

SURVEY OF PROVERBS

--A. Ralph Johnson

Introductory notes:

The proverbs are gems of wisdom reduced to short pointed sayings, written in Hebrew poetic style. They are generalizations, rather than invariable truths. For example, it is generally true that the righteous live long in the land.

CHAP	OUTLINE
1:	<p>TITLE: "THE PROVERBS OF SOLOMON" (1:1)</p> <p>INTRO: The purpose of the book: "To know wisdom and instruction" (2-6)</p> <p>I. "THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF KNOWLEDGE" (1:7—9:18) (A connected didactic poem on the importance of wisdom)</p> <p>A. A series of exhortations to "my son." (1:8—7:27)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(8-19) "My son, hear instruction"</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(20-23) "Wisdom cries aloud." (Those who will not listen will not be heard when they cry to wisdom for help.)</p>
2:	<p style="padding-left: 20px;">(1-22) "My son, if thou wilt receive my words..."</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(5) "Then shalt thou understand the fear of Jehovah."</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(9) "Then shalt thou understand righteousness and justice." (12) To deliver thee from the way of evil. (16) To deliver thee from the strange woman.</p>
3:	<p style="padding-left: 20px;">(1-10) "My son, forget not my law" (You will have a good life)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(11-20) "My son, despise not the Lord's chastening." (21-35) "My son...Keep sound wisdom..." You will walk securely.</p>
4:	<p style="padding-left: 20px;">(1-9) "Hear, my sons...Wisdom...will bring you honor." (10-19) "Hear, my sons...and the years of thy life shall be many." (20-27) "My son, attend unto my words...turn not to the right or left."</p>
5:	<p style="padding-left: 20px;">(1-6) "My son, attend unto my wisdom...that thy lips may keep knowledge." (lest a strange woman cause you to mourn at your latter end) "Drink waters out of thine own cistern. Rejoice in the wife of thy youth."</p>
6:	<p style="padding-left: 20px;">(1-19) "My son,...deliver your soul...from being surety. Go to the ant, you sluggard. Things which the Lord hates." (20-35) "my son, keep the commandment...to keep you from the evil woman. Lust not after her beauty. Can a man take fire to his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?"</p>
7:	<p style="padding-left: 20px;">(1-27) "My son, keep my words...that they may keep thee from the clamorous unfaithful strange woman. Simple ones...are forced by flattery and go like an ox to the slaughter.</p>
8:	<p>B. Wisdom, pictured as a lovely faithful lady, calls the simple. (8:1—9:18)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(1-10) She calls to righteousness, which is better than rubies. (12-21) She opposes pride. Kings depend on her to reign. (22-31) She was with God from the beginning. (32-36) He that rejects her wrongs his own soul.</p>
9:	<p style="padding-left: 20px;">(1-6) She has prepared her house and invites to eat with her. (7-12) She corrects the man who fears Jehovah, and gives him life. (13-18) In contrast, those who seek foolishness prize the stolen waters that end in death.</p>
10:	<p>II. "THE PROVERBS OF SOLOMON" (10:1—24:22)</p> <p>A. A collection of detached proverbs of Solomon (10:1—22:16)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1 "A wise son maketh a glad father..."</p>
11:	<p style="padding-left: 20px;">1 "A false balance is an abomination..."</p>
12:	<p style="padding-left: 20px;">1 "Whoso loveth correction loveth knowledge..."</p>
13:	<p style="padding-left: 20px;">1 "A wise son heareth his father's instruction..."</p>
14:	<p style="padding-left: 20px;">1 "Every wise woman buildeth her house..."</p>
15:	<p style="padding-left: 20px;">1 "A soft answer turneth away wrath..."</p>
16:	<p style="padding-left: 20px;">1 "The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer is from Jehovah."</p>
17:	<p style="padding-left: 20px;">1 "Better is a dry morsel, and quietness..."</p>
18:	<p style="padding-left: 20px;">1 "He that separateth himself seeketh his own desire..."</p>
19:	<p style="padding-left: 20px;">1 "Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity..."</p>

20:	1 “Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler...”
21:	1 “The king’s heart is in the hand of Jehovah...”
22:	1 “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches...” B. “Hear the words of the wise” (closing appeal to his son) (22:17—24:22) (Her again it returns to a more closely connected form) (Chapters 22—29) Things to avoid.
23:	1 “When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently...” beware of excess (29-35) “Who hath woe?... 30 They that tarry long at wine
24:	1 “Be not envious of evil men” 21 “My son, fear thou Jehovah and the king; and company not with them that are given to change...” APPENDIX I. “OTHER SAYINGS OF THE WISE” (24:23-34)
25:	APPENDIX II. “OTHER PROVERBS OF SOLOMON COPIED OUT BY THE MEN OF HEZEKIAH” (25:1—29:27) These are mostly detached proverbs. 1 “...The glory of kings is to search out a matter...”
26:	1 “As snow in summer...so honor is not seemly for a fool.
27:	1 “Boast not thyself of tomorrow...”
28:	1 “The wicked flee when no man pursueth...”
29:	1 “he that hardeneth his neck shall suddenly be destroyed...”
30:	APPENDIX III. “THE WORDS OF AGUR” 2-4 Who knows anyone who has gone to heaven and returned? 4, 6 “don’t add to God’s words. 7-9 Keep me from either poverty or richness. 10 Don’t slander a servant to his master. 11-14 Marks of a wicked generation. 15-16 Things never satisfied. 17 Dishonor to parents. 18-19 Four things too wonderful. 20 The way of an adulterous woman. 21-23 For three things the earth trembles. 24-28 Four wise little things. 29-31 Four stately things. 32-33 Care to keep your tongue.
31:	APPENDIX IV. “THE WORDS OF KING LEMUEL WHICH HIS MOTHER TAUGHT HIM” A. Beware of women, wine and injustice. B. A Worthy Woman from A to Z (acrostic)