



THE BOOK OF PROVERBS 4U



WORKBOOK PART 4

12 SAYINGS OF THE WISE

Proverbs Chapters 22:17-24:22, 24:23-34

The SAYINGS OF THE WISE and the 12 verses of the ADDITIONAL SAYINGS OF THE WISE (24:23-34), were most probably derived from the proverbs written by King Solomon. All the main teachings of Proverbs are to be found in this section - Trust in the Lord, Truth and Righteousness, Friends and Family and concern for the poor; including the woes of laziness, greed, gluttony and drunkenness (Pr 23:29-35). Many of the proverbs in the SAYINGS OF THE WISE, although worded differently, are repeats and have been omitted

Pr 22:17,19, 21

Pr 23:10-11



In 2007 a team of Hebrew archaeologists discovered ancient beehives in the Galilee region, proving bee keeping was already flourishing in the 10th century B.C. Authorities previously considered the following biblical texts only could refer to wild honey, and other rich sources of sweetness from fruits and flowers.

The Holy Land is truly *a land flowing with milk and honey*. Exodus 3:8

Pr 24:13 Pr 25:16 (Pr 25:27)

Pr 24:17-18

Pr 24:23

Pr 24:25

13 PROVERBS OF SOLOMON COPIED BY THE MEN OF HEZEKIAH, KING OF JUDAH

Read Proverbs Chapters 25-29

Again, as with the SAYINGS OF THE WISE, many of these copied proverbs of Solomon have already been listed in other sections eg. FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS, RICHES AND POVERTY etc. Some of these proverbs are taken from the natural environment – about climate, the weather and the seasons of rain, cold, snow and times of heat and harvest.



Read Proverbs 25:1-7

The sayings begin with words of wisdom concerning kingship. There are also other proverbs about rulers, judges and officials throughout the Book of Proverbs.

Pr 25:2

Pr 25:5

Pr 25:9

Pr 25:11

Pr 25:13-14

PROVERBS OF SOLOMON COPIED BY THE MEN OF HEZEKIAH, KING OF JUDAH –
continued.



Pr 25:17

Pr 25:19

Pr 25:20

Pr 25:21

Pr 25:23

Pr 25:24

Pr 25:25

Pr 25:26

PROVERBS OF SOLOMON COPIED BY THE MEN OF HEZEKIAH, KING OF JUDAH – continued.

The following verses give warnings and wise advice about self-confident fools. There are wise sayings about meddlers; the quarrelsome and the dishonest who always cause strife in society. Likewise included are proverbs about the tongue, that untameable, small member of the body; as manifested in the unkind and hateful words of whisperers, slanderers, tale-bearers, liars and especially flatterers.



Pr 26:12

Pr 26:28 (27:14 28:23 29:5)

Pr 27:1

Pr 27:2

Pr 27:4

Pr 27:5

Pr 27:6

Pr 27:8

PROVERBS OF SOLOMON COPIED BY THE MEN OF HEZEKIAH, KING OF JUDAH –
continued.

Pr 27:9

Pr 28:5

Pr 28:13



Pr 28:15

Pr 28:24

Pr 29:11

Pr 29:12

Pr 29:14

Pr 29:17

Pr 29:25

14. THE WORDS OF AGUR

Chapter 30

Agur from Massa is the son of Jakeh and his additional sayings are addressed in the first verse to two others. His words are those of a godly man, learned but humble in his burden of the Holy One. Agur's introductory words ask questions about the earth's Creator and also prophetically about the One Who descended and ascended into heaven, His name and His Son's name.

Pr 30:4

He refers to God as a shield to those who trust Him. To Agur, God's word is pure and true.

Pr 30:5-6

Read Proverbs 30:7-9

Agur asks God for two things - to avoid the sins of stealing, profaning God's name.

Pr 30:8

Agur continues his concern for the lowly. (servants)

Pr 30:10

Agur defines 4 classes in society and continues to state his sayings numerically.

1.

Pr 30:11

2.

Pr 30:12

3.

Pr 30:13

4.

Pr 30:14



THE WORDS OF AGUR – continued.

