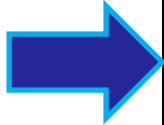




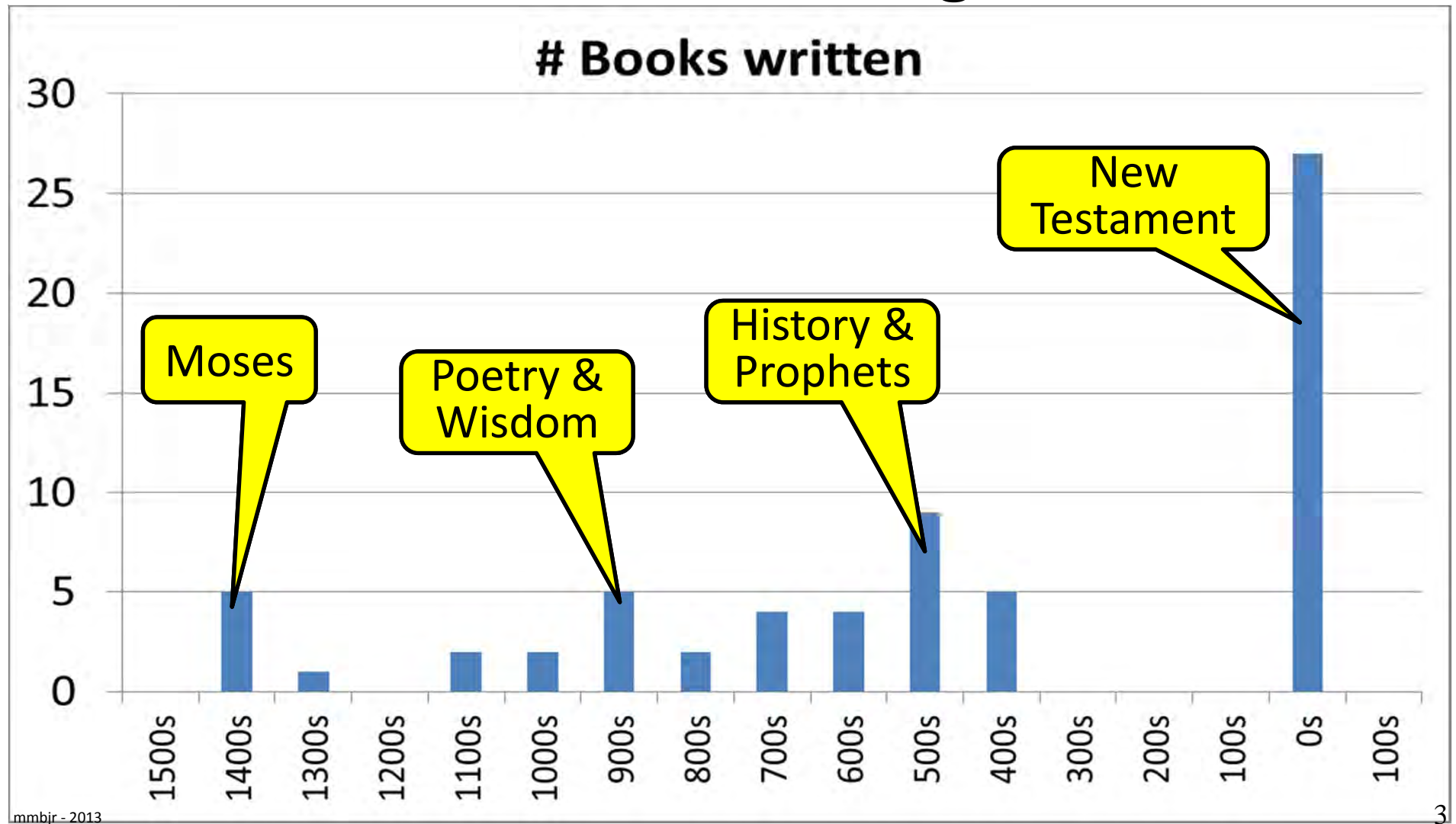
**Spring, 2013**  
**Embry Hills church of Christ**

# Course Schedule

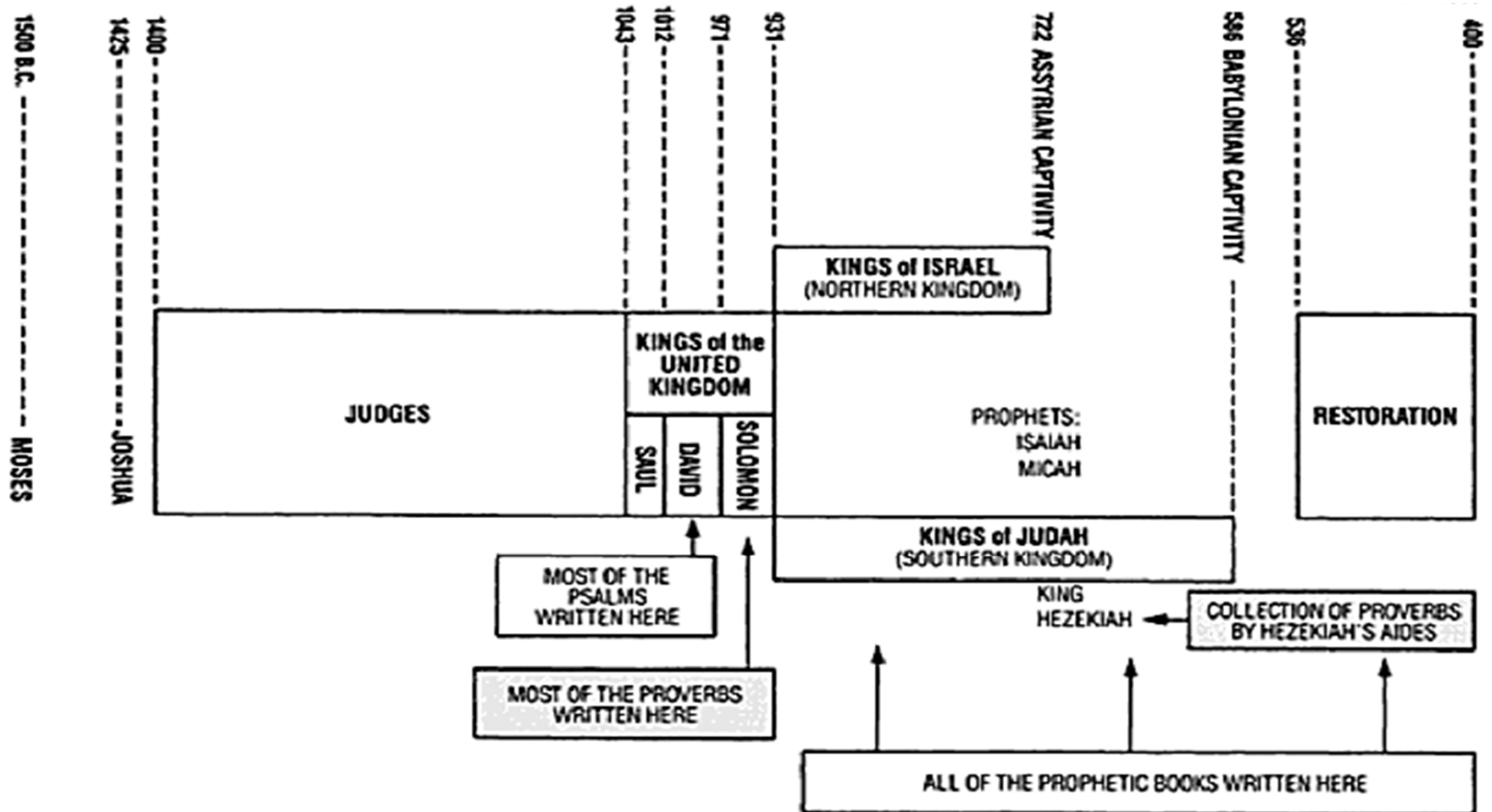


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# Distribution of Time of Writing of Bible Books



# Dates of Writing of Proverbs\*



\*Jensen, Irving L., Proverbs, A Self-Study Guide, The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, ISBN: 0-8024-4471-7, 1976.

# Place in the Old Testament

## Our Bible

- **History (17)**
  - Books of Moses (5)
    - Gen – Deut
  - Joshua – Esther
- **Poetry (5)**
  - Job
  - Psalms
  - **Proverbs**
  - Ecclesiastes
  - Song of Solomon
- **Prophecy (18)**
  - Major Prophets (5)
    - Isaiah – Daniel
  - Minor Prophets (12)
    - Hosea – Malachi

## Jewish Scripture

- **Law (Genesis – Deuteronomy)**
- **Prophets**
  - Former (Joshua – Kings)
  - Later (Isaiah, Ezek., Jer., minor prophets)
- **“Writings”**
  - Poetic:
    - Psalms
    - **Proverbs**
    - Job
  - Five Rolls (SoS, Ruth, Lam, Eccl, Esther)
  - Historical (Daniel, Ezra, Neh, Chronicles)

# Law, Prophecy, Wisdom

**Ex 20:14**      **You shall not** commit adultery

**Jer 5:7-9**      “Why should I forgive you?  
Your children have forsaken me  
and sworn by gods that are not gods.  
I supplied all their needs,  
yet they committed adultery  
and thronged to the houses of prostitutes.  
<sup>8</sup> They are well-fed, lusty stallions,  
each neighing for another man’s wife.  
<sup>9</sup> **Should I not punish them for this?**”  
declares the LORD.  
“Should I not avenge myself  
on such a nation as this?”

**Prov 6:32**      But a man who commits adultery **has no sense**;  
whoever does so **destroys himself**.

# God's Teachers

**Jer 18:18** They said, “Come, let’s make plans against Jeremiah; for the **teaching of the law by the priest** will not cease, nor will **counsel from the wise**, nor the **word from the prophets**. So come, let’s attack him with our tongues and pay no attention to anything he says.”

**Eze 7:26** Calamity upon calamity will come, and rumor upon rumor. They will go searching for a **vision from the prophet**, **priestly instruction in the law** will cease, the **counsel of the elders** will come to an end.

# Time of Solomon's Writing\*

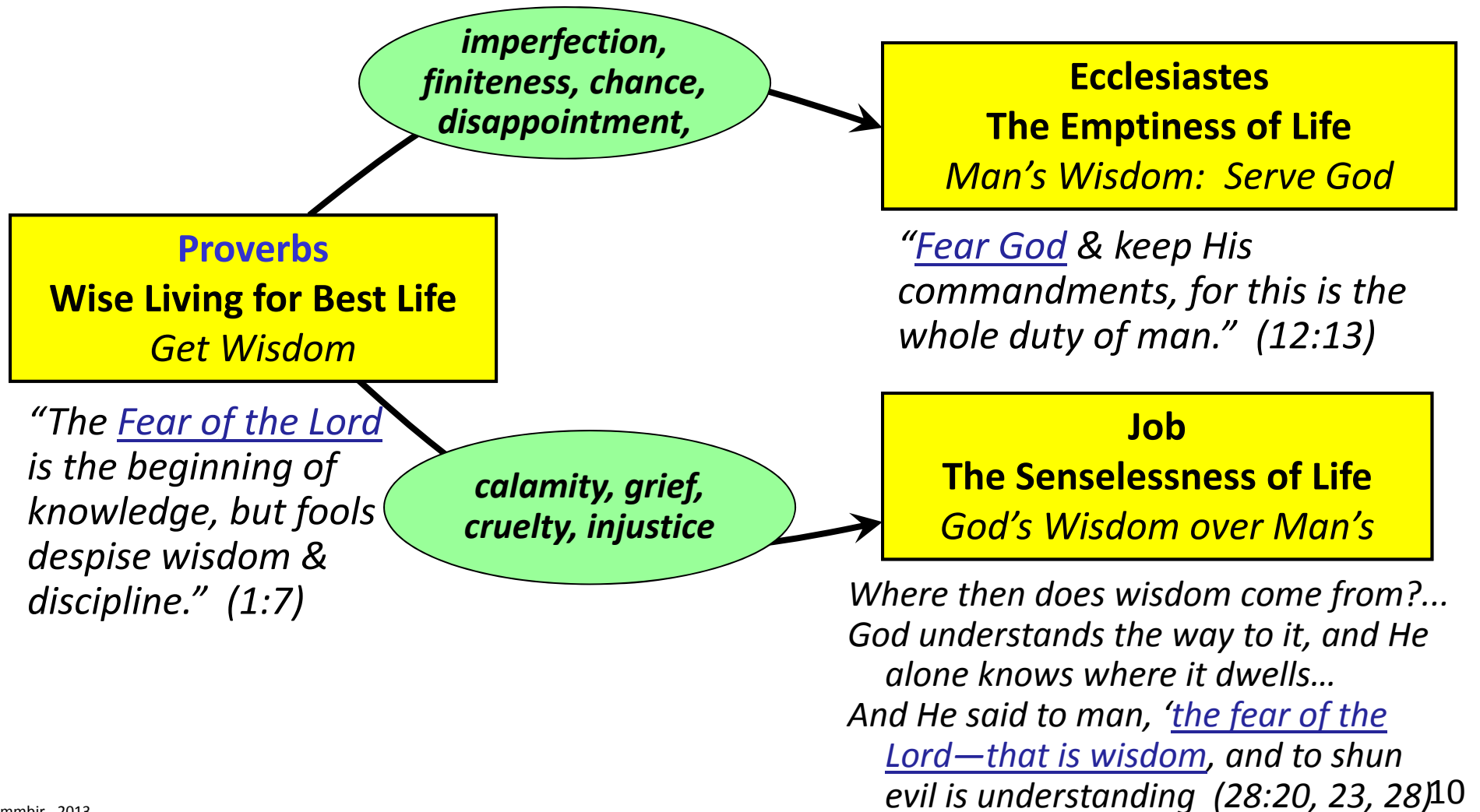
- Young & in Love – Song of Solomon
- Middle aged (with Sons) – **Proverbs**
- Old age, disappointed & disillusioned - Ecclesiastes



# Relationships between the Wisdom Books

- **Time of writing in Solomon's life**
  - Song of Solomon – young man: about romance
  - **Proverbs** – middle aged man: teaching a son
  - Ecclesiastes – old man: looking back, disillusioned
- **Primary audience?**
  - **Proverbs** – to a young man
  - Song of Solomon – to a young woman

# The Wisdom Literature



# Job & the Proverbs

	<i>Book of Job</i>	<i>Proverbs</i>
Eliphaz	<p>4:8 – those who plow evil, and <b>those who sow trouble, reap it.</b></p> <p>5:17 ...<b>do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.</b></p> <p>11:18,19 – You will be secure, because there is hope; you will look about you and take your rest in safety. <b>You will lie down, with no one to make you afraid...</b></p>	<p>22:8 He who <b>sows wickedness reaps trouble.</b></p> <p>3:11 ...<b>do not despise the Lord's discipline</b> and do not resent His rebuke....</p> <p>3:23,24 then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble; <b>when you lie down, you will not be afraid;</b> when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.</p>
Bildad	<p>8:13 Such is the destiny of all who forget God; so <b>perishes the hope of the godless.</b></p> <p>18:5 The <b>lamp of the wicked is snuffed out;</b> the flame of his fire stops burning.</p>	<p>10:28; 11:7 the hopes of the wicked come to nothing; ...when a wicked man dies, <b>his hope perishes;</b> all he expected from his power comes to nothing.</p> <p>13:9 The light of the righteous shines brightly, but the <b>lamp of the wicked is snuffed out.</b></p>

# Jesus & the Proverbs

## Proverbs

**4:23** – Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.

**25:6-7** – Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king, and do not stand in the place of the great;  
<sup>7</sup> For it is better that he say to you, “Come up here,” than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince...

## Jesus

**Matt 15:18-19** – But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. <sup>19</sup> For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

**Luke 14:10** – But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, go up higher.’ Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you.

# Peter & the Proverbs

## Proverbs

**24:21** – My son, fear the Lord and the king;  
Do not associate with those given to change.

**16:7** – When a man's ways please the Lord, He  
makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

**10:12** – Hatred stirs up strife,  
But love covers all sins.

**11:31** – If the righteous will be recompensed on  
the earth, How much more the ungodly and the  
sinner.

**3:34** – Surely He scorns the scornful,  
But gives grace to the humble.

**26:11** – As a dog returns to his own vomit,  
So a fool repeats his folly.

## 1 Peter

**2:17** – Honor all people. Love the  
brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

**3:13** – And who is he who will harm you  
if you become followers of what is good?

**4:8** - And above all things have fervent  
love for one another, for "love will cover  
a multitude of sins."

**4:18** – "If the righteous one is scarcely  
saved, where will the ungodly and the  
sinner appear?"

**5:5** – ...and be clothed with humility, for  
"God resists the proud, but gives grace  
to the humble."

**2 Peter 2:22** - But it has happened to  
them according to the true proverb: "A  
dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a  
sow, having washed, to her wallowing ..."

# Organization of Proverbs

<b>1 – 9</b>	<b>Father's advice to son on Wisdom</b>	
<b>10 – 15</b>	<b>"but"</b>	<b>} Miscellaneous Proverbs</b>
<b>16 – 22:16</b>	<b>"and"</b>	
<b>22:17 – 24</b>	<b>"Words of the Wise" (larger groups)</b>	
<b>25 – 29</b>	<b>Hezekiah's Collection</b>	
<b>30</b>	<b>Sayings of Agur</b>	
<b>31:1-9</b>	<b>Sayings of King Lemuel</b>	
<b>31:10–31</b>	<b>"Worthy Woman"</b>	

# Characterizing Sections of the Proverbs

<b>1 – 9</b>	<b>“My son” sections; about getting Wisdom; Gang &amp; Girl Problems.</b>
<b>10 – 15</b>	<b>One-verse instructions about life</b>
<b>16 – 22:16</b>	<b>One-verse instructions about life</b>
<b>22:17 – 24</b>	<b>Warnings (lots of “do not...”)</b>
<b>25 – 29</b>	<b>Longer groupings; many comparisons (“like”) in 25-26.</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>Imperfect, unjust, and incomprehensible things</b>
<b>31:1-9</b>	<b>Instructions from a mother to a King</b>
<b>31:10–31</b>	<b>Description of a wife of noble character (“who can find?”)</b>

# Basic Structure of Proverbs\*

1:1	1:7	30:1 31:31
PROLOGUE	MAXIMS	EPILOGUE

\*Jensen, Irving L., Proverbs, A Self-Study Guide, The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, ISBN: 0-8024-4471-7, 1976.



# Proverbs: Walking in the Fear of the Lord\*

THEME					MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATIONS				
PROVERBS OF SOLOMON					words of wise	collected by Hezekiah's men	words of Agur and Lemuel		
	"my son"	"wisdom"	"but"	"and"					
1:1	1:7	8	10	16	22:17	25	30	31	
PROLOGUE	MAXIMS						EPILOGUE		
PURPOSE OF PROVERBS	personification prominent		one-verse maxims		more general		numerical proverbs		
	COMMENDATION		OBSERVATION		EXHORTATION AND WARNING	COMPARISON	DESCRIPTION		
	especially for youth		— for all —						

\*Jensen, Irving L., Proverbs, A Self-Study Guide, The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, ISBN: 0-8024-4471-7, 1976.

# Chapter 1 Organization

## 1-7 – Prologue

1-6 – purpose

7 – foundation

## 8-9 – Listen to Parents

## 10-19 – Warning against criminal association

10-14 – “if...”

15 – “then...”

16-19 – “because...”

## 20-33 – Wisdom’s call and rejection

20 – call to listen

23 – rejection

26 – consequences

28 – rejection

# **The Proverbs Point of View**

- **Ordinary, earthly topics & instructions, yet...**
- **All in the context of a relationship with God (5:21)**
- **Gaining Wisdom requires diligence & effort, yet...**
- **The 'call' of Wisdom is obvious & visible (1:20)**
- **Instructions for daily decisions, yet...**
- **Describes a continuous way/walk (4:18)**
- **Assumes an orderly, godly society (29:18)**
  - **Civility valued, morality & family honored & protected**
  - **Honesty, diligence, self-discipline respected & rewarded**
  - **Corruption, abuse of power, anarchy not tolerated**

# New Testament Allusions to the Proverbs\*

PROVERBS	N.T. QUOTE OR ALLUSION
3:7	Romans 12:16
25:21-22	Romans 12:20
3:34	James 4:6
24:21	1 Peter 2:17
16:7	1 Peter 3:13
11:31	1 Peter 4:18
26:11	2 Peter 2:22
3:11-12	Hebrews 12:5-6
4:26	Hebrews 12:13
10:12	1 Peter 4:8
22:9	2 Corinthians 9:7
25:6-7	Luke 14:10

\*Jensen, Irving L., Proverbs, A Self-Study Guide, The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, ISBN: 0-8024-4471-7, 1976.

