

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 (Anthology) of Instructive (Didactic) Poetry 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" 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

Wisdom is characterized as a "Pure & Insightful Lady."

Lady Wisdom	
Proverbs 1:20-33	Wisdom Warns
Proverbs 3:13-20	Rewards of Wisdom
Proverbs 8	The Invitation of Wisdom
Proverbs 9	Call to Repent & Take Refuge

2 Proverbs 1, 2

- 1:1 Proverbs begins by establishing Solomon as the son of King David. David influenced 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 eight chapters of Proverbs are literal instructions from a father to his son
- 1:2 The first reason given for Proverbs is the value of wisdom; wisdom is likened to Jesus (1 Cor 1:30, Prov 9:10, Job 28:28, Mt 23:34 → Lk 11:49), but there are various types of wisdom (James 3:15-17, 1 Cor 2:13 & 3:19).
- 1:3 Repeatedly, righteousness and 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).
- 1:4 Proverbs are valuable for conveying the nuances of perceptive and insightful traits to the inexperienced youth.
- 1:5 Proverbs isn't simply for the inexperienced; the more mature and experienced will also listen and consider proverbs to increase learning and give direction.
- 1:6 The act of understanding is valuable with both proverbs ("words of the wise") and parables ("riddles").

Proverbs Written for 7 Primary Reasons (Proverbs 1:2-6)	
1.	For gaining wisdom (being instructed)
2.	For understanding insightful sayings
3.	For receiving wise instruction
4.	For teaching shrewdness
5.	For teaching knowledge
6.	For teaching discretion
7.	For understanding a proverb or a parable

- 1:7 *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction."* (Prov 10:27, 14:26-27, 15:16, 33, 16:6, 19:23, 22:24)
- 1:8 Training comes from both parents as they collaborate to instruct their child.
- 1:9 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 – Prov 3:3, 22, 6:21).
- 1:10 *"If sinners entice you, don't be persuaded."*
- 1:11-14 The wicked attack the innocent for fun with the promise of sharing in the plunder, but in the end, all share in the judgment.
- 1:15-18 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).
- 1:19 Those who seek material gain dishonestly, lose their lives to the wrongful pursuit (Prov 1:19, 5:22)
- 1:20-21 Wisdom is portrayed as a woman crying out above the chaos and commotion of the world (Prov 8:1). Wisdom personified and is likened to Christ Himself (1 Cor 1:24, Colossians 2:3)

Wisdom (“Hok-mah” in Hebrew) is spelled “XKMH.” <i>Hebrew letters have deeper meanings.</i>	
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	

- 1:22 The question is emphasized twice as to “how long” before the foolish and mockers turn from their ways.
- 1:23 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)
- 1:24-25 Man is given various opportunities (a calling, assistance, counsel, correction) to repent from his wickedness, and man should be sensitive and responsive (Heb 4:7).
- 1:26 In Scripture, the laughing of God tends to be one of scorn (Ps 2:4, 37:13, 59:8).
- 1:27- 28 Disregard and disobedience results in unanswered prayer (1 Sam 8:18, Prov 15:29, Micah 3:4, Jer 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.
- 1:29-31 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)
- 1:32-33 “*The complacency of fools*” leads to destruction, but responsiveness to the Lord gives security.

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

2:6 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)

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	The action based on those facts (the knowledge).

	oneself and others. Knowing what to do with what one knows	
3. Understanding (Ps 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.

2:7-8 The Lord blesses His people with capability (wisdom, resourcefulness), but He, Himself, also protects His people.

2:9 The Believer is on a pilgrimage in this world, and the good “paths” consist of righteousness and justice. These 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 1:3).

2:10 The mind will perform through spiritually endowed wisdom (James 1:5), and the heart will find joy in the knowledge of the truth.

2:11-15 Understanding and discretion will protect the Believer from evil ways that are endorsed and encouraged by those with sinful lifestyles. These wicked people celebrate and promote their sinful lifestyles (e.g. pride parades, Hollywood awards, enforced indoctrination). They are inconsistent in beliefs (becoming violent while promoting peace). The liberal message is devious (swaying public and judicial opinion) while defining tolerance as agreement.

2:12 The term evil is used forty times in the short book of Proverbs.

2:16 Wisdom will protect someone from the flirting seductress.

2:17 Marriage is a covenant with God (Malachi 2:14). The manner that a man treats physical/earthly things/relationships is likely the manner that the same man treats Spiritual observances as well as God (Prov 12:10).

2:18 The ways of the seductress lead to death (spiritual and physical) as worldly pleasure and self-gratification replace the Lord’s calling towards a free and abundant life (Rom 6:23, 8:2).

2:19 None who go to her reach the paths of life (Prov 5:6, 10:17, 12:28, 15:24, Mt 7:14); 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).

2:20-22 There is safety in the paths (“high-way”) of the righteous while the wicked will lose their possessions. Addictions (e.g. alcoholism, drugs, sex, etc.) will undermine one’s relationships (e.g. spouse, children, family, friends), assets (e.g. finances), career and elsewhere.

3 Proverbs 3, 4

Proverbs 3 contains a check list of six endeavors:

1. Find favor with God and man. (Verse 4) 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. Seeking wisdom. (Verses 13-19)
5. A good night's sleep. (Verses 21-26)
6. Use personal power to accomplish good. (verses 27-35)

Chapter three speaks of guidelines and then the reward for following the principle.

3:1 Obedience comes from the heart (Ps 119:2, 7, 10, 11, 30, 32, 34, 36, 69, 70, 80, 111, 112)

3:2 A poor "heart condition" can kill (Prov 11:20, 12:25, 14:10, 13, 30, 16:5, 18:12, 20:9)

3:3 "*Checed*" (kindness, piety) and "*emeth*" (certainty, truth) need to be seized/held and worn as a impressive pendant (Prov 3:22). The truth of God must be etched into the hard heart of man (Jer 17:1; Ez 11:19, 36:26; 2 Cor 3:3; Prov 7:3; Heb 8:10).

3:4 Truth and kindness results in favor and respect from God and man.

3:5-6 "*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*"

3:7 A man should not be wise in his own eyes (1 Cor 8:1; Rom 12:16).

3:8 The fear of the Lord leads to repentance which results in healing and restoration.

3:9 The belongings of a Believer should be utilized for His purpose; the first and best should be given to His service.

3:10 As belongings are dedicated to the Lord, He blesses and recompenses with an overabundance of fruitful results (harvests) and joy (wine). This could come in the form of ministry and souls coming to the Lord. The Lord will also provide sustenance (Dt 28:8; Mal 3:10).

3:11-12 God disciplines His children whom He loves (Prov 1:23, 4:1, 13:24, 19:18, Lev 26:23, Deut 8:5, 2 Sam 7:14, Job 5:17, Ps 94:10, Heb 12:6-11, Rev 3:19)

3:13-18 A poem of the happiness (blessedness) which is the first and last word brought by wisdom.

3:13 A man experiences happiness when he discovers wisdom, but this insight also brings unhappiness (Eccl 1:18). A man maintains happiness when applying the truths with understanding (Ps 111:10).

3:14-17 No earthly treasure compares with understanding which brings long life, peace, and rewards of success (Ps 119:72, 127, 162, ; Prov 16:16).

3:18 Wisdom/understanding is a Tree of Life (Gen 3:22, Prov 11:30, 13:12, 15:4, Ez 47:12, Rev 22:2); this is much different from the "tree of life" used as a metaphor by Charles Darwin to describe 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).

3:19-20 The natural facts and scientific principles were established by the Lord in creating laws of nature and technical processes such as the "water cycle."

3:21 As a child does not lose his way by always keeping his guardian in view, so should a man constantly watch wisdom and discretion (Prov 3:3).

3:22 Wisdom results in life.

3:23-24 The man who follows the wisdom of the Lord will not stumble (via disobedience) and will sleep peacefully not fearing the consequences and repercussions of sin (1 Pet 2:8).

- 3:25-26 An obedient Believer does not need to fear/worry because God will is the confidence (Mt 6:25-34, Lk 12:22-26, Philip 4:6).
- 3:27 When able, Believers should do good which includes the daily quiet time with Him Who is worthy.
- 3:28 The believer should do good immediately – even now! Give to a neighbor without excuse.
- 3:29 Believers should not construct thoughts and considerations that would bring harm to a neighbor.
- 3:30 Believers who have not been affected should not make accusations.
- 3:31-32 Believers should not envy (Ps 37:1) nor follow the wicked man’s example (which is loathsome to the Lord), but instead walk in fellowship with the Lord.
- 3:33 Families and households are negatively impacted by sin (e.g. divorce rates).
- 3:34 The judgment of God mirrors the traits of the individual. (James 4:6)
- 3:35 While the wise “inherit” (“nachal” – to have bequeathed) unearned honor while the fool is exposed in dishonor.
- 4:1 The family of God is called to listen and be attentive to the Words of the Lord (Prov 2:6; Lk 24:45)
- 4:2-3 David had an influence over Solomon (1 Chron 22:5, 12) as did Solomon’s mother Bathsheba, but beyond their influence, the Lord taught Solomon what was right (2 Sam 7:14; Mt 23:9).
- 4:4 The heart must be steadfastly faithful to His Word (Ez 36:26, Dan 1:8, Hos 4:11).
- 4:5-6 Believers should strive to attain and protect wisdom from the Lord (Eph 1:17).
- 4:7 Believers should make attaining wisdom and understanding/discernment a priority above all else (Rev 13:18, 17:9).
- 4:8-9 Understanding results in an honored life of success and honor.
- 4:10 The individual can accept or reject the words of truth; acceptance will bring longevity of life (Prov 3:1-2, 10:27; Ps 91:14-16; 1 Tim 6:12) while rebellion brings death.
- 4:11-12 The spiritual walk is one of safety from the detrimental things of this world (Is 42:16; Heb 12:13; Ps 18:19, 119:45)
- 4:13 A Believer should defend and keep instruction as their very life (3:18, 4:23, 6:23, 8:35, 11:19, 19:23).
- 4:14-16 Believers should be leery of worldly companions (Prov 1:10-19)
- 4:17 There is a worldly communion (Lk 22:19-20) with bread (broken body) of wickedness and wine (blood) of violence.
- 4:18 Walking with the Lord is glorious and greatly enlightened for honesty and insight (Jn 8:12, 12:46; Eph 5:8; 1 Cor 3:1-2, 13:12; 2 Pet 3:18).
- 4:19 The wicked stumble insecurely in darkness without sight and understanding (Jn 3:20-21, 11:10; Lk 1:79).
- 4:20-21 Believers should incline themselves to the word of life while hiding the instruction in their hearts.

