

PROVERBS: Wisdom From Above Text: Proverbs 1:1-7

Spiritual Light for the Path of Life

1. *"We stand at the crossroads, each minute, each hour, each day making choices. We choose the thoughts we allow ourselves to think, the passions we allow ourselves to feel, and the actions we allow ourselves to perform. Each choice is made in the context of whatever value system we've selected to govern our lives. In selecting that value system, we are, in a very real way, making the most important choice we will ever make."* — Benjamin Franklin
 2. **This is the information age—we are constantly making life choices in real-time!**
 - a. Statistically —Americans check their phones 8 billion times a day.
 3. **Information Pyramid:** Data / Information / Knowledge / Understanding / Wisdom
 - a) *T.S. Elliot: "Where is the life we have lost in living? Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?"*
 4. **God offers us a wisdom NOT of this world — A Wisdom From Above...**
 - a spiritual compass for navigating life • a survival guide for decisions of life
 - a Swiss army knife for the problems of life • A Spiritual light for the path of life!
 - a treasure chest of wisdom to help us navigate the challenges of life
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I. THE SOURCE OF WISDOM

A. WISDOM FROM ABOVE

1. **Every good gift is from above, from the Father of lights**
 - a) This is a gift of Divine Wisdom that is only from God...
 - b) It's not worldly wisdom / or just "good advice" from people
 - c) This is timeless wisdom that applies to all of life in every generation

B. WISDOM GIVEN TO SOLOMON

1. **Solomon was just a young man when he was called upon to rule as a king for the nation of Israel.**
2. **Being a Monarch in the Middle East Would be Difficult at any age!**
 - a) It could've caused him to become puffed up with pride—
but notice what happened instead... (1 Kings 3:5-12)
 - b) God gave Solomon an incredible measure of Wisdom (1 Kings 4:29-30)
 - c) Wisdom is from God but you have to be humble enough to want it...
Humble enough to ask for it, study it and live by it!
3. **God gave Solomon an incredible measure of Wisdom (1 Kings 4:29-30)**

C. WISDOM OF PRICELESS VALUE

1. **The Queen of Sheba heard about the Wisdom of Solomon...**
 - a) And she decided to travel hundreds of miles across desert sands to see for herself
2. **What she found exceeded her expectations! (1 Kings 10:6-7)**

Archeologists found an ancient inscription from the Queen of Sheba

"I went in through the treasury of wisdom and drew for myself the waters of understanding." —Queen of Sheba, 10th century inscription

II. THE PRINCIPLES OF WISDOM (chapters 1-9)

A. CHART: Proverbs

1. **This is how the book of Proverbs is organized and divided...**
 - **PART 1: The Principles of Wisdom (Ch. 1-9)**
 - **PART 2: The Application of Wisdom (Ch. 10-31)**
2. **Elon Musk is now the richest man in the world...**
 - a) He didn't go to public or private school—he was homeschooled by his mom.
 - b) He became a computer programmer when he helped build PayPal
 - c) Then he started the Electric car company Tesla.
 - d) Then he started Space-X to launch rockets and satellites into orbit.
3. **But He Didn't Learn all this from College—He learned by Reading Books.**
 - a) In the process he developed a method of learning he called: The Symantec Tree
 - b) First By Learning the Foundation Concepts: Tree Trunk and Large Branches
 - c) Then Proceeding to the Smaller Branches and then to the Leaves
4. **If You Don't understand the major concepts first—then you have no conceptual framework for how all the parts & pieces fit.**
 - a) So when he interviews Job Applicants—He asks if they ever encounter and then solved a problem on a project.
 - b) Then he asks them to walk through how they solved it.
 - c) If they get stuck explaining the process of solving the problem then he knows they didn't really solve it—someone actually did the hard work.
 - d) Because if a person truly solved a problem they will never forget it!
This weeds out those taking credit for what they didn't accomplish.

