

A Visitor's Guide to the Old Testament

The Book of Proverbs

I. God's grace in the Proverbs

- A. Practical
- B. A handbook

II. Authorship and Arrangement

- A. As with Song of Songs/Solomon, an obvious conclusion
- B. Unusual authors
- C. The arrangement of Proverbs

III. What is a proverb

- A. Generally short and pithy
- B. Brevity accomplished with poetic license

1. How it looks in Hebrew (7 words)

תְּחִלַּת חִכְמָה יִרְאַת יְהוָה וְדַעַת קְדָשִׁים בִּינָה:
תְּחִלַּת חִכְמָה יִרְאַת יְהוָה וְדַעַת קְדָשִׁים בִּינָה:
understanding Holy knowledge LORD fear wisdom beginning

2. How it comes out translated (19 words)

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

3. Well-known through teaching

IV. Today's challenges

- A. Obscure
- B. Spend time on the imagery
- C. Surprises and blessings (some suggestions on how to read Proverbs)

Outline of the Book of Proverbs

Theme: The Fear of the LORD is the Beginning of Wisdom

(adapted from NET/God's Word to the Nations translation, © 1991)

- I. Title (1:1); Purpose (1:2-6); and Theme (1:7; cf. 9:10)**
- II. "Knowledge, Wisdom, and Understanding" Call Out (1:8-9:18)**
 - A. Ten urgent appeals (1:8-7:27)
 - 1. First appeal (1:8-33)
 - 2. Second appeal (2:1-22)
 - 3. Third appeal (3:1-35)
 - 4. Fourth appeal (4:1-9)
 - 5. Fifth appeal (4:10-19)
 - 6. Sixth appeal (4:20-27)
 - 7. Seventh appeal (5:1-23)
 - 8. Eighth appeal (6:1-19)
 - 9. Ninth appeal (6:20-35)
 - 10. Tenth appeal (7:1-27)
 - B. Wisdom's sevenfold call (8:1-9:18)
 - 1. Wisdom's "divine call" (8:1-11)
 - 2. Wisdom's self-description (8:12-21)
 - 3. Wisdom's eternal existence (8:22-31)
 - 4. Wisdom's warning (8:32-36)
 - 5. Wisdom's invitation (9:1-6)
 - 6. Wisdom's effect (9:7-12)
 - 7. Wisdom's opponent (9:13-18)
- III. The Proverbs of Solomon (10:1-22:16)**
 - A. Set 1: Description of a wise son (10:1-12:28)
 - B. Set 2: Description of a wise son (13:1-15:19)
 - C. Set 3: Description of a wise son (15:20-17:24)
 - D. Set 4: Description of a foolish son (17:25-19:12)
 - E. Set 5: Description of a foolish son (19:13-25)
 - F. Set 6: Description of a foolish son (19:26-22:16)
- IV. The Words of the Wise (22:17-24:34)**
 - A. Opening comments (22:17-24:34)
 - B. Practical advice (22:22-24:22)
 - C. Closing comments (24:23-34)
- V. The Proverbs of Solomon Copied Out by the "Men of Hezekiah" (25:1-29:27)**
- VI. The Words of Agur (30:1-33)**
- VII. The Counsel of Lemuel's Mother (31:1-9)**
- VIII. A "ABC's" of the Wife with Strength of Character (31:10-31)**

