



# Sabbath Brothers

# The Testimony of Solomon's Wisdom (Reference 1 Kings 4:29-34)

<sup>29</sup> God gave Solomon wisdom, very great insight, and understanding as vast as the sand on the seashore.

<sup>30</sup> Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East, greater than all the wisdom of Egypt.

<sup>31</sup> He was wiser than anyone—wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, sons of Mahol. His reputation extended to all the surrounding nations.

<sup>32</sup> Solomon composed 3,000 proverbs, and his songs numbered 1,005.

<sup>33</sup> He described trees, from the cedar in Lebanon to the hyssop growing out of the wall. He also taught about animals, birds, reptiles, and fish.

<sup>34</sup> People came from everywhere, sent by every king on earth who had heard of his wisdom, to listen to Solomon's wisdom.

The wisdom that God provided Solomon equated to the extent of Solomon's responsibility (1 Kings 4:26)

Like his father (David), Solomon was musical

Approximately 800 of Solomon's proverbs are included in the Book of Proverbs consisting of 915 verses

Cedar was the royal wood of the Temple (1 Kings 6:9) while Hyssop represented lowly plants.

When the world understood Solomon's wisdom, everyone wanted to listen

The east may include Asian wisdom (of men like Confucius 500BC) or the "more moderate" east of Mesopotamia

Both Asian and Egyptian cultures were known for their literature while Solomon's wisdom surpassed both.

Job is called "*the greatest of all the people of the East*" (Job 1:3)

Four (creation) incredibly wise men are listed (1 Chronicles 2:6), but Solomon surpassed them all as much as the wisdom of Jesus surpassed any other man's (Mt 12:42; Lk 11:31).

Ethan the Ezrahite authored Psalm 89

Heman authored Psalm 88

Solomon taught about four categories of animals

God Gives His people what they need to fulfill His calling

So what if God's people are not obediently following His call?

This should still be the case for God's Word

# Proverbs

Proverbs are concise, instructive statements that are often based on Mosaic Law. In the Bible, the Hebrew word for Proverb is translated ("Mashal") 22 times, but it is translated "Parable" 18 times.

The Hebrew word for "wisdom" (Chokmâh חכמה) includes action as in "applied knowledge." An example of this are the craftsmen who constructed the Temple were said to have "wisdom" as they put their knowledge into action. (Exodus 31:1-3)

The Book of Proverbs was written by Solomon. Approximately 800 of Solomon's proverbs are included in the Book of Proverbs consisting of 915 verses. (1 Kings 4:29-34). These wise tenets reveal the benefits of godly living and the fatality of sin.

Translators of English Bibles position Proverbs among the poetic books while the Hebrew Bible places Proverbs with the "Writings." The first nine chapters of Proverbs consist of more lengthy discourses instead of succinct proverbs.

Collection ( <i>Anthology</i> ) of ( <i>Didactic</i> ) Poetry	Instructive Sequenced By Author
Chapters 1-9	Orientation
Chapters 10-24	Proverbs of Solomon
Chapters 25-29	Solomon's Proverbs copied by Hezekiah's men
Chapter 30	Words of Agur
Chapter 31	Words of Lemuel

The "orientation" (beginning) chapters of the Book of Proverbs consists of ten speeches from a father to his son.

Ten Father-Son Discussions	
Proverbs 1:8-33	Do Not Be Enticed By Sinners
Proverbs 2:1-22	Seek Wisdom
Proverbs 3:1-35	Fulfill Obligations
Proverbs 4:1-27	Focus on Wisdom
Proverbs 5:1-6	Deadly Consequences of Immorality
Proverbs 5:7-23	Love & Be Fulfilled By Your Spouse
Proverbs 6:1-19	Do Not Be Crafty & Deceitful
Proverbs 6:20-35	Consequences of Taking What is Not Yours
Proverbs 7:1-27	Ploys of a Seductress
Proverbs 8:1-36	Pursue Life-Giving Wisdom