Life & Health come from Righteous Living (Proverbs 4:22)		
4:24	Honesty	Mt 15:18, Lk 6:45, Acts 5:3
4:25	Input (Sight/Hearing)	Lk 11:34, Ps 119:37, Mt 13:15, 2 Pet 2:14
4:26	Where A Believer Goes	Ps 119:35, 105, Is 43:16, 54:14

4 Proverbs 5, 6

- 5:1-2 While the world (e.g. Hollywood) promotes sexual forays, the Word of God says to be attentive to the wisdom and understanding of the Lord as protection against the ramifications of sin.
- 5:3 While the Believer would protect knowledge on his lips, the words of the forbidden seductress are sweet (honey) and smooth (oil).
- 5:4 Wormwood was renown for a bitter herb. A seductress is a double-edged sword hurting the body (Rev 16:10) and the soul (Rev 19:15, 21).
- 5:5-6 The seductress does not understand the instability of her dangerous walk which leads to death.
- 5:7 The man is encouraged to listen and follow the words of truth.
- 5:8 A man should stay far away from the seductress (1 Cor 6:18, 2 Tim 2:22).
- 5:9-10 The seductress stranger will pilfer the fallen man's vigor of life, resources and belongings.
- 5:11 In retrospect, the man seduced will regret how his body has been consumed by sin (e.g. sleeplessness, disease, etc.).
- 5:12-13 The fallen man will confess and admit his rebellion against discipline and correction.
- 5:14 The entire community will bear witness to the sin and ruin of one who has been seduced.
- 5:15-17 Water infers more than pleasure, but life-giving sustenance which should be exclusive to a marriage and not dissipated as polluted streams in the gutters of public streets.
- 5:18 *"Let your fountain be blessed, and take pleasure in the wife of your youth."*
- 5:19 A correlation is made between a wife and a graceful doe as both elicit interests of beauty; the sight of which exhilarates a man. The breasts speaks beyond pleasure to nourishment as the wife strengthens and sustains her husband.
- 5:20 A seduced man should question the reasoning behind an infatuation with a forbidden stranger.
- 5:21 The Lord sees all of a man's ways, and the man will be accountable for his deeds.
- 5:22 The fallen man is considered wicked as he has become seduced by the world and ensnared by his sinful lifestyle (e.g. deceit, addiction) and consequences.
- 5:23 As the man becomes engrossed in the sinful lifestyle, he loses objectivity and spiritual insight; his considerable unawareness causes him to become lost and overwhelmed by sin.
- 6:1 As sexual unions with wicked strangers bring death, so do financial agreements with strangers bring loss.
- 6:2 Vows and commitments with the stranger will encumber the freedom to follow the Lord.
- 6:3 It will take humility to repent of the unwise commitment as the vow has subjugated the one to whom the commitment was made.
- 6:4-5 The Believer is urged not to be lackadaisical in release and freedom from the unwise commitment.

- 6:6-8 The Believer should not be lazy but prepared. Throughout the ages, there was no evidence that ants actually harvested grain until a British naturalist in 1871 proved that Solomon's assertion is true.
- 6:9-11 Wealth and prosperity can be lost through laziness.
- 6:12-14 Be wary of (and be careful not to become) a wicked and worthless man who stirs up dissent with deceit and false gestures.
- 6:15 As the worldly man executes his destructive plans, catastrophe will destroy him.
- 6:16 Beyond a list of six (insufficient) incidents hated by the Lord, there are seven (a full list) that the Lord detests (Proverbs 30:15). This was an ancient Hebraic way of saying that the list is explicit but not exhaustive (Prov 30:15).
- 6:17 Pride is the first element mentioned and then deceit. Pride is self-focused and obstructs the way a man views the world; eyes enable input which drives activity. Lies attempt to wrongly manipulate and control the world.

Seven Detestable Things that the Lord Hates (<i>Proverbs 6:16-19</i>)		
1.	Eyes – what is seen	Arrogant Eyes
2.	Tongue – what is said	A Lying Tongue
3.	Hands – what is done	Hands That Shed Innocent Blood
4.	Heart – what is considered	A Heart That Plots Evil Schemes
5.	Feet – where it leads	Feet Eager To Run To Evil
6.	False Testimony	A Lying Witness Who Gives False Testimony
7.	Instigator	One Who Stirs Up Trouble Among Brothers

- 6:20 A father tends to be disciplinarian while mother is usually teacher (Prov 1:8).
- 6:21 Obedience to the parent's guidance should be a (front and center emblem) to who a person is which decorates the life (Prov 1:9, 3:3, 22).
- 6:22 These parental guidelines will care for a person as the parent does through guidance, protection, and interaction.
- 6:23 Enlightenment reveals the truth of life.
- 6:24 Instruction and teaching will protect from a flattering seductress who flirts and entices.
- 6:25 A man should defend and protect his heart from sinful fantasies that lead to activities which result in loss and death. Scripture does not support society's belief that "it is okay to look."
- 6:26 The seductress will rob a man of his provisions. The prostitute will take a man's worldly belongings for a period of time. But the adulteress will never be satisfied with only wealth as she strives to increasingly steal and command a man's heart.
- 6:27-28 These questions infer the tenet, "*Play with fire, and you'll get burned.*"
- 6:29 Adulterers will be punished.
- 6:30-31 Although the world is not critical of the man who satisfies worldly desires through transgression, the wrongdoing will cost the offender everything.
- 6:32 Adultery exposes ignorance and is a form of self-destruction (and spiritual suicide).
- 6:33 The judgment of the adulterer will be physical punishment as well as disgrace.
- 6:34-35 The punishment of the rightful husband will be merciless and cannot be diminished.

5 Proverbs 7, 8

- 7:1 A Believer who treasures the Word of the Lord, defends against sin (Ps 119:11).

- 7:2 Light enters the body through the incredibly sensitive pupil (Dt 32:9-10; Ps 17:8; Zech 2:8) and gives sight to the surroundings (Mt 6:22, 7:4). The Word of God sustains spiritual life instead walking in the flesh (Mt 4:4; Jn 3:36).
- 7:3 The commands of the Lord are to be tied to the fingers as a wedding ring is worn in honor and remembrance of a covenant. The truth of God must be etched into the hard heart of man (Jer 17:1; Ez 11:19, 36:26; 2 Cor 3:3; Prov 7:3; Heb 8:10).
- 7:4 Wisdom and understanding are personified (Prov 1:20-21) to understand the close relationship that a Believer should hold. Relatives care for the condition of each other.
- 7:5 Wisdom will restrain the Believer from the seductress who flirts and seduces.
- 7:6 The lattice enables observation without being seen.
- 7:7 Youth are often reflected by beauty and energy without experience to discern nor wary for danger and consequences (2 Tim 2:22, 3:6).
- 7:8 This naïve youth did not stay on the far side of the road, but came near towards her house. He chose to walk the fleshly way (Mt 7:13) instead of enjoying the safety of God's high way.
- 7:9 The youth means for this darkness to conceal his sinful exploits when in reality the darkness (spiritual blindness) limits his ability to see the truth.
- 7:10 The woman is dressed seductively (Eccl 1:8) to pursue her prey using devious manners.
- 7:11-12 Old fashioned concepts are not accepted by this seductress as she is a strong, independent woman who loudly and rebelliously voices her opinions. She is bored with home life as she flits from new situation to situation enjoying the drama and energy of travel and movement. She is a self-focused consumer of the world and all it has to offer. These women can be found on any street and corner.
- 7:13 The seductress attacks with a kiss that leads to death (Mt 26:48-49) as she brazenly talks (Jer 3:3).
- 7:14 The seductress pretends to be a Christian; she considers herself a "good" person in spite of her lifestyle which is disobedient to the Lord and harmful to fellow man.
- 7:15 The seductress hunted for her prey (1 Pet 5:8).
- 7:16 Egypt represents captivity as the man is willingly led to enslavement of this fleshly passion.
- 7:17 These three fragrances are utilized as an aphrodisiac to further blur discretion. Cinnamon is used to sweeten what is to be consumed. Aloe is a succulent used in healing burns. Myrrh is used to prepare the body for death and burial.
- 7:18 This affair is about consumption (1 Cor 5:6; 2 Pet 2:13) in the darkness of night, but the light of day will reveal the consequences (e.g. guilt, shame, disease, weariness, etc.)
- 7:19-20 The seductress is straightforward about her adulterous ways and the safety against being discovered. She talks of herself without a question to her victim. She does not mention the eyes of the Lord which are on her every sin.
- 7:21 The targeted man gives her audience to break down any defense that he may have; he enjoys the seduction of flattering talk without ending it completely and with finality.

- 7:22-23 Both the ox and bird are sacrificial offerings, but this death will not be an offering to the Lord, but self-gratification. The man does not know that this affair will cost him his life.
- 7:24 Wisdom calls to the individual to listen attentively. Jesus is the source of all wisdom (Col 2:3; 1 Cor 1:24)
- 7:25-27 The Believer should remain on the straight and narrow way instead of pursuing her sin to disaster and death.
- 8:1 As the seductress has cried from the streets to death (Prov 7:11-12), wisdom also calls out towards life (Prov 1:20). Wisdom personified and is likened to Christ Himself (1 Cor 1:24, Colossians 2:3).
- 8:2 As people travel on their way, it was often that the disciples spoke on a mountain above the crossroads of life (Mt 5:1).
- 8:3 Elders and judges sat at the city gates as people came to and fro pursuing business and daily life (Prov 31:23; Dt 21:19, 22:15, 25:7).
- 8:4-5 Wisdom calls to all of mankind to become teachable and gain wisdom and sense.
- 8:6-9 Wisdom is based on righteousness and truth.
- 8:10-11 Wisdom is to be desired above treasure (Prov 3:13-15). A man can set his heart and ambition on the Lord or the treasures of this world (Ps 119:72, 127, 162).
- 8:12 Discretion and prudence are found with wisdom.

The Fear of God is to Hate Evil (Proverbs 8:13)
1. Arrogant Pride
2. Evil Conduct
3. Perverse Speech

- 8:14 The Lord gives understanding to His people (1 John 5:20).
- 8:15-16 Authority comes from the Lord (1 Pet 2:13).
- 8:17 *“I love those who love me, and those who search for me find me.”* (Philippians 1:9)
- 8:18-19 The value of wisdom exceeds the temporal treasures of this world (Ps 119:72, 127, 162; Prov 3:14-17, 16:16).
- 8:20-21 Wisdom is reflected in righteousness and is offered as a gift (inheritance) to those who love the Lord (James 1:5).
- 8:22-23 The term in this verse translated as “made” or “possessed” is literally “begot” (Micah 5:2, Eph 1:4).
- 8:23-28 Wisdom was brought forth (chuw1 – produced as if in the whirling/twisting/writhing of labor) prior to the acts of creation.
- 8:29 The waters of the sea are held back at the shifting sand of beaches (Gen 1:9) because the Lord limits the reach of the sea.
- 8:30-31 It pleases God to have rejoicing in His presence.
- 8:32-34 Wisdom results in happiness.
- 8:35 Regarding spiritual wisdom (James 3:17): *“For the one who finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD.”*
- 8:36 Those who rebel against spiritual wisdom do so to their own detriment – destruction and death.

