

PROVERBS

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To teach people how to attain wisdom, discipline and a prudent life. To apply divine wisdom that is founded in the “fear of the LORD” and that works out covenant life in the practical details of everyday situations and relationships.

Author

Solomon, Agur and Lemuel.

Date

Proverbs compiled most of Proverbs during the early years of his reign (970-931 BC).

Audience

Proverbs was written for all eras to enjoy and was meant to be timeless.

Setting

This is a book of wise sayings, a textbook for teaching people how to live godly lives through the repetition of wise thoughts.

Special Features

Proverbs uses varied *literary forms*: poems, brief parables, pointed questions, and couplets. Other *literary devices* include antithesis, comparison, and personification.



Key Verses

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” (3:5-6 NASB)

“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” (4:23 NIV)

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” (9:10 NIV)

“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” (15:1 NIV)

“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.” (17:17 ESV)

Key People

Solomon, Agur, Lemuel.

Key Places

Jerusalem.