



## Proverbs



THEME VERSE: "Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in understanding. Wisdom will multiply your days and add years to your life. If you become wise, you will be the one to benefit. If you scorn wisdom, you will be the one to suffer."

Proverbs 9:9-12

## Author

Solomon, Son of David, King of Israel (and Agur and Lemuel), possibly recorded by Hezekiah's men.

## Date

Sometime during the Solomonic era, beginning in 971 B.C. to the end of the reign of Hezekiah, 686 B.C

## Purpose

"The purpose of these proverbs is to teach people wisdom and discipline, and to help them understand wise sayings. Through these proverbs, people will receive instruction in discipline, good conduct and doing what is right just, and fair. These proverbs will make the simpleminded clever. They will give knowledge and purpose to young people." Proverbs 1:2-4

## Method

Proverbs contrasts different kinds of people- wise/fool, humble/proud, understanding/simple-minded, diligent/lazy, faithful/adulterer, generous/greedy, ...in order to encourage a heart for God's ways. Proverbs incorporates allegory and imagery to teach spiritual truths. The wisdom of Proverbs is freely available to anyone and applicable to all walks of life. It appeals to one's choice and the resulting benefits or consequences of choices, attitudes and beliefs.

## Outline

Chapters 1-9 A Loving Father's exhortation to his children to fear the Lord, seek wisdom, trust the Lord, avoid the trap of the immoral woman, to listen, to learn and to live in such a way as to reap the benefits God has for those who obey Him.

Chapters 10-31 Wisdom and Guidance for daily life.