- 9:1 As a pillar represents strength and support that there are seven symbolizes perfect strength on the foundation (1 Tim 3:15, Mt 7:25). The house (world) was built over the seven days of creation.
- 9:2 Wisdom establishes the fellowship dinner with meat (as used in sacrifice) and the wine representing the blood of the offering given for man (1 Cor 10:21; Jn 19:34). All of wisdom is amassed in the Lord Jesus (Col 2:3).
- 9:3 The servants of wisdom have testified to a great banquet (Mt 22:3; Lk 14:17; Rev 19:9) as the people of God have been commanded to also testify to His calling (Acts 1:8; Mt 28:19; Mk 16:15)
- 9:4 Wisdom calls to the inexperienced as a woman in the same manner that folly does (Prov 9:16).
- 9:5 The invitation of wisdom leads to the Lord's supper (Mt 26:26). The bread represented the Christ's body (Mk 14:22) while His blood mixed with water was shed (Mk 14:23-24; Jn 19:34); wine was often mixed with water to increase the quantity for those to drink.

Wisdom (<i>Proverbs 9:6</i>)	
Leads To Jesus (<i>John 14:6</i>)	
You Will Live	Life
Pursue The Way...	Way
...Of Understanding	Truth

- 9:7 As the mocker attempts to harm with words bringing dishonor on the victim, the wicked use their weapon of violence. These foolish men are unteachable (Amos 5:10) as they deem correction as an attack instead of a compassionate act to help them.
- 9:8 Man responds to the wisdom (the Word of God) in several ways. Some mock while others consider (Acts 2:12-13, 17:32).
- 9:9 The wise man will become wiser still (Mt 13:12).
- 9:10 The Hebrew term for fear is "Yir'ah" meaning "awe, respect, terror." Fear is based on truly grasping and comprehending Who God is (Job 23:13-16; Ps 2:11, 33:8, 36:1-2; Dan 6:26; Philippians 2:12; 2 Cor 5:11). Believers can fear the Lord and nothing else (2 Tim 1:7; 1 Jn 4:18; Is 41:10; 1 Pet 3:14) or they can fear the world (Ps 56:11) instead of the Lord. Believers must choose either fear or faith. The Lord is holy and will not entertain that which is polluted (Joshua 24:19).
- 9:11 Wisdom to follow the Lord brings life while sin accelerates death (Rom 6:23).
- 9:12 Whether a man pursues wisdom or mockery, he will reap the repercussions.
- 9:13 The focus turns from wisdom personified to folly. The characteristics of folly are boisterous/unruly and naïve/immature.
- 9:14 Folly is always on the prowl for victims (2 Kings 9:30).
- 9:15 Passers-by are beckoned while they walk the straight road towards their eternal home (Num 20:17, 22:26; Dt 2:27, 5:32, 28:14, Joshua 1:7, 23:6)
- 9:16 Folly is calling (as is wisdom – Prov 9:4) to lure man to his death. This is similar to Homer's Odyssey with the Sirens alluring the sailors to their death; Orpheus played flute to overcome sirens music for Jason.
- 9:17 The world attempts to fill the need for the spiritual with that of the flesh/world. The world's pleasures create increasingly more desire that is never satisfied (Jn 4:13-14). Believers should not follow the call of the world (Deut 13:6-9).

- 9:18 The seductress has left a wake of spiritually dead, and those who follow her will end in divorce from the righteous life that God has called them to walk.
- 10:1 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.
- 10:2 Material wealth that is wrongfully is worthless while wisdom gives the treasure of life (Mt 6:19-20).
- 10:3 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).
- 10:4 The lethargic worker produces little while the focused, determined, conscientious worker bears much fruit of his labor.
- 10:5 While many Bible studies take recess during the summer, it is more sensible to continue in the Word. When people are attentive to the Lord, do not let worldly objectives distract.
- 10:6 The blessings of obedience to the Lord will rest on His people (1 Cor 11:3; Eph 1:3) while the outcome of wickedness is suppression (disgrace) and deceit.
- 10:7 Even the recollection of the righteous will be a blessing while the memory of wicked will worsen.
- 10:8 A wise heart thinks and submits (1 Pet 2:13-17; Mt 20:25-27). The foolish talk and are destroyed (James 3:5-6).
- 10:9 A life of integrity has no hidden sins, but is honest and open. Those who pursue hidden sins and perversions will be found to be wicked and dishonest.
- 10:10 The slight signs of a wink or slipped word are indicators that foretell destruction.
- 10:11 This is the second emphasis that the mouth of the wicked hide hostility and demise (Prov 10:6) while the words of the righteous encourage improvement and life.
- 10:12 Hatred induces discord while love resolves and restores (1 Peter 4:8).

Contrasts of Proverbs 10		
<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>	<u>Verses</u>
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

- 10:13 While the wise reap rewards of wisdom, the one pursuing nonsense (e.g., a child) is prone to discipline (Prov 13:24, 23:13-14).
- 10:14 The wise think while the wicked speak. “If I stop to think before I speak, I won’t have to worry afterward about what I said before.”
- 10:15 Wealth can separate and protect a man from offense (Eccl 7:12; James 1:9-10) while poverty forces people into danger without protection (Prov 30:8).
- 10:16 The effort and work of the righteous results in life. The activity of the wicked produce sin.
- 10:17 There is a single path to life for those who are not distracted by the world.
- 10:18 A false friend is not as good as an honest one (Prov 10:6, 11). It is foolish to gossip and slander since it undermines everyone involved (Prov 16:28; Rom 1:29; 1 Tim 5:13).
- 10:19 “*When there are many words, sin is unavoidable*” (Eccl 5:3, 7, 6:11)
- 10:20 Silver is symbolic of a redeeming price. God alone gives value.

- 10:21 The blessings of a righteous man impact many while the fool destroys himself.
- 10:22 Struggle and self-effort adds nothing to God's blessings (Haggai 1:6, Deut 6:10-12, Joshua 24:13, 1 Sam 2:7; Ps 44:3).
- 10:23 As a fool take pleasure in shameful worldly practices, the understanding man takes pleasure in wisdom.
- 10:24 The righteous live in hope of the Lord's faithfulness (Prov 10:28) while the wicked dread the repercussions of sin (Num 32:23).
- 10:25 As a whirlwind can represent chaos and calamity (Proverbs 1:27), the Lord often speaks to His people through tests and trials (Job 38:1; 40:6).
- 10:26 Vinegar is sour and does not quench thirst. Smoke impedes vision of what is occurring. The slacker will not satisfy the objectives of the errand and will blind the master to what is taking place.
- 10:27 The fear of the Lord brings blessings of life from the Lord while the sin of the wicked brings death.
- 10:28 The hope of the righteous is founded on the Lord and spiritual blessings (Rom 15:13) while the wicked pursuit of the world's pleasures is futile.
- 10:29-30 The righteous have a secure future throughout eternity while the lives of the wicked are truncated on this earth.
- 10:31-32 The righteous articulate suitable words in wisdom while the wicked only murmur perversions (e.g., cursing, deceit, etc.).

7 Proverbs 11, 12

- 11:1 Work with fairness as to God (Eph 6:5-8, 1 Cor 10:24, Lev 19:35-37, Job 31:6) because even He judges in fair and balanced ways (Matthew 7:1-2). Unfairness can result from devaluing others. A man will be judged as he judges – using the same weights and criteria (Prov 20:10, 23; Matthew 6:12-16, 7:1-5, Romans 2:1-3, James 4:11-13, Mk 11:25-26, Luke 6:36-38)
- 11:2 Pride will bring disgrace as a man elevates himself in shameful ways (Eph 4:1-2; Philippians 2:3-4; Lk 14:11).
- 11:3A consistent and honest walk guides safely through this world (Ps 25:21) while deliberate rebellion and deviation brings destruction.
- 11:4 When the Lord judges, wealth is a futile defense (Lk 12:16-21, 16:20-23), but righteousness protects (Philippians 3:8-9).
- 11:5-6 The righteousness of Jesus makes a Believer blameless before God (1 Thes 5:23; 2 Pet 3:14) while the wicked become entangled by their worldly desires (Job 20:20).
- 11:7-8 Personal ambitions and wealth disappear with the destruction of the wicked while the righteous are saved.
- 11:9 The harm of the ungodly reaches beyond himself while the righteous receives salvation.
- 11:10-11 When Herod "the great" had long chronic illness, his sister Salome locked Israel's key leaders in Jericho's hippodrome to kill and cause mourning at Herod's death; when he died, Salome released the elders instead of killing them – much joy at his death
- 11:12 Unwise men hurt themselves by showing dislike of their neighbor while wisdom would instruct the man with understanding to stay silent ("hold his peace").
- 11:13 The gossip is juxtaposed to the trustworthy (Rom 1:29-31; 1 Tim 5:13; Eph 4:29; 2 Thes 3:11-12)

- 11:14 Various counselors offer multiple options (Prov 15:22, 20:18, 24:6), but the recommendation must come from a wise man as well (e.g. Ahithophel – 2 Sam 16:23, 17:14; Elders – 1 Kings 12:8). The Lord is termed “wonderful counselor” (Is 9:6).
- 11:16 While a woman is seen as honorable because of her graciousness, a violent man is not awarded that honor, but only receives material wealth.
- 11:17, 19, 21 A man experiences the fruit of his character through just punishment and reward.
- 11:18 The worldly wicked earn an “empty” wage and a futile salary (Prov 10:16) instead of anything of lasting value.
- 11:20 The perverted fantasies of wicked men will be punished, but when a man acts in righteousness, it brings blessing.
- 11:22 The beauty of a gold ring does nothing to improve a pig.
- 11:23 The righteous desire something that will benefit them while the wicked hope in something that will bring wrath upon them..
- 11:24-26 Generosity breeds success (Dt 8:17-18, Lk 6:38, 1 Jn 3:17, 1 Sam 2:7)
- 11:25 Water given to the least of these (Mt 25:35) results in Living Water (Jn 7:38)
- 11:27 The focus of man is either good (which results in favorable blessing) or evil.
- 11:28 Those who trust in the temporal wealth of the world will fail, but those who trust on the righteousness of the Lord will grow out of His blessing.
- 11:29 The man who ruins his household gets no benefit. The fool will serve the wise man.
- 11:30 While the fruit of righteousness gives life (Gal 5:22; Gn 2:8-9, 3:22-24; Rev 2:7, 22:1-24), the violent squander life.
- 11:31 The concept of receiving rewards on this earth for a life of righteousness is quoted in the New Testament as spiritual rewards begin prior to the afterlife (1 Pet 4:12-19).
- 12:1 The foolish become increasingly unwise as they reject correction while the wise become increasingly more understanding as they apply insight and correction.
- 12:2 The good man is contrasted to the mischief maker who is sneaky, crafty, and speaks deceptive words of treachery. God blesses the good man while dooming the schemer.
- 12:3 The root (Jesus) is important to the stability and growth of a Believer (Mk 4:6, 17, Col 2:6-7, Rom 11:16-17, Rev 22:16).
- 12:4 A crown is a sign of glory and authority (Philippians 4:1) , and the capable wife submits to her husband’s authority and brings honor to him while the disgraceful wife distresses him to his core.
- 12:5 The righteous consider justice while the advice of wicked companions is to circumvent justice with deceit.
- 12:6 The words of the wicked deceive, distract, and harm the listener (Eph 4:14) while the truthful words of the righteous restores and saves the listener.
- 12:7 The righteous build their house on the firm foundation of Jesus (Mt 7:25; Lk 6:48; 1 Cor 3:11).
- 12:8 An insightful man receives praise while the perverted man is despised.
- 12:9 A person’s situation is more important than his standing.
- 12:10 The manner a man treats God’s creation (even pets) reflects his heart. Even the merciful acts of the wicked are cruel (e.g. abortion, euthanasia “mercy killings”).
- 12:11, 14 Steady effort ensures certain returns unlike the pursuit of fantasies (Prov 30:8, 1 Tim 6:9-10).