Solomon is characterized as a son in need of wisdom

# The Purpose of Proverbs (Proverbs 1:1-7)

**1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:**

**2 To know wisdom and instruction, To discern the sayings of understanding,**

**3 To receive instruction in wise behavior, Righteousness, justice, and integrity;**

**4 To give prudence to the naive, To the youth knowledge and discretion,**

**5 A wise person will hear and increase in learning, and a person of understanding will acquire wise counsel,**

**6 To understand a proverb and a saying, The words of the wise and their riddles.**

**7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.**

Proverbs begins by establishing Solomon as the son of King David. David encouraged Solomon towards a pursuit of wisdom (1 Chronicles 22:5, 12; 29:1).

Proverbs can be utilized as a starting point for Biblical discussions between a parent and child (Deuteronomy 6:6-7); the first seven chapters of Proverbs are literal instructions from a father to his son

The first reason given for Proverbs is the value of wisdom which is personified in Jesus (1 Cor 1:30, Prov 9:10, Job 28:28, Mt 23:34 → Luke 11:49)

There are various types of wisdom (James 3:15-17, 1 Corinthians 2:13 & 3:19)

## Proverbs Written for 7 Primary Reasons (Proverbs 1:2-6)

1.	For gaining wisdom
2.	For understanding insightful sayings
3.	For receiving instruction
4.	For teaching shrewdness
5.	For teaching knowledge
6.	For teaching discretion
7.	For understanding a proverb or a parable

Repeatedly, righteousness & justice are considered royal traits (1 Ki 10:9; 2 Chron 9:8; Job 29:14, 37:23; Ps 9:8, 33:5; Is 56:1) as righteousness infers personal purity while justice conveys righteousness to others

To these is added integrity (honesty) which is critical in self-examination, change and repentance (Proverbs 2:9).

Proverbs are valuable the youth as well as a man with understanding

The act of understanding is valuable with both proverbs ("words of the wise") and parables ("riddles").

A fear of the Lord reveals an understanding of His sovereign, omnipotent nature which is the foundational building block for all of His creation. An accurate knowledge of worldly arts & sciences must be viewed through an understanding of God.

**"Listen" is the Hebrew word Shema which includes an active response**

# Choose the Right Authority (Proverbs 1:8-19)

**8 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction,  
And do not ignore your mother's teaching;**  
**9 For they are a graceful wreath for your head  
And necklaces for your neck.**  
**10 My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent.**  
**11 If they say, "Come with us,  
Let's lie in wait for blood,  
Let's ambush the innocent without cause;**  
**12 Let's swallow them alive like Sheol,  
Even whole, like those who go down to the pit;**  
**13 We will find all kinds of precious wealth,  
We will fill our houses with plunder;**  
**14 Throw in your lot with us;  
We will all have one money bag,"**  
**15 My son, do not walk on the way with them.  
Keep your feet from their path,**  
**16 For their feet run to evil,  
And they are quick to shed blood.**  
**17 Indeed, it is useless to spread the baited net  
In the sight of any bird;**  
**18 But they lie in wait for their own blood;  
They ambush their own lives.**  
**19 Such are the ways of everyone who makes unjust gain;  
It takes away the life of its possessors.**



