

## An Introduction to the Book of Proverbs

Text: Proverbs 1 and Selected

Introduction: The *Book of Proverbs* is a unique book in that it is a collection of quaint sayings, tidbits of wisdom, statements of facts, and dire warnings. It is unlike any other book contained within the canon of the Scriptures. *Proverbs* contains 31 chapters, 915 verses and 15,043 words. Each word is packed with timely wisdom and insight about life.

### I. The \_\_\_\_\_ Author (v.1).

The human editor of the book is Solomon, as stated in the first verse. Although most of the sayings are attributed to Solomon, there are additions by “*the men of Hezekiah king of Judah*” (25:1), and by King Lemuel’s mother (31:1).

A. His \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Trained by \_\_\_\_\_ (“*my son,*” 2:1; 3:1).

2. Talented by \_\_\_\_\_ (II Chr. 1:7-12).

B. His reputation. —*known for his...*

1. \_\_\_\_\_.

The reference in First Kings reveals that he penned over \_\_\_\_\_  
proverbs (i.e., sayings, wit, etc.) and \_\_\_\_\_ songs (I Kgs. 4:32).

2. \_\_\_\_\_.

C. His \_\_\_\_\_.

1. The man.

a. His name — A derivative of the Hebrew word “Shalom,” and it means \_\_\_\_\_.

b. His title — \_\_\_\_\_

c. His gift — Great \_\_\_\_\_

2. The mistake.

a. Took \_\_\_\_\_ wives (I Kings 11:1).

b. Took \_\_\_\_\_ wives (I Kings 11:3).

3. The misery (I Kings 11:4-13).

a. \_\_\_\_\_ from God (vv. 4-8).

b. \_\_\_\_\_ from God (vv. 9-13).

**II. The \_\_\_\_\_ Purpose** (vv. 2-4). — Solomon wrote three books...

*Song of Solomon*, a book of \_\_\_\_\_ is his youth

*Proverbs*, a book of \_\_\_\_\_, in his wise and adult days.

*Ecclesiastes*, a book of \_\_\_\_\_, in his disappointing senior years.

In these verses, Solomon defines his purpose for this collection of wisdom.

A. **To** \_\_\_\_\_ — wisdom and instruction (v.2a)

“*Wisdom*” —

“*Instruction*” —

B. **To** \_\_\_\_\_ — words of understanding (v.2b).

“*Understanding*” —

C. **To receive** — instruction (i.e., “the discipline of;” v.3).

“*Wisdom*” — basically \_\_\_\_\_

“*Justice*” — Doing right in \_\_\_\_\_

“*Judgment*” — Ability to choose and make right \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Php. 1:10).

“*Equity*” — Doing right in \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e., our integrity).

D. **To give** — subtility to the simple (v.4).

“*Subtilty*” — Shrewdness or \_\_\_\_\_.

“*Simple*” — \_\_\_\_\_, simple.

“*Knowledge*” — perception or \_\_\_\_\_

“*Discretion*” — Something a “young man” normally \_\_\_\_\_.

Conclusion: Thus, we begin the *Book of Proverbs*. It is a collection of wisdom that is meant to provide safety and protection for those who heed its warnings and obey its principles.

As will be seen, the book speaks of only two types of people:

(1) The \_\_\_\_\_ (2) The \_\_\_\_\_

This is the same as the classification that Christ spoke of in Matthew 7:24-27.