12:12 Envy compels the worldly in the ways of the wicked (Heb 13:5), the the root (Jesus) of the Believer produces godly fruit (Gal 5:22).
12:13 The wicked men discover that their words can “come back to haunt them.”
12:14 Satisfaction comes from the good words and actions of a man (1 Tim 4:6).
12:15 The ways of the worldly are defended by faulty, sinful reasoning (Deut 12:8; Judges 21:25).
12:16 It is sensible to ignore and insult instead of letting the antagonist achieve his objective to injure.
12:17 Untruths are deceptions.
12:18 Words can be used as weapons or medicine – to harm or to heal.
12:19 Truth is lasting while lies are transient.
12:20 The wicked must defend with lie upon lie while the righteous live with integrity in peace and joy.
12:21 The righteous are not overwhelmed with the situations of the world (Mt 14:30).
12:22 Faithfulness is God’s delight
12:23 Wise men don’t have to showcase their knowledge, but they speak only when it is important (Prov 15:7).
12:24 Those who actively pursue the Lord will not become entangled by the cares or pursuits of this world.
12:25 Anxieties wear a man down (Philippians 4:6-7, 1 Peter 5:7)
12:26 A righteous man acts considerately while the wicked man is sidetracked into tangents.
12:27 Some men are even too lazy to cook and feed themselves (Prov 19:24).
12:28 Only two ways are mentioned, the righteous path versus the one which leads to death.

8 Proverbs 13, 14

13:1 A mocker doesn’t listen to correction (Prov 9:7-8, 14:6, 15:12).
13:2 A man will reap what he sows; wisdom and good can result (be fruits) from thoughtful words while deceitful people promote violence.
13:3 People should consider before they speak; unwise chatter results in resentment and animosity.
13:4 The lazy man has energy to crave without the ability to satisfy the longings. The hard-working man is satisfied.
13:5 While the righteous hate lies, the wicked go beyond lying to disgusting perversions.
13:6 Righteousness protects while wickedness endangers.
13:7-8 “*A rich man is not the one who has the most – the rich man is the one who needs the least*”
13:10 Pride brings strife while humility in listening to another’s advice results in wisdom.
13:11 Undeserved wealth will be squandered while warranted wealth will increase.
13:12 Hope that is satisfied brings life while hope that is prolonged weakens.
13:13 The prideful do not accept instruction to their detriment while the submissive will earn the reward.
13:14 Instruction from a wise man brings life.
13:15 Logic and sagacity is favorable, but those who deceive continue to live by deception.
13:16 Reason as well as ignorance is evident to observers.

- 13:17 The wicked messenger troubles himself while the trustworthy messenger heals others.
- 13:18 The one who accepts correction and improves will be honored versus the one who honors himself above instruction.
- 13:19 Desire that is satisfied is easy to digest (absorb) unless that desire is by a foolish man to turn from evil.
- 13:20 A man becomes who his companions are... (1 Cor 15:33)
- 13:21 “*Disaster pursues sinners, but good rewards the righteous.*”
- 13:22 The sinner loses his wealth to the righteous, but the righteous pass down an inheritance (legacy) to his children’s children.
- 13:23 Justice ensures that the success of the poor is retained by the poor.
- 13:24 The temporary discipline of children can save them from terminal and eternal consequences (Prov 19:18, 29:15).
- 13:25 The needs of the righteous are satisfied while the wicked live a life of want.
- 14:1 The woman of the house can edify or tear down (1 Peter 2:5)
- 14:2 The honest man who lives a truthful life fears (reveres) the Lord while the deceivers employ wicked self-control.
- 14:3 A pretentious man (bragger) will be corrected (most likely physically) but the wise no when to speak and what to say.
- 14:4 An empty feeding trough is less maintenance, but with more oxen (workers – 1 Cor 9:9, 1 Tim 5:18), a full harvest will provide for the workers.
- 14:5 A dishonest witness can have correct information with wrong implications (Mt 9:37; Lk 10:2; Jer 42:5; Rev 3:14).
- 14:6 Some say “*if I see, I’ll believe; but instead, believe to truly see...*”
- 14:7 Stay away from a foolish man because there is no wisdom to be gleaned from his ignorance.
- 14:8 A reasonable man considers his actions while ignorance deceives the foolish.
- 14:9 Fools ridicule restoration, but the righteous promote restitution.
- 14:10 Much of life is personal like suffering alone; ministering alone (Philippians 2:12-13); experiencing God in a Spirit-filled way (1 Cor 2:10)
- 14:11 The wicked “House” is temporal while the upright “Tent” is lasting (versus 2 Cor 5:1)
- 14:12 Not “My Way” (Mt 10:39, 16:25, Mk 8:35, Lk 9:24, Jn 12:25), but God’s Way → Jesus (John 1:23, 14:6)
- 14:13 Grief may well follow joy, and likewise, joy may well follow sorrow (Mt 10:39, 16:25; Mk 8:35; Lk 9:24; Jn 12:25).
- 14:14 Man will be judged and receive according to his works (Luke 16:19-31, 2 Cor 5:10, 1 Pet 1:17, Prov 24:12).
- 14:15 The reasonable man is careful whom and what they follow while the naïve man follows any idea that is presented to his liking.
- 14:16 A wise man is cautious and rejects evil while the foolish man is rash and reckless (Prov 14:29, 22:24; Eph 4:26; James 1:19).
- 14:17 Impetuous anger brings ignorant actions, and the one who methodically contemplates ways to carry out evil is detested.
- 14:18 The naïve accept foolishness while the reasonable man is crowned (authority and honor) with knowledge.

- 14:19 The wicked will honor the good.
- 14:20 Poverty brings disdain while wealth brings admiration (Prov 19:4).
- 14:21 It is a sin to disparage a neighbor, but kind people will be happy (Prov 22:9; Mt 25:40; Lk 8:22; 2 Cor 8:9)
- 14:22 Premeditated plans will show whether one will stray or by loyal/faithful to God's calling.
- 14:23 Hard work results in benefits earned while chatter produces poverty (1 Tim 5:13).
- 14:24 The honor and authority of the wise is their wealth while foolishness is the result of the foolish.
- 14:25 The honest person can positively impact the lives of others.
- 14:26 The fear of the Lord causes one to trust in Him alone for his needs and those of his family.
- 14:27 The fear of the Lord (an understanding of His magnitude) results in life (Rev 21:6; Jn 7:38; Jer 2:13)
- 14:28 A leader should be grateful for followers who can be used as a resource in extension of a leader while a ruler without subjects has no one to enact his will.
- 14:29 Patience reflects understanding while quick tempers (those who are quickly offended) reveal ignorance (James 1:19; Prov 14:16-17).
- 14:30 A person's emotional state affects their physical state (Philippians 4:6-8)
- 14:31 Human relationships reflect attitude towards God
- 14:32 The wicked have no hope in life while the righteous have hope even in death.
- 14:33 There is an element of wisdom in everyone; a seed of wisdom that can grow if watered.
- 14:34 Whole nations are exalted by righteousness (Philippians 2:15; 1 Pet 2:9) and Biblical beliefs (the first 200 years of America).
- 14:35 Wisdom is juxtaposed with being disgraceful. The Lord also favors those who are not dishonorable.

9 Proverbs 15, 16

- 15:1 *"A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."* (Mt 5:39; 2 Tim 2:24)
- 15:2 The wise encourage others to learn (Col 1:19-10) while the well-informed fool speaks inappropriately (2 Tim 3:7).
- 15:3 God sees everything (Job 28:24, Ps 33:13-15)
- 15:4 Words can bring healing, restoration and life or spiritual destruction (James 3:5-8).
- 15:5 With God as the spiritual Father of His people (Jn 8:41; Rom 8:15; Gal 4:6; Heb 12:7), they can either respond rebelliously to His correction or learn and repent from wrongful ways.
- 15:6 Spiritual riches can be amassed in this world (Rom 2:4; 1 Tim 6:18) while worldly treasure is destroyed (Mt 6:19-20; Lk 12:33; James 5:2).
- 15:7 While the lips are viewed as less significant than the heart, the lips of the wise are more valuable than the heart of the wicked.
- 15:8 The upright can offer sacrifices of prayer (Jonah 2:9; Heb 13:15) because the Lord is pleased by the heart versus activity (Heb 10:1-11; Is 1:11; Ps 40:6, 50:5-23, 51:16-17, 69:30-31; Prov 2:13; Eccl 5:1; Hos 6:6; Acts 5:21-22)
- 15:9 The Lord despises the sinful lifestyle, but loves the Believer who pursues righteousness (Jn 14:6).

- 15:10 Believers who wander from the walk will be punished by the Lord (Heb 12:7), and the wayward sin those who do not repent will result in death.
- 15:11 Sheol is interpreted “the Grave” while Abaddon is used six times in the OT as “ruin/destruction”; thrice with Sheol (Job 26:6, Prov 15:11, 27:20) and thrice without Sheol (Job 28:22, 31:12, Ps 88:1) and once referencing Satan in the NT (Rev 9:11)
- 15:12 A mocker must rely on his own wisdom because his pride separates him from counsel.
- 15:13 The heart determines the joy of the individual.
- 15:14 Destructive gossip begets increasingly perverse gossip (e.g. Hollywood rumors).
- 15:15 Many situations can oppress man (e.g. sin, responsibilities, etc.), but a Believer who hopes in the Lord can feast on His blessings (1 Cor 5:8). “Attitude affects altitude” (Prov 15:30)
- 15:16 Great worldly treasure in chaos cannot compare with the fear of the Lord and His blessings (Prov 16:8).
- False ➡ Godliness with great gain is contentment**
- True ➡ Godliness with contentment is great gain**
- 15:17 Although vegetables are not viewed as delicious as the fattened calf, it is better to have a less prosperity with love than riches with hatred.
- 15:18 The angry man encourages conflict while the tempered man advances peace (James 1:19). “The solution to a short temper is a lengthy prayer.”
- 15:19 A thorny hedge painfully hinders while the highway (“god’s way) facilitates easy progress.
- 15:20 A father gives approval (proud father) while the mother feels for her son (Prov 10:1).
- 15:21 Senseless individuals get joy from foolishness while an understanding man is not distracted by nonsense.
- 15:22 Wise companions can assist in the development of a prudent plan, but ultimately God controls the destiny (Prov 19:21).
- 15:23 Believers should always be ready to give an answer for their faith (1 Pet 3:15).
- 15:24 There is no plateau, a Believer is either growing or backsliding (Rom 6:16).
- 15:25 The Lord destroys the proud, but protects the helpless.
- 15:26 Evil plans are contrasted to innocent words.
- 15:27 The entire household (family) is compromised by a worldly pursuit of wealth with a “whatever it takes” attitude.
- 15:28 The righteous consider before answering and do not speak (or act) hastily.
- 15:29 The Lord is removed from the wicked, but He considers the prayer of His people. David asks God (Ps 65:2, 145:18-19) to hear his prayer when he calls (Ps 5:1-2; 17:1, 20:9, 27:7, 28:1, 39:12, 54:2, 55:1; 61:1, 64:1; 84:8; 86:6, 88:2; 102:1; 119:149, 169-170, 130:2, 140:6, 141:1, 142:6, 143:1). God rejects the prayer of the one in broken fellowship – the one knowingly practicing wickedness (Ps 66:18).
- 15:30 As the Believer views the world spiritually while hoping in the Lord. The realization of the hope increases faith and joy to the core of the Believer (1 Cor 5:8; Prov 15:15)
- 15:31-32 The wise Believer understands that sensible instruction results in life and increased wisdom.