Questions for the Book of Proverbs

1. The first six verses provide a thorough understanding of what Proverbs gives us. The wisdom that Proverbs teaches is not abstract book learning but practical principles that help us live our lives under God in a proper way. Look at each phrase in verses 1-6 that describes what the book of Proverbs is “for.” Try to define each phrase in your own words.
 - a. “attaining wisdom and discipline” (1:2)
 - b. “understanding words of insight” (1:2)
 - c. “acquiring a disciplined and prudent life” (1:3)
 - d. “doing what is right and just and fair” (1:3)
 - e. “giving prudence to the simple” (1:4)
 - f. “giving . . . knowledge and discretion to the young” (1:4)
 - g. “understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise” (1:6)
2. “The fear of the LORD” (1:7) is the reverence, love, and respect we have for the Lord because of his greatness and goodness. Why does wisdom begin here?
3. What instruction does wisdom give children? (1:8-33)
4. What are the sinners tempting the righteous to do? (1:8-33)
5. What does wisdom tell the righteous to do? (1:8-33)
6. How does “ill-gotten gain” take away the lives of those who get it? (1:19)
7. Wisdom is now personified. She is seen walking in the streets and calling out in the marketplace and in the conference chamber of the city counsel—in other words, wherever people can be found. What warning does she give? What encouragement does she give? (1:20-33)
8. Look carefully at each action wisdom encourages us to do. As you do this, think of specific ways you can do what wisdom says. (2)
9. Where alone does wisdom come from? (2:6) What is the heart and core of all wisdom? (2:5)
10. Look first at verses 12-15 and then at verses 16-19. Which are the two main things against which wisdom will guard us? What is the “victory” (verse 7) that wisdom will give us? (2)

11. Wisdom encourages us to follow her. Read verses 3:1-10. What blessings does the person receive who follows wisdom?
 - a. verses 1,2
 - b. verses 3,4
 - c. verses 5,6
 - d. verses 7,8
 - e. verses 9,10
12. What further blessing is spoken of in 3:11,12?
13. In 3:13-18, Solomon heaps praise on wisdom. Look at each description of wisdom.
14. Some people equate wisdom with the second person of the Trinity. Read John 1:1-3, and then comment on that idea. (3:19-35)
15. Name all the blessings listed in verses 3:21-26, which the Lord will give to the person who finds wisdom. (3:19-35)
16. Most of Proverbs consists of short sentences that give wisdom. What wisdom does Solomon give us in verses 3:27-32? (3:19-35)
17. Look up 2 Chronicles 1:7-10. What did Solomon ask for when he became king after his father's death? Compare his request to verses 5-9 of this chapter. How did the course of Solomon's life bear out the truths in verses 5-9? (4)
18. The book of Proverbs contains a fair amount of repetition, which we need. Verses 10-19 repeat Solomon's warning against casting your lot with evil people. How does Solomon describe the eagerness of wicked people to do what is wrong? (4)
19. In 5:3-6, Solomon describes the adulterous woman. What does he say about her?
20. What is the first line of defense in avoiding sexual temptation? (5:8)
21. What will happen to the person whose life is bound up with adultery and other sexual sins? (5)
22. On the positive side, what does Solomon tell us to do in 5:15-17?
23. Historically, some Christians disparaged and avoided sexual intimacy between husbands and wives, equating it with lust. How does Solomon correct that idea in 5:18 and 19?
24. How would you compare Solomon's view of casual sex or the use of pornography with the view portrayed in today's media?

25. What good does it do to warn and instruct our youth about these matters when so much of what we say goes in one ear and out the other?
26. How can a person “keep to a path far from her” (that is, far from the temptation to sexual sin, verse 8) when these temptations are everywhere we turn?
27. Instruction is given to a person who puts up his or her own property as security for another person’s loan. Such an act would probably be done in a weak moment when one’s emotions got the better of him or her. What should that person do? (6:1-5)
28. What wisdom can we learn from an ant? (6:6-8)
29. Some people find themselves in a state of poverty through no fault of their own. However, some bring themselves to poverty. What wisdom does Solomon give to the person who is tempted to be lazy? (6:9-11)
30. Look at each characteristic of the wicked scoundrel described in 6:12-15. Do you understand what each refers to?
31. Look at the seven things the Lord hates. What words describe God’s attitude toward the actions of a scoundrel? (6:16-19)
32. What does Solomon want us to do with his words of instruction in Proverbs (as well as with the wise instruction of all fathers and mothers)? (6:20-23)
33. In verse 24, Solomon warns against two kinds of women. What are they? (6:24)
34. The Lord forgives the sin of adultery as he forgives other sins. But what kind of punishments is Solomon referring to in 6:27-29?
35. How does Solomon compare and contrast stealing with adultery? (6:30,31)
36. In chapter 6, Solomon used various pictures to describe how closely we should bind wisdom to ourselves. What additional pictures does he use in 7:1-5? How does this help you understand the value of the book of Proverbs? (7)
37. Once again, Solomon moves from the value of wisdom to its ability to keep us from sexual immorality. He presents a detailed and vivid description of how a young man who did not listen to the teachings of his parents became trapped by a loose woman and the tragic results. What value is there in such a vivid picture? (7)
38. What foolish things did the young man do that contributed to his temptation? (7)
39. Work through the story. How did the wife seduce the young man? (7)
40. How does Solomon describe the young man’s activity of going along with her? (7)
41. Why is “where the paths meet” (verse 2) a good place for wisdom to stand?