B. PRINCIPLES OF WISDOM: What Wisdom IS:

1. **Wisdom is Multi-faceted:** Practical, Moral, Spiritual, Relational, Psychological
2. **Wisdom is from God and was with God as He created the physical universe**
(8:22-36) Humanity is only beginning to discover the deep treasures of wisdom that lie embedded in God's magnificent and incredible creation.
3. **So when we live against the moral and spiritual principles of wisdom,**
 - a) we're breaking ourselves against the moral, spiritual & physical laws of the universe.
4. **When we live with wisdom from God, then we live in harmony with God and the very structure of the universe—in the spiritual and physical realm**
 - Wise People Have a Teachable Spirit
 - Wise People realize they don't know it all so they Continue to Grow and Learn
 - Wise people seek advise when making decisions (15:22)
 - Wise people are slow to anger and quick to forgive

C. THE OPPOSITE OF WISDOM: What Wisdom is NOT:

The word: 'Fool' is more of an insult in English—but in proverbs it is a spectrum of personality types that refuse wisdom from above:

1. **The Simple:** are naive & gullible so they believe everything they hear (14:15)
they lack discernment so they wander aimlessly into traps.
2. **The Mockers:** or scoffer is a Know-it-all who hates to be corrected.
they're always trying to look smarter than everyone else. (12:15; 26:12)
3. **The Obstinate:** who is too opinionated to learn or change. (26:11)
4. **The Sluggard,** who is too important to work (26:13; 16)
5. **Trouble-Maker:** a contentious man always causing strife & drama (26:21; 15:18)

Do you see a common trait?

***"The most misleading way to feel wise is to feel superior."** —Derek Kinder*

- a) Why would they desire to change if they're already 'wise in their own eyes'?
- b) They lack the integrity for introspection of their heart
- c) They don't lack mental intelligence — they lack moral honesty.

We must learn wisdom—But it's not just to be learned but to be used in your life

EX: When I was young I had a US Army survival guide... full of survival info

But the Army added new first chapter: The Psychology of survival. — They realized none of the survival techniques mattered if you didn't have the will to survive

III. THE APPLICATION OF WISDOM (chapters 10-31)

A. THESE ARE THE ACTUAL PROVERBS > [CHART]

1. **Think of a Proverb as: Condensed, Crystallized, Truth.**
 - a) "A short sentence based on long experience."
 - b) "a proverb is a poetic art form that instills wisdom in you as you wrestle with it."
(Timothy Keller)

B. PROVERBS TEACHES YOU...

1. **How to have a successful life**
2. **How to survive the problems of life**
3. **How to handle difficult people**
4. **How to handle difficult situations: For Example: You are yelled at by your boss, or wife, or brother in Christ—You could react in different ways**
 - (1) You could strike back physically, or verbally
 - (2) You could do nothing
 - (3) You could think and give a gentle answer, Diffusing the situation. (15:1)
 - b) Wisdom is that insight which helps you to decide what is the best thing to do
5. **How to find happiness (3:13)** People spend their lives in pursuit of happiness—without realizing that it is only found at the end of wisdom's path.
6. **How to make yourself and others miserable [by avoiding wisdom]**

C. WISDOM FROM ABOVE IS...

1. Timeless wisdom for all of life
2. A Shining Path (**Proverbs 4:18–19**)
3. A Narrow Path that Leads to Life
4. Practical and Moral Survival Guide that exposes traps and pitfalls in life
5. A Tree of Life (**3:18**)
6. A Timeless Treasure of Priceless Value
 - a) *“It is better to get wisdom than gold. Gold is another, wisdom is our own; gold is for the body and time, wisdom is for the soul and eternity.” –Matthew Henry, 1662-1714*

D. BUT IF WISDOM IS SO VALUABLE—WHY DO SO FEW HAVE IT?

1. Truly wise people are rare because it requires a special Key to unlock it's treasure (**Isa. 33:5a-6 NIV**)
2. The Key to this treasure is a right relationship with God
 - a) True Wisdom cannot be found if we are living in denial of God!
 - b) “The fear of the Lord” sounds to us like having a constant cringing terror of God.
 - c) But more accurately it's a sense of awe and wonder of God that allows us to have a right relationship with God (**19:23; 14:27**)

CONCLUSION:

1. The Purpose of Proverbs is to make you wise—the goal of our study!

The purpose of a goal is not to just achieve the goal. Rather, in pursuit of a goal, you will become more than you were. And that's the goal! To become more. More well, more confident, more hopeful, more positive, more inspired, more encouraged, more Christ-like. True happiness is not contained in what you get. True happiness is found in who you become.” —Jim Rohn

2. Queen of Sheba crossed vast deserts to find the wisdom from above
“I went in through the treasury of wisdom and drew for myself the waters of understanding.” –Queen of Sheba, 10th century inscription
3. But We don't have to cross deserts to find the wisdom from above...
God has provided it for us in His word...
4. But we must enter the treasury of wisdom OURSELF to draw from the waters of understanding—no one can do it for us.
5. True Wisdom begins with God / it is from God / it is given by God
/ and it leads us back to God!

to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
(Colossians 2:2–3)