**Training comes from both parents as they collaborate to instruct their child.**



## Single Parent U.S. Statistics in 2022

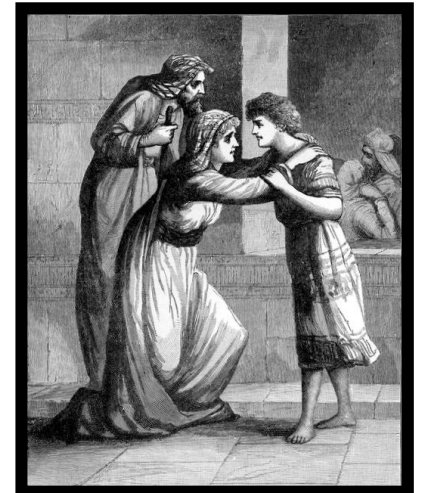
- 70% of children live with both parents, 22% live with mothers, 5% with fathers, and 4% with neither parent.
- 80% of all single parents in the U.S. are single mothers.
- 15.6 million children live in single-mother households in the U.S.
- 52.3% of single mothers have never been married, 29.3% are divorced.
- Single mothers have a 35.6% smaller median income than single fathers.
- Only 45.9% of single parents receive full child support.
- 28.9% of single-mother households live below the poverty level.
- 31% of single fathers are living with their own parents.

**Obedience to the parent's guidance will result in success (as a garland was placed on the victor) and influence (as royal authority was symbolized by the golden chain – Proverbs 3:3, 22, 6:21).**

**The wicked lure the innocent for sport with the promise of sharing in the plunder, but in the end, all share in the judgment.**

**As the wicked plan to wrongfully affect the lives of others, their own lives will be destroyed. The sin of sinners hurts themselves and ultimately leads to death (James 1:14-15).**

**Those who seek material gain dishonestly, lose their lives to the wrongful pursuit (Prov 1:19, 5:22)**



Wisdom is not difficult  
and elusive to find

# Wisdom Calls (Proverbs 1:21-33)

<sup>21</sup> Wisdom shouts in the street,  
She raises her voice in the public square;

<sup>21</sup> At the head of the noisy streets she cries out;

At the entrance of the gates in the city she declares her sayings:

<sup>22</sup> "How long, you naive ones, will you love simplistic thinking?"

And how long will scoffers delight themselves in scoffing

And fools hate knowledge?

"Turn" → "Repent"

<sup>23</sup> Turn to my rebuke, Behold, I will pour out my spirit on you;

I will make my words known to you.

"You gave Your good Spirit to  
instruct them." (Nehemiah 9:20)

<sup>24</sup> Because I called and you refused,

I stretched out my hand and no one paid attention;

<sup>25</sup> And you neglected all my advice and did not want my rebuke;

<sup>26</sup> I will also laugh at your disaster; I will mock when your dread comes,

<sup>27</sup> When your dread comes like a storm

And your disaster comes like a whirlwind,

When distress and anguish come upon you.

<sup>28</sup> Then they will call on me, but I will not answer;

They will seek me diligently but will not find me,

<sup>29</sup> Because they hated knowledge  
and did not choose the fear of the LORD.

<sup>30</sup> They did not accept my advice,

They disdainfully rejected every rebuke from me.

<sup>31</sup> So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way,  
and be filled with their own schemes.

<sup>32</sup> For the faithlessness of the naive will kill them,  
And the complacency of fools will destroy them.

<sup>33</sup> But whoever listens to me will live securely  
And will be at ease from the dread of evil."

Wisdom is portrayed as a woman  
crying out above the chaos and  
commotion of the world (Proverbs 8:1).

Wisdom personified  
and is likened to Christ  
(1 Corinthians 1:24,  
Colossians 2:3)

"Then they will cry  
out to the Lord, But  
He will not answer  
them. Instead,  
He will hide His face  
from them at that  
time Because they  
have practiced  
evil deeds."  
(Micah 3:4)



Wisdom ("Hok-mah" in Hebrew) is spelled "XKMH." Hebrew letters have deeper meanings.	
x = "separate"	Believers should separate themselves (holy) to God and open hands to Him while being overwhelmed by this world's chaos to behold His revelation.
k = "open hand; cover"	
m = "water/chaos"	
h = "behold; reveal"	
Believers are urged to walk separate from the world and seek Him (Mt 6:33) without pre-set agendas grasping self-seeking will. In spite of the complexity of life's situations, Believers should watch for His clarification and revelation	

The question is emphasized twice  
as to "how long" before the foolish  
and mockers turn from their ways.