42. In this world, corruption, vice, and injustice run rampant. List some of the characteristics of wisdom. (8:6-9, 12-21)
43. How valuable is wisdom compared to the other valuable things in this world? (8:11)
44. Not only is wisdom better than earthly wealth, wisdom is a source of physical blessings. What are some of the things wisdom gains for those who have her? (8:1-21)
45. A person says, "I am foolish and simple. The Lord could never make me wise, even if he wanted to." Evaluate that statement on the basis of verses 4 and 5.
46. Is our biggest problem in life to know what is right or to do what is right? Explain.
47. To what extent can unbelievers live and act according to wisdom?
48. When did wisdom come into being? (8:22-26)
49. Note 8:27-29. What did wisdom see God do?
50. What role did wisdom play in God's creating activity according to 8:30?
51. How did wisdom feel about the results of God's creative efforts? (8:30,31)
52. God created this world according to a specific plan, wisdom's blueprint. What is God's will for us as we go through life? (8:32-35)
53. What is the result of living according to wisdom? of ignoring wisdom? (8:22-36)
54. Who especially needs to listen to and follow the call of wisdom? (9:4)
55. Where is the house where we can find the "food" and "wine" that wisdom offers at her banquet (9:1-6)?
56. What is the "food and drink" wisdom has to offer? (9)
57. In 9:7-9, Solomon encourages us to be wise people and to listen to his instruction. How do the wise and foolish differ in the ways they listen to and accept wisdom?
58. In what ways does Folly imitate wisdom? (9:13-18)
59. What does Folly mean when she says, "Stolen water is sweet" (9:17)?
60. What does it mean that "the dead" are in the house of Folly (9:18)?
61. What are two ways that parents can feel about the behavior of their children? (10:1,5)
62. What does 2 say about righteousness and unrighteousness?

63. 10:4 and 10:26 deal with diligence and laziness. Look at 10:26. How is a lazy person who is sent on an errand like “vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes”? (Hint: What do vinegar and smoke have in common?)
64. Solomon often speaks about the speech of the righteous and the wicked. What do you picture in your mind when you read 10:8?
65. Have you experienced the truth of 10:12? If so, share this with the class.
66. 10:22 speaks about riches. Solomon speaks about another blessing that the Lord gives. What is that?
67. Most proverbs describe the difference between the righteous and the wicked. 10:15, however, simply describes a reality, something we should bear in mind. What situation is described in 10:15?
68. Can you name a time in your life when you experienced a situation when weights and measures were used against you? (11)
69. How could pride lead to disgrace? (11:2)
70. What point does Solomon make in 11:4?
71. According to 11:10, who benefits from righteousness?
72. According to 11:16, what is more valuable, respect or money?
73. What is the point of comparison between “a gold ring in a pig’s snout” (11:22) and a beautiful woman who shows poor judgment?
74. 11:24-26 talk about generosity. What observations does Solomon make? What general instruction is there for us in his words?
75. Why is a person who hates correction “stupid”? (12: 1)
76. Give the reasoning behind what Solomon says in 12:3.
77. What characteristics does a wife of “noble character” possess? (12:4)
78. How does Solomon compare the sensitive heart of the righteous person with the heart of the wicked person? (12)
79. What are examples of ways in which a person “chases fantasies” in an effort to strike it rich (12:11)? What should we do instead?
80. Why does a prudent man listen to advice? (12:15)