# Prophet, Priest, Philosopher Compared\*

Subject	PROPHET	PRIEST	PHILOSOPHER
righteousness	It is just	It is commanded	It is prudent
sin	It is disobedience	It is defilement	It is folly

\*Jensen, Irving L., Proverbs, A Self-Study Guide, The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, ISBN: 0-8024-4471-7, 1976.

# Characters Associated with Proverbs\*

10:7*a*—Elisha, Dorcas

10:7*b*—Cain, Balaam, Jezebel, Judas Iscariot

16:18—Nebuchadnezzar, Herod Agrippa

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# **Literary Devices in Proverbs**

- **Literary devices allow us easier access to the meaning of God's word, Mark 4:11-12**
- **Our understanding of the truth is improved by knowing how the text we read works**
- **However, we don't have to understand literary terms and devices to benefit from the proverbs**
  - **They still teach truth and they still edify us**



# Parallelism

- **Definition:** “a literary pattern that states an idea in one line and focuses more closely on the same idea in the following line”
- **Focuses on the thought more closely by:**
  - **Repeating the same thought in different terms**
    - A “Hear, for I will speak noble things,”
    - A’ “and from my lips will come what is right.” – *Proverbs 8:6*
    - What terms or ideas are parallel here?
  - **Stating the thought more specifically**
    - A “to keep you from the forbidden woman,”
    - A’ “and from the adulteress with her smooth words” – *Proverbs 7:5*
    - What thought does the psalmist develop here?

# Literary Devices

- **Parallelism** – “thought-rhyme”: ideas in both (or all) of the lines are similar
- **Personification** – attributing human actions and characteristics to something that is not human.
- **Acrostic** – first letter of each line is a successive letter of the alphabet
- **Chiastic Organization** – A-B-B-A organization: often emphasizes the content in the middle.

# Four Types of Parallelism

1. **Synonymous:** stating the same idea in new words
2. **Antithetic:** stating the opposite of the first idea
  - The most common form to Proverbs
  - Often includes a contrast word: *but, however, yet*
3. **Climactic:** stating an idea through a series of increasingly forceful thoughts
  - Often features a repetitive structure
4. **Comparison:** using an image (often a reference to senses) to describe an action or idea

# Four Types of Parallelism

- **Synonymous:** stating the same idea in new words
  - Examples: Proverbs 17:27; 19:28
- **Antithetic:** stating the opposite of the first idea
  - The most common form to Proverbs
  - Often includes a contrast word: *but, however, yet*
  - Examples: Proverbs 11:6; 13:1; 24:16; 14:14
- **Climactic:** stating an idea through a series of increasingly forceful thoughts
  - Often features a repetitive structure
  - Examples: Proverbs 1:11-12; 30:4

# Four Types of Parallelism

- **Comparison: using an image to describe an object or idea**
  - Through simile (a comparison using *like* or *as*)
    - Examples: Proverbs 17:14
  - Through metaphor (a comparison without *like* or *as*)
    - Examples: Proverbs 26:17
- **Parallelism is a “thought-rhyme”: the ideas in both (or all) of the lines are similar**
- **Parallelism is an easier poetic device to translate than rhymes or other aural features**

# **Four Types of Parallelism; Yea, Five...**

- **Synthetic Parallelism is an artificial parallelism where the second line of the proverb completes the idea and the grammatical structure:**

**“It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.”**
- **Many verses with synthetic parallelism also contain another form of parallelism.**
  - **Examples: 17:1; 20:14; 26:1**

# Parallelism in Hymn

*Peace, Perfect Peace* (#530)  
By Charles Bickersteth, 1875

1. Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin?  
The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.
2. Peace, perfect peace, by thronging duties pressed?  
To do the will of Jesus, this is rest.
3. Peace, perfect peace, with sorrows surging round?  
On Jesus' bosom naught but calm is found.
4. Peace, perfect peace, with loved ones far away?  
In Jesus' keeping we are safe, and they.
5. Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown?  
Jesus we know, and He is on the throne.
6. Peace, perfect peace, death shadowing us and ours?  
Jesus has vanquished death and all its powers.
7. It is enough: earth's struggles soon shall cease,  
And Jesus call us to Heaven's perfect peace.

# Writing with Parallelism

- **Synonymous:** stating the same idea in new words
- **Antithetic:** stating the opposite of the first idea
- **Climactic (Stair-step):** stating an idea through a series of increasingly forceful thoughts
- **Comparison:** using an image to describe an object or idea (Metaphor or Simile)
- **Synthetic:** making the second line of the proverb complete the idea or structure of the first

*Using one (or more) of these types of parallelism, write a second line for this “proverb”:*

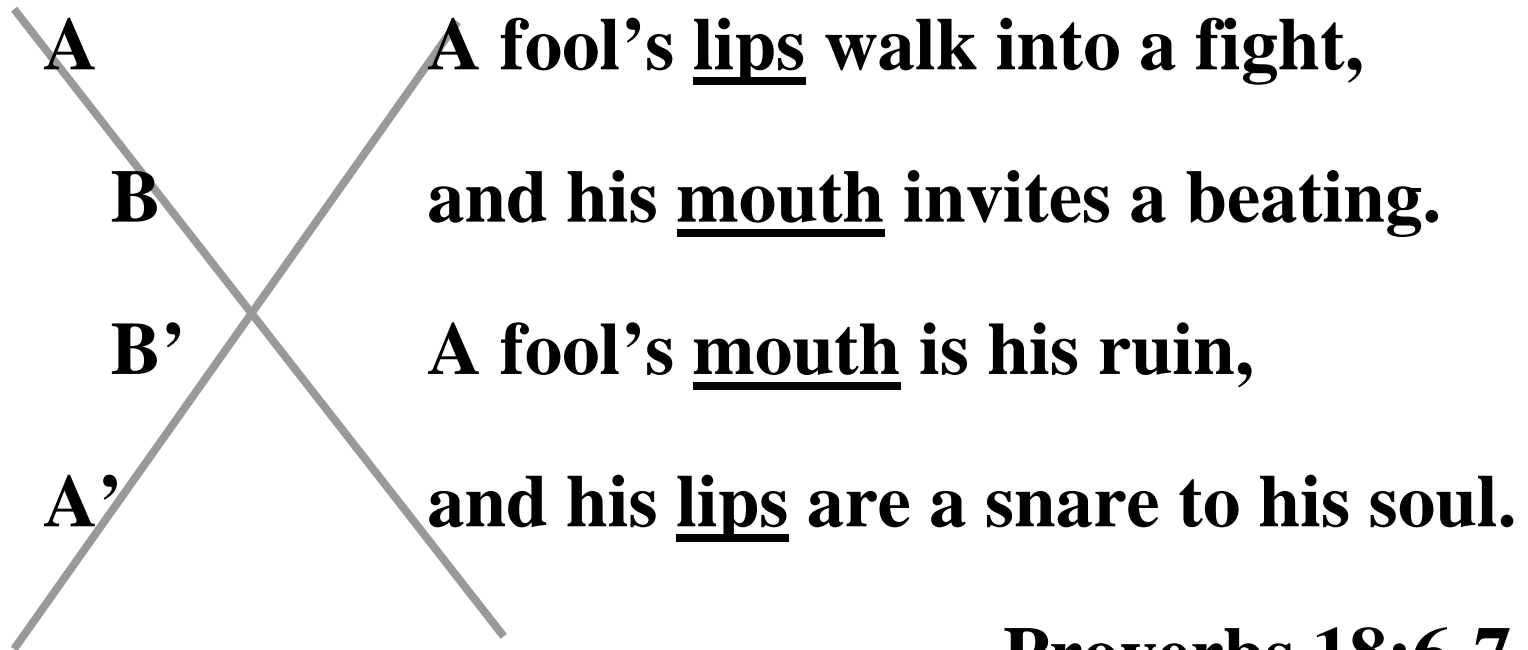
**“The fool shouts at every car around him in a traffic jam...”**



# Chiasm

- **Named after the Greek letter X (CHI)**
- **A progression of thoughts toward a central idea, and then back out to the first thought**
  - **Generally, the thoughts move from the general to the specific**
  - **The center of the chiasm contains the main point, or the most specific statement of the idea**
  - **In Proverbs, chiasms revolve around repeated words**
- **If we sketch out the progression of a chiasm, it will look like an X**

# Chiasm



**Proverbs 18:6-7**

# Personification

- **Personification is attributing human actions and characteristics to something that is not human.**

*Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars; She has slaughtered her meat, She has mixed her wine, She has also furnished her table. She has sent out her maidens, She cries out from the highest places of the city, "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" As for him who lacks understanding, she says to him, "Come, eat of my bread And drink of the wine I have mixed. Forsake foolishness and live, And go in the way of understanding." (Proverbs 9:1-6)*

# Acrostic Form

- **An acrostic is a poem in which the first letter of each line is a successive letter of the alphabet (first line starts with A, next with B, and so forth). Proverbs 31:10-31 (the description of the worthy woman) is an acrostic in the original Hebrew.**

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# **Review – Lessons 1 and 2**

**1. What are the 3 major types of revelation in the OT?**

**Law, Wisdom, Prophecy**

**2. What are 2 unique characteristics of the book of Proverbs?**

**Epigrammatic style; Gives advice, not commands**

**3. What are the 4 (yea, 5) main types of parallelism?**

**Synonymous; Antithetical; Climactic; Comparison;  
(Synthetic)**

**4. What is a chapter of Proverbs that contains extensive personification? Extensive imagery?**

**Chapter 9 – Wisdom's Invitation; Chapter 26 – Comparisons**

# The Source of Wisdom

Proverbs 2:1-6

My son, if you accept my words  
and store up my commands within you,  
<sup>2</sup> turning your ear to wisdom  
and applying your heart to understanding—  
<sup>3</sup> indeed, if you call out for insight  
and cry aloud for understanding,  
<sup>4</sup> and if you look for it as for silver  
and search for it as for hidden treasure,  
<sup>5</sup> then you will understand the fear of the LORD  
and find the knowledge of God.  
<sup>6</sup> For the LORD gives wisdom;  
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

The fear of  
the LORD is the  
beginning of  
wisdom, and  
knowledge of the  
Holy One is  
understanding.  
-Proverbs 9:10-

# The Source of Wisdom

GOD

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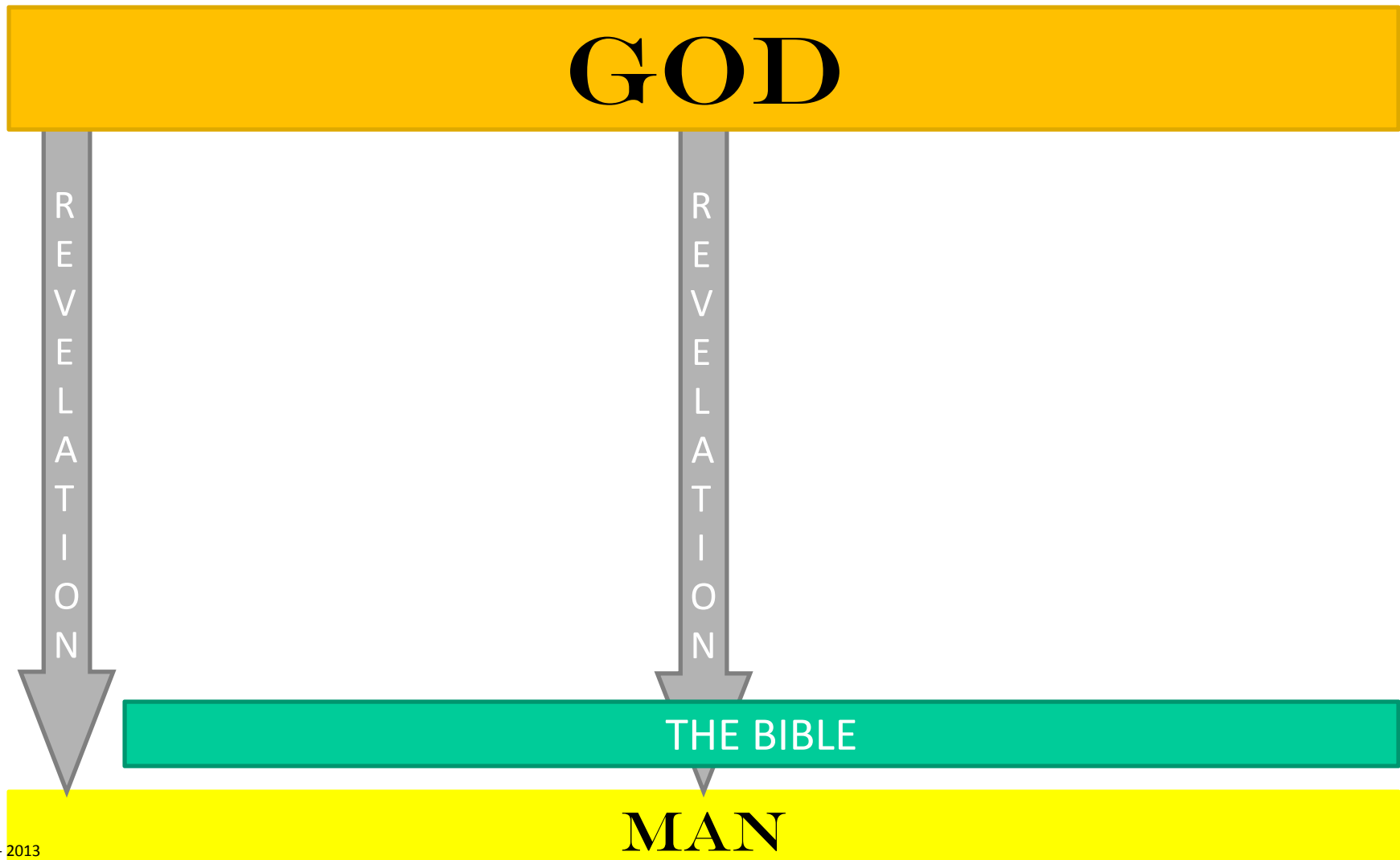
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-Proverbs 9:10-

# The Source of Wisdom



# Where Is the Knowledge of God Found?

<sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

<sup>2</sup> Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they reveal knowledge. (Psalm 19)

Ears that hear and eyes  
that see:  
The Lord has made  
them both.  
-Proverbs 20:12-

<sup>18</sup> The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, <sup>19</sup> since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. (Romans 1)

# Wisdom in Creation

Proverbs 8:22-31

<sup>22</sup> “The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works,

before his deeds of old;

<sup>23</sup> I was formed long ages ago,

at the very beginning, when the world came to be.

<sup>24</sup> When there were no watery depths, I was given birth,

when there were no springs overflowing with water;

<sup>25</sup> before the mountains were settled in place,

before the hills, I was given birth,

<sup>26</sup> before he made the world or its fields or any of the dust of the earth.

<sup>27</sup> I was there when he set the heavens in place,

when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep,

<sup>28</sup> when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep,

<sup>29</sup> when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command,

and when he marked out the foundations of the earth.

<sup>30</sup> Then I was constantly at his side.

I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence,

<sup>31</sup> rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.

# Wisdom in Creation

Proverbs 8:22-31

**"Before"**

**"When"**

26 the earth or its fields  
...any of the dust

the heavens in place...marked  
out horizon of the deep 27

25 the mountains, the hills

the clouds... and fixed securely  
the fountains of the deep 28

24 oceans, springs ... of water

gave the sea its boundary 29a

23 the world

marked out the foundations  
of the earth 29b

22 *The LORD brought me forth  
as the first of his works*

*Then I was the craftsman  
at His side.* 30a

30b I was filled with *delight* day after day,

*Rejoicing* always in his presence,

31 *Rejoicing* in his whole world

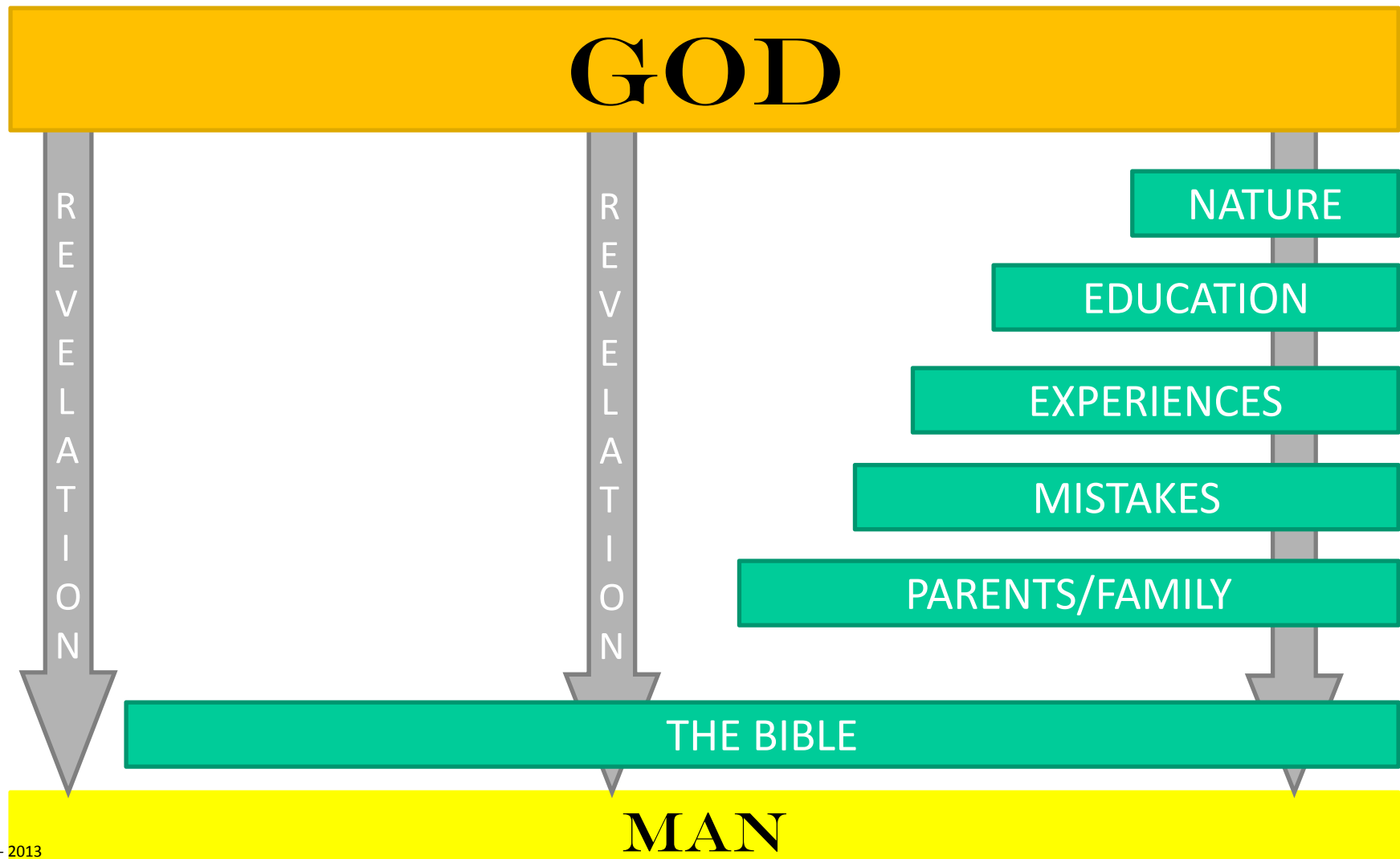
*And delighting* in mankind

# “Everyday” Sources of Wisdom

- Proverbs 6:6-8
- Proverbs 11:14
- Proverbs 17:10; 9:8-9
- Proverbs 19:25
- Proverbs 13:1
- Proverbs 6:1-5
- Proverbs 24:30-32
- Nature
- Advisors/Teachers
- Discipline/Rebukes
- Others’ Punishments
- Parents’ Instruction
- My Mistakes
- Others’ Mistakes

Which of these roles can/do I fill?  
Where do I have experiences (wisdom) to share?

