

THE COLLECTIONS OF SAYINGS IN PROVERBS

April 2021

Section 1 — APPEALS TO SEEK WISDOM (chapters 1-9)

1:1 — This book contains the proverbs of _____ son of _____, king of _____.

One key theme in this section is the fear of the Lord:

- 1:7 — The fear of the Lord is the beginning of _____, but fools despise _____ and _____.
- 1:24-29 — Those who reject wisdom will, when calamity strikes them (verse 27), call out to her, but she will not answer, because they hated _____ and did not choose to _____ the Lord.
- 2:1-5 — If you pursue wisdom, you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the _____ of God.
- 3:7 — Do not be _____ in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun _____.
- 8:13 — To fear the Lord is to hate _____.
- 9:10 — The fear of the Lord is the beginning of _____, and knowledge of the Holy One is _____.

Section 2 — THE PROVERBS OF SOLOMON (10:1 to 22:16)

10:1 — This section is introduced simply as the proverbs of _____.

Several styles of proverbs are represented in this section. Here are some of the most common:

- *Contrast Proverbs* — These proverbs contrast two different types of people, situations, ideas, etc. For example, what types of sons are contrasted in 10:1? How do they impact their parents differently?
- *Statement Proverbs* — These proverbs convey wisdom through simple statements of fact or observations on life. For example, what does 10:18 observe about people who hide hatred with lies and slander others?
- *Restatement Proverbs* — These proverbs say something, then say it again a little differently, reinforcing and sometimes amplifying the initial message. For example, what message is spoken and then restated somewhat differently in 10:10?
- *Comparison Proverbs* — These proverbs compare one thing to another thing. They often use a structure like, “This is like that,” or “As that, so this,” to set up the desired comparison. For example, 10:26 considers sluggards who are sent to do something. To what are they compared?
- *Better-Than Proverbs* — These proverbs use a “Better this than that” structure to contrast a more desirable thing with a less desirable thing, calling the reader to seek the more desirable thing. For example, what is better than what in 15:17?

Match the following proverbs to their types:

Proverbs 11:25
Proverbs 14:31
Proverbs 15:12
Proverbs 17:1
Proverbs 17:14

Better-Than Proverb
Comparison Proverb
Contrast Proverb
Statement Proverb
Restatement Proverb

Section 3 — THIRTY SAYINGS OF THE WISE (22:17 to 24:22)

A distinct collection of thirty wise sayings is marked in 22:17-21. We don't know who wrote these sayings, whether Solomon or someone else; no author is named. Taking 22:17-21 as the first saying...

- *Saying #4 (22:26-27) instructs us not to...*
- *Saying #13 (23:13-14) instructs us not to...*
- *Saying #19 (23:29-35) describes the ridiculous experiences of a person who...*

Section 4 — MORE SAYINGS OF THE WISE (24:23-34)

24:23 marks off this section.

- 24:26 — What is an honest answer like?

Section 5 — MORE PROVERBS OF SOLOMON (chapters 25-29)

25:1 — The following proverbs come from _____ and were compiled by the men of _____ king of Judah (he was a twelfth-generation descendant of Solomon and lived about 250 years after Solomon).

Some of the proverbs of this section seem to fit together with the proverbs around them. For example...

- 25:16-17 — These two verses seem to go together. What do they say about how often you should visit your neighbor, and why?
- 25:28 to 26:3 — What do these proverbs together say about a person who lacks self-discipline?

The proverbs of this section are often more complex than Solomon's proverbs of chapters 10-22. For example, what do you think the combination of 26:4 and 26:5 is trying to teach us?

Section 6 — SAYINGS OF AGUR (chapter 30)

30:1 introduces this section.

30:7-9 — What two things did Agur ask of the Lord?

30:24-28 — What are the four small things that are extremely wise?

Section 7 — SAYINGS OF KING LEMUEL (31:1-9)

31:1 — Where did King Lemuel learn the sayings in this section?

31:2-9 — List 2 or 3 things these sayings say kings should, or should not, do.

Section 8 — THE WIFE OF NOBLE CHARACTER (31:10-31)

We don't know whether this section should be considered part of the Sayings of King Lemuel or whether it is intended as a separate section. Either way, it forms a fitting ending to Proverbs, recalling Lady Wisdom from the early chapters and illustrating the benefits of living according to godly wisdom.

- Recall from chapters 1-9 the emphasis on fearing the Lord. Now 31:30 says, "Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who _____ is to be praised."