81. What word in 12:22 expresses how God feels about a person who lies? Have you always thought of lying as being that serious?
82. Watching carefully what you say is a major theme in Proverbs. How does guarding one's lips serve to guard one's life? (13:3)
83. Why do you think Solomon says the sluggard "craves" but the diligent person "desires"? (13:4)
84. 13:7 says that some people pretend to be rich, some to be poor. Why would someone pretend to be rich? Why would someone pretend to be poor?
85. According to 13:8, what is the advantage of being poor?
86. What does 13:20 tell us about choosing friends?
87. Spanking has become politically incorrect, but God's Word recommends it (13:24). For what situations is spanking appropriate? When is it not appropriate?
88. Poor people can be victims of circumstances beyond their control (13:23). But some are poor through their own faults. Find verses in this chapter that point out how they may have failed.
89. Have the changing standards of family life changed how a wise woman will build her house? (14)
90. The wicked man hatches what seems to be a solid plan, but it leads only to his own ruin. Apply this to whenever human wisdom is used to determine spiritual truth. Where will it end? How does this apply to what is taught in your church? (14:12)
91. What is one of the best gifts parents can give to their children? (14: 26)
92. What does envy do to a person? (14:30) Explain. See also James 4:1,2.
93. What is the believer's "refuge" in times of calamity and death? (14:32)
94. How can you as a Christian exalt our nation with your righteousness? (14:34)
95. Suppose you are in your car and another driver cuts you off. What do you naturally feel like doing? What does 15:1 have to say about this?
96. How does 15:3 contribute to instilling in us "the fear of the LORD?"
97. What is the treasure in the house of the righteous? Why does the income of the wicked merely bring them trouble? (15)
98. How does the Lord view people who are "religious" (offering prayers, sacrifices, and offerings) but continue to live in unrepented sin? (15:8)

99. What do 15:16 and 17 teach us about striving to acquire wealth?
100. Several verses in this chapter (15:10,12,31,32) refer to the ways a person reacts to correction. Summarize what they say.
101. Some people always want to make sure they get recognition and honor for what they do. What is a better path to honor? (15:33)
102. Explain 16:2 in your own words.
103. What will happen when you put every undertaking into the Lord's hands? (16:3) How does verse 4 support your answer?
104. According to 16:6, how is sin atoned for? Explain this as it might happen in a family situation. Who can make atonement for his or her sins before God?
105. How might 16:7 help you when one of your enemies is giving you a hard time?
106. Who is more admired in this world, someone with money or with wisdom? Who is admired more, an entertainment/sports hero or a person who can control himself? What does 16:16 say about this?
107. Read 16:25. What way "seems right" to a person contemplating an unscriptural divorce? to someone with an unplanned pregnancy? to someone who feels his or her employer has cheated him or her out of some pay?
108. Have you ever been secretly happy when you heard bad news about someone? (17:5) What makes a person feel that way?
109. Note the wonderful way parents and children benefit one another. What does Solomon mean by "crown" and "pride"? (17:6)
110. What are people tempted to do when they hear gossip? What happens because of this? (17:9) According to this verse, what should you do instead?
111. What often happens to little quarrels? Is it always best to "drop the matter" (17:14) and leave it unresolved? Now read 17:27. How can you keep a small matter from becoming a major dispute?
112. The Lord wants justice to be served. Compare the way this concern is expressed in 17:15, 23, and 26. Why might an official be "flog[ged]" (17:26) for doing a just and honorable thing? (17:23 gives a reason.)
113. Why is "keep[ing] silent" advised in 17:28? How does James express this idea in James 1:19?
114. Have you ever been at a meeting where one person gives his or her opinion on every issue? (18:2) Have you ever been that person? What are some dangers in doing this?