- 15:33 Humility is used in Proverbs three times (Prov 18:12, 22:4); each time “humility” precedes honor in the text (Prov 29:23). Humility makes one teachable.
- 16:1 Testifying about the Lord originates from Him instead of man’s limited rationale (2 Sam 23:2, Isaiah 50:4, Luke 21:15 → Romans 14:11, Philippians 2:11)
- 16:2 Every man is justified in his own mind (Prov 21:2, Jer 17:9-10, 1 Cor 4:5, 1 Chron 28:9, Ja 4:3)
- 16:3 Activities to the Lord will result in the Lord’s outcome (Isaiah 64:4, James 1:25, 4:13-15, Deut 28:8, Ps 1:1-3, Joshua 1:8, 3 John 1:2, Prov 16:9)
- 16:4 God has prepared everything for His purpose – even the wicked (Jer 10:23, Isaiah 45:7). Offenses will occur, but the instrument of evil will still be condemned (Mt 18:7; Rev 17:17; Is 10:5-12; Ex 4:21).
- 16:5 Pride is detestable to the Lord and will be judged by Him.
- 16:6 Atonement refers to covering (security) from divine judgment (Ex 30:10; Ps 65:3, 79:9)
- 16:7 The Lord provides peace to the Believer who pleases Him (1 Chron 22:9).
- 16:8 Vast ill-gotten treasure cannot compare with the fear of the Lord and His blessings (Prov 15:16).
- 16:9 God has predetermined the life of a man regardless of the man’s plans. (Ps 31:15)
- 16:10 All authority is given by God and can choose to follow the wisdom of the Lord (Heb 13:17; 1 Pet 2:13).
- 16:11 Believers should not worry about the “fairness” of the world; that is the Lord’s concern.
- 16:12-13 Righteousness delights the king while wickedness is despised by any authority.
- 16:14 A wise man responds to the desires of the King accordingly which preserves his life.
- 16:15 Pleasing the king results in blessing as certain as a cloud in the spring brings rain.
- 16:16 The value of wisdom exceeds the temporal treasures of this world (Ps 119:72, 127, 162; Prov 3:14-17, 8:18-19).
- 16:17 The “high way” of the Lord charted in His Word protects those who walk in His way.
- 16:18 *“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”*
- 16:19 It is better to share the difficulties of the humble than the success of the proud.
- 16:20 Happiness is experienced by those who trust the Lord.
- 16:21, 23 Kind instruction enables the hearer to learn more.
- 16:22 Insight and enlightenment is the “fountain of life” (Prov 10:11, 13:14, 14:27; Rev 21:6; Ps 36:9).
- 16:24 Kind words are easy to hear and good for the individual.
- 16:25 *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”*
- 16:26 Hunger is a motivation, and the intake creates energy.
- 16:27 Words can be hazardous and destructive (James 3:5-6; Titus 3:9-11); the Lord will judge with His Word.
- 16:28-29 Three types of men are dangerous to join as companions: 1.an obstinate cynic
2.a gossip (Prov 17:9) 3.an angry and violent man
- 16:30 The man preparing wrongdoing has narrowed his view and cannot see clearly (Ps 119:18; Eph 1:17-19). The one bringing evil loses control of his lips.
- 16:31 Society should respect and elevate the elderly instead of exalting children.

16:32 Christians should conquer our selfish passions striving for character over competitiveness.

16:33 There is no chance or luck in this world; God controls the roll of the dice (Prov 18:18)

10 Proverbs 17, 18

17:1 This Psalm is especially relevant on holidays; a modest meal with cheerfulness is better than a luscious banquet with contention.

17:2 A servant with wisdom will be treated as a son of privilege over a disgraceful son.

17:3 Silver (redemption) and Gold (glory) are purified by intense heat, and the dross is removed until the Refiner can see Himself

17:4 The wicked listen and pay attention to malevolent talk; Believers should not even listen to cruel words.

17:5 The Lord made every man and gives the poor value; mocking the poor is equivalent to mocking the work of God. Those hurt by disaster should not be entertaining, but instead receive compassion.

17:6 The glory of the grandfather is his authority (crown) over his extended family. The son takes pride in his father; the Lord is the spiritual Father of every Believer (Mt 5:45; 23:9).

17:7 A fool who has no wisdom to share should not plentifully spread his foolishness through excessive talk. It is damaging for a ruler to lie, but politicians twist and slant the truth continually.

17:8 A man wields a bribe for success even if it is wrongful.

17:9 Wicked and violent men pursue offense while good men let insults pass encouraging love. For the second time, the Bible states that gossip separates friends (Prov 16:28). *"It's impossible to sling mud without getting your own hands dirty."*

17:10 An understanding man learns more from a reprimand than a fool from physical punishment.

17:11 An evil man is receptive only to evil input as he resists all that is good and of God. The evil man will receive judgment that equals his wrongdoing.

17:12 An angry bear will do less harm to a man than foolishness will to a fool.

17:13 The heart of an evil man will so infect his household that the evil will transcend generations.

17:14 Conflict builds from a small leak to a violent flood. A man should correct himself before exploding on someone else in a flood of anger.

17:15 The misuse of justice, acquitting the guilty or condemning the innocent, are loathsome to the Lord (Prov 17:26, 18:5).

17:16 The item that is needed most by a fool is wisdom, but the fool has no intention of investing in what he needs; the fool will squander on what he doesn't need and is most likely detrimental.

17:17 *"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a difficult time."* Believing brothers assist other Believers in need.

17:18 A Believer should not bind himself to another man's actions; understand any commitment and vow.

17:19 Offense may be viewed as "wit," but it will bring discord and contention. A man should consider the natural outcome as he would building a step in a doorway that will certainly cause someone to trip and fall.

17:20 A man who deceives and twists the truth will fail.

17:21 A father wants to see his son make right choices, and it saddens him when his son continually makes the wrong life choices. He sees the consequences that his son must pay for being foolish (Prov 17:25).

17:22 Joy elevates a man's spirit while depression harms a man.

17:23 It is wicked to take a bribe and undermine justice.

17:24 A man with understanding focuses on increased wisdom while the fool is easily distracted.

17:25 A foolish son hurts his parents (Prov 10:1, 15:20, 17:21, 19:13, 28:7, 23:24-25, 29:3, 30:17)

17:26 Justice is infringed when the innocent are punished (Prov 17:15).

17:27-28 Consider what to say before speaking (Prov 15:28, 18:13). "It is better to be silent and be thought a fool, than to speak and remove all doubt."

18:1 Be careful when "everyone else is wrong"; the selfish evade "high maintenance" relationships (Hebrews 10:25)

18:2 A closed mind and an open mouth; gaining understanding focuses on facts while opinions are based solely on personal biases.

18:3 The downfall of evil men evolves from being wicked to shame, dishonor, and disgrace.

18:4 Words are likened to three variations of water volume and movement (Prov 20:5): 1) depth 2) some depth/some movement 3) movement. Some speech possesses deep thought while other speech is spoken rapidly.

18:5 Justice should not be misused by acquitting the guilty or condemning the innocent (Prov 17:15, 26).

18:6-7 Foolish talk is recompensed by punishment.

18:8 Twice, Proverbs emphasizes that gossip seems tasty and palatable at first, but as it is digested in retrospect, it diminishes (Prov 26:22). Believers should be connoisseurs of speech (Job 12:11, 34:3).

18:9 Both laziness and vandalism are wastes and ruin.

18:10-11 Either rely on the fortress (Lk 14:28) of God or wealth (Ps 127:1 → Ps 18:22, 61:3, 144:2)

18:12 Pride precedes failure while humility precedes honor.

18:13 Man should not presume that all facts are known and assessed properly (Prov 15:28, 17:27-28)

18:14 God is the only way to resurrect the broken spirit.

18:15 The wise become wiser through seeking and focusing on gaining more of the truth.

18:16 Jesus was a gift given by God, who is the greatest of all, and the door is opened to God through Jesus resulting in the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12 & 14, Romans 12:6).

18:17 A man should not be hasty in coming to a conclusion, but weigh various sides of a judgment (Prov 19:2).

18:18 Casting a lot (flipping a coin) is a quick and objective method that is spoken of positively in Scripture (Prov 16:33).

18:19 Quarrels and someone offended are difficult to break through.

18:20 "You are what you say..." (Mt 15:18)

18:21 The tongue can be used for to encourage life or bring death (Ez 3:17-21; Rom 10:9).

18:22 A wife is a blessing (Prov 19:14)

18:23 Poverty brings humility while wealth causes pride.

18:24 Although at times many friends cannot help, Jesus always can (John 15:14-15)

11 Proverbs 19, 20

19:1 It is better to be poor and honest than someone who foolishly lies.

19:2 A Believer should not act impulsively and hastily (Prov 18:17)

19:3 Man is more prone to blame God for consequences rather than to accept responsibility

19:4 Poverty brings disdain while wealth brings admiration (Prov 14:20).

19:5, 9 A false witness will be held responsible

19:6 Wealth and power create popularity for a time.

19:7 Understand the consequences when asking for loans; as much as it is within their power, Believers should not overburden friends and family.

19:8 To gain reason is a gift to one's self, and to continually protect understanding will result in success.

19:10 Luxury and comfort are wasted on a fool; authority of the will of a servant over his master is not suitable. Man's will should submit to the Lord instead of pursuing personal ends by private means.

19:11 Patience reveals insight, understanding and mercy.

19:12 A man should pacify and please the authorities. The highest authority (the Lord – Jn 5:23) should be sought and served.

19:13 Those whom a man has responsibility for can impact the man's wellbeing. An irritating wife who pesters is a continual erosion of peace.

19:14 While material wealth is received from earthly relations, the heavenly Father can give a true treasure – a reasonable wife.

19:15 Natural outcomes of laziness are increased laziness and hunger (Prov 20:13).

19:16 Obedient men prolong their lives.