# The Source of Wisdom



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# Review – Lesson 4

## 1. Role in the Old Testament

### – Three Kinds of Writing

- Law
- Wisdom
- Prophecy

### – Solomon's writings

- As young man: Song of Solomon
- As a father: Proverbs
- As an old man: Ecclesiastes

### – Wisdom Literature

- Sensible World: Proverbs
- Empty World: Ecclesiastes
- Tragic World: Job

## Organization of Proverbs

1 – 9	Father's advice to son on Wisdom	
10 – 15	"but"	} Miscellaneous Proverbs
16 – 22:16	"and"	
22:17 – 24	"Words of the Wise" (larger groups)	
25 – 29	Hezekiah's Collection	
30	Sayings of Agur	
31:1-9	Sayings of King Lemuel	
31:10-31	"Worthy Woman"	

2. Four contributors to Proverbs *Solomon, Hezekiah, Agur, Lemuel*

3. Two primary applications in chap. 1-9? *Gangs & Girls (e.g. 2:12-19)*

4. Four types of parallelism *Synonymous, Antithetic, Climactic, Comparison*

5. Five sources of Wisdom *Parents, Advisors, Own Mistakes, Punishment,*

6. Original source of Wisdom *Jehovah* *Rebuke, Mistakes of others*

# Wisdom as a Commodity

My son, if you **accept** my words  
and **store up** my commands within you,  
<sup>2</sup> turning your ear to wisdom  
and applying your heart to understanding—  
<sup>3</sup> indeed, if you call out for insight  
and cry aloud for understanding,  
<sup>4</sup> and if you **look for it as for silver**  
and **search for it as for hidden treasure**,  
<sup>5</sup> then you will understand the fear of the LORD  
and find the knowledge of God. (2:1-4)

<sup>10</sup> Choose my instruction **instead of silver**,  
knowledge **rather than choice gold**,  
<sup>11</sup> for wisdom is **more precious than rubies**,  
and nothing you desire can compare with her. (8:10-11)

**Buy the truth and do not sell it—**  
wisdom, instruction and insight as well (24:23)

***The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. (Matt. 13:44)***

# Wisdom as Character

The father of a righteous child has great joy;  
a man who fathers a **wise son** rejoices in him.  
(23:24)

let **the wise** listen and add to their learning,  
and let the discerning get guidance... (1:5)

The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge,  
for the ears of **the wise** seek it out. (18:15)

# Folly and Wisdom

<sup>20</sup> Out in the open wisdom calls aloud,  
she raises her voice in the public square;

<sup>21</sup> on top of the wall she cries out,  
at the city gate she makes her speech... (1:20-21)

<sup>24</sup>...But since **you refuse to listen** when I call  
and **no one pays attention** when I stretch out my hand,

<sup>25</sup> since **you disregard** all my advice  
and **do not accept** my rebuke (1:24-25)

Why should fools have money in hand to buy wisdom,  
when they are **not able to understand** it? (17:16)

Wisdom is **too high** for fools;  
in the assembly at the gate they must not open their mouths.  
(24:7)

# Listening & Learning

The heart of the discerning **acquires** knowledge,  
for the ears of the wise **seek it** out. (18:15)

The prudent **keep** their knowledge **to themselves**,  
but a fool's heart blurts out folly. (12:23)

Sin is not ended by multiplying words,  
but the prudent **hold their tongues**. (10:19)

# How Wise Men Speak

**The heart of the righteous *weighs its answers*,  
but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil. (15:28)**

**The tongue of the wise *adorns knowledge*,  
but the mouth of the fool gushes folly. (15:2)**

# Wise & Foolish in Relation to...

	<u>Wise Man</u>	<u>Foolish Man</u>
God	<i>9:10</i>	<i>Ps 14:1</i>
Law	<i>28:7,9</i>	<i>10:8</i>
Instruction/ Reproof	<i>19:20; 8:33; 15:31; 9:9</i>	<i>15:5</i>
Knowledge/ Understanding	<i>10:14</i>	<i>1:22; 18:2</i>
Wise Men	<i>13:20</i>	<i>1:7</i>
Evil & Sin	<i>14:16; 8:12-13</i>	<i>13:19</i>
Self	<i>3:5,7</i>	<i>12:15; 28:26; 18:2</i>

# Wise & Foolish in Relation to...

	<u>Wise Man</u>	<u>Foolish Man</u>
God	<i>The starting point</i>	<i>Says, "There is no God."</i>
Law	<i>Accepts commands, heeds instructions</i>	<i>Deaf ear; "chatters"</i>
Instruction/ Reproof	<i>Listens to it; accepts it; heeds; adds to learning</i>	<i>Disregards; spurns</i>
Knowledge/ Understanding	<i>Stores knowledge up</i>	<i>Loves simple ways; hates knowledge; no pleasure</i>
Wise Men	<i>Walks with wise</i>	<i>Despises wisdom</i>
Evil & Sin	<i>Shuns &amp; hates evil</i>	<i>Detest turning from evil</i>
Self	<i>Doesn't lean on self; not wise in own eyes</i>	<i>Own way seems right; trusts in self; delight to talk</i>



# **Applications**

- 1. Is there a perfect wise man or a perfect fool?  
How are we to understand passages in which  
the wise man and the fool are contrasted?**
- 2. Using our definition of wisdom, list some  
ways in which we act foolishly.**
- 3. Can a young, inexperienced, uneducated  
person be wise? Explain.**
- 4. Can an experienced, intelligent, educated  
person be foolish? Explain.**

## How to Answer a Fool? (Prov 26:4-5)

**4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly,  
or you yourself will be just like him.**

**5 Answer a fool according to his folly,  
or he will be wise in his own eyes**

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6/5	Wed	<b>12. Review</b>	Marty



## Review – Lesson 4, part 2

1. Four contributors to Proverbs *Solomon, Hezekiah, Agur, Lemuel*
2. Repeated Intro Phrase in chaps. 1-9 *“My son...”*
3. Source of all Wisdom *Jehovah*
4. Five sources of Wisdom *parents, advisors, own mistakes, nature, punishment, rebuke, other’s mistakes*
5. Relation of the Fool to:
  - God *Says, “There is no God.”*
  - Law *Turns a deaf ear; “chatters”*
  - Reproof *Disregards; Spurns*
  - Knowledge *Hates; Has no pleasure*
  - Self *Trusts self; Delights to hear self*

# Organization of Proverbs

<b>1 – 9</b>	<b>Father's advice to son on Wisdom</b>
<b>10 – 15</b>	<b>"but"</b>
<b>16 – 22:16</b>	<b>"and"</b>
	<b>} Miscellaneous Proverbs</b>
<b>22:17 – 24</b>	<b>"Words of the Wise" (larger groups)</b>
<b>25 – 29</b>	<b>Hezekiah's Collection</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>Sayings of Agur</b>
<b>31:1-9</b>	<b>Sayings of King Lemuel</b>
<b>31:10–31</b>	<b>"Worthy Woman"</b>

# True or False?

1. The Proverbs deal primarily with turning from false religions to the true God.
2. Many Proverbs are Messianic.
3. The Proverbs often mention ordinary things — simply describing the way the world is.
4. The Proverbs are written almost exclusively in couplets of thought.
5. The Proverbs make extensive use of rhyme and rhyming schemes.
6. “Antithesis” means restatement of a principle from an opposite viewpoint.
7. The repeating of words is sometimes used in Hebrew poetry for emphasis.
8. The wise man realizes that the only source of wisdom is God’s word.
9. All wisdom originates with God.
10. Reproof of a wise man is never necessary.
11. The wise man is known by his ready answer to every question.
12. The fool is known by his stupid look and inability to express himself.

# The Proverbs Point of View

- Ordinary, earthly topics & instructions, yet...
- All in the context of a relationship with God

**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,  
But fools despise wisdom and instruction. (1:7)**

- Gaining Wisdom requires diligence & effort, yet...
- The 'call' of Wisdom is obvious & visible

**Wisdom calls aloud outside;  
She raises her voice in the open squares. (1:20)**

- Instructions for daily decisions, yet...
- Describes a continuous way/walk (1:15)

**My son, do not walk in the way with them,  
Keep your foot from their path... (1:15)**

- Assumes an orderly, godly society (1:18)
  - Civility, morality, family, honesty, diligence, self-discipline honored
  - Corruption, abuse, anarchy not tolerated

**So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain;  
It takes away the life of its owners. (1:19)**

# Wisdom in Creation

Proverbs 8:22-31

**"Before"**

**"When"**

26 the earth or its fields  
...any of the dust

the heavens in place...marked  
out horizon of the deep 27

25 the mountains, the hills

the clouds... and fixed securely  
the fountains of the deep 28

24 oceans, springs ... of water

gave the sea its boundary 29a

23 the world

marked out the foundations  
of the earth 29b

22 *The LORD brought me forth  
as the first of his works*

*Then I was the craftsman  
at His side.* 30a

30b I was filled with *delight* day after day,

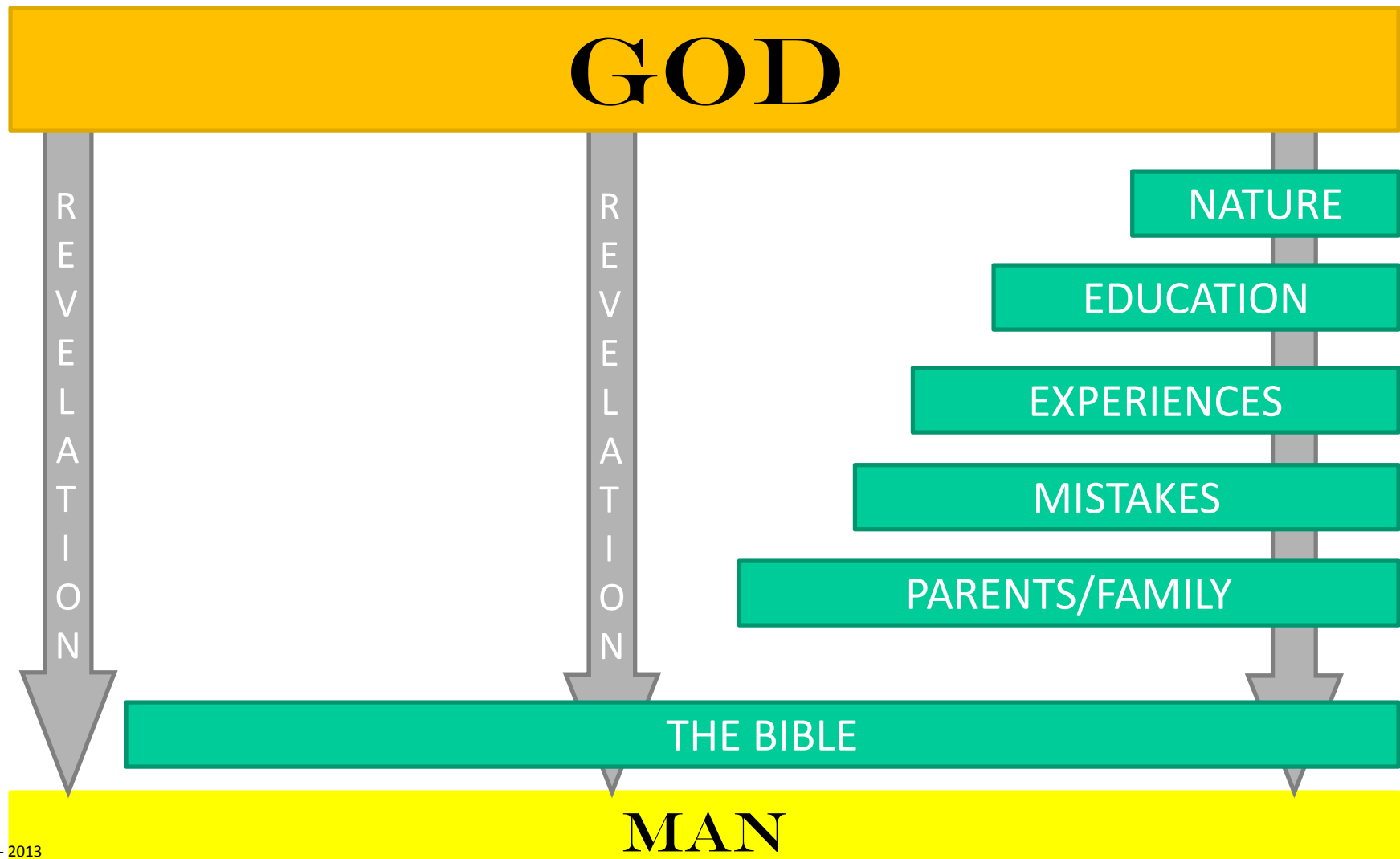
*Rejoicing* always in his presence,

31 *Rejoicing* in his whole world

*And delighting* in mankind



# The Source of Wisdom



# Wise & Foolish in Relation to...

	<u>Wise Man</u>	<u>Foolish Man</u>
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Self	<i>Doesn't lean on self; not wise in own eyes</i>	<i>Own way seems right; trusts in self; delight to talk</i>

# Wisdom & the Fear of the LORD

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

The **fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom**,  
and **knowledge of the Holy One is understanding**. (9:10)

...Since they hated knowledge  
and **did not choose to fear the LORD**. (1:29)

Rom 1:21 – ...Because, although **they knew God, they did not glorify Him** as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Rom 1:28 – ...And even as **they did not like to retain God in their knowledge**, God gave them over to a debased mind...

Evildoers do not understand what is right,  
but **those who seek the LORD understand it** fully. (28:5)

...Then you will **understand the fear of the LORD**  
and **find the knowledge of God**. (2:5)

Wisdom's **instruction is to fear the LORD**,  
and humility comes before honor. (15:33)

...Wisdom is found in those who take advice (13:10)

# Wisdom in Life

Proverbs 3:1-12

See 3:21-22;  
10:25,30; Mt 5:5

## Commands

## Blessings

1	<u>Do not forget teaching</u> <u>Keep commands in your heart</u>	<u>Prolong your life</u> <u>Peace &amp; prosperity</u>	2
3	<u>Let love &amp; faithfulness never leave</u> <u>Bind them on neck, write on heart</u>	<u>Favor &amp; a good name</u> <u>In the sight of God &amp; Man</u>	4
5-6a	<u>Trust the Lord; Lean not on own</u> <u>understanding; submit to Him</u>	<u>He will make your paths straight</u>	6b
7	<u>Be not wise in own eyes</u> <u>Fear the Lord; shun evil</u>	<u>Health to your body</u> <u>Nourishment to your bones</u>	8
9	<u>Honor the Lord with your wealth</u> <u>&amp; first fruits</u>	<u>Barns filled to overflowing</u> <u>Vats brim with new wine</u>	10
11	<u>Do not despise the Lord's discipline</u>	<u>[the Lord's love &amp; delight]</u>	12

# The Limitations of Wisdom

Where there is **no revelation, people cast off restraint**;  
but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction.  
(29:18)

Every word of God is flawless;  
he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.  
**Do not add to his words**,  
or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar. (30:5-6)

In **all your ways** submit to him,  
and he will make your paths straight. (3:6)

For your ways are in full view of the LORD,  
and he examines **all your paths**. (5:21)

The eyes of the LORD are **everywhere**,  
keeping watch on the wicked and the good. (15:3)

**(Your Definition of Wisdom Here)**

# Proverbs: Walking in the Fear of the Lord\*

THEME					MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATIONS				
PROVERBS OF SOLOMON					words of wise	collected by Hezekiah's men	words of Agur and Lemuel		
	"my son"	"wisdom"	"but"	"and"					
1:1	1:7	8	10	16	22:17	25	30	31	
PROLOGUE	MAXIMS						EPILOGUE		
PURPOSE OF PROVERBS	personification prominent		one-verse maxims		more general		numerical proverbs		
	COMMENDATION		OBSERVATION		EXHORTATION AND WARNING	COMPARISON	DESCRIPTION		
	especially for youth		— for all —						

\*Jensen, Irving L., Proverbs, A Self-Study Guide, The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, ISBN: 0-8024-4471-7, 1976.

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# **Why Should I Live Wisely?**

**How will it make my life better?**

**Will I be punished if I don't live wisely?**

**Can living wisely save my soul?**

**Does God care if I live wisely?**

**Does the way I live only affect me, right now,  
or are there longer-lasting consequences?**

# Motivations for Wise Living



# Practical Reasons—Overview

- **Man is rewarded for his good works**

*“Humility and fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life.”*

**-Proverbs 22:4**

- **Man is punished for evil works and foolish living**

*“The house of the wicked will be destroyed, but the tents of the upright will flourish.”*

**-Proverbs 14:11**

# What Rewards Do I Get?

- **Wealth—10:22**
- **Responsibility—17:2; 12:24**
- **Popularity—12:8**
- **Peaceful Life—16:7**
- **Strong Community—14:34**
- **Long Life—9:10**
- **Good Legacy—10:7**

You ask and do not receive  
because you ask wrongly, to  
spend it on your passions.  
-James 4:3-

Is this the real motivation for seeking wisdom? (2:1-5)

# **What Are Some Benefits of Wise Living?**

- **Wealth—10:22**
- **Responsibility—17:2; 12:24**
- **Popularity—12:8**
- **Peaceful Life—16:7**
- **Strong Community—14:34**
- **Long Life—9:10**
- **Good Legacy—10:7**

# Motivations for Wise Living

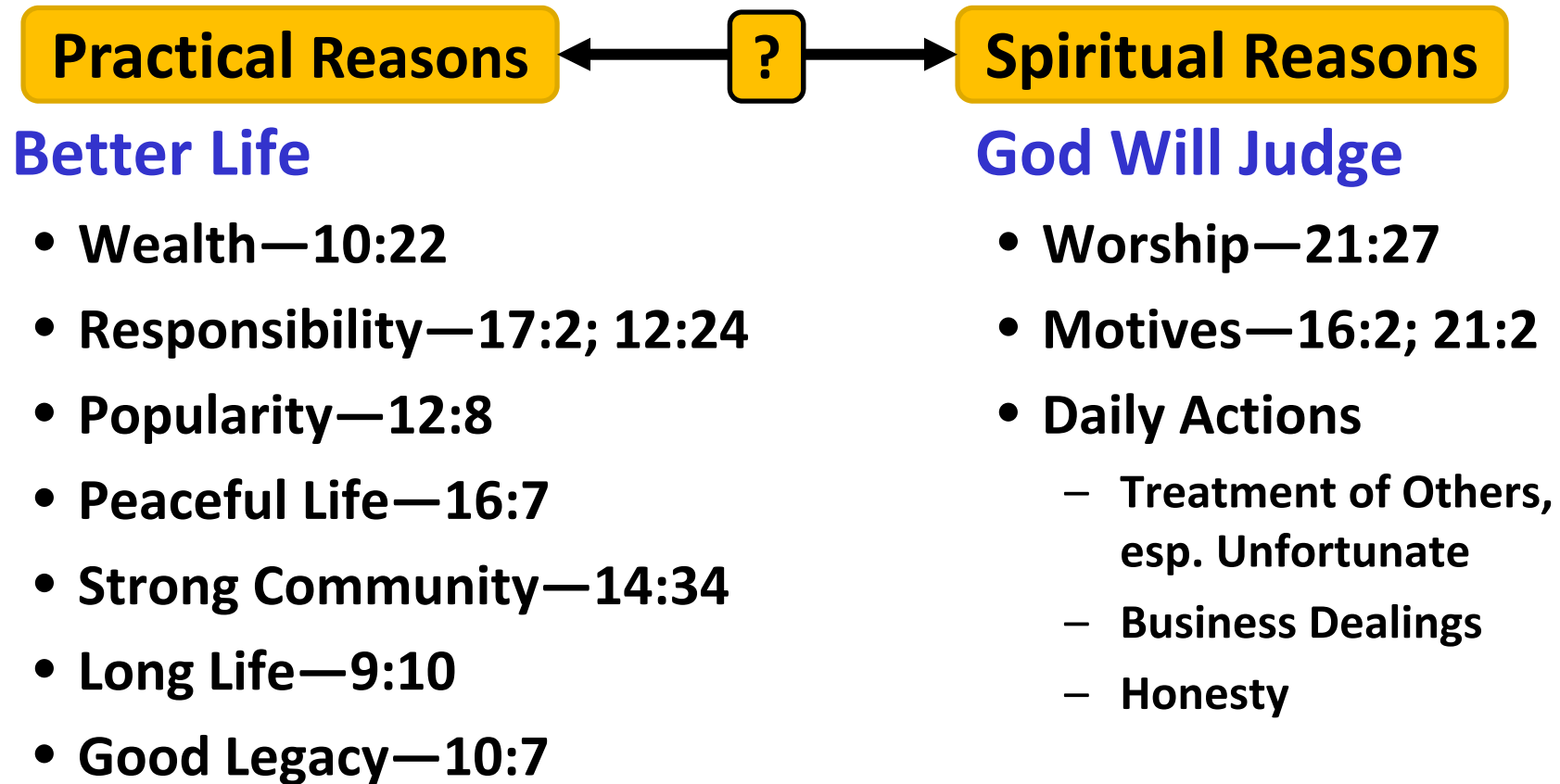


- **Better Life**
  - **Wealth**
  - **Respect**
  - **Popularity**
  - **Peaceful Life**
  - **Strong Community**
  - **Long Life**
  - **Good Legacy**

# **Spiritual Reasons—Character of God**

- **God examines our worship for wisdom—21:27**
  - **The way we live affects whether our worship is acceptable**
- **God examines our hearts/motives—16:2; 21:2**
- **God is the judge of our actions**
  - **22:2—He is the creator of all**
  - **21:30-31—He controls the world as its ruler**
  - **6:16-19—He hates evil**
  - **15:25—He protects the innocent**

# Motivations for Wise Living





# **Does Proverbs Teach Justification By Works?**

**“He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”—28:13**

**“Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the Lord a man avoids evil.”—16:16**

**“Who can say, ‘I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin’?”—20:9**

# Motivations for Wise Living

## Practical Reasons

?

