

Outlines - Proverbs

Intro: Tonight we find ourselves almost a third of the way through the bible and tonight we've arrived at the 20th book of the bible - the book of Proverbs which along with Job/Psalm/Ecclesiastes make up the wisdom books

Here's a question - Why are these wisdom books especially the book of proverbs so important?

I. Well think about this - We live in the information age

A. *Everyday 2.2 trillion text messages are sent everyday*

B. *600000-1000000 books are published every year*

C. *40000 google searches every second*

D. *Trillions of hours of Netflix is streamed every year*

E. *Our celebrities are more philosophical than ever before*

F. **But here's the truth** - *We have all this access to information and opinions...yet we are still broken...i think reality proves that the wisdom of this world is broken*

G. **That's why proverbs is so important** - *It's wisdom from outside of this broken world - "Here are laws from Heaven for life on Earth... Here are counsels from above for conduct here below."*

(Prop) So tonight, we're gonna outline proverbs and break it into 3 sections

1. *Chapters 1-9 Introduction and poems*

2. *Chapters 10-29 The bulk of the ancient sayings*

3. *Chapters 30-31 We see how to respond to proverbs*

Chapters 1- 9

I. Introduction to Proverbs

Proverbs 1:1–9 (ESV) ¹ The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: ²

So here we see the author, King Solomon the son of David, Next to Jesus he would be considered the wisest man who every lived, when he became king, God came too him and said “what do you want? I’ll give you anything, He said, I want wisdom” so God gave his wisdom and everything else... 1 kings 3 we’ll learn about all of his wealth next week

Next we see the reason for proverbs...

v.2 To know wisdom and instruction to understand words of insight

*So here’s the reason for the book of proverbs...**to know wisdom**, to most people, when they think of wisdom they think of knowledge, but the wisdom spoken about here is more than that -*

- A. this word for wisdom here is the Hebrew word “Hok - Much” It’s about more then just head knowledge, it’s about practical skill and ability to navigate through life...this word was used in reference to the craftsmen and artist (31:1-3)...so theres a practicality to it*

*³ to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; ⁴ to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth — ⁵ Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, ⁶ to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles. ⁷ **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.***

***Notice what all of this wisdom is linked too...The fear of the Lord**, He says it’s the beginning of wisdom - *That word beginning can also be translated as “Chief part or head” this word is used to describe the head of a body, the chief of a family, the cornerstone of a building**

A. **What does it mean to fear the Lord?** - To Fear the Lord means to have a healthy sense of reverence and awe for the Lord...

1. This is God speaking through Solomon essentially saying “wisdom begins with me!”
2. It’s not nearly intellectual...It’s moral
3. A mindset that is willing to submit to the way he describes life and vales even when it’s inconvenient or even painful for us

So the bulk of proverbs are little sayings that can be memorized and lived out throughout one’s life...but the rest of this first section is personalized - A Father speaking to his son, and Wisdom personified as a nurturing mother

II. 10 Speeches from a Father to a son

Proverbs 1:8–9 (ESV) ⁸ Hear, my son, your father’s instruction, and forsake not your mother’s teaching, ⁹ for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

Here the we have this father speaking to his son, was this Solomon speaking to his son? don’t know for sure...but the just of it is that the Father is encouraging his to be be a learner and pursue wisdom because of the tremendous benefit it will have on his life

A. *He speaks to his son about things like the importance of a strong work ethic, and how he shouldn’t get involved in financial endeavors with those who with unbelievers because they have a different set of ethics then he would*

B. He speaks to his son about the power and seduction of an adulteress women - *Proverbs 5:1–6 (ESV) ¹ My son, be attentive to my wisdom; incline your ear to my understanding, ² that you may keep discretion, and your lips may guard knowledge. ³ For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and **her speech is smoother than oil,** ⁴ but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-*

edged sword. ⁵ Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol; ⁶ she does not ponder the path of life; her ways wander, and she does not know it.

a) *If you read 5-7 you get the sense that this Father has been effected by this adulterous woman...but you also get the sense, that he doesn't want his son falling to the some trap as he did.*

(1) *He doesn't demonize sex but he equips his son with a realistic understanding of Satan's tactics - Smooth speech - dressed like a prostitute - cunning of heart - available - hunting*

(2) *He goes on to say - "Sex is great, but God designed it to be enjoyed in the context of a committed marriage covenant" (5:15-20)*

III. Lady Wisdom (1,3,8,9)

Proverbs 1:20–23 (ESV) ²⁰ Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; ²¹ at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: ²² "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? ²³ If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you.

