

Lesson on the Wisdom Literature:

How do we get wisdom?

-We pray – James 5

-We seek it – Proverbs 2

What is the beginning of wisdom: The fear of the Lord – Proverbs 1:7

A Definition of Wisdom: The knowledge of God and his word that is applied to daily life.

What is a proverb? A pithy saying

Look at Proverbs 2 and the words used for seeking after wisdom:

-treasure

-make attentive

-incline your heart

-call out for

-receive

-raise your voice

-seek and search

What hinders it?

- Pride! – we don't want to listen
- Habitual sins – not learning from past mistakes (I Peter 2:1-3)
- Original sins
- Investing in people or things that draw us away from God
- Not having discretion or discernment
- Not investing in people who draw us to God

Some Facts:

1. Author: Solomon, Agur (chapter 30), Lemuel (chapter 31)
2. Solomon
3. He was a man of prayer especially at the beginning of his life (I Kings 3:12)
4. He was admired by the world as a wise man (I Kings; 4:29-34)
5. He was the son of David (Psalm 72:1)
6. David had instructed him (I Kings 2:1-4; I Chron. 28:9)
7. Jesus speaks of Him and that His wisdom is even greater (Matt. 12:42)

More Facts

- Probably written at the end of his life
- King Hezekiah's copied also had a part in collecting them (Proverbs 25:1)
- Key verse: Proverbs 1:7

Some suggestions:

1. Usually, you will find a contrast. (especially in chapters 10-15). Such as in Proverbs 12.13 – “An evil man is trapped by his sinful talk, but a righteous man escapes trouble.”
2. Often, they evaluate conduct. Proverbs 15.27 – “he who hates bribes shall live”
3. They can give consequences to behavior – Proverbs 10.1- A wise son brings joy to his father.
4. Some suggestions:
5. They use figurative language. “Like cold water to a weary soul, so is good news from a far country.” Proverbs 25.25
6. Direct comparisons – Proverbs 28.6 – Better a poor man whose walk is blameless than a rich man whose way is perverse.
7. They tend to be earthy. That is examples from daily life. Words that even children can understand such as honeycomb, ants, etc.

■ Activity:

- Choose a “proverb” from chapters 10-20 of Proverbs
- What does it mean?
- What does it not mean?
- How might it apply to your life?
- What was the imagery or illustration used?

Themes within Proverbs:

1. Wisdom
2. Marriage and purity
3. Wealth and poverty
4. Power of the tongue – using our words
5. Principles for raising children
6. Person discipline
7. Friendship

--One last tip: Read a chapter every day in the 31- day months

Ecclesiastes

1. Author: Solomon –written maybe at the end of his life
2. Hebrew name is the *Qoheleth* (the root word is kahal meaning gathering) and (speaker to it)
3. 1.12, 7.27
4. Prose and poetry

5. An important book of Scripture and one which the Lord has used more than a few times in the conversion of the lost.

Activity – Read Chapter 1

-What are the images that are used in this chapter? What images do you see? What do they represent?

- Vanity – (Hebrew - hebel) “meaningless”
 - Obvious things
 - Questionable things
 - Good things

Mark Dever says – Job learned by losing everything; Solomon learned by gaining everything.

- Ecc. 11.1-2
What does this mean?
- Cast (send) your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days. Give a portion to seven, or even to eight, for you know not what disaster may happen on earth. ESV
- Cast your bread on the surface of the waters, for you will find it ^[a]after many days. ²Divide your portion to seven, or even to eight, for you do not know what misfortune may occur on the earth. (NASB)
- About life:
- As you do not know what *is* the way of the ^[a]wind,
Or how the bones *grow* in the womb of her who is with child,
So you do not know the works of God who makes everything.
- Ecc. 11.5

Song of Solomon

- Has been called Canticles
- Part of the Writings
- Interpretations:
 - Dramatic – like a play
 - Allegory – God’s love for the church
 - Typology – greater type – Christ

Human love poem