

Proverbs – “The School of Wisdom”

From Whom: Solomon wrote all but two of the 31 chapters of this book. The Bible states that Solomon composed over 3,000 Proverbs (**1 Kings 4:32; Eccl. 12:9**), and the Book of Proverbs pulls together the most important 800 or so. Solomon was the son of David and Bathsheba (**2 Sam. 12:24**), Israel’s third king (**1 Kings 1:39**), and the world’s wisest man (**1 Kings 3:5-12**). **Chapter 30** reflects the words of **Agur** and **Chapter 31** the words of **Lemuel**, who some scholars believe was Solomon. Proverbs was not assembled in its final form until Hezekiah’s day or after.

To Whom: Everyone! To all who seek knowledge and wisdom

What/ Theme: The two major themes which are interwoven and overlapping throughout Proverbs are wisdom and folly.

Key Verse: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” (**Proverbs 1:7**)

A Short Summary (by Dr. J. Vernon McGee): The book of Proverbs tells a story. It is a picture of a young man starting out in life. Two schools bid for him, and both send out their literature. One is the school of wisdom and the other the school of fools. In chapter 8, the young man goes to the academy of Wisdom where he is taught in proverbs. From chapters 10 through 24, the young man is in the classroom of Wisdom.

PROVERBS AT A GLANCE						
Focus	Purpose Of Proverbs	Proverbs To Youth	Proverbs Of Solomon	Proverbs Of Solomon (Hezekiah)	Words Of Agur	Words Of Lemuel
Reference	1:1 ————— 1:8		10:1 ————— 25:1		30:1 ————— 31:1 ————— 31:31	
Division	Purpose And Theme	Father’s Exhortations	First Collection Of Solomon	Second Collection Of Solomon	Numerical Proverbs	Virtuous Wife
Topic	Prologue	Principles Of Wisdom			Epilogue	
	Commendation Of Wisdom	Counsel Of Wisdom			Comparisons Of Wisdom	
Location	Judah					
Time	c. 950–450 B.C.					

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Golden Nuggets

Many of our modern-day sayings have their root in the book of Proverbs. Some of these “paraphrased proverbs” are as follows:

- A bad penny always turns up (**27:22**)
- A bird in the hand is better than two in the bush (**27:10**)
- A fool’s tongue is always long enough to cut his throat (**12:16**)
- A word once uttered is beyond the reach of four galloping horses (**18:21**)
- As you sow, so you reap (**10:6**)
- Victory has many fathers, defeat is an orphan (**14:20**)
- Bite your tongue (**23:2**)
- Blowing one’s horn (**25:27**)
- Don’t throw good money after bad (**30:32**)
- Don’t wear out your welcome (**25:17**)
- God protect me from such friends (**27:14**)
- Haste makes waste (**19:2**)
- He asked for it (**18:6**)
- He who laughs last, laughs best (**24:17**)
- Jealousy-the green-eyed monster (**6:34**)
- Knowing the ropes (**1:4**)
- Let off steam (**29:11**)
- Man proposes, God disposes (**16:1**)
- Out on a limb (**30:32**)
- Quick as a wink (**12:19**)
- Rejoice not when your enemy falleth-but you don’t have to pick him up either! (**24:17**)
- If that man kisses you, count your teeth! (**27:14**)
- Shrouds have no pockets (**27:20**)
- The child is father to the man (**20:11**)
- The hand that gives, gathers (**11:24**)
- Too many cooks spoil the broth (**11:14**)
- Truth will out (**12:19**)
- What is mine is thine, and what is thine is mine (**1:14**)

[Compiled from the *Jewish Commentary for Bible Readers*. W. Gunther Plant. Union of America Hebrew Congregation. New York, N.Y.]