

PROVERBS

BASIC INFO

✍ **Author:** Solomon, Agur, Lemuel

📅 **Date written:** 970–700 BC

📍 **Settings :** Ancient Israel

MAIN CHARACTERS



WISE MAN



FOOL



SLUGGARD



RIGHTEOUS



WICKED

KEY THEMES

Wisdom vs. Foolishness – True wisdom leads to life; foolishness leads to destruction.

The Fear of the Lord – Reverence for God is the foundation of wisdom.

Righteousness and Justice – God delights in fair dealings and defending the poor.

The Power of Words – Speech can bring life or destruction, so wisdom is needed.

Diligence & Hard Work – Laziness leads to poverty, but diligence brings success

SUMMARY

Proverbs is a handbook of everyday wisdom collected mainly from King Solomon but also from sages like Agur and King Lemuel. Its short sayings, vivid pictures, and fatherly talks teach readers how to live skillfully in God's world. The book opens with a plea to chase wisdom instead of quick thrills, showing that fear of the Lord is the first step toward knowledge. Chapters 1-9 : say that True wisdom is poured out by the Spirit upon those who fear God and weave long poems where Lady Wisdom calls travelers onto bright streets while Lady Folly lures them into dark alleys. After that come hundreds of two-line maxims that touch work, speech, money, anger, marriage, justice, and kings. Each contrast is clear: diligent ants store food while lazy sleepers drift into poverty; honest lips save, crooked words crush; generous hands gain, grasping hearts lose. A note explains that Hezekiah's scribes copied many of these sayings centuries later, proving wisdom stays fresh. Later sections group advice for court officials, hot-tempered friends, and careless traders. Near the end an ideal wife is praised as a crown to her family, closing the book with a living portrait of wisdom in action. Throughout, the lessons are practical, moral, and reachable, urging listeners of every age to weigh their paths, guard their tongues, and trust the Lord who directs each step

KEY VERSES

✝ **Proverbs 1:7** – “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” – True knowledge starts with reverence for God.

✝ **Proverbs 3:5-6** – “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” – God guides those who fully rely on Him.

✝ **Proverbs 4:23** – “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” – The heart determines the direction of life.

✝ **Proverbs 10:19** – “In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.” – Wise people speak carefully and avoid unnecessary words.

✝ **Proverbs 31:30** – “Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.” – True virtue is found in godly character

JESUS IN THIS BOOK

Proverbs personifies Wisdom as a voice calling in the streets; Christ is that living Wisdom who became flesh.

He is the “friend who sticks closer than a brother” (Prov 18 : 24), the faithful companion who never fails. As the righteous King, He rules with perfect justice, defending the weak and rewarding the upright.

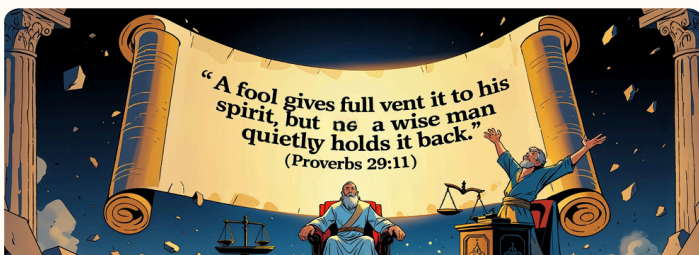
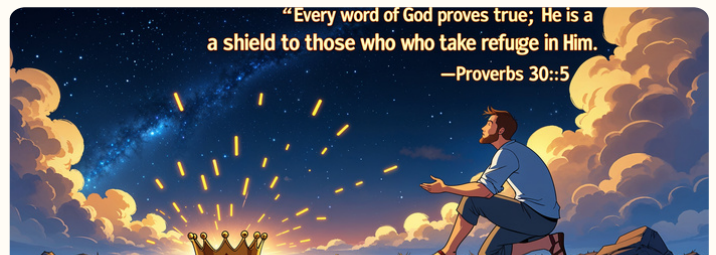
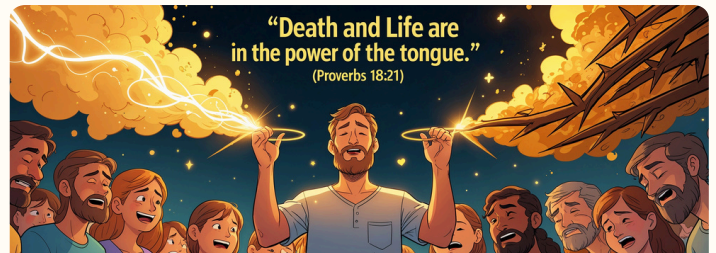
Proverbs' promise that “the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, shining ever brighter” (Prov 4 : 18) finds its climax in Jesus, the true Light who leads humanity out of darkness into day. Thus, in Christ every proverb points to the sure road that leads to life.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Proverbs shows that wisdom is both a daily pursuit and a gracious gift of the Holy Spirit. We must actively seek and embody it through humility, prayer, repentance, and faithful obedience to God's commandments, allowing the Spirit to shape our discernment. The book urges us to speak carefully, work diligently, and avoid sinful influences. Above all, true wisdom offered by the Spirit must be welcomed and lived, guiding us to know, love, and follow God

WISDOM

OLD TESTAMENT

**1 | FOUNDATION OF WISDOM PROVERBS 1-9****2 | RIGHTEOUS LIVING PROVERBS 10-24****3 | PRACTICAL WISDOM PROVERBS 25-29****4 | WARNINGS OF FOOLISHNESS PROVERBS 30****5 | THE VIRTUOUS WOMAN PROVERBS 31****6 | POWER OF THE TONGUE VARIOUS****1 | Foundation of Wisdom (Proverbs 1-9)**

Solomon introduces wisdom, emphasizing that fearing the Lord is the foundation of true understanding. He warns against foolishness, immorality, and the influence of bad company, urging readers to seek knowledge and discernment.

2 | Principles Of Righteous Living (Proverbs 10-24)

A collection of wise sayings contrasts the righteous and the wicked, focusing on key virtues such as honesty, diligence, integrity, and self discipline. Generosity to the needy brings blessing, while hoarding wealth invites loss. Proverbs highlight how these qualities lead to God honoring flourishing, while foolishness results in ruin. Parents are urged to guide and discipline children, shaping lifelong character.

3 | Practical Wisdom (Proverbs 25-29)

Lessons on self control, leadership, justice, and humility provide guidance for decision-making, relationships, and daily life. These proverbs stress the importance of seeking wisdom before acting.

4 | Warnings Against Foolishness (Proverbs 30)

Agur's reflections emphasize the limits of human understanding and the necessity of humility before God. He shows that real insight starts with the Lord Himself, who speaks through His word and Spirit.

5 | The Virtuous Woman (Proverbs 31)

King Lemuel's mother instructs him on wise leadership, moral integrity, and the dangers of poor judgment. She concludes with a portrait of the Proverbs 31 woman : an ideal of godly character, strength, and wisdom in action, displaying diligence, kindness, and faithfulness.

6 | Power of the Tongue (Various Proverbs)

Proverbs frequently highlight the power of words, teaching that wise speech brings life, healing, and favor, while reckless words cause destruction and lasting harm. Speaking with wisdom and restraint is shown to be a mark of true understanding.