115. Why are the words of a gossip labeled “choice morsels”? (18:8)
116. A person once said that a gossip always has three victims. Can you guess who they are? How is each one harmed? (18)
117. What warning does Solomon give the rich in 18:11?
118. What rude behavior is exposed in 18:13? Why do people do that? What does this indicate about a person?
119. What helps a person deal with an illness or a handicap? (18:14) How can you develop that spirit?
120. What advice is Solomon giving us in view of the observation in 18:17?
121. What two blessings does Solomon speak of in 18:22 and 24?
122. What does 19:2 encourage us to do?
123. When people have troubles in life, whom are they quick to blame? (19:3) What may actually be the cause of their trouble?
124. According to 19:5, 9, 15, 16, 19, and 29, what will be the outcome for those who live unrighteously? Does it discourage you when you don't see this happening? How do you deal with that?
125. What should be the first thing a young person does when he or she thinks about marriage? (19:14)
126. Some people don't want to give to the poor because they will get nothing in return. How does 19:17 put everything into perspective?
127. An old aphorism says, “Man proposes, God disposes.” Find a verse in this chapter that contains that thought. (19)
128. What is a person encouraged to do in 20:4 and 13 in order to prosper in life?
129. How can a person lead a “blameless life” (20:7) although Solomon made it clear that no one can say, “I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin”? (20:9)
130. When does living an upright life begin? What does that tell you about the faith of children? (20:11)
131. According to 20:15, what is more precious than gold or rubies?
132. Why is it not necessary to take revenge for some wrong done to you? (20:22)

133. How might verse 21 apply to parents who give their children everything they ask for? to a person who wins the lottery? to a person who receives a windfall inheritance at a young age?
134. Every age of life has its advantages. (verse 29) What advantage is there in being a young child? a young adult? a retired person?
135. What word or words would you use today to replace the word sacrifice in 21:3?
136. If you are driving in your car and see someone pulled over for speeding, what do you instinctively do? How does that apply to 21:11? Can you think of other examples?
137. According to 21:13, what will happen to the person who had an opportunity to help someone but didn't do it? What will that person probably think about later?
138. What application does Paul make to 21:15 in Romans 13:3,4?
139. How might loving "pleasure" and loving "wine and oil" (21:17) make someone poor?
140. What does 21:20 suggest that a wise person will do with some of his or her money?
141. What word or words could replace horse if 21:31 was written in the 21st century? What point is being made in this verse?
142. Why should the rich not despise the poor? (22:2) What example of this do we find in James 2:2-4? Do you see any signs of this in the church today?
143. Why do "humility" and "fear of the LORD" make good partners? (22:4)
144. 22:6 is probably the most quoted verse from the book of Proverbs. How do these words encourage parents?
145. According to 22:7, what should you try to avoid? Even if you do not borrow, what do 22:26 and 27 warn against? Why?
146. Why does a "sluggard" say the preposterous things mentioned in 22:13?
147. How might 22:3 be applied to the kind of church a person chooses to attend and join?
148. What might a naïve person begin to think when he or she is invited to dinner by someone important? Why should this person be careful? (23:1-3)
149. Why is wealth, or riches, such a poor goal to have in life? (23:4,5)
150. A child who is being spanked might scream bloody murder, but Solomon assures parents that their child "will not die." (verse 13) But how might failing to punish a child in an appropriate way actually lead to his or her death, both physical and spiritual? (23:14)