19:17 Generosity will be repaid by the Lord (Lk 6:38; Prov 19:17; Malachi 3:8-10)

19:18 The temporary discipline of children can save them from terminal and eternal consequences (Prov 13:24, 29:15).

19:19 Believers should not continually enable wrongful habits and lifestyles; consequences should be allowed to teach and correct the offender.

19:20 An investment in youth results in wise adults.

19:21 God has prepared everything for His purpose (Prov 16:4, 20:24; Jer 10:23).

19:22 A Believer should strive to be faithful; dishonesty is worse than poverty.

19:23 As the Believer understands his protector, he will find peace.

19:24 A lazy man cannot even provide nourishment for himself (Prov 12:27).

19:25 Punishment is a deterrent to others beyond the offender himself.

19:26 It is a disgrace for a son to contest with his father and not care for his mother.

19:27 The results of not reading God's Word, attending Church, Bible Studies, etc.

19:28 A disrespectful man belittles the value of justice while the wicked consumes wrongdoing.

19:29 The foolish and disrespectful are destined for discipline.

- 20:1 The socially elite (intellectual) affected by wine or the more base (more potent alcohol) beer lose control and stagger. Both have the same result – unwise imprudence.
- 20:2 A man should be careful when approaching an authority. This is particularly true when approaching (e.g. in prayer) the King of Kings (Rev 17:14, 19:16).
- 20:3 A Believer should be a peace maker versus instigator (Mt 5:23-24, Rom 15:5-6, 1 Cor 6:1-11)
- 20:4 A Believer should plant spiritual seeds instead of being too busy or too tired to awake for Bible Study.
- 20:5 A man's heart is not easily understood, but wise council can assist in clarifying one's heart (Prov 18:4)
- 20:6 Men consider themselves faithful even while breaking their word/covenants (1 Cor 1:9, 10:13; 2 Thes 3:3).
- 20:7 The blessings of a righteous life will be experienced by offspring for generations.
- 20:8 A righteous judge and king does not accept polluted input. The Lord is completely righteous in His all-knowing judgments (Gen 3:5; Rev 1:14, 2:18; Dan 10:16).
- 20:9 No man is pure from sin (Jer 17:9; Jn 8:7; Rom 3:23).
- 20:10, 23 A man will be judged as he judges – using the same weights and criteria (Prov 11:1; Matthew 6:12-16, 7:1-5, Romans 2:1-3, James 4:11-13, Mk 11:25-26, Luke 6:36-38)
- 20:11 Reputations are established early on in life (Jer1:21-24; Mt 5:21, 7:24-27).
- 20:12 The inputs into the body, what a man hears (spiritually) and sees (Ex 4:11), should be used for the purposes intended by their creator.
- 20:13 Natural outcomes of laziness are increased laziness and hunger (Prov 19:15).
- 20:14 Word games are deceitful (Lk 16:8).
- 20:15 Words of wisdom are a true treasure.
- 20:16 A man could “lose the shirt off his back” by joining efforts with a stranger (Prov 6:1-5, 11:15)
- 20:17 Enjoyment of stolen pleasures are brief and leave a longer-lasting, painful experience.
- 20:18 Wise counsel benefits a plan (Micah 4:12).
- 20:19 Gossips betray confidences - if someone gossips to you, eventually they will gossip about you; “Tale bearers” mentioned in scripture six times (Lev 19:16, Prov 11:13, 18:9, 26:20, 22)
- 20:20 A man who dishonors his parents will not be enlightened and will have no guidance during the dark times of life (Ps 119:105; Prov 6:23; Ex 20:12, 21:17, Eph 6:2).
- 20:21 A certain level of maturity is needed to not be ruined by wealth.
- 20:22 A Believer should accept God's will, and let God judge fellow man (Rom 12:17, 19; Is 30:18).
- 20:24 God is sovereign; His purpose will transpire (Num 11:23; James 4:14, Eccl 10:14, Prov 16:4, 19:21; Jer 10:23)
- 20:25 A Believer must be faithful to his commitments as if they were to God (Num 30:2; Dt 23:21).
- 20:26 Wise authorities isolate and punish the wicked.
- 20:27 The spirit within a man lights/reveals the heart to God (Rom 8:27)

- 20:28 A leader who is faithful and honest retains authority.
 20:29 Young men are praised for the physical while elders are honored for wisdom/righteousness (Prov 16:31)
 20:30 In the appropriate manner, physical discipline is affective (Prov 13:24, 19:18, 22:15, 23:13; Heb 12:6)

12 Proverbs 21, 22

- 21:1 The top authority is God Who controls earthly authorities (Rom 13:1, Jn 19:11, Heb 13:17, 1 Pet 5:5)
 21:2 Every man is justified in his own mind (Prov 16:2, Jer 17:9-10, 1 Cor 4:5, 1 Chron 28:9, Ja 4:3)
 21:3 & 27 True sacrifice is a broken/contrite heart (Ps 51:16-17, Is 61:1, 66:2, Hos 6:6, Mt 21:44)
 21:4 God should guide a man's walk instead of the man's pride (Ps 119:105, Prov 6:23, 2 Sam 22:29)
 21:5-7 Recklessness, deceit, and violence bring physical ramifications (poverty) as well as spiritual consequences (death).
 21:8 The behavior/works/lifestyle reflect the path/walk that an individual has chosen whether it be wavering and distracted (crooked) or it be focused (straight).
 21:9 The roof is a good vantage point for a man to see and learn for himself instead of being told by his wife (Prov 21:19, 25:24; Eph 5:24, 1 Pet 3:1-2)
 21:10 The wicked crave selfish fulfillment to the detriment of those around him unlike those who love (1 Cor 13).
 21:11 The result of ridicule is punishment that teaches others although the mocker himself may never learn. The wise, however, learn life's lessons to their own benefit.
 21:12 The words of Jesus will judge the wicked and their accomplices who have polluted (Jn 5:22).
 21:13 Without generosity, prayerful requests will not be answered (2 Cor 8:14, 9:6-11)
 21:14 A secret gift includes quiet, off-line conversations that bring private agreements.
 21:15 The message about the justice of God is received differently depending on whether one continually rebels against Him or has submitted to His will (Lk 7:47)
 21:16 The unwise will die (Heb 6:1, 9:14, Eph 2:5)
 21:17 The pursuit of worldly pleasure brings poverty while the love of spiritual truths (Lk 10:34, 22:18-19) results in blessing (Prov 21:20).
 21:18 The wicked will ultimately pay a price.
 21:19 A man learns by discovering from his personal experiences (from "roughing it" himself) instead of being taught the lessons by his wife (Prov 21:9)
 21:20 Blessings are consequences of right decisions which are not selfishly squandered on a righteous man himself (Lk 10:34).
 21:21 The focus of the righteous is on a rightful spirit and lifestyle (Rom 8:10) instead of one who seeks the earthly rewards.
 21:22-23 Wisdom is superior to strength (Prov 24:5)
 21:24 Excessive pride is exposed by one who ridicules and mocks.
 21:25 Longing without labor and want without work result in death.
 21:26 "Takers" crave self-indulgence while the righteous generously give.
 21:27 The wicked use spiritual activities to achieve personal agendas.

21:28 Deceit brings death; those who listen have better words to communicate (Prov 18:17)

21:29 A wicked man hardens his heart and defends himself while the upright man is reflective

21:30-31 It is useless to fight against God (Isaiah 55:8-9) or without Him

22:1 The character of a man is more valuable than reputation (Eph 1:21, Phil 2:9-11, 1 Sam 25:25, Rev 2:17, 3:12)

22:2 God decides who is wealthy and impoverished (Rom 2:11, Dt 8:18, James 2:5, Heb 13:5, Prov 30:7-9, Eccl 5:19)

22:3 What better precaution is there than to prepare for eternity instead of living selfishly in this temporal earthly life (Lk 12:13-21, Amos 4:12)

22:4 Humility results in spiritual blessings with earthly rewards.

22:5 Thorns (sin) and snares (temptation) entangle crooked (Phil 2:15, Job 26:13, Is 27:1)

22:6 *“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”*

22:7 Believers should rely on the Lord to give as He sees fit instead of borrowing from the world to purchase worldly things (Dt 15:4-6; Mt 5:42; Lk 3:11).

22:8 The unjust will experience justice to their detriment and demise (Gal 6:7; Hos 10:12-13)

22:9 Believers should use resources to generously give and share (1 Jn 3:17; Eph 4:28).

22:10 The prideful mocker brings conflict and dishonor, so peace comes in their absence (2 Thes 3:6; 1 Cor 5:11)

22:11 Jesus, the King of Kings, is the friend of the one who loves purity and grace.

22:12 The Lord blesses spiritual knowledge, but condemns the speaking of the wicked (Ps 12:67)

22:13 Lazy men make foolish excuses for not working (Prov 26:13)

22:14 It’s difficult to extricate a man from the mouth of a forbidden woman, and those God curses (Malachi 2:2) are given over to the lies (Rom 1:24, Rev 17:4)

22:15 Physical punishment is encouraged especially for the foolish (Prov 10:13, 13:24, 14:3, 23:13-14, 26:3, 29:15)

22:16 As the poor have little to give, it is nonsense to oppress them. As the rich ungratefully own so much already, it is nonsense to be generous with them.

22:17 The Believer is encouraged with a threefold approach to the wisdom of God:
1.listen 2.consider/pay attention 3.apply knowledge

22:18 It is pleasing to live out of the wisdom that has been memorized, digested and applied (Dt 11:18; Ps 119:11; Is 51:7; Jer 31:31-34; Mt 15:18)

22:19 Wisdom facilitates confidence in the Lord

22:20 Thirty sayings could mean multiple truths; Song of Solomon wrote three books of the Bible: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon and the Old Testament is divided into History, Law, Prophets, so these sayings are ten-fold the three (multifaceted)

22:21 God has sent Christians and expects a good report, but we can also report to earthly officials (Mk 13:11, 1 Peter 3:15, 2 Timothy 2:15, Titus 1:7-9)

22:22-23 The Lord will oppress the wicked who afflict the poor

22:24-25 A man becomes who his companions are (Prov 13:20, 1 Cor 15:33) and experiences the same judgments/penalties (Mt 18:3; Is 64:6)

22:26-27 Do not risk current possessions on future success.

22:28 A man should not steal from his neighbor (Prov 23:10).

22:29 Officials of high office will recognize talent versus continual labor for unknown men who have no reputation (Col 3:22-23, 1 Cor 15:58)

13 Proverbs 23, 24

23:1-3 Show restraint when interacting with authorities; too much talk will lead to certain death (knife in the throat). The available pleasures may lead to altered and distorted ends.

23:4 A man should not pursue wealth (Prov 28:20, Mt 6:19, 1 Tim 6:9-10, Hebrews 13:5)

23:6-9 Believers should not waste time/energy on a foolish, evil person

23:10-11 The Lord protects the weak (the orphan), and He will judge those who take advantage of the powerless.

23:12 A Believer should make an effort to obey instruction and be attentive to knowledge.

