18-20

**Today's reading** contains—you guessed it—more of Solomon's short proverbs. Watch for some well-known proverbs in this section, including 18:12, 18:13, 19:17, 20:6, 20:14, and 20:29. Notice the proverbs about marriage (18:22, 19:13, 19:14) and about raising children (19:13, 19:18, 19:26, 20:7, 20:11, 20:20).

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**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Proverbs 18-20

**Kids' Reading\*:** Proverbs 18

### MAY 24 PROVERBS 21-23

**Today's reading** concludes Proverbs' first collection of Solomon's proverbs (ending at 22:16). Another collection follows, referred to as thirty “sayings of the wise” (22:17 to 24:22). We don't know who collected these sayings or whose “the wise” who spoke them were. About half of the thirty sayings are warnings beginning with or including, “Do not...”.

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**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Proverbs 22-23

**Kids' Reading\*:** Proverbs 22:17-29 • Proverbs 23:4-25

### MAY 25 PROVERBS 24-26

**Today's reading** wraps up the “thirty sayings of the wise,” introduces an additional, small collection of “sayings of the wise” (24:23-34), and presents the book's second collection of proverbs by Solomon (chapters 25-29). Proverbs 25:1 says these latest proverbs of Solomon were “compiled by the men of Hezekiah king of Judah”; he ruled in about 715-686 BC. This tells us that (a) Solomon's proverbs were still available or in circulation more than two centuries after his death, and (b) the book of Proverbs did not achieve its final, current form until at least Hezekiah's time.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS — Summit View Church of Christ

**Date:** about 930-970 BC (the mention of King Hezekiah in Proverbs 25:1 indicates that Proverbs came into its final form no earlier than his reign, about 715-686 BC)

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Proverbs 24-25

**Kids' Reading\*:** Proverbs 26

### MAY 26 PROVERBS 27-29

**Today's reading** finishes the second collection of Solomon's proverbs. Beware the early-morning curse (27:14)! Watch out for ungodly rulers (28:3, 28:12, 28:15, etc.)! Remember God's justice (29:13, 29:26)!

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**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Proverbs 28-29

**Kids' Reading\*:** Proverbs 27

### MAY 27 PROVERBS 30-31 • ECCLESIASTES 1-2

**Today's reading** presents the sayings of Agur (chapter 30) and of King Lemuel (31:1-9); we don't know who these men were, but their wisdom is apparent from these sayings they left us. Then Proverbs ends with a portrait of the "woman of noble character" (31:10-31), exemplifying the impact of a life lived by wisdom. Next we move into Ecclesiastes (from the Greek *ekklesia*, "assembly," which itself comes from the original Hebrew word describing the author in 1:1—it means something like "leader of the assembly"). Ecclesiastes is the speaker's study of the meaning of life, particularly in light of death and of God's authority. Watch the author search for life's true meaning in various activities—but does he find it?

**Date:** about 930-970 BC (the mention of King Hezekiah in Proverbs 25:1 indicates that Proverbs came into its final form no earlier than his reign, about 715-686 BC); perhaps between 946 and 930 BC (Ecclesiastes)

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Proverbs 31 • Ecclesiastes 1-2

**Kids' Reading\*:** Proverbs 31

### MAY 28 ECCLESIASTES 3-6

**Today's reading** considers the futility of hard work, accomplishment, and wealth; death eventually takes away all their benefits. Notice what Ecclesiastes says here about God: he judges all people (3:17) and gives real joy and purpose (3:13, 5:19-20), though not through wealth (6:2). What makes life truly fulfilling?

**Date:** perhaps between 946 and 930 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Ecclesiastes 3-6

**Kids' Reading\*:** Ecclesiastes 1 • Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 • Ecclesiastes 5:8-20

#### Parents' Guide

##### PG preview for young children

Pr 19:25 (V), 29 (V)

Pr 20:20 (T), 30 (V)

Pr 21:16 (T)

Pr 22:14 (S)

Pr 23:2 (V), 13-14 (V), 27-28 (S),  
29-35 (T)

Pr 24:11-12 (T)

Pr 26:3 (V)

Pr 29:3 (S)

Pr 30:11-17 (T), 17 (V), 20 (S), 33  
(V)

Pr 31:4-7 (T)

Ecc 2:8 (S), 10-23 (T)

Ecc 3:18-21 (T)

Ecc 4:1-4 (T)

Ecc 5:15-17 (T), 15 (N)

Ecc 6:3-6 (T)

##### PG-13 preview for under age 13

none

##### R shocking, graphic, or disturbing

none

C = Circumcision

N = Nudity

S = Sexuality

T = Dark/Sensitive Themes

V = Violence