## Spiritual Reasons

### Better Life

- Wealth—10:22
- Responsibility—17:2; 12:24
- Popularity—12:8
- Peaceful Life—16:7
- Strong Community—14:34
- Long Life—9:10
- Good Legacy—10:7

### God Will Judge

- Worship—21:27
- Motives—16:2; 21:2
- Daily Actions
  - Treatment of Others, esp. Unfortunate
  - Business Dealings
  - Honesty

# What About Eternal Consequences?

- **Forgiveness and Redemption**
  - Forgiveness is right, but also beneficial—17:9
  - Confession, Fear of God, and Love lead to Mercy (Avoiding Trouble) from God—28:13-14
  - These still seem more immediate than eternal
- **Life After Death**
  - A sense of reward and punishment after death—14:32
  - God has power over death and destruction—15:11 (but what?)
  - See also 23:14 and 12:28

# Motivations for Wise Living

## Practical Reasons

- **Better Life**
  - Wealth
  - Respect
  - Popularity
  - Peaceful Life
  - Strong Community
  - Long Life
  - Good Legacy

## Spiritual Reasons

- **God Will Judge:**
  - Worship
  - Motives
  - Daily Actions
    - Treatment of Others, esp. Unfortunate
    - Business Dealings
    - Honesty
- **Eternal Consequences (of some kind)**

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# Two Paths in Proverbs

## Folly

- **Way** of Darkness
- Crooked **Paths**, Devious Manner
- **Way** of the Wicked
- Crooked in **Ways**
- **Way** of Death (the **way** that seems right to a man)

## Wisdom

- **Path** of Uprightness
- **Pursuing** Righteousness
- **Walking** in Integrity
- **Path** of Life

# Two 'Ways'

## Death

## Life

2:13	dark	straight
2:15	crooked (devious)	
15:19	blocked with thorns	highway
28:18	sudden fall (into pit)	kept safe
15:24	goes down to Sheol	leads upward
16:25	(seems right) death	
4:18-19	deep darkness, stumbling	morning sun, shining ever brighter to full light of day

# **Disadvantages of Wealth**

- **People Try to Steal It – 13:8**
- **No Spiritual Currency – 11:4**
- **False Sense of Security – 18:11**
- **Fleeting – 27:23-24; 23:4-5**
  - **Also, requires great attention/maintenance**
- **Not Trustworthy – 11:28**



# **Better Rewards than Wealth**

- **Lowly spirit (& their company) – 16:19**
- **[Peace] Absence of Turmoil – 15:16**
- **Love, Absence of Hatred – 15:17**
- **Righteousness, not unjust gain – 16:8**
- **Honor – 11:16, 18**
- **Sure [stable] reward – 28:6**

# The Real Reward for Wise Living

- Leads to **Life** – 10:16-17
- A Tree of **Life** – 11:30
- A Fountain of **Life** – 13:14

What kind of “Life” is this?  
Physical Immortality? Eternity in Heaven or Hell?

# The Real Reward for Wise Living: LIFE

- **Physical: longevity, good health (longer, fuller days)**
  - 21:16; 16:22
- **Social: a flourishing of one's affairs (friends, family, etc.)**
  - 14:26; 19:23
- **Personal (Psychological): vitality, security, confidence**
  - 14:26; 13:12
- **Religious/Moral: fellowship with God, disassociation from evil**
  - 14:27; 11:20

**Definition: *fullness and soundness in all aspects of life***

## Proverbs 2:16-22

**16** So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman,  
from the adulteress with her smooth words,

**17** who forsakes the companion of her youth  
and forgets the covenant of her God;

**18** for her house sinks down to death,  
and her paths to the departed;

**19** none who go to her come back,  
nor do they regain the paths of life.

**20** So you will walk in the way of the good  
and keep to the paths of the righteous.

**21** For the upright will inhabit the land,  
and those with integrity will remain in it,

**22** but the wicked will be cut off from the land,  
and the treacherous will be rooted out of it.

## Qualities of this Life

- **Contentment, untouched by trouble – 19:23**
- **Enjoy good things; fully satisfied – 13:2, 4**
- **Longer life, with joy – 10:27-28**
- **Refuge from Ruin; Not uprooted – 10:29-30**
  - Note: ‘Dwelling in the Land.’ v.30 (cf to Dt 30:15-20)
- **Confidence – 28:1**

## Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I set before you today **life and prosperity, death and destruction**. For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will **live and increase**, and the Lord your God will **bless you in the land** you are entering to possess.

But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not **live long in the land** you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that **I have set before you life and death**, blessings and curses. Now choose **life**, so that you and your children may live, and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For **the Lord is your life**, and **he will give you many years in the land** he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

# **The Real World: Inequalities**

- **Injustice – 13:23**
- **Materialistic Favoritism – 14:20**
- **Wicked Rulers – 28:15**
- **Wicked Triumphing over Good – 28:28**
- **Bad Conditions because of Wicked Rulers – 29:2**

Do these “realities” create dilemmas for us  
as we try to pursue this “Way of LIFE?”  
See 24:10; 24:15-16; 24:19-20.

# The Ideal Life

7 Two things I ask of you;  
deny them not to me before I die.

8 Remove far from me falsehood  
give me neither poverty nor riches;  
feed me with the food that is needful for me,

9 lest I be full and deny you  
and say, "Who is the LORD?"  
or lest I be poor and steal  
and profane the name of my God.

Physical Needs Met

Relationship  
with God



# Course Schedule

Date	Day	Lesson	Teacher
4/14	Sun	<b>1. Introduction</b>	Marty
4/17	Wed	<b>2. Analysis of Hebrew Poetry</b>	Mason
4/21	Sun	<b>3. Obtaining Wisdom</b>	Mason
4/24	Wed	<b>4. Defining Wisdom – part 1</b>	Marty
4/28	Sun	<b>Defining Wisdom – part 2</b>	Marty
5/1	Wed	<b>5. Motivation for Wise Living</b>	Mason
5/5		<b>(no class)</b>	
5/8	Wed	<b>6. Life &amp; Death</b>	Mason
5/12	Sun	<b>7. Parents &amp; Children</b>	Marty
5/15	Wed	<b>8. Speech</b>	Mason
5/19	Sun	<b>9. Wives, Husbands, &amp; Harlots</b>	Marty
5/22	Wed	<b>10. Idleness, Drunkenness, &amp; Gluttony</b>	Marty
6/2	Sun	<b>11. Shortcomings of Wisdom</b>	Marty
6/5	Wed	<b>12. Review</b>	Marty



# Continued Review Questions

- 8. The wise man realizes that the only source of wisdom is God's word. **False**
- 9. All wisdom originates with God. **True**
- 10. Reproof of a wise man is never necessary. **False**
- 11. The wise man is known by his ready answer to every question. **False**
- 12. The fool is known by his stupid look and inability to express himself. **False**
- 13. Riches and popularity are the primary rewards of wise living mentioned in the Proverbs. **False**
- 14. The Proverbs have much to say about a hope for a life after death. **False**
- 15. "Life & Death" in the Proverbs often refer to quality of life rather than actual living or dying. **True**
- 16. The Proverbs picture God as very distant from the hearts and affairs of men. **False**
- 17. The real reward for wisdom is that we can live, as much as is possible, in harmony with God and His creation. **True**

# Foundation Concepts ...

- **Wisdom as a Commodity...**
  - Sources of Wisdom
  - Source of Wisdom
- **Wise vs Foolish Character**
- **Motivation of Wise Living**
  - Rewards of Wise Living
  - Reward of Wise Living
- **Two Paths**

# Two 'Ways'

## *Death*

## *Life*

<b>2:13</b>	<b>dark</b>	<b>straight</b>
<b>2:15</b>	<b>crooked (devious)</b>	
<b>15:19</b>	<b>blocked with thorns</b>	<b>highway</b>
<b>28:18</b>	<b>sudden fall (into pit)</b>	<b>kept safe</b>
<b>15:24</b>	<b>goes down to sheol</b>	<b>leads upward</b>
<b>16:25</b>	<b>(seems right) death</b>	
<b>4:18-19</b>	<b>deep darkness, stumbling</b>	<b>morning sun, shining ever brighter full light of day</b>

# Wise & Foolish in Relation to...

	<u>Wise Man</u>	<u>Foolish Man</u>
God	<i>The starting point</i>	<i>Says, "There is no God."</i>
Law	<i>Accepts commands, heeds instructions</i>	<i>Deaf ear; "chatters"</i>
Instruction/ Reproof	<i>Listens to it; accepts it; heeds; adds to learning</i>	<i>Disregards; spurns</i>
Knowledge/ Understanding	<i>Stores knowledge up</i>	<i>Loves simple ways; hates knowledge; no pleasure</i>
Wise Men	<i>Walks with wise</i>	<i>Despises wisdom</i>
Evil & Sin	<i>Shuns &amp; hates evil</i>	<i>Detest turning from evil</i>
Self	<i>Doesn't lean on self; not wise in own eyes</i>	<i>Own way seems right; trusts in self; delight to talk</i>

# The Fool In the Proverbs

- 10:8 – Hates laws: not bound by authority
- 15:5 – Hates instruction/reproof, will not change
- 1:7; 1:22; 18:2 – Will not listen, will not learn
- 12:15; 28:26 – Trusts in own opinion
- 18:2 – Likes to hear himself
- 10:5 – Shortsighted (carnal)
- 24:30-34 – Hates hard work
- 13:19 – Attracted to sin
- Ps 14:1 – Denies spiritual realities

**Rebellion, Disobedience**  
**Disrespect**  
**Stubbornness**  
**Self-centeredness**  
**Selfishness**  
**Laziness/Carelessness**  
**Obvious Evil:**

- **Cruelty**
- **Profanity**
- **Dishonesty**

## Proverbs 4: 1-9

**Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction;  
pay attention and gain understanding.**

**<sup>2</sup> I give you sound learning,  
so do not forsake my teaching.**

**<sup>3</sup> For I too was a son to my father,  
still tender, and cherished by my mother.**

**<sup>4</sup> Then he taught me, and he said to me,**

**“Take hold of my words with all your heart;  
keep my commands, and you will live.**

**<sup>5</sup> Get wisdom, get understanding;  
do not forget my words or turn away from them.**

**<sup>6</sup> Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you;  
love her, and she will watch over you.**

**<sup>7</sup> The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom.  
Though it cost all you have, get understanding.**

**<sup>8</sup> Cherish her, and she will exalt you;  
embrace her, and she will honor you.**

**<sup>9</sup> She will give you a garland to grace your head  
and present you with a glorious crown.”**

## **Proverbs 4: 10-19**

- 10 Listen, my son, accept what I say,  
and the years of your life will be many.**
- 11 I instruct you in the way of wisdom  
and lead you along straight paths.**
- 12 When you walk, your steps will not be hampered;  
when you run, you will not stumble.**
- 13 Hold on to instruction, do not let it go;  
guard it well, for it is your life.**
- 14 Do not set foot on the path of the wicked  
or walk in the way of evildoers.**
- 15 Avoid it, do not travel on it;  
turn from it and go on your way.**
- 16 For they cannot rest until they do evil;  
they are robbed of sleep till they make someone stumble.**
- 17 They eat the bread of wickedness  
and drink the wine of violence.**
- 18 The path of the righteous is like the morning sun,  
shining ever brighter till the full light of day.**
- 19 But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness;  
they do not know what makes them stumble.**



# Role of Parents

**1:8 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction  
and do not forsake your mother's teaching.**

## Proverbs 6:20-23

<sup>20</sup> My son, keep your father's command  
and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

<sup>21</sup> Bind them always on your heart;  
fasten them around your neck.

<sup>22</sup> When you walk, they will guide you;  
when you sleep, they will watch over you;  
when you awake, they will speak to you.

<sup>23</sup> For this command is a lamp,  
this teaching is a light,  
and correction and instruction  
are **the way to life...**

**Train a child in **the way** he should go,  
and when he is old he will not turn from it. (22:6)**

# Always Necessary?

**29:15** The rod of correction imparts wisdom,  
but **a child left to himself** disgraces his mother.

**26:3** A whip for the horse,  
a halter for the donkey,  
and a rod for the backs of fools!

**19:25** Flog a mocker, and the **simple will learn** prudence;  
rebuke a discerning man, and **he will gain knowledge**.

**22:15** **Folly is bound up in the heart of a child,**  
**but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.**

# **Is Mere Rebuke Sufficient?**

- 17:10** A rebuke impresses a man of discernment more than a hundred lashes a fool.
- 15:5** A fool spurns his father's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.

# Motivation for Correction?

- 3:11, 12** My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, Because the LORD disciplines **those he loves**, as a father the son **he delights in**.
- 13:24** He who spares the rod **hates** his son, but **he who loves him** is careful to discipline him.
- 23:13-14** Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. Punish him with the rod and **save his soul from death**.

## The Learning Process (see 22:6)

22:15	Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.	Folly driven out
4:20-21	My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart	Listen to Words
		Put in heart
23:19	Listen, my son, and be wise, and keep your heart on the right path.	Keep 'buying' Wisdom
23:22-25	Listen to your father... <sup>23</sup> Buy the truth and do not sell it; Get wisdom, discipline and understanding.	
13:1	A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke.	Seek help; listen to rebuke

# Proverbs 4:4-7; 10-12

- <sup>4</sup> Then he taught me, and he said to me,  
    “**Take hold of my words** with all your heart;  
    **keep my commands**, and you will live.
- <sup>5</sup> Get wisdom, get understanding;  
    **do not forget my words** or turn away from them.
- <sup>6</sup> Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you;  
    love her, and she will watch over you.
- <sup>7</sup> **The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom.**  
    Though it cost all you have, get understanding.
- <sup>10</sup> Listen, my son, accept what I say,  
    and the years of your life will be many.
- <sup>11</sup> I instruct you in the way of wisdom  
    and lead you along straight paths.
- <sup>12</sup> When you walk, your steps will not be hampered;  
    when you run, you will not stumble.
- <sup>13</sup> Hold on to instruction, do not let it go;  
    guard it well, for it is your life.

# Punishment should be...

- For *Folly*—but NOT for:
  - Accident, clumsiness, or lack of ability
  - A show to others (e.g. other parents)
  - Showing personal disappointment
  - Our own embarrassment, impatience
  - A warning, or to “settle things down”
  - An Accumulation of small things
- Associated with personal guilt
  - Not corporate or circumstantial blame
- Certain, when promised (Eccl 8:11)
  - No false threats: make promises true
  - No second chance
- Near (in time) the infraction (Ezra 7:26)
  - Especially when younger
  - “Natural Consequence” do this.
- Must be “painful” (Heb 12:11)
  - Physical pain
  - Emotional pain (isolation, lost pleasure or privilege – esp. older)
  - Substantially more than pleasure provided by the infraction
  - Not an activity which we wish to encourage as good & necessary
- Over quickly, forgotten, once done (Heb 12:11 – “for the present”)
- Continual & consistent (Prov 13:24), despite lack of visible results

## Praise should be...

- For wise behavior:
  - Compliance
  - Respectfulness
  - Politeness
  - Kindness
  - Unselfishness
  - Industry
  - Truthfulness
- For personal goodness
- Certain, esp. when promised
- Near the good behavior
- Pleasurable
  - Physical & emotional
- Extended, Celebrated
- Continual & consistent



# Corporal Punishment Checklist

- |                                     |   |                              |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Is the rule (desired behavior) clear (observable)?  | <i>Before</i>                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Is the rule known & understood (could be repeated & acknowledged) in advance by the child?                            |                              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Is the punishment (consequence) known & understood in advance by the child (could be repeated & acknowledged)?        |                              |
| <hr/>                               |   |                              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Is the disobedience (undesired behavior) obvious & known (perhaps even admitted) by the child?                        | <i>The In-fraction</i>       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Is the disobedience willful, & evidence of rebellion, laziness, disrespect, stubbornness, or other "Foolishness"?     |                              |
| <hr/>                               |   |                              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Am I calm (discuss with spouse)? Do I appear calm?  | <i>Interlude</i>             |
| <hr/>                               |   |                              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Have I reviewed (calmly) the rule, the disobedience, & the previously determined & stated consequence with the child? | <i>Prelude to Punishment</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Have I expressed my love, & explained that it is the motive of the punishment?  |                              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Have I expressed the hurt I feel at having to punish my child (and that it is one of God's rules for me)?             |                              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Have I expressed confidence that my child is capable of better behavior?  |                              |
| <hr/>                               |   |                              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Have I expressed & demonstrated my willingness to forgive quickly (including with physical touch)?                    | <i>After</i>                 |

# The Child's Responsibility

- 23:22** **Listen** to your father, who gave you life,  
do not **despise** your mother when she is old.
- 30:17** The eye that **mocks** a father,  
that **scorns obedience** to a mother,  
will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley,  
will be eaten by the vultures.
- 20:20** If a man **curses** his father or mother,  
his lamp will be snuffed out in pitch darkness.

# A Test for Maturity (Wisdom)

## Foolishness

## Wisdom

Not bound by  
authority

----->

**Sets own boundaries**

Hates instruction  
& reproof

----->

**Open to correction**

Will not listen, learn

----->

**Seeks advice before acting**

Trusts in own  
opinion

----->

**Respects the wisdom of others**

Likes to hear  
himself talk

----->

**Sympathetic, interested Listener**

Shortsighted (carnal)

----->

**Self-controlled, defers gratification**

Hates hard  
work

----->

**Diligent, dedicated & determined**

Attracted to sin

----->

**Pure, repulsed by sin, avoids temptation**

Denies spiritual  
realities

----->

**Spiritual center in thinking/priorities**

## Blessings of a Wise Son

**19:18** Discipline your son, for in that there is **hope**;  
do **not** be a willing party to his **death**.

**29:17** Discipline your son, and he will give you **peace**;  
he will bring **delight** to your soul.

# Effects on Parents

- 10:1 A wise son brings **joy** to his father,  
but a foolish son **grief** to his mother.
- 17:21 To have a fool for a son brings **grief**;  
there is no **joy** for the father of a fool.
- 17:25 A foolish son brings **grief** to his father  
and **bitterness** to the one who bore him.
- 19:26 He who robs his father and drives out his mother  
is a son who brings **shame** and **disgrace**.
- 28:7 He who keeps the law is a discerning son,  
but a companion of gluttons **disgraces** his father
- 23:15-16 My son, if your heart is wise,  
then my heart will be **glad**;  
my inmost being will **rejoice**  
when your lips speak what is right.
- 23:24-25 The father of a righteous man has great **joy**;  
he who has a wise son **delights** in him.  
May your father and mother be **glad**;  
may she who gave you birth **rejoice**!

## *Foolish Son*

- Not bound by authority
- Hates instruction/reproof
- Will not listen, learn
- Trusts in own opinion
- Likes to hear himself talk
- Shortsighted (carnal)
- Hates hard work
- Attracted to sin
- Denies spiritual realities

## *Wise Son*

- Sets own boundaries
- Open to correction
- Seeks advice before acting
- Respects wisdom of others
- Sympathetic Listener
- Self-controlled,  
defers gratification
- Diligent, dedicated &  
determined
- Pure, repulsed by sin
- Spiritual center in thinking

## **Ideal Relationship (17:6)**

**Children's children are a crown to the aged,  
and parents are the pride of their children.**

# Course Schedule

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4/24	Wed	<b>4. Defining Wisdom – part 1</b>	Marty
4/28	Sun	<b>Defining Wisdom – part 2</b>	Marty
5/1	Wed	<b>5. Motivation for Wise Living</b>	Mason
5/5		<b>(no class)</b>	
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6/5	Wed	<b>12. Review</b>	Marty



## Speech in Proverbs

**“Life and death are in the power of the tongue.”**

**“The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of sense.”**

**“The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a snare of death.”**

**“Whoever guards his lips preserves his life.”**

Why use such forceful language  
to discuss our speech?