23:13-14 Physical punishment is often the only way to teach authority, and once authority is accepted, the child will listen, learn and improve (Prov 13:24, 19:18, 22:15)

23:15-16 The wisdom of a child brings joy to the parents (Prov 23:24-25).

23:17-19 Believers should not focus on prosperous sinners, but instead look to the Lord (Prov 24:1)

23:20-21 Believers should not be companions with drunkards nor gluttons (those who do not show restraint in the pleasures of the world) as these individuals will deteriorate over time.

23:22 Believers should listen to the wisdom of the parents. Life comes from the father.

23:23 Pursue truths, and do not sell out to falsities of fleeting passions

23:24-25 The wisdom of a child brings joy to the parents (Prov 23:15-16).

23:26 The Believer should dedicate their life to the Lord and focus on Him.

23:27-28 The eyes of a Believer should not be polluted by the seductress/prostitute who ambushes a man for everything he owns and leaves him unfaithful.

23:29 Six Attributes of a Drunkard: 1)Woe 2)Sorrow 3)Conflict 4)Complaints 5)Wounds without Reason 6)Red Eyes

23:30-35 Believers should be wary of the influences of alcohol. "Red" (potent) wine is juxtaposed to wine mixed with water. Alcohol is dangerous as it affects how one views and interacts with the world. Rest will be chaotic and the drunkard will be insensitive to pain which alerts a person to needs of healing.

24:1-2 Believers should not be companions of the wicked or consider the temporal joy of the wicked lifestyle (Ps 37:1; Prov 3:31, 23:17, 24:19) which end in hostility and difficulties.

24:3-4 Understanding is the foundation while wisdom builds the structure of a life. Wealth is gained through the application of knowledge.

24:5 Wisdom is superior to strength (Prov 21:22-23).

24:6 Some battles should be fought. Much council brings a successful strategy (Prov 11:14, 15:22, 20:18)

24:7 The fool cannot attain wisdom nor communicate wisdom to others.

24:8-9 A plan to pursue evil is a sin. One who ridicules is not even liked by the worldly.

24:10-12 Believers should do the right thing – be the Hero! God will weigh in, protect, and repay, but He also takes pleasure in using His people.

- 24:13-14 Believers should enjoy the good of this world, but also understand that wisdom can also be enjoyable in the moment with lasting benefits.
- 24:15 The wicked man is warned against ambushing the Believer.
- 24:16 A righteous man may fall many (seven) times, but God will raise him up (Rom 14:4)
- 24:17-18 The Lord is not pleased when a Believer enjoys the judgment of the wicked.
- 24:19-20 The focus of the Believer should not be on the wicked, neither in envy nor worry, because the lives and effects of the wicked are brief.
- 24:21-22 Respect authority whether is be the King of Kings or the ruler of men. Believers should not associate with rebellious men.
- 24:23-25 Righteous judgments will bring blessings on the judge while injustice will bring curses.
- 24:26 Truth is as pleasant from the mouth as a kiss.
- 24:27 Believers should sow the seed and prepare the harvest prior to building the comforts of the home.
- 24:28-29 Believers should not needlessly prosecute their neighbor nor pursue revenge (Lev 19:18, Rom 12:19, Heb 10:30)
- 24:30-34 The outcome of laziness and foolishness are destruction

14 Proverbs 25-27

- 25:1 Scribes of King Hezekiah lived approximately 250 years after Solomon (during the time of Isaiah) and collected sayings by Solomon.
- 25:2 God encourages men to discover and reveal to others truths that are not obvious.
- 25:3 An ordinary citizen does not know all the other factors and circumstances the king assesses, so it is difficult to understand the reasoning for the King's decisions - how much more difficult to understand the reasoning of God (Isaiah 55:8-9)
- 25:4-5 Silver represents redemption, and the impurities of sin are to be extracted leaving a vessel that can be used by the King of Kings for His good purpose.
- 25:6-7 A man should come humbly to the Lord, so that he will not be disgraced by being recognized with lesser value.
- 25:8-10 Settle disagreements in private because public testimony could mar your testimony
- 25:11 Well-timed wisdom is gloriously nourishing while being magnificently delivered.
- 25:12 Gold is precious and as valuable as well-timed wisdom.
- 25:13 A faithful messenger brings a blessing and is faithful to his calling as those who harvest might need cool weather and water is a blessing.
- 25:14 False teachers take pride in non-existent relationship with God (Jude 1:12); false promises and teachings lead to even greater disappointment (e.g. rain clouds that don't rain)
- 25:15 Believers should be patiently satisfied with God's timing as gentleness has strength to change the inner-workings of a man.
- 25:16 A man should not indulge (Proverbs 25:27)
- 25:17 A man should not be high maintenance, and his presence is made more valuable through rarity.
- 25:18 Lies can be used as a weapon.
- 25:19 Unreliable people will not only disappoint, but also be painful.
- 25:20 Amusement does not address the true need of the grieving.

25:21-22 *“If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; for you will heap coals on his head and the Lord will reward you.”*; Coals can be a is a metaphor for shame (Romans 12:20), punishment on a person (Psalm 140:10) and assistance with purification (Isaiah 6:5-7).

25:23 Malicious remarks will bring anger.

25:24 The roof is a good vantage point for a man to see and learn for himself versus being told by his wife (Prov 21:9, 19; Eph 5:24, 1 Pet 3:1-2)

25:25 Good news brings nourishment.

25:26 A Believer who is filled with pure living water can become polluted by the wicked.

25:27 While honor is enjoyable, man should not continuously seek the honors of his peers.

25:28 As a protective city wall can be damaged over time, a man’s anger can also injure his defenses.

26:1 A Christian should honor a position (Romans 13:7) even if the man is a fool; 1 Peter 2:17 speaks to honoring one’s master’s position in spite of his personal characteristics

26:2 An undeserved curse cannot injure one who does not deserve it.

26:3 Methods lend themselves to natural use to make productive the ineffective.

26:4 If one accepts a fool’s platform for argument (e.g. false assumptions), one’s argument will be as irrational as the fools, but if one does not argue with a fool on his terms, the fool will think his argument is more excellent than it really is (Prov 26:5)

26:6 A foolish messenger causes more harm than good.

26:7 A fool with a proverb appears capable, but is of no use, and the little knowledge could hurt the fool himself (Prov 26:9)

26:8 Honor might hurt the fool instead of being used productively

26:9 A foolish person does not understand how or when to use a truth. A fool can even use wisdom to harm others.

26:10 As an arrow indiscriminately brings harm, so does a fool.

26:11 *“As a dog returns to his vomit, so a fool repeats his foolishness”* (2 Pet 2:22)

26:12 A man who is wise in his own eyes is un-teachable; the Hebrew word for fool in this instance is "k'ciyl" which does not mean naïve person, but rather someone who knows better – someone who realizes that they are wicked – correct self-assessment

26:13 Lazy men makes foolish excuses for not working (Prov 22:13)

26:14-16 Although a lazy man cannot even nourish himself, he thinks himself extremely wise.

26:17 A dog’s ears are not the best way to command a dog; when the dog escapes, you could get hurt

26:18-19 Someone could get hurt without cause or reason

26:20-21 Gossip is used as kindling to encourage destruction.

26:22 Gossip seems tasty and palatable at first, but as it is digested in retrospect, it diminishes (Prov 18:8). Believers should be connoisseurs of speech (Job 12:11, 34:3).

26:23 Although superficially attractive, the vessel cannot be used for activities of value.

26:24-26 Anger, rage, and hate can be disguised through gracious speech. Seven represents “full” or “complete” wickedness in the heart. In an open forum of the assembly, the individual will have a stage and audience to truly reveal his disdain.

26:27 Man will reap the consequences of his harmful acts towards others.

26:28 Flattery and lies bring ruinous consequences.

27:1 We cannot control the future, so don't boast about future achievements (James 4:13)

27:2 Believers should not boast of their own capabilities or success; that should come from others.

27:3 A fool can aggravate and be a burden that slows the righteous walk.

27:4 Jealousy brings unrestrained anger.

27:5 So many games are played, but honest communication is always better.

27:6 Although a friend may occasionally hurt, the flattering ways of an enemy are excessive and deadly (e.g. Judas' kiss).

27:7 A person who is satisfied with his friends will decline agreeable associations while the desperate for the approval of anyone.

27:8 There is safety in the home from danger and evil.

27:9 A friend can give insight and encouragement

27:10 Often, a neighbor is in a better position to assist than a relative (Prov 18:24).

27:11 Families should support and bring honor to each other as a defense against the world.

27:12 There is a time to hide from danger (Amos 5:13)

27:13 A Believer should not get entangled with the liabilities of someone they do not know.

27:14 Obvious flattery is detested by everyone to the detriment of the flatterer.

27:15-16 Both rain and a wife's wisdom have the potential to be beneficial, but too much water or nagging brings ruin. A nagging wife is extremely difficult to control.

27:17 "*Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another*" - two iron blades chip off rust and loose pieces just as two people can point out what is "deformities" in the other.

27:18 The fruit of one's efforts can be enjoyed.

27:19 The heart reflects the true person

27:20 Sheol is interpreted "the Grave" while Abaddon is used six times in the OT as "ruin/destruction"; thrice with Sheol (Job 26:6, Prov 15:11, 27:20) and thrice without Sheol (Job 28:22, 31:12, Ps 88:1) and once referencing Satan in the NT (Rev 9:11)

27:21 As gold and silver are tested for impurities, an individual's response to praise also reveals pride and hidden sin

27:22 The foolishness of a man is deeply assimilated in a man, and the fool grasps it.

27:23-24 From a fleshly perspective, a man should plan ahead for times of disaster. From a spiritual perspective, a Believer should understand the eternal position of all those under his spiritual authority (e.g. family, congregation, friends).

27:25 The harvest will be complete and the church raptured as the grain is gathered.

27:26 The lamb is the covering of the Believer while the goat is the sin offering representing the redemptive price.

27:27 The entire household can be saved through wisdom and foresight.

15 Proverbs 28, 29

28:1 The wicked experience rational fears (precaution and guilt) as well as irrational (paranoia and cowardice)

28:2 Rebellion brings many usurpers, but the discerning leader can transcend public opinion polls.

28:3 As rain should be a blessing, so should a ruler, but a forceful ruler ruins the harvest and destroys productivity.

28:4 The wicked are lauded by the wicked.

28:5 Men who follow their own impulses into evil lifestyles believe that the Lord is too loving to discipline and act upon His wrath while Believers who seek the Lord's will understand His justice and His grace.

28:6 Poverty with honesty is better than wealth with relative, distorted truths (Prov 28:18).

28:7 The son who excessively pursues worldly pleasures brings disgrace to his family.

28:8 The unfair wealth of the dishonest will be given to the generous man.

28:9 Prayers can be detestable to God when offered in a presumptuous manner

28:10 The evil man will be destroyed as he has destroyed.

28:11 A rich man thinks of himself as wise while the understanding poor man knows better.

28:12 The righteous bring joy (Prov 11:10) while the wicked bring fear (Prov 28:28).

