

PROVERBS

Prologue (1:1–9:18)

Proverbs Proper, or “Proverbial Wisdom” (10–31)

Detailed View

Prologue (1:1–9:18): Poetic Discourses on Wisdom and How to Obtain it

- Title (1:1): The Proverbs of Solomon
- Introduction (1:2–7)
- On Violent Men (1:8–19)
- Woman Wisdom (LADY WISDOM I; 1:20–33)
- The Value of Wisdom (2:1–22)
- Admonition to Trust and Honor God (3:1–12)
- True Wealth (3:13–20)
- True Security (3:21–35)
- Parental Advice (4:1–9)
- Admonition to Keep the Right Path (4:10–27)
- Warning against Impurity and Infidelity (5:1–23)
- Practical Admonitions (6:1–35)
- False Attractions of Adultery (7:1–27)
- The Gifts of Wisdom (LADY WISDOM II; 8:1–36)
 - Wisdom’s Part in Creation (8:22–36)
- Wisdom’s Feast (LADY WISDOM III; 9:1–6)
- General Maxims (9:7–12)
- Folly’s Invitation and False Promise (Mistress Folly; 9:13–18)

Proverbs Proper, or “Proverbial Wisdom” (10:1–31:31): single sentence statements (in 2 or 3 lines) arranged in more-or-less random order

- Proverbs of Solomon (10:1–24:34)
 - Proverbs which contrast righteous and wicked lives (10:1–15:33; THE ANTITHETICAL COLLECTION)
 - Proverbs which encourage godly lives (16:1–22:16; THE “ROYAL” COLLECTION, more thematic with synonymous parallelism)
 - Sayings of the Wise (22:17–24:22; INTENDED TO EDUCATE, either real children or more probably young civil servants for court)
 - Proverbs which concern various practices (22:17–23:25)
 - Proverbs which concern various people (24:1–34)
- Proverbs of Solomon Copied by Hezekiah’s Men (25:1–29:27; 110 lines = number of Hezekiah’s name)
 - Proverbs concerning relationships with others (25:1–26:28)
 - Kings (25:1–7)
 - Neighbors (25:8–20)
 - Enemies (25:21–24)

- Yourself (25:25–26:2)
- Fools (26:3–12)
- Sluggards (26:13–16)
- Gossips (26:17–28)
- Proverbs concerning actions (27:1–29:27)
 - Life (27:1–27)
 - Law (28:1–10)
 - Wealth (28:11–28)
 - Stubbornness (29:1–27)
- Words of Agur (30:1–33)
 - Personal words (30:1–14)
 - Numerical proverbs (30:15–33)
- Words of King Lemuel, as taught by his mother (31:1–31)
 - Ode to a Capable Wife (31:10–31)