# **The Importance of the Tongue**

- **It can get me into/out of trouble—21:23**
- **It affects the course of my life, for better or worse—12:13-14**
- **It helps me get the good things I need or want, instead of leaving me with vain desires—13:2**
- **It can improve my relationships—27:9**

**The way we talk indicates what our heart is like:  
Proverbs 27:19; Luke 6:45; James 3:3-12**

# Misuses of the Tongue

- **Deception, Lying, Hypocrisy**
- **Slander, Backbiting**
- **Whispering, Quarreling**
- **Boasting**
- **Unwise Revelation—11:13**
- **Stirring Up Anger—25:23**
- **Rash Talking—29:20 (see also Ephesians 5:4)**

# **Why Misuse the Tongue?**

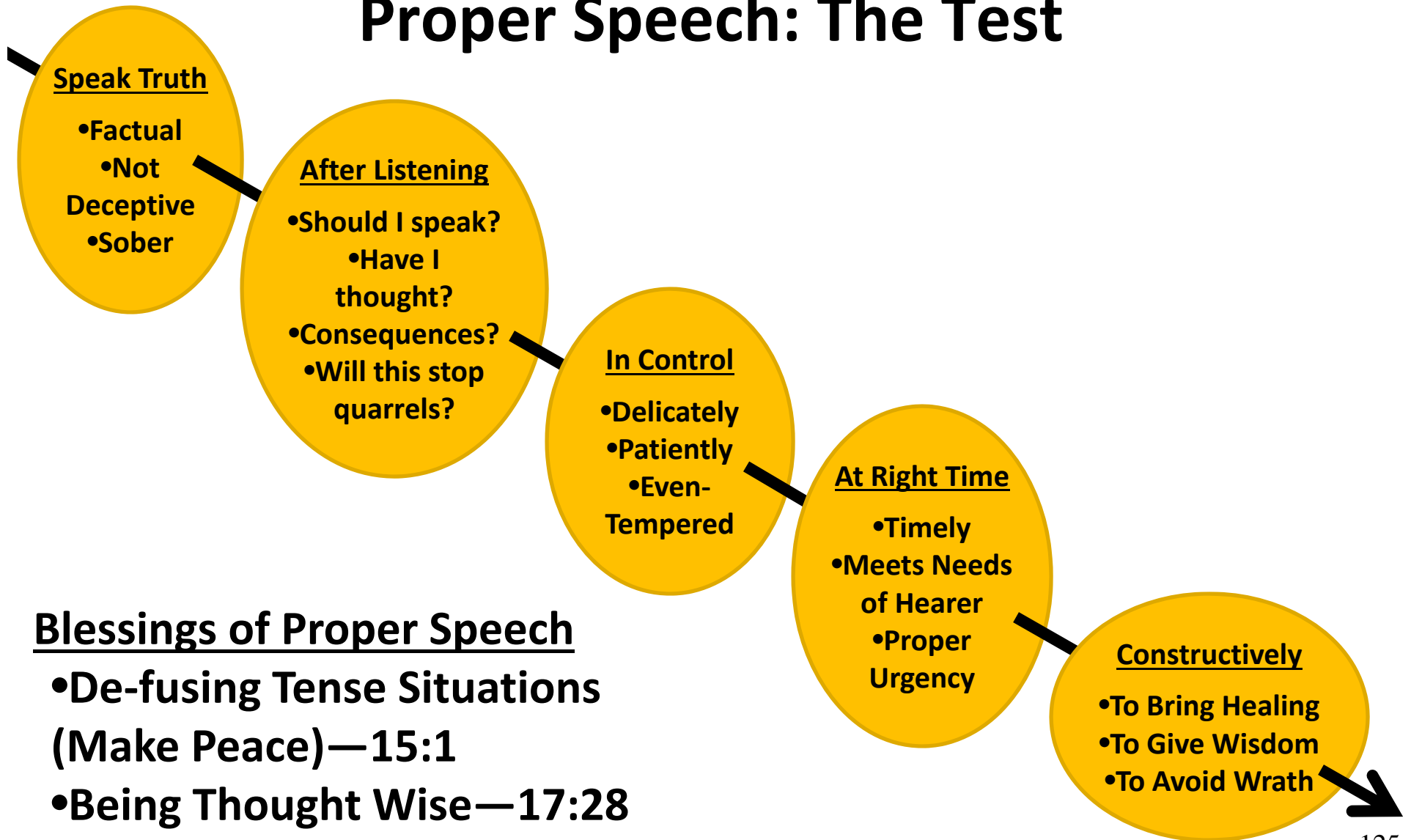
- **Dishonest Gain—21:6**
- **Bring Undue Honor to Self—11:9**
- **Bring Harm to Others (Express Hatred)—12:6**
- **Get Pleasure or Power—18:8**
- **Separate Friends; Cause Trouble—16:28**

## **Is It Worth It?**

- **Ill-Gotten Gains (21:6) are Fleeting and a Snare**
- **“Truth” Keeps Changing on You—12:19**
- **May Incur Punishment—19:5**
- **May Bring Calamity on Self—21:23**
- **You Will Be Exposed—26:25-28**
  - Perhaps instantly, v.27

Using our tongues for selfish purposes  
betrays a lack of trust in God—28:25

# Proper Speech: The Test



## **Blessings of Proper Speech**

- De-fusing Tense Situations (Make Peace)—15:1
- Being Thought Wise—17:28

# The Ultimate Goal of Proper Speech

**Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.**

***Colossians 4:6***

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6/5	Wed	<b>12. Review</b>	Marty



# Foundation Concepts ...

- **Wisdom as a Commodity...**
  - Sources of Wisdom
  - Source of Wisdom
- **Wise vs Foolish Character**
- **Motivation of Wise Living**
  - Rewards of Wise Living
  - Reward of Wise Living
- **Two Paths (“Ways”)...**






# Two 'Ways'

## *Death*

## *Life*

<b>2:13</b>	<b>dark</b>	<b>straight</b>
<b>2:15</b>	<b>crooked (devious)</b>	
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<b>16:25</b>	<b>(seems right) death</b>	
<b>4:18-19</b>	<b>deep darkness, stumbling</b>	<b>morning sun, shining ever brighter full light of day</b>

# The Husband-Wife Relationship

- 2:17 – ...who has left the **partner** of her youth and ignored the covenant she made before God.  
Companionship, friendship
- 5:18-19 – May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts **satisfy you** always, may you ever be **captivated** by her love.  
Pleasant, Satisfying
- 23:22,25 – Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother **when she is old**.  
...<sup>25</sup>May your father and mother be glad; may she who gave you birth rejoice!  
Life-long (permanent)

# The Importance of the Wife

- 18:22 – He who finds a wife finds **what is good** and receives **favor from the LORD**.
- 19:14 – Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is **from the LORD**.
- 31:10-11 – A wife of noble character who can find? She is **worth far more than rubies**.  
Her husband has full confidence in her and **lacks nothing of value**.
- 14:1 – The wise woman **builds her house**, but with her own hands the foolish one **tears hers down**.

# Effect on Her Husband

- 5:18 May your **fountain be blessed**, and may you **rejoice** in the wife of your youth.
- 12:4 A wife of noble character is her **husband's crown**, but a disgraceful wife is like **decay in his bones**.
- 19:13 – A foolish son is his father's ruin, and a quarrelsome wife is **like a constant dripping**.
- 27:15-16 – A quarrelsome wife is like a **constant dripping on a rainy day**; restraining her is like **restraining the wind or grasping oil** with the hand.
- 21:9 – **Better to live on a corner of the roof** than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.
- 21:19 – **Better to live in a desert** than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife.
- 6:34 – ...For jealousy arouses a husband's **fury**, and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge.
- 31:23 – Her husband is **respected at the city gate**, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.
- 30:23 – Under three things **the earth trembles**...an unloved[odious]woman who is married, and a maidservant who displaces her mistress

# The Worthy Woman

## *Whom she serves*

- 31:11-12 – **Her husband** has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.  
She **brings him good**, not harm,  
all the days of her life.
- 31:15 – She gets up while it is still dark;  
she provides food for **her family** and portions for **her servant girls**.
- 31:20 – She opens her arms to **the poor**  
and extends her hands to **the needy**.

## *Center of her concern*

- 31:15 – She gets up while it is still dark;  
she provides food for **her family** and portions for her servant girls.
- 31:21 – When it snows, she has no fear for **her household**;  
for all of them are clothed in scarlet.
- 31:27 – She watches over the affairs of **her household**  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.

# Types of Work (Prov 31)

- 17 – She sets about her work vigorously; her **arms are strong** for her tasks.
- 13 – She selects **wool and flax** and works with eager hands.
- 19 – In her hand she holds the **distaff** and grasps the **spindle** with her fingers.
- 22 – She **makes coverings** for her bed; she is **clothed in fine linen and purple**.
- 24 – She **makes linen garments and sells them**, and **supplies the merchants with sashes**.
- 14–16 – She is like the merchant ships, **bringing her food** from afar.  
She gets up while it is still dark;  
she **provides food** for her family  
and portions for her servant girls.  
She **considers a field and buys it**;  
out of her earnings she **plants a vineyard**.
- 26 – She **speaks with wisdom**,  
and faithful **instruction** is on her tongue.

# Responsibilities of the Husband

- 31:11 – Her husband has **full confidence** in her and lacks nothing of value.
- 31:28-31 – Her children rise up and **call her blessed**; her husband also, and he **praises her**:  
"Many women do noble things,  
but you surpass them all."  
Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;  
but a woman who fears the LORD is **to be praised**.  
**Give her the reward she has earned**,  
and **let her works bring her praise** at the city gate.
- (11:16 – A kindhearted woman **gains respect**, but ruthless men gain only wealth.)

# The Harlot

- 2:18 – For her house **leads down to death** and her **paths** to the **spirits of the dead**.
- 5:5-6 – Her **feet go down to death**; her **steps lead** straight **to the grave**. She gives no thought to the **way of life**; her **paths are crooked**, but she knows it not.
- 5:23 – **He will die** for lack of discipline, **led astray** by his own great folly.
- 6:26 – ...for the prostitute reduces you to a loaf of bread, and the adulteress **preys upon your very life**.
- 7:24–27 Do not let your heart **turn to her ways** or **stray into her paths**. Many are the **victims** she has brought down; her **slain** are a mighty throng. Her house is a **highway to the grave**, **leading down to the chambers of death**.



# Why “Life” and “Death”?

- 2:17 – who has left the partner of her youth and **ignored the covenant she made before God.**
- 5:3-4 – For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey,  
And her mouth *is* smoother than oil;  
<sup>4</sup> But **in the end she is bitter as wormwood,  
Sharp as a two-edged sword.**
- 5:21–22 – For your ways are in full view of the LORD,  
and he examines all your paths.  
<sup>22</sup> The evil deeds of the wicked **ensnare them**;  
the cords of their **sins hold them fast.**
- 6:27–29 – Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being **burned**?  
Can a man walk on hot coals without his **feet being scorched**?
- 6:30–35 – Men do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his hunger...  
But a man who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so **destroys himself.**  
Blows and disgrace are his lot, and his **shame will never be wiped away**;  
for jealousy **arouses a husband's fury**,  
and he will show **no mercy** when he takes revenge.
- 7:22 – All at once he followed her like an ox **going to the slaughter**,  
like a deer **stepping into a noose**
- 23:27-28 for an adulterous woman is a **deep pit**,  
and a wayward wife is a **narrow well.**  
Like a bandit she lies in wait  
and multiplies the unfaithful among men.

# Dangers of Abuse of Romantic Love (Prov 5)

- <sup>1</sup> My son, pay attention to my wisdom,  
listen well to my words of insight,
- <sup>2</sup> that you may maintain discretion  
and your lips may preserve knowledge.
- <sup>3</sup> For the lips of an adulteress drip honey,  
and her speech is smoother than oil;
- <sup>4</sup> but in the end she is bitter as gall,  
sharp as a double-edged sword.
- <sup>5</sup> Her feet go down to death;  
her steps lead straight to the grave.
- <sup>6</sup> She gives no thought to the way of life;  
her paths are crooked, but she knows it not.

## Dangers of Abuse of Romantic Love (Prov 5)

- <sup>7</sup> Now then, my sons, listen to me;  
do not turn aside from what I say.
- <sup>8</sup> Keep to a path far from her,  
do not go near the door of her house,
- <sup>9</sup> lest you give your **best strength** to others  
and your **years** to one who is cruel,
- <sup>10</sup> lest strangers feast on **your wealth**  
and your **toil** enrich another man's house.
- <sup>11</sup> **At the end of your life** you will groan,  
when your **flesh and body are spent**.
- <sup>12</sup> You will say, "How I hated discipline!  
How my heart spurned correction!"
- <sup>13</sup> I would not obey my teachers  
or listen to my instructors.
- <sup>14</sup> I have come to the **brink of utter ruin**  
in the **midst of the whole assembly**."

### What is Lost:

**Energy, Strength**

**Time**

**Money**

**Effort**

**Health**

**Opportunities**

**(Mistakes/Regrets)**

**Reputation**

# The Bait

- 2:16 – It will save you also from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her **seductive words**,
- 5:3 – For the **lips** of an adulteress **drip honey**, and her **speech** is **smoother than oil**;
- 6:24-25 – ...keeping you from the immoral woman, from the **smooth tongue** of the wayward wife.  
Do not lust in your heart after **her beauty** or let her captivate you with her eyes...

# **The Story (Proverbs 7:6-23)**

**a. Time of day:**

**b. Location:**

**c. Characters (& characteristics):**

**d. Plot:**

**e. Ending and Moral:**

**f. Harlot's Tricks:**

**10      Dress**

**16-17   Promise (description) of sensual pleasure**

**13      kissed (& facial expressions)**

**18      Shortsighted Description: "till morning"**

**15      Flattery: "looked for you"**

**19-20   Promise that he will not be caught: no consequences**

# Protection

- 5:7-8 – Now then, my sons, listen to me;  
do not turn aside from what I say.  
**Keep to a path far from her,**  
**do not go near** the door of her house,
- 6:25 – **Do not lust** in your heart after her beauty  
or **let her captivate** you with her eyes,
- 7:25 – Do **not let your heart turn to her ways**  
or stray into her paths.

# Guidelines for Romantic Love (Prov 5)

<sup>15</sup> Drink water from **your own cistern**,  
running water from **your own well**.

<sup>16</sup> Should your springs overflow in the streets,  
your streams of water in the public squares?

***Private***

<sup>17</sup> Let them be **yours alone**,  
**never to be shared** with strangers.

<sup>18</sup> May your **fountain be blessed**,  
and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.

***Plentiful***

<sup>19</sup> A loving doe, a graceful deer-  
may her breasts **satisfy you always**,  
may you ever be **captivated** by her love.

***Pleasurable***

<sup>20</sup> Why be **captivated**, my son, by an adulteress?

***Permanent***

# A Contrast

## *Faithful Wife*

31:10–31; 5:15–20

- 5:19-20 – captivates
- 31:23 – she is respected
- 31:11, 30 – trusted & trustworthy
- 31:26 – godly influence
- 31:12 –does him good

## *Adulterous Woman*

6:20–35; 7:1–27

- 7:22-23; 6:25 –captures
- 6:30 – causes dishonor
- 7:10, 21 – deceives
- 30:20; 2:16-17 – ungodly character
- 7:25-27; 6:25-29; 2:18-19 – brings disaster



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6/2	Sun	<b>11. Shortcomings of Wisdom</b>	Marty
6/5	Wed	<b>12. Review</b>	Marty



# The Proverbs Point of View

- **Ordinary, earthly topics & instructions**, yet...
- All in the context of a relationship with God (5:21)
- Gaining Wisdom requires diligence & effort, yet...
- The 'call' of Wisdom is obvious & visible (1:20)
- **Instructions for daily decisions**, yet...
- Describes a continuous way/walk (4:18)
- Assumes an orderly, godly society (29:18)
  - Civility valued, morality & family honored & protected
  - **Honesty, diligence, self-discipline respected & rewarded**
  - Corruption, abuse of power, anarchy not tolerated

# **Lesson 10 Goals & Objectives**

- **Goal:**
  - Understand the consequences of a lack of self-control, and determine to improve our self-discipline.
- **Objectives:**
  - List the things which seem to have rule over the sluggard, drunkard, and glutton.
  - List three things that the sluggard, drunkard, and glutton have in common.
  - List at least three principles of disciplined work

# Pictures of the Sluggard

- 12:11 He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who **chases fantasies** lacks judgment. **Daydreamer, not a Doer**
- 26:13–16 The sluggard **says, "There is a lion in the road,** a fierce lion roaming the streets!"  
As **a door turns on its hinges,** so a sluggard turns on his bed..  
The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he is **too lazy to bring it back to his mouth.**  
The sluggard is **wiser in his own eyes** than seven men who answer discreetly. **Motion, but no productivity**  
**Uncompleted tasks (lost benefit)**  
**Lots of rationalization**
- 19:24 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he will not even bring it back to his mouth!
- 12:27 The lazy man **does not roast his game,** but the diligent man prizes his possessions. **Wasted resources & opportunities**
- 10:26 As **vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes** so is a sluggard to those who send him. **Undependable, an annoyance to others**

# The Sluggard's Side of the Story

20:4 A sluggard **does not plow in season**;  
so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing.

"Too hard. Too cold."  
"Can wait a while."

22:13 The sluggard says, "**There is a lion outside!**"  
or, "**I will be murdered in the streets!**"

"Threats & dangers"  
("World is against me!")

15:19 The way of the sluggard is **blocked with thorns**,  
but the path of the upright is a highway.

"Life full of difficulties  
& complications"

# Consequences of Laziness

13:4 The sluggard **craves and gets nothing**,  
but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.

Frustration of unfulfilled  
desires, hopes, envies

12:24 Diligent hands will rule,  
but laziness **ends in slave labor**.

Will require supervision  
(probably resented).

28:19 He who works his land  
will have abundant food,  
but the one who chases fantasies  
will **have his fill of poverty**.

Poverty is a consequence, &  
an added difficulty ("thorn").

# The Real Problem (1)

10:5 He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son,  
but he who **sleeps during harvest** is a disgraceful son.

20:13 Do not **love sleep** or you will grow poor;  
stay awake and you will have food to spare.

6:6–11 Go to the ant, you sluggard;  
consider its ways and be wise!  
It has no commander,  
no overseer or ruler,  
yet it stores its provisions in summer  
and gathers its food at harvest.

How long will you lie there, you sluggard?

**When will you get up from your sleep?**

**A little sleep, a little slumber,**

a little folding of the hands to rest—  
and poverty will come on you like a bandit  
and scarcity like an armed man.

## **Sleep:**

- **Inactivity & unresponsiveness**
- **Lack of attention & awareness**
- **Not clear-headed (dreaming)**
- **Pleasure & comfort are priority**

## The Real Problem (2)

24:30–34 I went past the field of the sluggard,  
past the vineyard of the man who **lacks judgment**;  
thorns had come up everywhere,  
the ground was covered with weeds,  
and the stone wall was in ruins.  
I applied my heart to what I observed  
and learned a lesson from what I saw:  
**A little sleep, a little slumber,**  
a little folding of the hands to rest—  
and poverty will come on you like a bandit  
and scarcity like an armed man.

18:9

**One who is slack in his work  
is brother to one who destroys.**



# A Picture of Drunkenness (23:29-35)

Who has woe? Who has sorrow?  
Who has strife? Who has complaints?  
Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes?  
Those who linger over wine,  
Who go to sample bowls of mixed wine.

**Chronic Health &  
Social Problems**

Do not gaze at wine when it is red,  
When it sparkles in the cup,  
When it goes down smoothly!  
In the end it bites like a snake  
and poisons like a viper.

**Attracted (Conditioned)  
by the Initial Pleasure**

Your eyes will see strange sights  
And your mind imagine confusing things.  
You will be like one sleeping on the high seas,  
Lying on top of the rigging.

**Clouds perception  
& judgment**

"They hit me," you will say, "but I'm not hurt!  
They beat me, but I don't feel it!  
When will I wake up so I can find another drink?"

**Severe Collateral  
Consequences**

**Relief Sought in  
Cause of Problems**

# Consequences of Drunkenness

21:17 He who loves pleasure will become poor;  
whoever loves wine and oil will **never be rich**.

Consumes  
Resources

31:4-5 "It is not for kings, O Lemuel—  
not for kings to drink wine,  
not for rulers to crave beer,  
lest they drink and **forget what the law decrees**,  
and **deprive all the oppressed of their rights**.

Corrupts  
Judgment

Harms  
Others

# Gluttony Described

- 23:20-21 Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat, for drunkards and gluttons **become poor**, and **drowsiness clothes them in rags** **Consumes Resources** **Clouds Judgment**
- 23:1-3 When you sit to dine with a ruler, note well what is before you, and put a knife to your throat if you are given to gluttony **Builds bad Habits**  
**Do not crave** his delicacies, for that **food is deceptive.**
- 23:6-8 Do not eat the food of a stingy man, **do not crave** his delicacies; **Creates wrong (destructive) values**  
for he is the kind of man who is always thinking about the cost.  
"Eat and drink," he says to you, but his heart is not with you.  
You will vomit up the little you have eaten and will have wasted your compliments.
- 25:16 If you find honey, eat just enough—**Limited ability to satisfy (Jn 6:26)**  
**too much of it, and you will vomit.**

# The Common Problem

21:25 The sluggard's craving will be the death of him, because **his hands refuse to work**.

6:7 [ants:] ...no commander, no overseer or ruler,

20:1 Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is **led astray by them** is not wise.

25:28 Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who **lacks self-control**.

16:32 Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who **controls his temper** than one who takes a city.