A repentant heart results in an anointing of  
God's Spirit which teaches us (Jer 31:34, Ps 119:99,  
Mt 23:8, 10, Lk 12:12, Jn 14:26, 1 Cor 2:13)

Mankind is given various opportunities  
(a calling, assistance, counsel, correction) to  
repent from his wickedness, and men should  
be sensitive and responsive (Hebrews 4:7).

In Scripture, the  
laughing of God tends  
to be one of scorn  
(Psalm 2:4, 37:13, 59:8).

Disregard and disobedience result in  
unanswered prayer (1 Samuel 8:18,  
Proverbs 15:29, Micah 3:4, Jeremiah  
11:14 → Is 55:6 vs. Prov 8:17, Ps 86:5).

Many men who have pursued  
their own will (sinful lifestyle)  
reach out to the Lord when the  
consequences of sin occur.

Those who refuse to fear and respect the Lord  
and His ways suffer the consequences. The  
"fruit of man's way" has been problematic  
since Eden (Gen 3:6, Jer 6:19, Rom 6:20-21,  
7:5, Lk 6:44 vs. Mt 7:18-20, Gal 5:22)

"The complacency of fools"  
leads to destruction, but  
responsiveness to the Lord  
gives security.

# Choose Life or Death (Proverbs 2:1-22)

**1 My son, if you will receive my words and treasure my commandments within you,**  
**2 Make your ear attentive to wisdom; Incline your heart to understanding.**  
**3 For if you cry out for insight, and raise your voice for understanding;**  
**4 If you seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures;**  
**5 Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and discover the knowledge of God.**  
**6 For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.**  
**7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity,**  
**8 Guarding the paths of justice, and He watches over the way of His godly ones.**  
**9 Then you will discern righteousness, justice, and integrity, and every good path.**  
**10 For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be delightful to your soul;**  
**11 Discretion will watch over you, Understanding will guard you,**  
**12 To rescue you from the way of evil, from a person who speaks perverse things;**  
**13 From those who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness;**  
**14 Who delight in doing evil and rejoice in the perversity of evil;**  
**15 Whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways;**  
**16 To rescue you from the strange woman, from the foreign woman who flatters with her words,**  
**17 Who leaves the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God;**  
**18 For her house sinks down to death, and her tracks lead to the dead;**  
**19 None who go to her return, nor do they reach the paths of life.**  
**20 So you will walk in the way of good people and keep to the paths of the righteous.**  
**21 For the upright will live in the land, and the blameless will remain in it;**  
**22 But the wicked will be eliminated from the land, and the treacherous will be torn away from it.**



**God gives wisdom (Is 11:2, 1 Cor 12:8, Ex 28:3, 36:2, Eph 1:17), knowledge (Jn 14:26, 16:13), and understanding (Isaiah 11:2, Job 32:8)**



**The ways of the seductress lead to death (spiritual and physical) as self-gratification replaces the Lord's calling towards a selfless loving life towards God & Others (Romans 6:23, 8:2).**

The Way to Understand the Fear of the Lord and Discover the Knowledge of God. (Proverbs 2:1-5)		
1.	Accept	God's Words
2.	Store/Memorize	God's Commands Within
3.	Listen Closely	To Wisdom
4.	Direct the Heart	To Understanding
5.	Call Out	To Insight
6.	Lift the Voice	To Understanding
7.	Seek and Search	As a Treasure

Various Nuances of Comprehension and Application		
1. Knowledge	Facts and Truths (e.g. of Laws, Commands, Promises); knowing data	The knowledge of good and evil
2. Wisdom	Judgment based on facts (Discernment of what is true and right and application of truths); application of knowledge; the ability to use knowledge so as to be of value to oneself and others. Knowing what to do with what one knows	The action based on those facts (the knowledge).
3. Understanding (Psalm 49:3)	Comprehension of ramifications (sympathies and empathies); the Hebrew word is "binyeh" which has the concept of distinguishing or separating mentally - Solomon requested an understanding (shahmah - a different root from the concept of hearing) heart (1 Kings 3:9), God grants him a binyeh heart (1 Kings 3:12) enabling remarkable discernment in judging Israel. Job speaks of application when saying "Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding." (Job 28:28 & 38:4-6).	Fully obtained only in the afterlife as verdicts of judgment and reward are given.

