

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS: INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK

Before beginning your study of the various topics which are covered in the Book of Proverbs, consider the following over all facts about the book:

A. Introduction to Common Proverbs:

1. There are many common proverbs, such as "A stitch in time saves nine." Give another common proverb that you have heard:

2. What is a proverb? Look up this word in a dictionary and write its meaning:

3. What kind of person would be able to make up proverbs? (THINK!)

B. The Writers of the Book of Proverbs:

1. Who wrote most of the book of Proverbs? Proverbs 1:1, 10:1

2. How did he get the wisdom required to be able to write such a book? I Kings 3:5-13, 4:29-31

3. How many proverbs did Solomon make up? 1 Kings 4:32a

1. What are some of the subjects about which Solomon's songs and proverbs were written? 1 Kings 4:33

5. Who came to hear Solomon's wise teachings? 1 Kings 4:34

6. What else did Solomon do besides write proverbs? Ecclesiastes 12:9b-10

7. By whom were some of Solomon's proverbs arranged and preserved? Proverbs 25:1

8. What are the names of two others who wrote small parts of the book of Proverbs? Proverbs 30:1, 31:1

9. From Commentaries, Bible Dictionaries, etc., discover all you can about the latter of these:

C. The Contents of the Book of Proverbs:

1. The book of Proverbs is classified as Didactic Poetry: poetry which is intended to teach. It has been called "Laws from Heaven for Life on Earth."

2 Bible Discoveries: Literature of the OT Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett
Book 2 Israel's Golden Age Under David and Solomon

2. Notice the following contrasts between Psalms and Proverbs:

a. Psalms is very devotional; Proverbs is very practical.

b. Psalms stresses man's relationship to God; Proverbs stresses man's relationship to his fellow-man.

b. Psalms is called "The Hymn book of the Bible"; Proverbs is called "The 'Emily Post' Book of the Bible,"

d. Psalms lays the foundation; Proverbs builds on it. Only as a man is rightly related to God, can he be rightly related to his fellow-man.

D. The Value of Studying Proverbs: Proverbs 1:2-5

1. What are three general benefits of studying Proverbs? Proverbs 1:2-3

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

2. What specific benefits may the following receive from studying Proverbs?

a. The simple: Proverbs 1:4a _____

b. The young man: Proverbs 1:4b _____

c. The wise man: Proverbs 1:5a _____

d. The man of understanding: Proverbs 1:5b _____

3. Is there anyone who would NOT benefit from studying Proverbs?

4. In the study of the book of Proverbs, what must one seek to understand, in addition to the proverb itself? Proverbs 1:6a

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Although Solomon was wise enough to write out these proverbs, did he really get the greatest possible benefit from them? Why?

2. If I would get the greatest possible benefit from my studies in Proverbs, what must I do besides learning what each proverb says? See John 13:17.