28:13 *"The one who conceals his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them will find mercy."*

28:14 Aspects of respect and reflection bring joy while the hard hearted find trouble.

28:15-16 Wicked rulers can be ruthless and fierce in their wickedness. Oppression is foolishness while the just ruler who does not encourage the pillaging of the poor brings life.

28:17 A Believer should not be an accomplice to a murderer (e.g. abortion). The individual will run from the consequences of that wicked act their entire life.

28:18 The honest person with humility to live with integrity will be assisted while the one who does not pursue truth will fall (Prov 28:6).

28:19 Slow and steady work will more likely bring income while those who pursue fantasies (e.g. entrepreneurs; pleasure seekers) will most likely become impoverished (Prov 28:22).

28:20 *"A faithful man will have many blessings, but one in a hurry to get rich will not go unpunished."*

28:21 A man should not judge with biases, but even the smallest reward will cause a man to sin.

28:22 Those who pursue immediate wealth will come to financial ruin; their idol will be destroyed.

28:23 Wise rebuke is valued over time more than simple flattery.

28:24 It is wrong for children to take inheritance for granted as if it were more rightly theirs than their parent's possession

28:25 The greedy man brings conflict by putting emphasis on himself while those who trust in the Lord can be at peace in Him.

28:26 *"The one who trusts in himself is a fool..."*

28:27 The generous will be blessed while those who "look the other way" ignoring the need will be cursed.

28:28 The wicked rule by fear and oppression, and righteousness flourishes at their destruction (Prov 28:12).

29:1 Either a person is malleable (and bend) or they will irreparably break.

- 29:2 The public likes to see the righteous prosper, and they dread the authority of the wicked.
- 29:3 The wise are contrasted to those whose companions are prostitutes. The wise bring joy to their fathers while those who pursue pleasure squander their possessions.
- 29:4 Stability follows justice. A man who distorts justice according to bribes brings disaster.
- 29:5 A flatterer can entrap someone who entrusts him with secrets
- 29:6 The evil man is grieved by the consequences of sin while the righteous man lives unencumbered
- 29:7 A wicked person cannot even empathize with the poor and hurting
- 29:8 Cynics who ridicule promote anger while the wise men do not let anger control them.
- 29:9 A fool voices opinion to no end or purpose.
- 29:10 Wicked people hate the honest truth, but the righteous care for the man of integrity.
- 29:11 Believers should practice self control and self restraint.
- 29:12 A ruler must govern by the truth or his servants will pursue evil and deceitfully flatter his foolishness.
- 29:13 All men, regardless of societal class, have been enlightened by the Lord with the opportunity to righteously follow Him or selfishly pursue evil.
- 29:14 The Lord Jesus is the King of Kings who does not show favoritism.
- 29:15 The discipline of children saves them from becoming a disgrace (Prov 13:24; 19:18).
- 29:16 Wicked and rebellion go hand-in-hand towards destruction.
- 29:17 A parent shows love and care through discipline of a child while teaching the child about respect. These attributes in a child will bring joy and comfort to the parent.
- 29:18 On a national level, people who have not received the Lord's spirit and enlightenment become chaotic in their pursuit of self-pleasure and self-promotion. Those who adhere to the law are happy.
- 29:19 More than warnings, corrective action is needed, physical (Prov 10:13, 13:24, 14:3, 22:15, 23:13-14, 26:3, 29:15) as well as other types (e.g. financial, restrained benefits, etc).
- 29:20 A man who responds without consideration has little hope.
- 29:21 When a servant is spoiled, he becomes prideful. God prefers that His servants be humble.
- 29:22 Anger is closely associated with pride and causes conflict.
- 29:23 Humility is used in Proverbs three times (Prov 15:33, 18:12, 22:4); each time "humility" precedes honor in the text (Prov 29:23).
- 29:24 A man who is an accomplice to a thief brings certain destruction on himself.
- 29:25 *"The fear of man is a snare, but the one who trusts in the LORD is protected."*
- 29:26 A Believer should seek the favor of the Lord Who is the ultimate judge who can free in this earthly life while giving abundant rewards in the afterlife.
- 29:27 The wicked and the righteous do not "tolerate each other." *"An unjust man is detestable to the righteous, and one whose way is upright is detestable to the wicked."*

30:1 Commentators and translators vary on their interpretation of this verse. This verse could be taken as literal men where Ithiel and Ucal are regarded as proper names; men who are possibly disciples or sons of Agur the son of Jakeh, an unknown scholar among the Hebrews. However, "Agur," and the enigmatic names which follow are sometimes interpreted as epithets of Solomon:

- "Agur" denotes "the compiler; the one who first gathered maxims together."
- "The son of Jakeh" denotes "the one who spat out," that is, "despised" (from קִוָּא, "to spit"), le-Ithiel, "the words of God" (ot, "word"; El, "God"), exclaiming, "I can [ukal] transgress the law against marrying many wives without fear of being misled by them."
- If Ithiel and Ucal are symbolic, they possibly designate two classes of thinkers to whom the proverb is addressed: Ithiel (God is with me) versus Ucal (I am strong)

30:2-3 A simple man may have little personal "worldly knowledge, and yet rely on the eternal truth of God's Word (Prov 30:5-6)

30:4 God's Son, Jesus, is identified here (Isaiah 9:6); it is amazing that even in the Old Testament, it is understood that God had a Son.

30:5 Every word of the Bible is unpolluted (Mt 5:18).

30:6 Believers should rely solely on God's Word instead of human tradition, opinion and experience (Deut 4:2, 1 Cor 4:6)

30:7-8 Two requests are made to the Lord: 1.To live in integrity and honesty 2.To have provision

30:8 *"Give me neither poverty nor wealth; feed me with the food I need."*

30:9 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).

30:10 A man should not tear people down in front of their superiors.

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

30:15 All leeches feed on blood as this verse emphasizes self-serving ("give, give"). This was an ancient Hebraic way of saying that the list is explicit but not exhaustive (Prov 6:16).

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

30:17 Premature death will be the judgment of this wicked son who mocks his father and disobeys his mother. The eye is the entry of light into a person while birds often represent spiritual beings. In the valley (difficulties of life), evil spirits will remove the wicked man's capability for spiritual insight. Ravens are omnivorous. Legend has it that a raven's favorite food is the body of a dead man (or other dead animal), and that a raven will go for the eyes of the carcass first. Dead bodies, however, take some

- time to decompose before the birds can easily tear the meat from the cadaver, so the softer tissues (like eyes) offer the birds a more likely quick meal.
- 30:18-19 Beyond understanding is the mastery of movements where nature would seem to prevent.
- 30:20 An adulteress consumes her victim, but is justified in her own eyes.
- 30:21-23 Disaster is eminent when, just like the adulteress, man wrongfully takes what he should not have.
- 30:24-28 However, there are small animals that rightfully live beyond themselves (e.g. in palaces) because of their wisdom.
- 30:27 When locusts represent the evil spirits who consume (Revelation 9:3-11), they do follow a king (Satan).
- 30:29-31 There are natural leaders which are first in their respective fields. A he-goat is well-suited to live indefinitely in the wild, arid desert. Leadership of the lion and King is related to times of conflict and battle.

Lists of Agur (Proverbs 30)			
Pride	1)	30:11-14	“There is a generation that...” 1) Does not act correctly toward their parents 2) Is self-righteous although they are dirty 3) Is prideful 4) Who use words to oppress
Selfishness	2)	30:15	“The leech has two daughters...” 1) Give 2) Give
Selfishness	3)	30:15-16	“Three things are never satisfied; four never say, “Enough!” 1) Sheol – the grave 2) A Barren Womb 3) Earth, which is never satisfied with water 4) Fire – never says enough
Ignorance	4)	30:18-19	“Three things are beyond me; four I can't understand” 1) the way of an eagle in the sky, 2) the way of a snake on a rock, 3) the way of a ship at sea, 4) the way of a man with a young woman.
Misplacement	5)	30:21-22	“The earth trembles under three things; it cannot bear up under four” 1) a servant when he becomes king, 2) a fool when he is stuffed with food, 3) an unloved woman when she marries, 4) a serving girl when she ousts her lady.
Wisdom	6)	30:24-28	“Four things on earth are small, yet they are extremely wise” 1) the ants are not a strong people, yet they store up their food in the summer; 2) hyraxes are not a mighty people, yet they make their homes in the cliffs; 3) locusts have no king, yet all of them march in ranks;

			4) a lizard can be caught in your hands, yet it lives in kings' palaces.
Leadership	7)	30:29-31	“Three things are stately in their stride, even four are stately in their walk” 1) a lion, which is mightiest among beasts and doesn't retreat before anything, 2) a strutting rooster, 3) a goat 4) a king at the head of his army

30:32-33 A man should not exalt himself nor take anything (including position) that is not his to take. This strife will have natural consequences. A man should gain wisdom to succeed in life.

31:1 If Lemuel (dedicated to God) is Solomon (as rabbinical commentators believe) then these are the words of Bathsheba. Others say that it is possibly 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).

31:2 Three times, the relationship is emphasized. His life originated within her pregnancy and pain as she bore him. She made a marriage vow to her husband before bearing him and possibly a vow to God for his service (1 Sam 1:27-28). Lemuel means “dedicated to God.”

31:3 A man’s energy and efforts are wasted on those who would be his downfall and demise. As a usurper takes the throne, so does an adulteress take a man’s authority.

31:4-5 Those in power should have nothing to do with the things (e.g., alcohol, adulteress, etc.) that influence reason and justice.

31:6-7 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).

31:8-9 Advocate and defend those oppressed and in need without the capability of being heard.

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

31:10 The proverb asks “who can find a virtuous wife;” Proverbs does not claim that the author’s mother fulfills all of Proverbs 31. This is the best possible wife that a mother would want for her son as a wife like this would be a treasure.

31:11 The first characteristic of a good wife is that her husband trusts her; she is able to give him all that is good.

31:12 Although she can give good or evil, she rewards him with good all of their life.

31:13 This wife is industrious and works to provide covering (e.g., blankets, clothing).

- This “excellent wife” is joyful in her achievements and accomplishments)
- Nowhere in Scripture does it say that women should not work (e.g., have a career), in fact, the opposite concept is encouraged. (Titus 2:4-5)

31:14-15 The wife is a provider as she wakes early in the morning to coordinate the food for the family.

31:16 The wife is a realtor and a farmer as she invests in producing fruitful harvests.

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

31:17-18 The wife is strong and determined in her profitable work.

31:19-22 This wife has well-prepared her home to overcome challenges and enable her to be generous to the poor.

- 31:23 The husband is considered a wise judge (after all, he married her).
- 31:24 Again, it is emphasized that the woman is industrious and working.
- 31:25 This wife is covered with strength and honor as she lives expectantly for good things to come.
- 31:26 This wife lovingly speaks wisdom.
- 31:27 This wife is dedicated to the workings of her house and is never idle.
- 31:28 This wife is praised by her children and husband.
- 31:29 Although many women have the promising abilities, this wife surpasses all of their potential.
- 31:30 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.
- 31:31 It is right for this good wife to experience the reward of her efforts and wisdom.