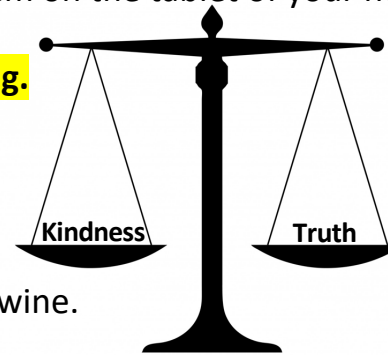
**For Proverbs 20:19, the Targum adds "in peace" relating to the struggle of remorseful reconciliation from the evil addiction to God's righteous calling**

**The Targum is an Aramaic translation of the Hebrew Bible/Tanakh**



# Principles & Rewards (Proverbs 3:1-28)

<sup>1</sup> My son, do not forget my teaching, but **have your heart comply with my commandments;**  
<sup>2</sup> **For length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.**  
<sup>3</sup> **Do not let kindness and truth leave you;** Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart.  
<sup>4</sup> So you will find favor and a good reputation In the sight of God and man.  
<sup>5</sup> **Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.**  
<sup>6</sup> **In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.**  
<sup>7</sup> **Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.**  
<sup>8</sup> It will be healing to your body and refreshment to your bones.  
<sup>9</sup> **Honor the LORD from your wealth,** and from the first of all your produce;  
<sup>10</sup> Then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.  
<sup>11</sup> **My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD or loathe His rebuke,**  
<sup>12</sup> **For whom the LORD loves He disciplines, Just as a father disciplines the son in whom he delights.**  
<sup>13</sup> Blessed is a person who finds wisdom, and one who obtains understanding.  
<sup>14</sup> For her profit is better than the profit of silver, and her produce better than gold.  
<sup>15</sup> She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire compares with her.  
<sup>16</sup> Long life is in her right hand; In her left hand are riches and honor.  
<sup>17</sup> Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace.  
<sup>18</sup> She is **a tree of life** to those who take hold of her, and happy are those who hold on to her.  
<sup>19</sup> **The LORD founded the earth by wisdom, He established the heavens by understanding.**  
<sup>20</sup> By His knowledge the ocean depths were burst open, and the clouds drip with dew.  
<sup>21</sup> My son, *see that* they do not escape from your sight; Comply with sound wisdom and discretion,  
<sup>22</sup> And they will be life to your soul and adornment to your neck.  
<sup>23</sup> Then you will walk in your way securely, and your foot will not stumble.  
<sup>24</sup> When you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.  
<sup>25</sup> Do not be afraid of sudden danger, nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes;  
<sup>26</sup> **For the LORD will be your confidence,** and will keep your foot from being caught.  
<sup>27</sup> Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do *it*.  
<sup>28</sup> Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, And tomorrow I will give *it* to you,"  
 When you have it with you.



*"Give an account for the hope that is in you, but with gentleness & respect."  
 (1 Peter 3:15)*



Proverbs 3 contains a check list of six endeavors:

1. Find favor with God and man. (Verse 4) like Samuel (1 Samuel 2:26), and Jesus (Luke 2:52)
2. Honor the LORD with your wealth. (Verse 9)
3. Discipline is to be welcomed. (Verses 11,12)
4. Seek wisdom. (Verses 13-19)
5. Confidence in God. (Verses 21-26)
6. Use personal power to accomplish good. (verses 27-35)

*"Checed"* (kindness, piety) & *"emeth"* (certainty, truth) need to be balanced (Proverbs 3:3)

Wisdom/understanding is a Tree of Life (Gen 3:22, Prov 11:30, 13:12, 15:4, Ez 47:12, Rev 22:2)

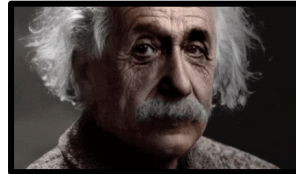
Charles Darwin's "tree of life" metaphorically described the interrelations of all living things through evolution (Satan continuously copies and pollutes God's blessings).