***Something else is in control.***

# Proper Uses of Sleep, Wine, and Food

- Eccl. 5:12 The **sleep of a laborer** is sweet,  
whether he eats little or much,  
but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep.
- 31:6-7 Give beer to **those who are perishing**,  
wine to **those who are in anguish**;  
let them drink and **forget their poverty**  
and **remember their misery no more**.
- 24:13-14 Eat honey, my son, **for it is good**;  
honey from the comb is sweet to your taste. *See Jn 6:26*  
**Know also that wisdom is sweet to your soul**;  
if you find it, there is a future hope for you,  
and your hope will not be cut off.
- 27:18 He who tends a fig tree will **eat its fruit**,  
and he who looks after his master **will be honored**.

# Principles of Diligent Work

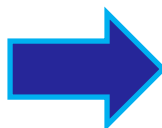
- 14:4 Where no oxen are, the trough is clean;  
But much **increase comes by the strength of an ox**. [NKJV]
- 24:27 Finish your outdoor work and get your fields ready;  
**after that**, build your house.
- 27:23–27 Be sure you know the condition of your flocks,  
give **careful attention** to your herds;  
for riches do not endure forever,  
and a crown is not secure for all generations.  
When the hay is removed and new growth appears  
and the grass from the hills is gathered in,  
the lambs will provide you with clothing,  
and the goats with the price of a field.  
You will have plenty of goats' milk to feed you  
and your family and to nourish your servant girls.
- 16:26 The laborer's appetite works for him; his **hunger drives him on**.
- 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead to profit  
as surely as **haste leads to poverty**.
- 13:11 Dishonest money dwindles away,  
but he who gathers money **little by little** makes it grow.
- 27:18 He who tends a fig tree will eat its fruit,  
and he who **looks after his master** will be honored.
- 22:29 Do you see a man **skilled in his work**?  
He will serve before kings;  
he will not serve before obscure men.

# Creation & Care of Possessions (Proverbs)

- 14:4 – Accept the inconveniences of hard work (cleaning ox's pen);  
*Make sacrifices to earn.*
- 24:27 – Outside projects first, then inside “comforts”;  
*Do hard things first; defer gratification.*
- 27:23-27 – Make diligent accounting of affairs (esp. assets & debts!)  
*Know and Take care of things.*
- 16:26 – No consequences → no motivation  
*Put ‘skin in the game’ (a way to change habits?).*
- 21:5 – Plans of diligent → plenty; hasty → poverty  
*Don't be hasty or sloppy.*
- 13:11 – *Build wealth “little by little”*  
*No shady deals; no “get rich quick” schemes.*
- 27:18 – Look after your master → you will be honored. (see Col 3:22; Rom 13:7)  
*Make the boss look good.*
- 22:29 – Be diligent (skillful) in what you do;  
*Excel in all you do.* (see Rom 12:11; Col 3:23-24)

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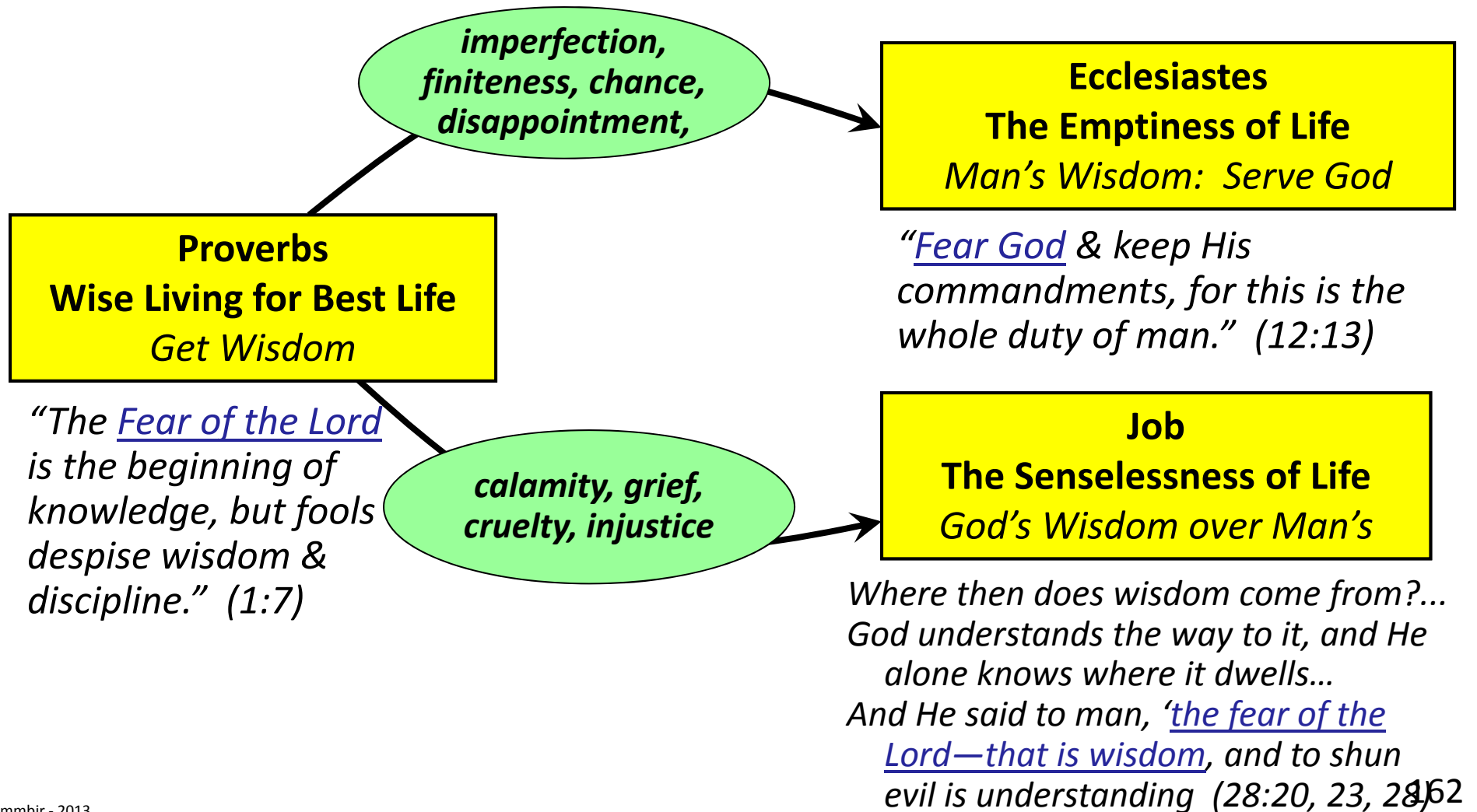




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# The Wisdom Literature



# **Things 'not right' about the world**

- 1. Nothing is absolutely good.**
- 2. There is evil present.**
- 3. There is sorrow, disappointment, imperfection.**
- 4. There are many incomprehensible things.**
- 5. There are many unfair & inappropriate things.**
- 6. There are many amazing things.**

# Nothin's Perfect (Absolutely Good)

- 27:7 He who is full loathes **honey**,  
but to the hungry even what is bitter tastes sweet.
- 27:14 If a man loudly **blesses his neighbor** early in the morning,  
it will be taken as a curse.
- 25:20 Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day,  
or like vinegar poured on soda,  
is one who **sings songs** to a heavy heart.
- 14:13 Even in **laughter** the heart may ache,  
and joy may end in grief.

# Evil in the World

- 29:2 When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice;  
when the **wicked rule**, the people groan.
- 29:10 **Bloodthirsty men** hate a man of integrity  
and **seek to kill the upright**.
- 20:9 **Who can say**, "I have kept my heart pure;  
**I am clean** and without sin"?
- 20:6 Many a man claims to have unfailing love,  
but **a faithful man who can find**?

# Sorrow, Disappointment, Imperfection

- 15:13 A happy heart makes the face cheerful,  
but **heartache** crushes the spirit.
- 17:22 A cheerful heart is good medicine,  
but a **crushed spirit** dries up the bones.
- 18:14 A man's spirit sustains him in sickness,  
but a **crushed spirit** who can bear?
- 13:12 **Hope deferred** makes the heart sick,  
but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.
- 27:20 **Death and Destruction** are never satisfied,  
and neither are the eyes of man.
- 14:10 Each heart knows its **own bitterness**,  
and **no one else can share** its joy.

# Incomprehensible Things

- 18:17 The **first to present** his case **seems right**,  
till another comes forward and questions him.
- 13:7 One man **pretends** to be rich, yet has nothing;  
another **pretends** to be poor, yet has great wealth.
- 27:1 Do not boast about tomorrow,  
for **you do not know** what a day may bring forth.

# Unfair & Inappropriate Things

- 17:8 A **bribe** is a charm to the one who gives it; wherever he turns, he succeeds.
- 14:20 The **poor are shunned** even by their neighbors, but the **rich have many friends**.
- 19:4 Wealth brings many friends, but a poor man's friend deserts him.
- 19:7 A poor man is shunned by all his relatives—how much more do his friends avoid him! Though he pursues them with pleading, they are nowhere to be found.
- 18:23 A poor man pleads for mercy, but a rich man answers harshly.
- 20:14 "**It's no good**, it's no good!" says the buyer; then **off he goes and boasts** about his purchase.



## Proverbs 30:7-9

Nothing is  
absolutely  
good.

- <sup>7</sup> Two things I ask of you, LORD;  
do not refuse me before I die:
- <sup>8</sup> Keep falsehood and lies far from me;  
give me neither poverty nor riches,  
but give me only my daily bread.
- <sup>9</sup> Otherwise, I may have too much  
and disown you and say, 'Who is the LORD?'  
Or I may become poor and steal,  
and so dishonor the name of my God.

## Proverbs 30:11-14

There is  
Evil  
Present

- <sup>11</sup> There are those who curse their fathers  
and do not bless their mothers;
- <sup>12</sup> those who are pure in their own eyes  
and yet are not cleansed of their filth;
- <sup>13</sup> those whose eyes are ever so haughty,  
whose glances are so disdainful;
- <sup>14</sup> those whose teeth are swords  
and whose jaws are set with knives  
to devour the poor from the earth  
and the needy from among mankind.

## Proverbs 30:15-16

<sup>15</sup> The leech has two daughters.  
‘Give! Give!’ they cry.

Sorrow, Dis-  
appointment,  
imperfection

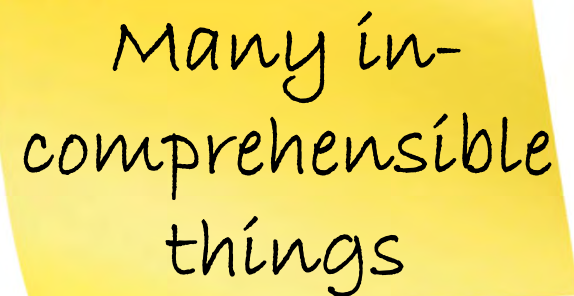
There are three things that are never satisfied,  
four that never say, ‘Enough!’:

<sup>16</sup> the grave, the barren womb,  
land, which is never satisfied with water,  
and fire, which never says, ‘Enough!’

## Proverbs 30:18-20

<sup>18</sup> There are three things that are too amazing for me,  
four that I do not understand:

<sup>19</sup> the way of an eagle in the sky,  
the way of a snake on a rock,  
the way of a ship on the high seas,  
and the way of a man with a young woman.



Many in-  
comprehensible  
things

<sup>20</sup> This is the way of an adulterous woman:  
She eats and wipes her mouth  
and says, 'I've done nothing wrong.'

## Proverbs 30:21-23

<sup>21</sup> “Under three things the earth trembles,  
under four it cannot bear up:

*Many unfair  
& inappropriate  
things*

<sup>22</sup> a servant who becomes king,  
a godless fool who gets plenty to eat,

<sup>23</sup> a contemptible woman who gets married,  
and a servant who displaces her mistress.

## Proverbs 30:24-31

Amazing &  
Amusing  
Things

- <sup>24</sup> Four things on earth are small,  
yet they are extremely wise:
- <sup>25</sup> **Ants** are creatures of little strength,  
yet they store up their food in the summer;
- <sup>26</sup> **hyraxes** [rock badger] are creatures of little power,  
yet they make their home in the crags;
- <sup>27</sup> **locusts** have no king,  
yet they advance together in ranks;
- <sup>28</sup> a **lizard** [spider?] can be caught with the hand,  
yet it is found in kings' palaces.
- <sup>29</sup> There are three things that are stately in their stride,  
four that move with stately bearing:
- <sup>30</sup> a **lion**, mighty among beasts,  
who retreats before nothing;
- <sup>31</sup> a strutting **rooster** [greyhound?], a **he-goat**,  
and a **king** secure against revolt.

## **Man's attitude**

30:32 If you play the fool and exalt yourself,  
or if you plan evil,  
clap your hand over your mouth!

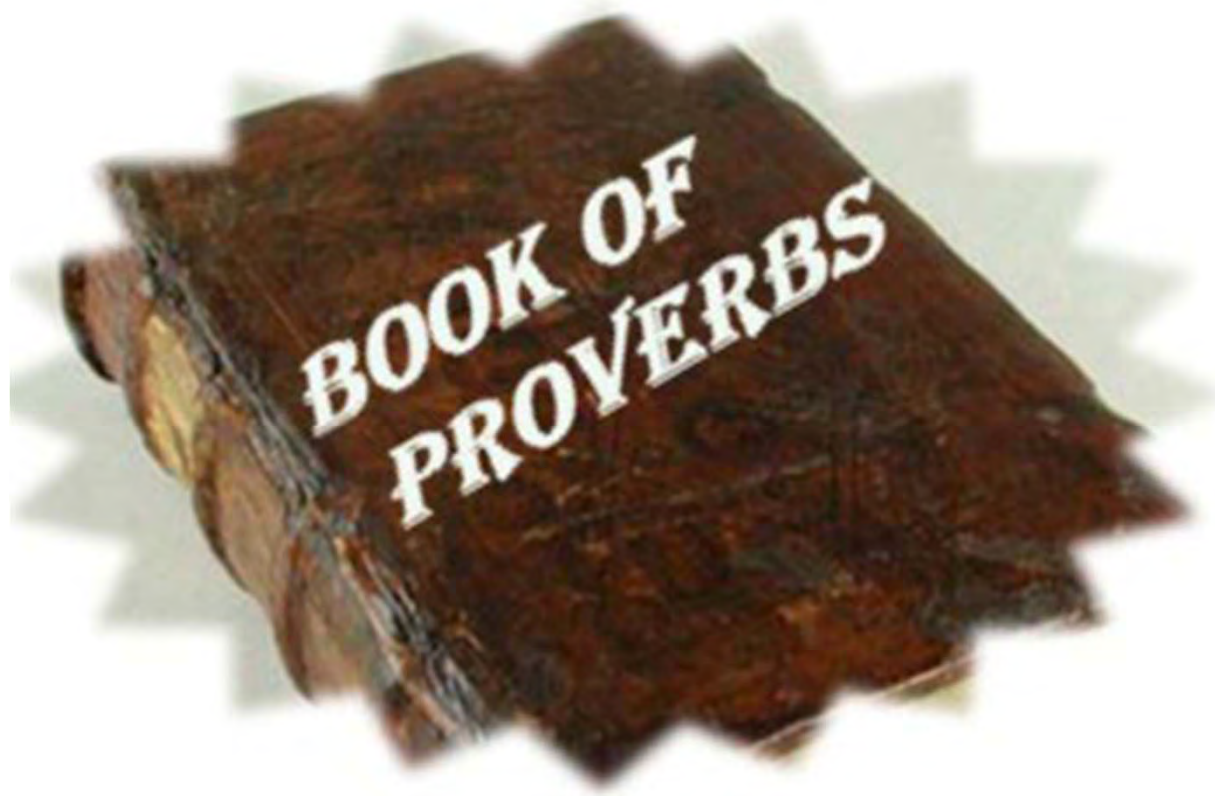
# What's the Point?

- <sup>2</sup> Surely I am more stupid than any man,  
And do not have the understanding of a man.
- <sup>3</sup> I neither learned wisdom  
Nor have knowledge of the Holy One.
- <sup>4</sup> Who has ascended into heaven, or descended?  
Who has gathered the wind in His fists?  
Who has bound 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,  
If you know?
- <sup>5</sup> Every word of God is pure;  
He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.
- <sup>6</sup> Do not add to His words,  
Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar. (30:2-6)



## What's the Answer?

- 16:4 **The LORD works out everything** for his own ends—even the wicked for a day of disaster.
- 29:26 Many seek an audience with a ruler,  
but it is **from the LORD** that man gets justice.
- 20:22 Do not say, “I’ll pay you back for this wrong!”  
**Wait for the LORD**, and He will deliver you.
- 20:24 A man's steps are **directed by the LORD**.  
How then can anyone understand his own way?
- 20:27 The lamp of **the LORD searches the spirit** of a man;  
it searches out his inmost being.
- 21:2 All a man's ways seem right to him,  
but **the LORD weighs the heart**.



**Spring, 2013**  
**Embry Hills church of Christ**

# Course Schedule

Date	Day	Lesson	Teacher
4/14	Sun	<b>1. Introduction</b>	Marty
4/17	Wed	<b>2. Analysis of Hebrew Poetry</b>	Mason
4/21	Sun	<b>3. Obtaining Wisdom</b>	Mason
4/24	Wed	<b>4. Defining Wisdom – part 1</b>	Marty
4/28	Sun	<b>Defining Wisdom – part 2</b>	Marty
5/1	Wed	<b>5. Motivation for Wise Living</b>	Mason
5/5		<b>(no class)</b>	
5/8	Wed	<b>6. Life &amp; Death</b>	Mason
5/12	Sun	<b>7. Parents &amp; Children</b>	Marty
5/15	Wed	<b>8. Speech</b>	Mason
5/19	Sun	<b>9. Wives, Husbands, &amp; Harlots</b>	Marty
5/22	Wed	<b>10. Idleness, Drunkenness, &amp; Gluttony</b>	Marty
6/2	Sun	<b>11. Shortcomings of Wisdom</b>	Marty
6/5	Wed	<b>12. Review</b>	Marty



# True / False Review Questions

1. The Proverbs do not deal with turning from false religions to the true God.
2. Few, if any Proverbs are Messianic.
3. Proverbs mention many ordinary things—just describing the way the world is.
4. The Proverbs are written almost exclusively in couplets of thought.
5. The Proverbs do not make extensive use of rhyme and rhyming schemes.
6. “Antithesis” means restatement of a principle from an opposite viewpoint.
7. The repeating of words is sometimes used in Hebrew poetry for emphasis.
8. There are many sources of wisdom other than God’s word.
9. All wisdom originates with God.
10. Reproof of a wise man is sometimes necessary.
11. The wise man is known by his slowness to answer.
12. The fool is known by his readiness to express himself.
13. Riches and popularity are not the most important rewards of wise living mentioned in the Proverbs.
14. The Proverbs do not have much to say about life after death.

# **True / False Review Questions**

- 15. “Life & Death” in the Proverbs often refer to a quality of life, not living or dying.**
- 16. The Proverbs picture God as very near to the hearts and affairs of men.**
- 17. The primary reward of Wisdom is that we can live, as much as is possible, in harmony with God and His creation.**
- 18. Maturity is shown by an eagerness to accept guidance, especially from parents.**
- 19. The behavior of a child has a great effect on his parents’ emotions.**
- 20. In Proverbs, controlling one’s speech is described as a difficult thing to do.**
- 21. The Proverbs mention both proper and improper uses of the tongue.**
- 22. In Proverbs, the wife gets more credit/blame for a happy/unhappy marriage.**
- 23. Everything the worthy woman does is for the benefit of her family and others.**
- 24. The core of the problem with the sluggard, drunkard, and glutton is not that society has made them what they are, it’s that they can’t control themselves.**
- 25. Wisdom, in the ideal, leaves many problems unsolved & questions unanswered.**
- 26. Even though we believe the world is ordered by God’s wisdom, it is still imperfect and often bewildering to us.**

# Objectives, by Lesson

## **Lesson 1 – Introduction**

- Name three major types of revelation in the Old Testament.
- Name at least two unique characteristics of the book of Proverbs.
- Explain the unique role that Proverbs plays in Old Testament wisdom literature.
- Give an overview of the book's contents.

## **Lesson 2 – Hebrew Poetry**

- List and illustrate the literary devices used in Hebrew poetry
- Identify four types of parallelism.
- Identify and illustrate the use of imagery and personification.

## **Lesson 3 – Obtaining Wisdom**

- List at least five sources of wisdom.
- Explain how God is the originator of all wisdom.

# Law, Prophecy, Wisdom

**Ex 20:14**      **You shall not** commit adultery

**Jer 5:7-9**      “Why should I forgive you?  
Your children have forsaken me  
and sworn by gods that are not gods.  
I supplied all their needs,  
yet they committed adultery  
and thronged to the houses of prostitutes.  
<sup>8</sup> They are well-fed, lusty stallions,  
each neighing for another man’s wife.  
<sup>9</sup> **Should I not punish them for this?**”  
declares the LORD.  
“Should I not avenge myself  
on such a nation as this?”

