

## Living Skillfully in a Sin-full World

### Proverbs 1:1-7\*

The Book of Proverbs is a book of moral and ethical instructions, dealing with many aspects of life. The teachings in this book guide its readers in how to lead wise, godly lives and how to avoid the pitfalls of unwise, ungodly conduct.

It has a broad, timeless appeal because of its great variety of subjects and their relevance to everyday life. Proper and improper attitudes, conduct, and characteristics are referred to repeatedly and in succinct, penetrating ways. Proverbs is God's book on "how to wise up and live." It is His treasure book of wisdom.<sup>1</sup>

The author and literary form (1)

The purpose of Proverbs (2-6) *four characteristics of biblical wisdom*

Credo for wise living (7)

# Proverbs

*Proverbs is perhaps the most practical book in the Old Testament because it teaches wisdom (lit., "skillful living") in the multiple aspects of everyday life. In short pithy statements, maxims, and stories, Solomon and other contributors set forth about nine hundred proverbs—inspired precepts dealing with wisdom and folly, pride and humility, justice and vengeance, laziness and work, poverty and wealth, friends and neighbors, love and lust, anger and strife, masters and servants, life and death. These maxims are not theoretical but practical; they are easily memorized, timeless truths that touch on every facet of human relationships. Reading a proverb takes only a few seconds; applying a proverb can take a lifetime!*

Focus	Purpose of Proverbs	Proverbs to Youth	Proverbs of Solomon	Proverbs of Solomon (Hezekiah)	Words of Agur	Words of Lemuel
	1:1-1:7	1:8-9:18	10:1-24:34	25:1-29:27	30:1-30:33	31:1-31:31
Divisions	Purpose and Theme	Father's Exhortations	First Collection of Solomon	Second Collection of Solomon	Numerical Proverbs	Wisdom for Leaders Virtuous Wife
	1:1-1:7	1:8-9:18	10:1-24:34	25:1-29:27	30:1-30:33	31:1-31:9 31:10-31:31
Topics	Prologue	Principles of Wisdom			Epilogue	
	Commendation of Wisdom	Counsel of Wisdom			Comparisons of Wisdom	
Place	Judah					
Time	c. 950-700 B.C.					

\*These notes are prayerfully prepared to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's word.

<sup>1</sup> Sid S. Buzzell, "Proverbs," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 900-901.