The actual tree that brought life was the cross of Christ (Gal 3:13).

*"So for one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, for him it is sin."  
 (James 4:17)*

# Righteousness versus Foolish (Proverbs 10:1-22)

- 1 The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son makes a father glad, But a foolish son is a grief to his mother.
- 2 Ill-gotten gains do not benefit, but righteousness rescues from death.
- 3 The LORD will not allow the righteous to hunger, but He will reject the craving of the wicked.
- 4 Poor is one who works with a lazy hand, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.
- 5 He who gathers in summer is a son who acts wisely, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who acts shamefully
- 6 Blessings are on the head of the righteous, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.
- 7 The mentioning of the righteous is a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot.
- 8 The wise of heart will receive commands, but a babbling fool will come to ruin.
- 9 One who walks in integrity walks securely, but one who perverts his ways will be found out.
- 10 He who winks the eye causes trouble, and a babbling fool will come to ruin.
- 11 The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.
- 12 Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.
- 13 On the lips of the discerning, wisdom is found, but a rod is for the back of him who has no sense.
- 14 Wise people store up knowledge, but with the mouth of the foolish, ruin is at hand.
- 15 The rich person's wealth is his fortress, the ruin of the poor is their poverty.
- 16 The wages of the righteous is life, the income of the wicked, punishment.
- 17 One who is on the path of life follows instruction, but one who ignores a rebuke goes astray.
- 18 One who conceals hatred has lying lips, and one who spreads slander is a fool.
- 19 When there are many words, wrongdoing is unavoidable, but one who restrains his lips is wise.
- 20 The tongue of the righteous is like choice silver, the heart of the wicked is worth little.
- 21 The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of understanding.
- 22 It is the blessing of the LORD that makes rich, and He adds no sorrow to it.
- 23 Doing wickedness is like sport to a fool, and so is wisdom to a person of understanding.
- 24 What the wicked fears will come upon him, but the desire of the righteous will be granted.
- 25 When the whirlwind passes, the wicked is no more, but the righteous has an everlasting foundation.
- 26 Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the lazy one to those who send him.
- 27 The fear of the LORD prolongs life, but the years of the wicked will be shortened.
- 28 The hope of the righteous is gladness, but the expectation of the wicked perishes.
- 29 The way of the LORD is a stronghold for the upright, but ruin to the workers of injustice.



Often the father is harder to please, but he will be proud of his wise son.

Typically, the mother is harder to fail, but she will be distressed because of her foolish son.

The needs of the righteous are met by the Lord (Amos 8:11) while the addictions of evil men will never be satisfied (Ps 34:10; Jn 6:35; 1 Cor 4:11).

Contrasts of Proverbs 10		
Good	Bad	Verses
Wise	Fool	1, 8, 14, 17, 23
Righteous	Wicked	2, 3, 6, 7, 9-13, 16, 24, 25, 27-30
Work	Lazy	4, 5, 26
Rich	Poor	15, 22
Righteous Talk	Perverse Tongues	18-21, 31, 32

The statements of the wicked are hostile and destructive (Prov 10:6) while the words of the righteous encourage improvement and life.

"If one stops to think before one speaks, one won't have to worry afterward about what one said before."

Struggle and self-effort adds nothing to God's blessings (Haggai 1:6, Deuteronomy 6:10-12, Joshua 24:13, 1 Samuel 2:7; Psalm 44:3).

As a fool take pleasure in shameful worldly practices, the understanding man takes pleasure in wisdom.