151. Parents are often quick to criticize, correct, and punish their children. But what should they also remember to do even more often? (23:15,16) What would you say to a parent who says, "I would like to praise my child, but I can't find a reason to do it"?
152. Solomon describes a pure heart in 23:17. What contrast does Solomon make? What gives a person a pure heart?
153. What makes parents proud of their children? (23:22-25)
154. 23:29 contains several rhetorical questions. Instead of asking for answers, what are the questions suggesting about people who abuse alcohol? Read the entire section through 23:35. What sad question does Solomon record at the end of 23:35?
155. Compare 24:1 with Psalm 37:1,2. What might cause someone to envy sinners? Why is it foolish to do that?
156. What kind of "house" might wisdom build besides a physical dwelling? What kind of treasures will fill the "rooms" of the house? (24:3,4)
157. What makes a wise man so powerful? (24:5)
158. Give examples of times when people were being "led away to death" while others claimed that "we knew nothing about this." (24:11,12) What threat is made against those who dishonestly claim ignorance? What would you tell a person who is burdened with guilt because of these verses?
159. According to 24:10, when will it become clear whether or not you are a person of strength? What does this suggest a person should do before times of trouble come?
160. Why is it important to "get your fields ready" before "build[ing] your house"? (24:27) What is the general principle here that applies to other areas of life as well?
161. What practical application does 25:2 have for present-day scientists?
162. What bad reputation will one gain who "betray[s] another man's confidence"? (25:9)
163. 25:7 and 8 give us wisdom as witnesses to a crime. What is that wisdom?
164. How is the rebuke of a wise man like an earring or ornament of gold? (25:12)
165. What practical application might 25:20 have on a nursing-home visit?
166. Martin Luther quoted an old proverb that said, "Friends are thieves of time." 25:17 says much the same thing. Are there people in your life who visit but never leave? Could you be one of those people? Could this apply to your children who are always at someone else's house? or to your use of the telephone? or to instant messages on the computer?

167. What will likely happen if you do nice things to someone who has been your enemy? (25:21) Even if this doesn't work, what promise is given in 25:22? See Romans 12:20.
168. 26:4 and 5 seem to be contradictory. Can you reconcile these verses?
169. Describe a person who is "wise in his own eyes." (26:12 and 16)
170. "Don't stick your nose where it doesn't belong" is the advice of 26:17. What will happen if you do?
171. What do 26:18 and 19 tell us about playing practical jokes on others?
172. Explain the meaning of the proverb in 26:23.
173. Warnings against pride are common in Proverbs (see 26:12 for example). Is all pride sinful? Is there an appropriate pride? What will a proper pride always acknowledge?
174. Have you ever seen the abbreviation D.V.? It is sometimes used when a person writes that he or she is planning to go somewhere or do something. It stands for the Latin Deo volente, which means "God willing." What do you need to remember as you plan for the future? (27:1; see also James 4:13-16)
175. What are some modern proverbs that say the same things as 27:2?
176. Tough love is the opposite of "hidden love." In the context of 27:5, what would be the difference?
177. Why can the wounds of a friend be trusted? Why can't the kisses of your enemy be trusted? (27:6)
178. Suppose you invite a fellow church member to attend Bible class with you, and the person replies, "I read my Bible at home." How might 27:17 help you convince that person to come along with you?
179. How does 27:20 apply to pornography?
180. What does this mean: "Man is tested by the praise he receives"? (27:21)
181. Why are the wicked on the run when no one is chasing them? Why are the righteous always bold? (28:1)
182. Why is a country that has many rulers invariably a rebellious country? What is the solution? (28)
183. It's bad enough to sin. What is even worse? (28:10; see also Matthew 18:6)

184. 28:8 and 22 speak about a certain attitude toward money. What is that attitude, and what is the irony about what will happen to the stingy person?
185. You may have heard of people who turn themselves in years later after stealing something or killing someone. Since they seem to have gotten away with it, why do they turn themselves in? How do 28:1,13, and 17 help explain this?
186. A man who was nearing the end of his life came to his pastor to confess some sins he had committed 60 years earlier. He had confessed those sins many times on Sunday at worship and had heard the absolution. Why would he want to speak personally to his pastor? (28)
187. Name a special time when the sin referred to in 28:25 creates dissension among family members. How will a blameless person deal with the dissension?
188. The main goal of Christianity is to bring people to faith and salvation through Jesus. Yet there are side benefits for society. Which side benefit does Solomon speak of in 29:7?
189. What will cause a child who is left to himself or herself to “disgrace his mother”? (29:15)
190. Children left alone (29:15) have been called latchkey kids. What are some of the troubles they can get into when no one is around to supervise and discipline them? What will likely be the long-term effects on these children?
191. What may be necessary beyond “mere words” when correcting a servant or a child? (29:19) Why are mere words not enough?
192. Preaching and teaching God’s Word are vital. What happens when it is stopped or ignored? (29:18)
193. 29:25 and 26 speak about the relative importance we place on people and God. What two blessings come into our lives when we put our confidence in the Lord?
194. What are some of the many sins that a “hot-tempered” man may commit? (29:22)
195. What answer is expected to all five questions in 30:4? What message are these questions sending to people who claim to be so wise?
196. What do 30:5 and 6 tell us about Scripture?
197. Why is the prayer in 30:7-9 so important in our own day? What are the special dangers of both riches and poverty? What does Agur ask God to give him?
198. Four types of sinners are described in 30:11-14. In your own words, describe the failing of each. Why do you think Agur presents this list?