A. *Over and over again you hear this Father begging his son to chase after wisdom and fear the lord and make it his highest goal in Life*

B. **Here's a question:** *If God's wisdom is there for the taking, and not following is detrimental to us...why is it then we don't follow God's wisdom? - Because we don't want to be told we're wrong - Reproof means correction...*

1. **App:** *God's wisdom is only helpful to you if your humble enough to admit you don't know what your doing on your own...Humble yourself*

Now, in theres tow sets of speeches from the father and lady wisdom, you get the sense that you're not just getting some advice, but you're actually getting an invitation from God to be informed by his divine wisdom which will serve you well in this life

I. Chapters 10-29 - The bulk of proverbs

This section is filled with hundreds of ancient proverbs applying wisdom and the fear of the Lord to the practical dealings of everyday life...let's look at a few categories

A. Friendships

1. *What to look for in a friendship - Proverbs 13:20 (ESV) ²⁰ Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.*
 - a) *God's wisdom*
2. *How to ruin a friendship - Proverbs 16:28 (ESV) ²⁸ A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.*
 - a) *If you can't trust them...you'll truly be close to them*
3. *How to be a good friend - Proverbs 17:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity*
 - a) *Good friends stay when things are hard*

B. Finances

1. **Work Hard** - *Proverbs 13:4 (ESV) ⁴ The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.*

- a) *We weren't created for Laziness*
- 2. **The danger of get rich quick schemes** - *Proverbs 13:11 (ESV)* ¹¹
Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it.
- 3. **Riches aren't the most important thing** - *Proverbs 16:8 (ESV)* ⁸
Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice.

C. Marriage

- 1. **The importance of a good woman** - *Proverbs 12:4 (ESV)* ⁴
An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who brings shame is like rotteness in his bones.
 - a) *This is how important a good spouse is...it can make or break you*
- 2. **Fighting advice** - *Proverbs 17:14 (ESV)* ¹⁴
The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so quit before the quarrel breaks out
 - a) *If you know you have to totally different opinions on something, and it's a non essential issue...scrap it before the dam breaks and you get washed away*

D. Family

- 1. **The fear of the Lord makes at the best foundation** - *Proverbs 14:26 (ESV)* ²⁶
In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge.
 - a) *The greatest thing we could offer our kids is loves and an authentic example of what it looks like to love Jesus*
- 2. **The most important element in a home** - *Proverbs 15:17 (ESV)* ¹⁷
Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and hatred with it.
 - a) *Love makes you rich*

3. **Our over arching goal as Parents** - *Proverbs 22:6 (ESV) ⁶ Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

Super important - Now, it's always important to remember that these proverbs are principles not promises...It's likely that when you live with wisdom and the fear of the Lord, you will prosper, but it's not a guarantee ...and the wisdom literature is not ignorant of that...proverbs covers the principles to live by and Job and Ecclesiastes covers the exception to the rule...thats why it's important to gather them as a whole

Chapters 30 -31

The book of proverbs closes with the final 2 chapters being written by 2 different people

Chapter 30 - Agur

Proverbs 30:1–6 (ESV) ¹ The words of Agur son of Jakeh. The oracle. The man declares, I am weary, O God; I am weary, O God, and worn out. ² Surely I am too stupid to be a man. I have not the understanding of a man. ³ I have not learned wisdom, nor have I knowledge of the Holy One.

He's saying, I have no idea what to do as a man...and trying to figure it out by myself is absolutely exhausting

But then look what He says...

*⁴ Who has ascended to heaven and come down? Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has wrapped up the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son's name? Surely you know! ⁵ **Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.** ⁶ **Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar.***

What the answer to the question? Jesus is the answer to the question

A. 1st Corinthians 1:24 Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God

B. We know – Colossians 2:3 tells us – In Jesus are hidden all the treasures of wisdom of knowledge.

C. This guys Agar says, “I don’t really Know how to live...But Jesus does, so i’m gonna live my life according to his word because limited in my understanding, but He’s limitless, and he’s offered me his wisdom...

- 1. **App:** It’s important to understand...Wisdom is not guaranteed though age...it’s a choice...Wisdom is not guaranteed though a degree...Wisdom is not be legislated or passed down though your family tree...Wisdom starts when a person choses to incline their ear to God’s voice and obey what he’s telling us to do*
- 2. Agur is really presenting for us the type of heart you need in order to benefit from this book...and the bible in general...**we need to hear***

But hearing on it’s own is not enough...Chapter 31 tells us what else we need

Chapter 31 - Lemuel

This guy is a non Israelite king who has been taught by his mother...and the first few verses are instruction on how to rule well...but then lays before us this women who is a picture of what we need to do with the wisdom founding the book of Proverbs

Proverbs 31:10–31 (ESV) ¹⁰ An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. ¹¹ The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. ¹² She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. ¹³ She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. ¹⁴ She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar. ¹⁵ She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens. ¹⁶ She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. ¹⁷ She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong. ¹⁸ She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does

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not go out at night. ¹⁹ She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. ²⁰ She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy. ²¹ She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet. ²² She makes bed coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple. ²³ Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land. ²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant. ²⁵ Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. ²⁶ She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. ²⁷ She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. ²⁸ Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: ²⁹ "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." ³⁰ Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. ³¹ Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

What we see this this incredible women is something thats applicable to both genders...Not only did she have the right heart to hear God's wisdom...But she applied it to her life.

Conclusion: *And thats point of the book of proverbs, God's wisdom is available, God's wisdom is essential to living a rich and abundant life here and now...But you have to be humble enough to listen, and willing to obey...thats how proverbs will be beneficial to you*