# Wise Prayers & Actions (Proverbs 30:1-20)

**1** The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, the pronouncement. The man declares to Ithiel, to Ithiel and Ucal:  
**2** I am certainly more stupid than any man, and I do not have the understanding of a man;  
**3** Nor have I learned wisdom, Nor do I have the knowledge of the Holy One.  
**4** Who has ascended into heaven and descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists?  
 Who has wrapped the waters in His garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth?  
**What is His name or His Son's name?** Surely you know!  
**5** Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.  
**6** Do not add to His words or He will rebuke you, and you will be proved a liar.  
**7** Two things I have asked of You; Do not refuse me before I die:  
**8** Keep deception and lies far from me, **Give me neither poverty nor riches;**  
**Feed me with the food that is my portion,**  
**9** So that I will not be full and deny *You* and say, "Who is the LORD?"  
**And that I will not become impoverished and steal, and profane the name of my God.**  
**10** Do not slander a slave to his master, or he will curse you and you will be found guilty.  
**11** There is a kind of *person* who curses his father and does not bless his mother.  
**12** There is a kind who is pure in his own eyes, Yet is not washed from his filthiness.  
**13** There is a kind—oh how lofty are his eyes! And his eyelids are raised *in arrogance*.  
**14** There is a kind of *person* whose teeth are *like* sword and his jaw teeth *like* knives,  
 To devour the poor from the earth and the needy from among mankind.  
**15** The leech has two daughters: "Give" and "Give." There are three things that will not be satisfied,  
 Four that will not say, "Enough":  
**16** Sheol, the infertile womb, Earth that is never satisfied with water, and fire that never says, "Enough."  
**17** The eye that mocks a father and scorns a mother, The ravens of the valley will pick it out,  
**And the young eagles will eat it.**  
**18** There are three things which are too wonderful for me, Four which I do not understand:  
**19** The way of the eagle in the sky, The way of a snake on a rock, The way  
 of a ship in the middle of the sea, and the way of a man with a virgin.  
**20** This is the way of an adulterous woman: She eats and wipes her mouth,  
 And says, "I have done no wrong."

Commentators and translators vary on their interpretation of Proverbs 30:1. Ithiel and Ucal are considered disciples or sons of Agur the son of Jakeh (an unknown scholar among the Hebrews).

- "Agur" ("*the compiler; the one who first gathered maxims together*")
- Ithiel (*God is with me*)
- Ucal (*I am strong*)

God the Father & His Son (Jesus) are described (Isaiah 9:6)

God's Word as authority - Not tradition, opinion and experience

The temptation of wealth is to have pride and deny the Lord.

The temptation of poverty is to curse the Lord and live in immorality (e.g. theft).



A Fallen Generation (Proverbs 30:11-14)		
1.	Dishonors Parents	"Question Authority" "No Fear"
2.	Is Self-Righteous	"I'm a good person"
3.	Is Proud	Pride Parades, Self-edification
4.	Uses Words to Oppress	Spin and Spite



Four Insatiable Things (Proverbs 30:15-16)			
1.	Sheol, the Grave	The end of man	Demise
2.	A barren womb	The beginning of man	Fruitful
3.	Earth for water	For productivity/harvest	Fruitful
4.	Fire	Destruction death	Demise

"Three and then four..." was an ancient Hebraic way of saying that the list is explicit but not exhaustive

# The Words of Lemuel (Proverbs 31:1-9)

<sup>1</sup> The words of King Lemuel, the pronouncement which his mother taught him:

<sup>2</sup> What, my son?

And what, son of my womb?

And what, son of my vows?

<sup>3</sup> Do not give your strength to women,  
Or your ways to that which destroys kings.

<sup>4</sup> It is not for kings, Lemuel,

It is not for kings to drink wine,

Or for rulers to desire intoxicating drink,

<sup>5</sup> Otherwise they will drink  
and forget what is decreed,

And pervert the rights of all the needy.