199. What warning does Agur give to children who disrespect their parents? (30)
200. 30:22 and 23 list four things that ought not to be. Can you state why Agur offers this list?
201. 30:24-28 are saying, "Don't underestimate small creatures. You can learn from them." What can we learn from each of the creatures mentioned in these verses?
202. Two things are the ruin of many kings. What are they? (31:3-5) Why are they dangerous?
203. Give examples of "those who cannot speak for themselves" and need to be defended. (31:8,9)
204. The woman described in this chapter has many good qualities. However, the qualities mentioned at the beginning (31:10) and the end (31:30) set the pace for all the other qualities listed here. What are those qualities?
205. Read the description of a wife of noble character. What about her impresses you the most? (31)
206. Your son is dating one of the most attractive girls at his school, but you are concerned because she is not a Christian, seems to have no goals, and says she dislikes school. Which verses in this chapter would help you discuss this situation with your son? (31)
207. Proverbs gives much godly advice. Agree or disagree: If a person conscientiously follows this advice, it will make him or her a better person. (31)

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Interesting Facts About Proverbs

MEANING: "Comparison, similar, parallel."
AUTHOR: The principle author is Solomon.

- Agur wrote chapter 30.
- Lemuel Wrote chapter 31 about the worthy woman.

TIME WRITTEN:

- Solomon's proverbs were written by 931 B.C.
- The proverbs in chapters 25-29 were collected by Hezekiah about 230 years later. Hezekiah reigned from 715 B.C. to 686 B.C.

POSITION IN THE BIBLE:

- 20th Book in the Bible
- 20th Book in the Old Testament
- 3rd of 5 Poetical books (Job - Song of Solomon)
- 46 Books to follow it.



CHAPTERS: 31

VERSES: 915

WORDS: 15,043

PROVERBS

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT PROVERBS:

- Concerning the proverbs of Solomon:
 - According to 1 Kings 4:32, Solomon spoke:
 - 3,000 proverbs.
 - 1,005 songs.
 - Only about 800 of Solomon's proverbs are included in this Book of Proverbs.
 - Therefore, 2,300 of his proverbs are not contained in the Book of Proverbs.
- There is no Biblical information about Agur or Lemuel.
- Solomon's great wisdom was well known during his day.
 - In 1 Kings 3:9-12, Solomon asked for wisdom and it was granted.
 - 1 Kings 10:24 - "Now all the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom which God had put in his heart."

■ The key word in Proverbs is "wisdom," meaning "the ability to live skillfully."

- "Wisdom" means skill.
- "Instruction" means discipline.
- Proverbs provides detailed instructions for His people to deal successfully with the practical affairs of everyday life.
 - How to relate to God.
 - How to relate to parents.
 - How to relate to neighbors.
 - How to relate to children.

■ The Book of Proverbs is designed to:

- Prevent ungodly life-styles.
- Remedy ungodly life-styles.
- Included in Proverbs is instruction regarding:

- Wisdom and folly
- Righteousness and wickedness
- The tongue and speech
- Pride and humility
- Justice and vengeance
- The family
- Laziness and work
- Poverty and wealth
- Friends and neighbors
- Love and lust
- Anger and strife
- Masters and servants
- Life and death
- Drunkenness

■ Proverbs 31 includes an acrostic of 22 verses (the first letter of each follows the complete Hebrew alphabet) portraying the virtuous woman.