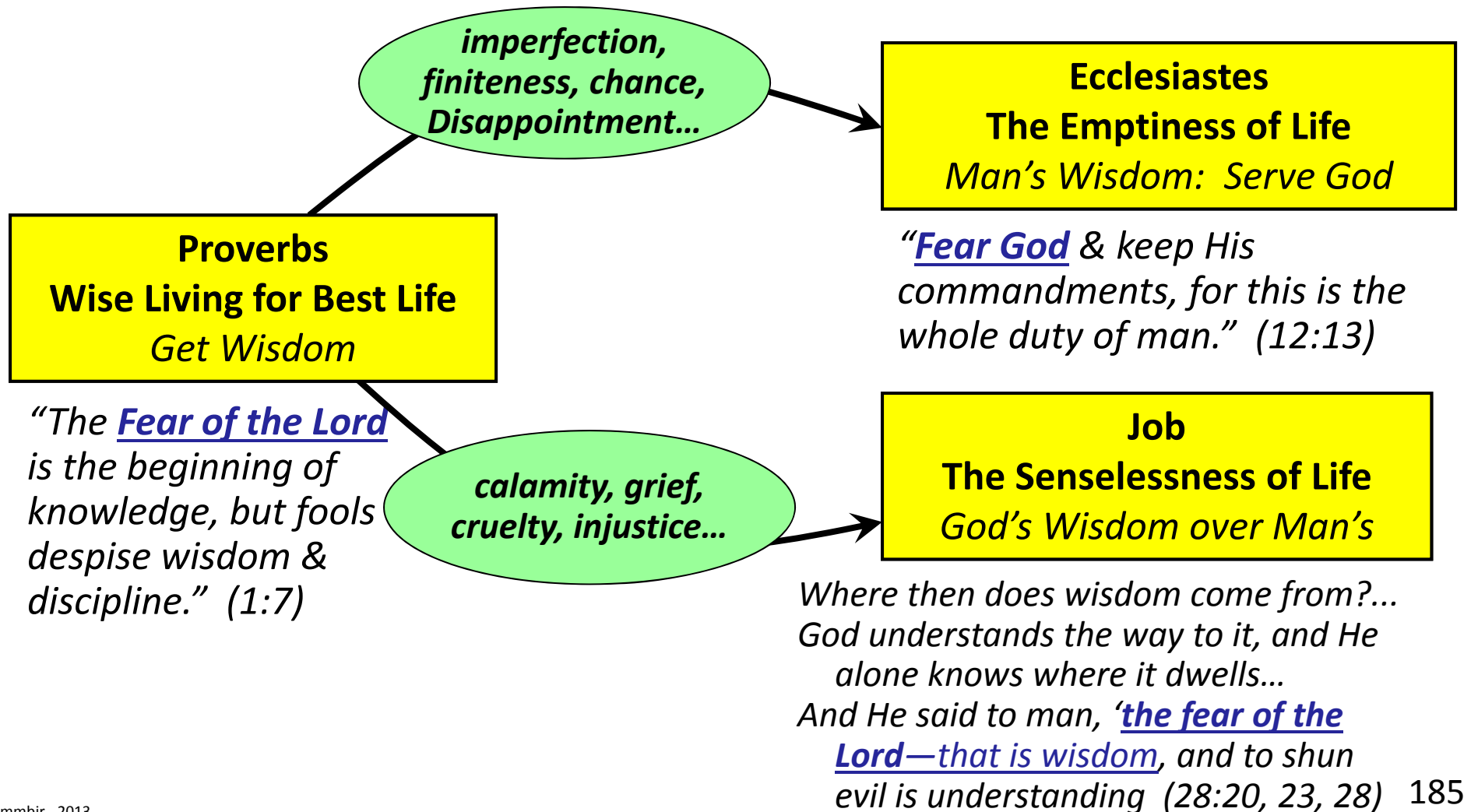
**Prov 6:32**      But a man who commits adultery **has no sense**;  
whoever does so **destroys himself**.

# Relationships between the Wisdom Books

- **Time of writing in Solomon's life**
  - Song of Solomon – young man: about romance
  - **Proverbs** – middle aged man: teaching a son
  - Ecclesiastes – old man: looking back, disillusioned
- **Primary audience?**
  - **Proverbs** – to a young man
  - Song of Solomon – to a young woman



# The Wisdom Literature



# Organization of Proverbs

<b>1 – 9</b>	<b>Father's advice to son on Wisdom</b>	
<b>10 – 15</b>	<b>"but"</b>	<b>} Miscellaneous Proverbs</b>
<b>16 – 22:16</b>	<b>"and"</b>	
<b>22:17 – 24</b>	<b>"Words of the Wise" (larger groups)</b>	
<b>25 – 29</b>	<b>Hezekiah's Collection</b>	
<b>30</b>	<b>Sayings of Agur</b>	
<b>31:1-9</b>	<b>Sayings of King Lemuel</b>	
<b>31:10–31</b>	<b>"Worthy Woman"</b>	

# **The Proverbs Point of View**

- **Ordinary, earthly topics & instructions, yet...**
- **All in the context of a relationship with God (5:21)**
- **Gaining Wisdom requires diligence & effort, yet...**
- **The 'call' of Wisdom is obvious & visible (1:20)**
- **Instructions for daily decisions, yet...**
- **Describes a continuous way/walk (4:18)**
- **Assumes an orderly, godly society (29:18)**
  - **Civility valued, morality & family honored & protected**
  - **Honesty, diligence, self-discipline respected & rewarded**
  - **Corruption, abuse of power, anarchy not tolerated**

# Objectives, by Lesson

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- List at least five sources of wisdom.
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# Literary Devices

- **Parallelism** – “thought-rhyme”: ideas in both (or all) of the lines are similar
- **Personification** – attributing human actions and characteristics to something that is not human.
- **Acrostic** – first letter of each line is a successive letter of the alphabet
- **Chiastic Organization** – A-B-B-A organization: often emphasizes the content in the middle.

# Four Types of Parallelism

1. **Synonymous:** stating the same idea in new words
2. **Antithetic:** stating the opposite of the first idea
  - The most common form to Proverbs
  - Often includes a contrast word: *but, however, yet*
3. **Climactic:** stating an idea through a series of increasingly forceful thoughts
  - Often features a repetitive structure
4. **Comparison:** using an image (often a reference to senses) to describe an action or idea

# Objectives, by Lesson

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# **“Everyday” Sources of Wisdom**

- **Proverbs 6:6-8**
- **Proverbs 11:14**
- **Proverbs 17:10; 9:8-9**
- **Proverbs 19:25**
- **Proverbs 13:1**
- **Proverbs 6:1-5**
- **Proverbs 24:30-32**
- **Nature**
- **Advisors/Teachers**
- **Discipline/Rebukes**
- **Others’ Punishments**
- **Parents’ Instruction**
- **My Mistakes**
- **Others’ Mistakes**

Which of these roles can/do I fill?  
Where do I have experiences (wisdom) to share?



# Wisdom in Creation

Proverbs 8:22-31

**"Before"**

**"When"**

26 the earth or its fields  
...any of the dust

the heavens in place...marked  
out horizon of the deep 27

25 the mountains, the hills

the clouds... and fixed securely  
the fountains of the deep 28

24 oceans, springs ... of water

gave the sea its boundary 29a

23 the world

marked out the foundations  
of the earth 29b

22 *The LORD brought me forth  
as the first of his works*

*Then I was the craftsman  
at His side.* 30a

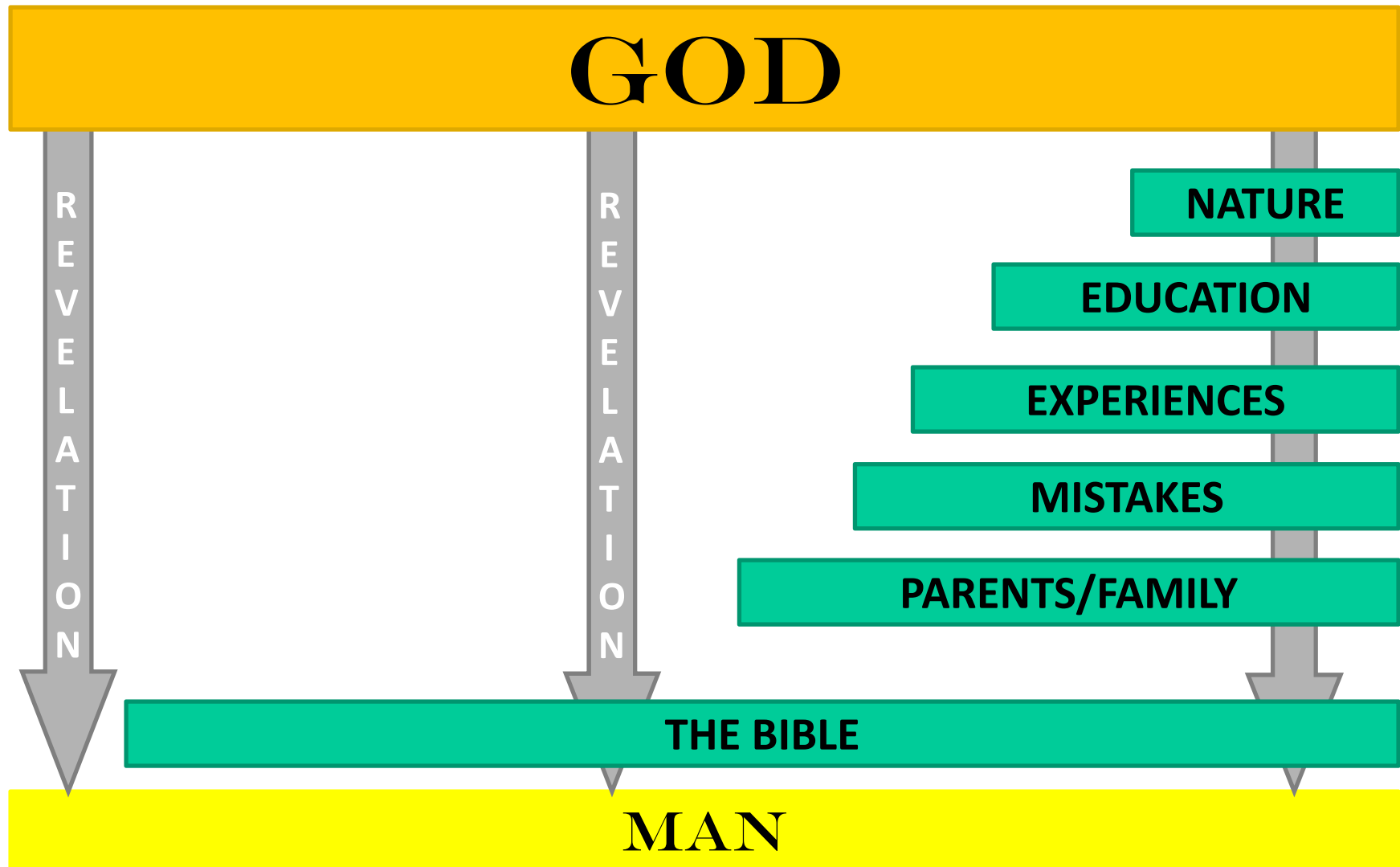
30b I was filled with *delight* day after day,

*Rejoicing* always in his presence,

31 *Rejoicing* in his whole world

*And delighting* in mankind

# The Source of Wisdom



# Objectives, by Lesson

## **Lesson 4 – Defining Wisdom**

- List the qualities of the wise man, and contrast those qualities with those of a fool.
- Explain how the fear of God produces wisdom.
- Explain how wisdom produces the fear of God.
- List several ways in which we all act foolishly at times.

## **Lesson 5 – Motivation for Wise Living**

- List at least five rewards in life for wise living.
- Tell what Proverbs teaches about life after death.
- Explain why living wisely with respect to the world is living wisely with respect to God.

# Wise & Foolish in Relation to...

	<u>Wise Man</u>	<u>Foolish Man</u>
God	<i>The starting point</i>	<i>Says, "There is no God."</i>
Law	<i>Accepts commands, heeds instructions</i>	<i>Deaf ear; "chatters"</i>
Instruction/ Reproof	<i>Listens to it; accepts it; heeds; adds to learning</i>	<i>Disregards; spurns</i>
Knowledge/ Understanding	<i>Stores knowledge up</i>	<i>Loves simple ways; hates knowledge; no pleasure</i>
Wise Men	<i>Walks with wise</i>	<i>Despises wisdom</i>
Evil & Sin	<i>Shuns &amp; hates evil</i>	<i>Detest turning from evil</i>
Self	<i>Doesn't lean on self; not wise in own eyes</i>	<i>Own way seems right; trusts in self; delight to talk</i>

# Wisdom & the Fear of the LORD

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

The **fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom**,  
and **knowledge of the Holy One is understanding**. (9:10)

...Since they hated knowledge  
and **did not choose to fear the LORD**. (1:29)

Rom 1:21 – ...Because, although **they knew God, they did not glorify Him** as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Rom 1:28 – ...And even as **they did not like to retain God in their knowledge**, God gave them over to a debased mind...

Evildoers do not understand what is right,  
but **those who seek the LORD understand it** fully. (28:5)

...Then you will **understand the fear of the LORD**  
and **find the knowledge of God**. (2:5)

Wisdom's **instruction is to fear the LORD**,  
and humility comes before honor. (15:33)

...Wisdom is found in those who take advice (13:10)

# Objectives, by Lesson

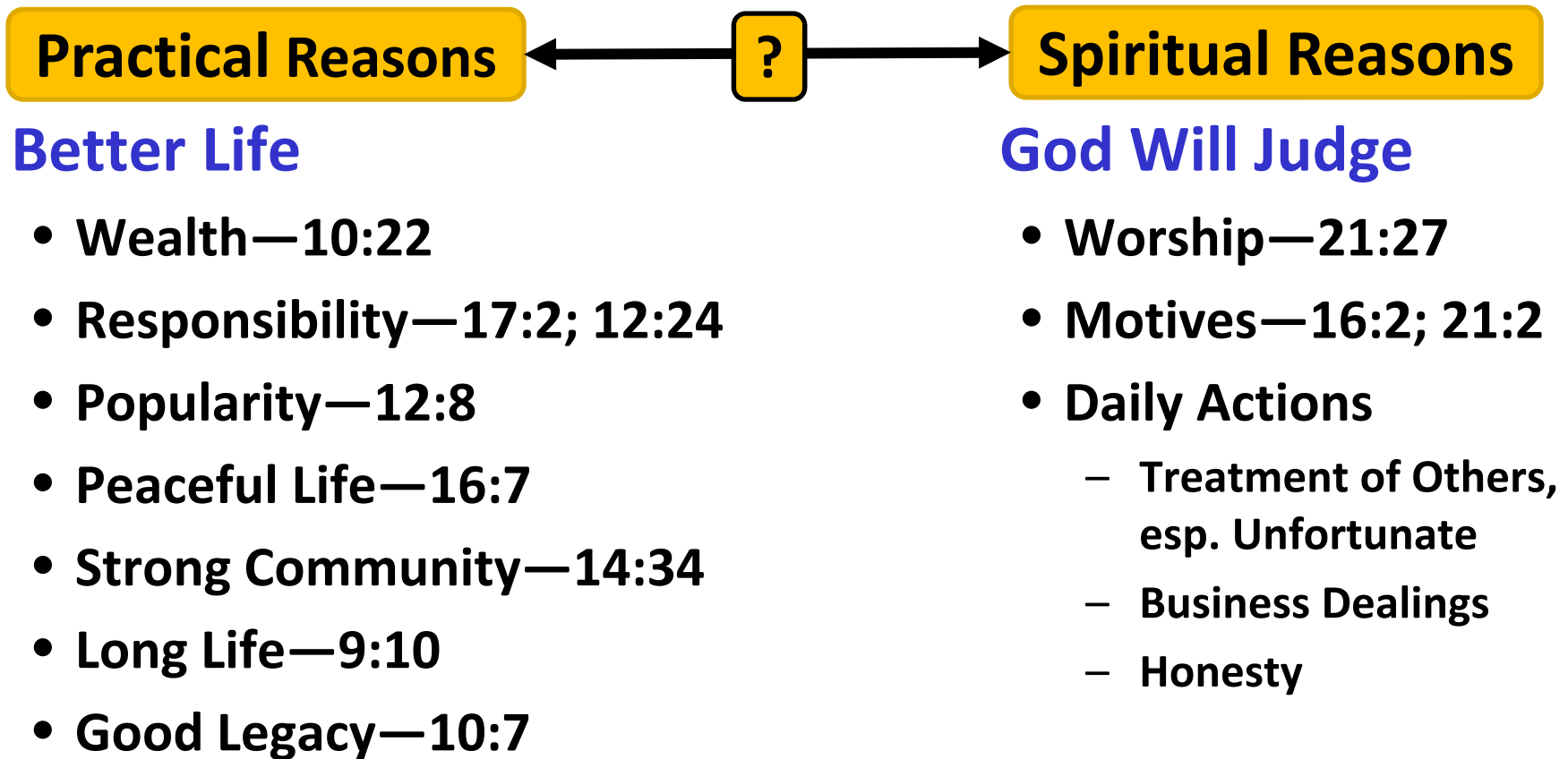
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# Motivations for Wise Living



# What About Eternal Consequences?

- **Forgiveness and Redemption**
  - Forgiveness is right, but also beneficial—17:9
  - Confession, Fear of God, and Love lead to Mercy (Avoiding Trouble) from God—28:13-14
  - These still seem more immediate than eternal
- **Life After Death**
  - A sense of reward and punishment after death—14:32
  - God has power over death and destruction—15:11 (but what?)
  - See also 23:14 and 12:28



# Objectives, by Lesson

## **Lesson 6 – Life & Death**

- List at least three disadvantages to great wealth.
- List at least three things that are more important than wealth.
- List at least five qualities of the “way of life.”
- Explain the use of the terms “way of life” and “way of death.”

## **Lesson 7 – Parents & Children**

- Explain the process of “gaining wisdom” during childhood.
- List the different stages in the process of gaining wisdom.
- List the responsibilities a child has to his parents.
- List several practical tests to measure maturity (Wisdom) in a young man

# **Disadvantages of Wealth**

- **People Try to Steal It – 13:8**
- **No Spiritual Currency – 11:4**
- **Gives a False Sense of Security – 18:11**
- **Fleeting – 27:23-24; 23:4-5**
  - **Also, requires great attention/maintenance**
- **Not Trustworthy – 11:28**

# **Better Rewards than Wealth**

- **Lowly spirit (& company of...) – 16:19**
- **[Peace] Absence of Turmoil – 15:16**
- **Love, Absence of Hatred – 15:17**
- **Righteous, not unjust gain – 16:8**
- **Honor – 11:16, 18**
- **Sure [stable] reward – 28:6**

# The Real Reward for Wise Living: *Life*

- **Physical**: longevity, good health (longer, fuller days)
  - 21:16; 16:22
- **Social**: a flourishing of one's affairs (friends, family, etc.)
  - 14:26; 19:23
- **Personal (Psychological)**: vitality, security, confidence
  - 14:26; 13:12
- **Religious/Moral**: fellowship with God, disassociation from evil
  - 14:27; 11:20

Definition: *fullness and soundness in all aspects of life*

## Qualities of this *Life*

- **Contentment, untouched by trouble – 19:23**
- **Enjoy good things; fully satisfied – 13:2, 4**
- **Longer life, with joy – 10:27-28**
- **Refuge from Ruin; Not uprooted – 10:29-30**
  - Note: ‘Dwelling in the Land.’ v.30 (cf to Dt 30:15-20)
- **Confidence – 28:1**

# Two 'Ways'

~~Life~~ Death

~~Death~~ Life

2:13	dark	straight
2:15	crooked (devious)	
15:19	blocked with thorns	highway
28:18	sudden fall (into pit)	kept safe
15:24	goes down to sheol	leads upward
16:25	(seems right) death	
4:18-19	deep darkness, stumbling	morning sun, shining ever brighter full light of day

# Objectives, by Lesson

## Lesson 6 – Life & Death

- List at least two disadvantages to great wealth.
- List at least three things that are more important than wealth.
- List at least five qualities of the “way of life.”
- Explain the use of the terms “way of life” and “way of death.”

