

PROVERBS

EXPLAINED: Episode Summary



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PODCAST

1. ESSENTIALS

What Do You Need to Know First to Study Proverbs Well?

DATE: 970-930 BC: Solomon's Reign & Beyond

GENRE: *Wisdom:* Godly Instructions

AUTHOR: *Various:* Solomon, Agur, Lemuel, Copyists

SETTING: *Israel:* Primarily During the Kings

PURPOSE: *Right Living:* Wise & Practical Counsel

AUDIENCE: *Old & Young:* Wisdom for Generations

2. STORYLINE

What Do You Need to Know First to Study Proverbs Well?

Final Stage of Israel's United Monarchy

- Solomon Reigns in the Golden Years
- A Time of Flourishing for Israel
- Prosperity, Power & Popularity
- Israel Entrusted with God's Oracles
- Temple Stands in Glory

KEY VERSES

My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;

- Proverbs 2:1-6

3. THEMES & IDEAS

What Major Biblical Concepts Do We Find in Proverbs?

- The Fear of the Lord
- Seeking Knowledge & Understanding
- Obedience: Rewards & Consequences
- Guidance in All Seasons of Life
- Stewardship & Diligent Work
- Life & Death in Our Words
- Right Relationships & Sexuality
- Discipline & Correction for Maturity

4. STRUCTURE

What are the major sections of Proverbs?

CH 1-9: 1. Wisdom & Folly Defined & Contrasted

A father urges his son to pursue wisdom and reject the fool's way

CH 10-29: 2. Wise Sayings Toward Godly Living

Short sayings urging young and old to fear the Lord and shun evil

CH 30-31: 3. Final Standalone Chapters

Agur and Lemuel close the book with final words of wisdom



4. STRUCTURE - EXPANDED

4. What are the major sections of Proverbs?

5. What do we learn about God from each of these sections?

6. What do these sections offer our Christian life?

CH 1-9: 1. WISDOM & FOLLY DEFINED & CONTRASTED

The wise person and the fool set side by side, with wisdom calling out to be found

CH 1: The Beginning of Knowledge

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction

CH 5-7: Warnings Against Adultery

Rejoice in the wife of your youth; the seductress's house is the way to death

CH 2-4: Seek Wisdom Like Treasure

Get wisdom, trust the Lord with all your heart, and guard your heart, for life flows from it

CH 8-9: Wisdom Calls Out

Take instruction over silver; the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom

CH 10-29: 2. WISE SAYINGS TOWARD GODLY LIVING

A large collection, mostly Solomon's, applying wisdom to words, work, money, friends, and family

CH 10-15: Words, Work & the Two Ways

The diligent hand makes rich, the restrained tongue is prudent, and a soft answer turns away wrath

CH 22-24: Sayings of the Wise

Train up a child, avoid debt, work skillfully, and prepare your field before you build your house

CH 16-21: Friends, Words & Plans

Death and life are in the tongue; love covers a transgression; a friend sticks closer than a brother

CH 25-29: Copied by Hezekiah's Men

A word fitly spoken, iron sharpening iron, faithful wounds, and knowing the condition of your flocks

CH 30-31: 3. FINAL STANDALONE CHAPTERS

Two non-Solomonic voices end with contentment and a portrait of a woman who fears the Lord

CH 30: The Words of Agur

Give me neither poverty nor riches, lest I be full and deny you or poor and steal

CH 31: Lemuel & the Excellent Wife

Charm is deceitful and beauty fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised

5. HOW PROVERBS POINTS TO CHRIST

- In Jesus, who became wisdom for us
- In wisdom personified: Christ, the fountain of life (14:27)
- In the wise man who hears Jesus' words and builds on the rock
- In the friend who sticks closer than a brother (18:24)

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