Read Proverbs 30:15-17

The horse leech's (large in size) two greedy daughters give further emphasis in two, three, even four ways of never being satisfied –



Pr 30:16

Agur then describes the mocking eye with disobedience to parents, followed by reciprocal punishment for such scornful behaviour. (Pr 30:17)

Agur's three, even four, WONDERFUL THINGS are next listed -



Pr 30:19

The next way by contrast -

Pr 30:20

Read Proverbs 30:21-31

Agur describes three troublesome things, even four - then sayings, again in fours, about Things – little but wise; and finally four majestic things.

The lion, *mightiest among beasts*, the warhorse, the male goat, and a king at the head of his victorious army.

Agur concludes with maxims about foolish and evil ways; the need for restraint in speech and anger - the causes of strife.

(Pr 30:32-3)

15. KING LEMUEL

Read Proverbs 31:1-9

Lemuel of Massa may have been a Gentile king or even Solomon himself. King Lemuel's sayings list the godly wisdom and advice that his dedicated mother taught him. His wise mother goes straight to the point about the two dangers for young men, especially for a future king.

Pr 31:3

Pr 31:4

Lemuel's mother advised the use of strong drink only as a medicine; and having paved the way for integrity in kingship, she advocates justice for the rights of the poor and needy in society.

Godly wisdom, integrity of character, wealth management and concern for the poor are themes stated throughout the Book of Proverbs; including the instruction of children in all these matters.

16. THE IDEAL WIFE

Read Proverbs 31:10-31

The Book of Proverbs concludes in honour of the ideal wife. Her virtues are listed in an acrostic poem of 22 verses as in the Hebrew alphabet.

Her admirable qualities, in all her many duties and responsibilities for her home and family, are priceless and are described in detail.



Pr 31:10

Such a woman is completely trustworthy and greatly valued by her husband and children. She is not only a capable housewife but her gracious ways extend to the poor and needy. Her husband considers her as excelling all others – more than the notable women in the Hebrew scriptures of the Old Testament. Think of them!

Yes, the ideal wife is worthy of praise for her outstanding qualities; but above all for her deeply spiritual dedication to the Lord.

Pr 31:30

CONCLUSION

The Book of Proverbs, mainly the wisdom writings of King Solomon, later compiled by scribes and other wise men, is the largest body of wisdom literature in the world. Instructions are given for a blessed, successful and prosperous life; God's wisdom being far superior to human wisdom. There are detailed instructions given for children on the many facets of human living.

The proverbs shed light on wise and foolish behaviour and their consequences. Sound advice is given on how to live a life pleasing to God. Wisdom is seeking guidance in prayer and evaluating future circumstances according to God's way as revealed in His word.

The Book of Proverbs is a fully rounded literary work, ending with the virtues and spiritual qualities of the ideal wife; in contrast to the immoral woman near the beginning. (Pr 2:16-19)

Finally, it must be emphasised again that King Solomon, who possessed great wisdom, sadly in the latter years of his reign turned to folly; his life thus epitomizing the two themes of Proverbs -

WISDOM AND FOLLY



Now, if Solomon with all his God-given gift of wisdom could descend into folly, how much more liable are all of us lesser mortals likely to fall into the errors of sin. But thanks be to God - Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, died for each one of us, shedding His blood on the Cross to save sinners by taking away all sin. For our forgiveness, He took upon Himself our sinful folly, stood in our place and bore God's punishment for sin - which is death. God, Who is Holy and Almighty, accepted Christ's sacrifice when He was raised in the Resurrection from death to life forever.

Jesus Christ is the gift of eternal life. Yes, Jesus died for you, so what is your response?

Wise or Foolish?

The Book of Proverbs stresses the reverent fear of the Lord as the principal thing giving light on life's journey, so choose to follow Christ, to accept the gift of Himself as your Saviour; for He is the - Light, as Jesus said -

John 8:12

Jesus' words, about Himself and Solomon's wisdom, are recorded in St. Matthew's Gospel -

St. Paul writes -

Matthew 12:42

Colossians 2:3



BOOK OF PROVERBS 4 U



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