## Lesson 7 – Parents & Children

- Explain how discipline of a child is “driving out folly”.
- List the different stages in the process of gaining wisdom.
- List the responsibilities a child has to his parents.
- List several practical tests to measure maturity (Wisdom) in a young man

# The Fool In the Proverbs

- 10:8 – Hates laws: not bound by authority
- 15:5 – Hates instruction/reproof, will not change
- 1:7; 1:22; 18:2 – Will not listen, will not learn
- 12:15; 28:26 – Trusts in own opinion
- 18:2 – Likes to hear himself
- 10:5 – Shortsighted (carnal)
- 24:30-34 – Hates hard work
- 13:19 – Attracted to sin
- Ps 14:1 – Denies spiritual realities

## *Childhood Folly:*

**Rebellion, Disobedience**

**Disrespect**

**Stubbornness**

**Self-centeredness**

**Selfishness**

**Laziness/Carelessness**

**Obvious Evil:**

- Cruelty
- Profanity
- Dishonesty



# Driving out Folly

**29:15** The rod of correction imparts wisdom,  
but **a child left to himself** disgraces his mother.

**26:3** A whip for the horse,  
a halter for the donkey,  
and a rod for the backs of fools!

**19:25** Flog a mocker, and the **simple will learn** prudence;  
rebuke a discerning man, and **he will gain knowledge**.

**22:15** **Folly is bound up in the heart of a child,**  
**but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.**

## The Learning Process (see 22:6)

22:15	<b>Folly</b> is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will <b>drive it far</b> from him.	<b>Folly driven out</b>
4:20-21	My son, <b>pay attention</b> to what I say; <b>listen closely</b> to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them <b>within your heart</b> .	<b>Listen to Words</b>
23:19	<b>Listen</b> , my son, and <b>be wise</b> , and <b>keep your heart on the right path</b> .	<b>Put in heart</b>
23:22-25	Listen to your father... <sup>23</sup> <b>Buy the truth</b> and do not sell it; <b>Get wisdom</b> , discipline and understanding.	<b>Keep 'buying' Wisdom</b>
13:1	A wise son <b>heeds his father's instruction</b> , but a mocker does not <b>listen to rebuke</b> .	<b>Seek help; listen to rebuke</b>

**Train a child in **the way** he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. (22:6)**

# Punishment should be...

- For *Folly*—but NOT for:
  - Accident, clumsiness, or lack of ability
  - A show to others (e.g. other parents)
  - Showing personal disappointment
  - Our own embarrassment, impatience
  - A warning, or to “settle things down”
  - An Accumulation of small things
- Associated with personal guilt
  - Not corporate or circumstantial blame
- Certain, when promised (Eccl 8:11)
  - No false threats: make promises true
  - No second chance
- Near (in time) the infraction (Ezra 7:26)
  - Especially when younger
  - “Natural Consequence” do this.
- Must be “painful” (Heb 12:11)
  - Physical pain
  - Emotional pain (isolation, lost pleasure or privilege – esp. older)
  - Substantially more than pleasure provided by the infraction
  - Not an activity which we wish to encourage as good & necessary
- Over quickly, forgotten, once done (Heb 12:11 – “for the present”)
- Continual & consistent (Prov 13:24), despite lack of visible results

## Praise should be...

- For wise behavior:
  - Compliance
  - Respectfulness
  - Politeness
  - Kindness
  - Unselfishness
  - Industry
  - Truthfulness
- For personal goodness
- Certain, esp. when promised
- Near the good behavior
- Pleasurable
  - Physical & emotional
- Extended, Celebrated
- Continual & consistent

# The Child's Responsibility

- 23:22** **Listen** to your father, who gave you life,  
do not **despise** your mother when she is old.
- 30:17** The eye that **mocks** a father,  
that **scorns obedience** to a mother,  
will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley,  
will be eaten by the vultures.
- 20:20** If a man **curses** his father or mother,  
his lamp will be snuffed out in pitch darkness.

# A Test for Maturity (Wisdom)

## Foolishness

## Wisdom

Not bound by  
authority

----->

**Sets own boundaries**

Hates instruction  
& reproof

----->

**Open to correction**

Will not listen, learn

----->

**Seeks advice before acting**

Trusts in own  
opinion

----->

**Respects the wisdom of others**

Likes to hear  
himself talk

----->

**Sympathetic, interested Listener**

Shortsighted (carnal)

----->

**Self-controlled, defers gratification**

Hates hard  
work

----->

**Diligent, dedicated & determined**

Attracted to sin

----->

**Pure, repulsed by sin, avoids temptation**

Denies spiritual  
realities

----->

**Spiritual center in thinking/priorities**

# Objectives, by Lesson

## **Lesson 8 – Speech**

- List four misuses of the tongue.
- List four characteristics of proper speech.

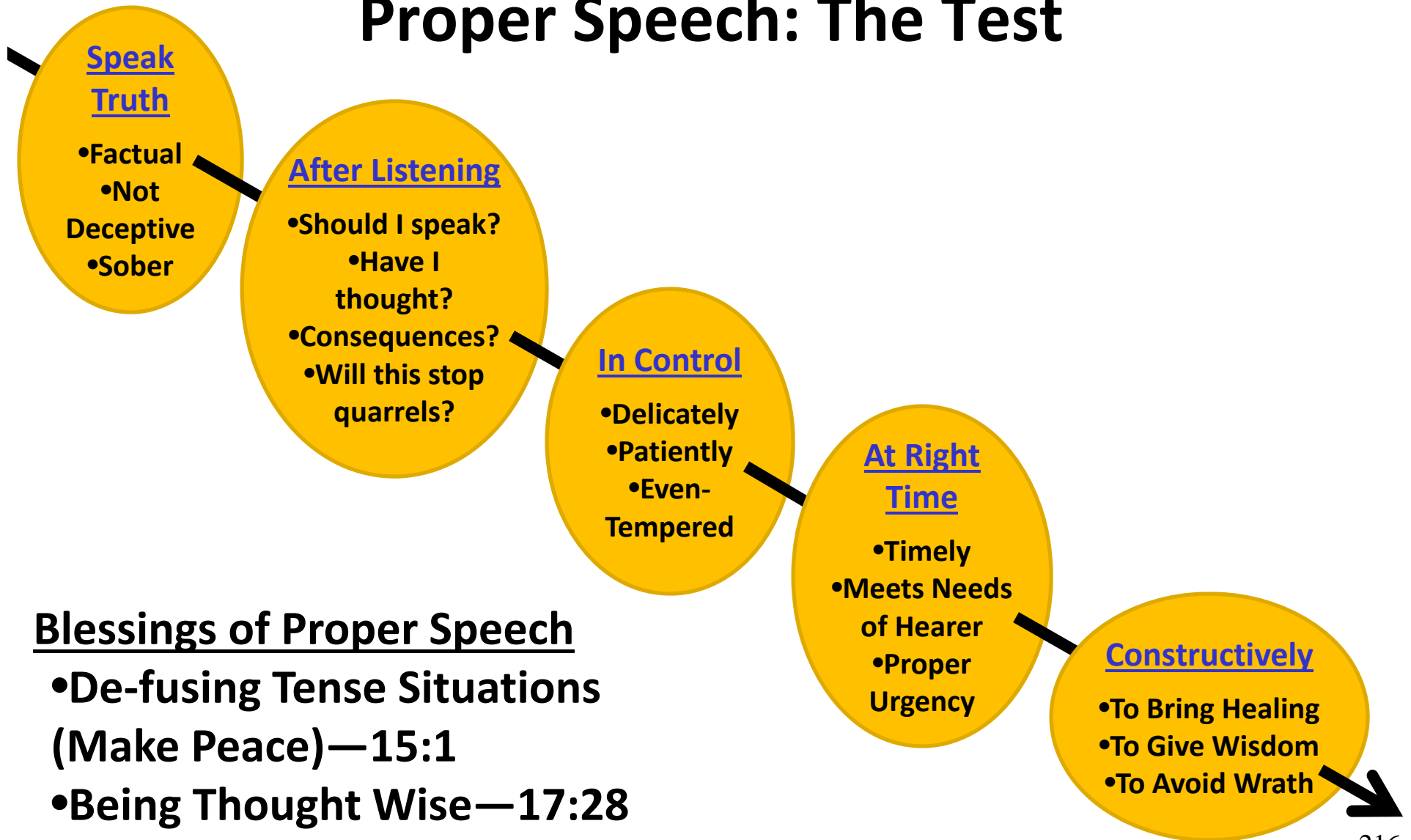
## **Lesson 9 – Wives, Husbands, & Harlots**

- Illustrate women have an elevated position in the Proverbs.
- List three possible effects of a wife's character on her household and husband.
- List the three areas of service she performs.
- List at least five techniques of the prostitute to attract the foolish young man
- Contrast a proper and improper relationship between man and woman.

# Misuses of the Tongue

- **Deception, Lying, Hypocrisy**
- **Slander, Backbiting**
- **Whispering, Quarreling**
- **Boasting**
- **Unwise Revelation—11:13**
- **Stirring Up Anger—25:23**
- **Rash Talking—29:20 (see also Ephesians 5:4)**

# Proper Speech: The Test





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- Contrast a proper and improper relationship between man and woman.

# The Importance of the Wife

- 18:22 – He who finds a wife finds **what is good** and receives **favor from the LORD**.
- 19:14 – Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is **from the LORD**.
- 31:10-11 – A wife of noble character who can find? She is **worth far more than rubies**.  
Her husband has full confidence in her and **lacks nothing of value**.
- 14:1 – The wise woman **builds her house**, but with her own hands the foolish one **tears hers down**.

# Effect on Her Husband

- 5:18 May your **fountain be blessed**, and may you **rejoice** in the wife of your youth.
- 12:4 A wife of noble character is her **husband's crown**, but a disgraceful wife is like **decay in his bones**.
- 19:13 – A foolish son is his father's ruin, and a quarrelsome wife is **like a constant dripping**.
- 27:15-16 – A quarrelsome wife is like a **constant dripping on a rainy day**; restraining her is like **restraining the wind or grasping oil** with the hand.
- 21:9 – **Better to live on a corner of the roof** than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.
- 21:19 – **Better to live in a desert** than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife.
- 6:34 – ...For jealousy arouses a husband's **fury**, and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge.
- 31:23 – Her husband is **respected at the city gate**, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.
- 30:23 – Under three things **the earth trembles**...an unloved[odious]woman who is married, and a maidservant who displaces her mistress

# **The Harlot's Techniques (Prov 7:6-23)**

- 10 Dress**
- 16-17 Promise (description) of sensual pleasure**
- 13 Kissed (& facial expressions)**
- 18 Shortsighted description: “till morning”**
- 15 Flattery: “looked for you”**
- 19-20 Promise that he will not be caught: no consequences**

# Dangers of Abuse of Romantic Love (Prov 5)

- <sup>7</sup> Now then, my sons, listen to me;  
do not turn aside from what I say.
- <sup>8</sup> Keep to a path far from her,  
do not go near the door of her house,
- <sup>9</sup> lest you give your **best strength** to others  
and your **years** to one who is cruel,
- <sup>10</sup> lest strangers feast on **your wealth**  
and your **toil** enrich another man's house.
- <sup>11</sup> **At the end of your life** you will groan,  
when your **flesh and body are spent**.
- <sup>12</sup> You will say, "How I hated discipline!  
How my heart spurned correction!"
- <sup>13</sup> I would not obey my teachers  
or listen to my instructors.
- <sup>14</sup> I have come to the **brink of utter ruin**  
in the **midst of the whole assembly**."

## What is Lost:

**Energy, Strength**

**Time**

**Money**

**Effort**

**Health**

**Opportunities**

**(Mistakes/Regrets)**

**Reputation**

# Guidelines for Romantic Love (Prov 5)

<sup>15</sup> Drink water from **your own cistern**,  
running water from **your own well**.

<sup>16</sup> Should your springs overflow in the streets,  
your streams of water in the public squares?

***Private***

<sup>17</sup> Let them be **yours alone**,  
**never to be shared** with strangers.

<sup>18</sup> May your **fountain be blessed**,  
and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.

***Plentiful***

<sup>19</sup> A loving doe, a graceful deer-  
may her breasts **satisfy you always**,  
may you ever be **captivated** by her love.

***Pleasurable***

<sup>20</sup> Why be **captivated**, my son, by an adulteress?

***Permanent***

# A Contrast of Women

## *Faithful Wife*

31:10–31; 5:15–20

- 5:19-20 – captivates
- 31:23 – respected
- 31:11, 30 – trusted & trustworthy
- 31:26 – godly influence
- 31:12 – does him good

## *Adulterous Woman*

6:20–35; 7:1–27

- 7:22-23; 6:25 – captures
- 6:30 – causes dishonor
- 7:10, 21 – deceives
- 30:20; 2:16-17 – ungodly character
- 7:25-27; 6:25-29; 2:18-19 – brings disaster

# Objectives, by Lesson

## **Lesson 10 – Idleness, Drunkenness, and Gluttony**

- List five characteristics of the sluggard.
- Describe the addiction process in the habitual drinker.
- List the things which have rule over the sluggard, drunkard, and glutton.
- State what the sluggard, drunkard, and glutton have in common.
- List five principles of diligent work.

## **Lesson 11 – Limitations of Wisdom**

- List five things about the world that indicate its imperfection.
- Give four examples of wisdom and/or grandeur from the animal world.
- List three examples of unfair or inappropriate things from the Proverbs
- State the lesson that is to be learned from the incompleteness and imperfection in the world.



# Pictures of the Sluggard

- 12:11 He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who **chases fantasies** lacks judgment. **Daydreamer, not a Doer**
- 26:13–16 The sluggard **says, "There is a lion in the road,** a fierce lion roaming the streets!" **Excuse-maker**  
As **a door turns on its hinges,** **Motion, but no productivity**  
so a sluggard turns on his bed..  
The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; **Uncompleted tasks (lost benefit)**  
he is **too lazy to bring it back to his mouth.**  
The sluggard is **wiser in his own eyes** **Lots of rationalization**  
than seven men who answer discreetly.
- 19:24 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he will not even bring it back to his mouth!
- 12:27 The lazy man **does not roast his game,** **Wasted resources & opportunities**  
but the diligent man prizes his possessions.
- 10:26 As **vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes** **Undependable, an annoyance to others**  
so is a sluggard to those who send him.

# The Real Problem

10:5 He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son,  
but he who **sleeps during harvest** is a disgraceful son.

20:13 Do not **love sleep** or you will grow poor;  
stay awake and you will have food to spare.

6:6–11 Go to the ant, you sluggard;  
consider its ways and be wise!  
It has no commander,  
no overseer or ruler,  
yet it stores its provisions in summer  
and gathers its food at harvest.

How long will you lie there, you sluggard?

**When will you get up from your sleep?**

**A little sleep, a little slumber,**

a little folding of the hands to rest—  
and poverty will come on you like a bandit  
and scarcity like an armed man.

## **Sleep:**

- **Inactivity & unresponsiveness**
- **Lack of attention & awareness**
- **Not clear-headed (dreaming)**
- **Pleasure & comfort are priority**

# A Picture of Drunkenness (23:29-35)

Who has **woe**? Who has **sorrow**?  
Who has **strife**? Who has **complaints**?  
Who has needless **bruises**? Who has **bloodshot eyes**?  
Those who linger over wine,  
Who go to sample bowls of mixed wine.

Chronic Health &  
Social Problems

Do not **gaze** at wine when it is **red**,  
When it **sparkles** in the cup,  
When it **goes down smoothly**!  
In the end it bites like a snake  
and poisons like a viper.

Attracted (Conditioned)  
by the Initial Pleasure

Your eyes will **see strange sights**  
And your mind **imagine confusing** things.  
You will be like one sleeping on the high seas,  
Lying on top of the rigging.

Clouds perception  
& judgment

"They **hit me**," you will say, "but I'm not hurt!  
They **beat me**, but I don't feel it!  
When will I **wake up so I can find another drink**?"

Severe Collateral  
Consequences

Relief Sought in  
Cause of Problems

# The Common Problem

21:25 The sluggard's craving will be the death of him, because **his hands refuse to work**.

6:7 [ants:] ...no commander, no overseer or ruler,

20:1 Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is **led astray by them** is not wise.

25:28 Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who **lacks self-control**.

16:32 Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who **controls his temper** than one who takes a city.

***Something else is in control.***

# Creation & Care of Possessions (Proverbs)

- 14:4** – Accept the inconveniences of hard work (cleaning ox’s pen);  
*Make sacrifices to earn.*
- 24:27** – Outside projects first, then inside “comforts”;  
*Do hard things first; defer gratification.*
- 27:23-27** – Make diligent accounting of affairs (esp. assets & debts!)  
*Know and Take care of things.*
- 16:26** – No consequences → no motivation  
*Put ‘skin in the game’ (a way to change habits?).*
- 21:5** – Plans of diligent → plenty; hasty → poverty  
*Don’t be hasty or sloppy.*
- 13:11** – *Build wealth “little by little”*  
*No shady deals; no “get rich quick” schemes.*
- 27:18** – Look after your master → you will be honored. (see Col 3:22; Rom 13:7)  
*Make the boss look good.*
- 22:29** – Be diligent (skillful) in what you do;  
*Excel in all you do.* (see Rom 12:11; Col 3:23-24)

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- List five things about the world that indicate its imperfection.
- Give four examples of wisdom and/or grandeur from the animal world.
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- State the lesson that is to be learned from the incompleteness and imperfection in the world.

# **Things 'not right' about the world**

- 1. Nothing is absolutely good.**
- 2. There is evil present.**
- 3. There is sorrow, disappointment, imperfection.**
- 4. There are many incomprehensible things.**
- 5. There are many unfair & inappropriate things.**
- 6. There are many amazing things.**

## Proverbs 30:7-9

Nothing is  
absolutely  
good.

- <sup>7</sup> Two things I ask of you, LORD;  
do not refuse me before I die:
- <sup>8</sup> Keep falsehood and lies far from me;  
give me **neither poverty nor riches**,  
but give me only my daily bread.
- <sup>9</sup> Otherwise, I may have too much  
and disown you and say, 'Who is the LORD?'  
Or I may become poor and steal,  
and so dishonor the name of my God.



## Proverbs 30:11-14

- <sup>11</sup> There are those who **curse their fathers**  
and do not bless their **mothers**;
- <sup>12</sup> those who are pure in their own eyes  
and yet are not cleansed of their **filth**;
- <sup>13</sup> those whose eyes are ever so **haughty**,  
whose glances are so **disdainful**;
- <sup>14</sup> those whose teeth are swords  
and whose jaws are set with knives  
to **devour the poor** from the earth  
**and the needy** from among mankind.

There is  
Evil  
Present

## Proverbs 30:15-16

<sup>15</sup> The leech has two daughters.  
‘Give! Give!’ they cry.

Sorrow, Dis-  
appointment,  
imperfection

There are three things that are **never satisfied**,  
four that never say, ‘Enough!’:

<sup>16</sup> the **grave**, the **barren womb**,  
**land**, which is never satisfied with water,  
and **fire**, which never says, ‘Enough!’

## Proverbs 30:18-20

<sup>18</sup> There are three things that are too amazing for me,  
four that **I do not understand**:

<sup>19</sup> **the way** of an eagle in the sky,  
**the way** of a snake on a rock,  
**the way** of a ship on the high seas,  
and **the way** of a man with a young woman.



Many in-  
comprehensible  
things

<sup>20</sup> This is **the way** of an adulterous woman:  
She eats and wipes her mouth  
and says, 'I've done nothing wrong.'

## Proverbs 30:21-23

<sup>21</sup> “Under three things **the earth trembles**,  
under four it cannot bear up:

*Many unfair  
& inappropriate  
things*

<sup>22</sup> a **servant** who becomes **king**,  
a godless **fool** who gets **plenty to eat**,

<sup>23</sup> a **contemptible woman** who gets **married**,  
and a **servant** who **displaces her mistress**.

## Proverbs 30:24-31

- 24 Four things on earth are small,  
yet they are extremely wise:
- 25 **Ants** are creatures of little strength,  
yet they store up their food in the summer;
- 26 **hyraxes** [rock badger] are creatures of little power,  
yet they make their home in the crags;
- 27 **locusts** have no king,  
yet they advance together in ranks;
- 28 a **lizard** [spider?] can be caught with the hand,  
yet it is found in kings' palaces.
- 29 There are three things that are stately in their stride,  
four that move with stately bearing:
- 30 a **lion**, mighty among beasts,  
who retreats before nothing;
- 31 a strutting **rooster** [greyhound?], a **he-goat**,  
and a **king** secure against revolt.

Amazing &  
Amusing  
Things

## What's the Answer?

- 16:4 **The LORD works out everything** for his own ends—even the wicked for a day of disaster.
- 29:26 Many seek an audience with a ruler,  
but it is **from the LORD** that man gets justice.
- 20:22 Do not say, “I’ll pay you back for this wrong!”  
**Wait for the LORD**, and He will deliver you.
- 20:24 A man's steps are **directed by the LORD**.  
How then can anyone understand his own way?
- 20:27 The lamp of **the LORD searches the spirit** of a man;  
it searches out his inmost being.
- 21:2 All a man's ways seem right to him,  
but **the LORD weighs the heart**.