<sup>6</sup> Give intoxicating drink to one who is perishing,  
And wine to one whose life is bitter.

<sup>7</sup> Let him drink and forget his poverty,  
And remember his trouble no more.

<sup>8</sup> **Open your mouth for the  
people who cannot speak,**

For the rights of all the unfortunate.

<sup>9</sup> Open your mouth, judge righteously,

And defend the rights of the poor and needy.



Some Rabbinical scribes teach that Lemuel (meaning "Dedicated to God") is Solomon; if so, these are the words of Bathsheba

Others believe that this is the name of a king or chief of an Arab tribe dwelling on the borders of Palestine, and elder brother of Agur (Prov 30:1).

Verse 2 emphasizes the "son" relationship three times, the relationship is emphasized. His life originated within her in pregnancy and in pain, she bore him. She made a dedication vow to God before bearing him for his service (1 Samuel 1:27-28).

A man's energy and efforts can be wasted on those who would be his downfall and demise. As a usurper takes the throne, so does a "strong" woman take a man's authority.

Those with authority should have nothing to do with the things that misguide reason and justice (e.g., alcohol, adulteress)

Those who are needy and perishing can drink wine as their destruction is eminent (numbing the reality of pain), but not a king or prince (to numb wisdom and logic).

## The Murder of Unborn Babies

In 2021, there were over 900K abortions in the U.S. There were 73 million abortions worldwide



God's people should advocate and defend the oppressed and needy without the capability of being heard.

*"But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?" (1 John 3:17)*

**A Good Wife  
is not Idle**

# The Model Wife (Proverbs 31:1-22)

**10 An excellent wife, who can find her?** For her worth is far above jewels.

**11 The heart of her husband trusts in her,** and he will have no lack of gain.

**12 She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.**

**13 She looks for wool and linen, and works with her hands in delight.**

**14 She is like merchant ships; She brings her food from afar.**

**15 And she rises while it is still night and gives food to her household,**

And portions to her attendants.

**16 She considers a field and buys it; from her earnings she plants a vineyard.**

**17 She surrounds her waist with strength and makes her arms strong.**

**18 She senses that her profit is good; Her lamp does not go out at night.**

**19 She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hands grasp the spindle.**

**20 She extends her hand to the poor, and she stretches out her hands to the needy.** } Generous & Hospitable

**21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household, for all her household are clothed with scarlet.**

**22 She makes coverings for herself;** her clothing is fine linen and purple.

**23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land.**

**24 She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies belts to the tradesmen.**

**25 Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she smiles at the future.**

**26 She opens her mouth in wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.**

**27 She watches over the activities of her household,**

And does not eat the bread of idleness.

**28 Her children rise up and bless her;**

Her husband *also*, and he praises her, saying:

**29 "Many daughters have done nobly, but you excel them all."**

**30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain,**

**But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.**

**31 Give her the product of her hands,**

And let her works praise her in the gates.



The husband is considered a wise judge (after all, he married her).

Instead of buying to consume, this wife buys to invest.



Proverbs 31:10-31 is an acrostic consisting of a verse beginning with each letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

Proverbs does not claim that the author's mother fulfills all of Proverbs 31, but this is the best possible wife that a mother would want for her son

The first characteristic of a good wife is that her husband trusts her (Numbers 5:11-31)

*"Encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored."* (Titus 2:4-5)

*"Wives, subject yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything."* (Ephesians 5:22-24)

The wife is a provider as she wakes early in the morning to coordinate the food for the family. The wife is a realtor and a farmer as she invests in producing fruitful harvests.

There is an emphasis that the woman is industrious and productive.

This wife is covered with strength and honor as she lives expectantly for good things to come.

A great personality and outward attractiveness are not as valuable as an understanding of the greatness and sovereignty of the Lord. Charm (charisma) might be used deceitfully. Beauty does not accomplish anything in itself; it is vanity.