

## Proverbs

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### Name and Author

1. The name was chosen by its own description (1:1). A proverb is a type of literature providing a brief pithy statement of counsel.
2. Solomon is the main author (1:1; 10:1; 25:1; 1 Kings 4:29, 31,32). The last two chapters are authored by Agur (30:1) and Lemuel (31:1).

### Purpose and Theme

1. Key words: *wise* and *wisdom* used some 80 times and *fear of the Lord*, recorded 14 times.
2. The purpose is that of teaching God's people to live wisely for God's glory (1:2-6).
3. The first duty in achieving this purpose: fearing God (1:7).
4. What is the "fear of the Lord?" (1:7).
5. What is the difference between typical proverbs and Proverbs found in God's Word? (24:11).

### Outline

The Praise of Wisdom (1-9)

Contrasts and Observations (10-22)

Principles and Warnings (22-24)

Comparisons and Contrasts (25-29)

Words of Agur and Lemuel (30-31)

### Three Themes:

#### **Learn to Love: What we must learn to love:**

1. Fear God (1:7).
2. Seek God's Direction (3:5-6).
3. Watch over your heart (4:23).
4. Drink from your own cistern to avoid immorality (5:15-19).
5. Avoid God's black list and observe God's commands (6:16-23).
6. Discern the results of yielding to temptation (9:17-18).
7. Love not hatred (10:12).
8. Limit/restrict your speech (10:19).
9. Be generous (11:25; 19:6).
10. Respond gently to anger (13:29; 15:1; 19:11; 20:22; 29:11).
11. Understand the deception of "clean sin" (16:2).
12. An un-contentious wife is a good thing (18:22; 19:13; 21:9,19; 25:24; 27:15).
13. Maintain a good reputation (22:1).
14. Obtain godly guidance from godly counselors (24:6; 19:20).
15. Train and correct children (29:15-17; 22:6).

### **Learn to Hate: What we must hate and stand against:**

1. A crooked man (3:32).
2. Haughty eyes, lying, devising heart, evil feet, discord among brethren, the shedding of innocent blood (6:16-19).
3. Dishonest scales (11:1; 20:10,23).
4. Lying lips (12:22).
5. The way or sacrifice of the wicked (15:8, 9, 26; 21:27).
6. A proud heart (16:5).
7. A deaf ear to God's law (28:9).

### **Learn to Maintain: Stewardship of Wealth**

1. Work like ants (6:5; 30:24).
2. Maintain a bountiful spirit (11:24; 22:9; 31:13-27).
3. Exercise charity (3:27,28; 19:17).
4. Be diligent (10:4; 11:27; 12:11,24; 13:4; 21:5; 23:29; 27:23-27; 30:24).
5. Understand the power of gifts (17:23; 18:16; 21:14; 29:4).
6. Give back to God (3:9-10; 11:24-25; 14:31; 22:9; 28:27).
7. Avoid greed (11:6,26; 27:20; 30:15-16).
8. References to riches (10:15; 11:28; 13:8; 14:24; 23:4-5; 28:11).
9. References to surety (6:1-3; 11:15; 17:18; 20:16; 20:26; 27:13).

### **Popa's Proverbs**

1. Start everyday with respect for who God is (1:7,29). This is a choice we must make.
2. Develop humility to listen to correction (1:23; 12:1; 15:5; 25:12). Live to listen, learn and grow.
3. Obey and Love from the heart (3:1; 7:1).
4. Give of your wealth to God and his people (God: 3:9; 11:25; Others: 14:21)
5. Be "on guard" for your heart (4:23).
6. Rule at the pleasure of God (8:15,16).
7. Plan several generations out (13:22).
8. Speak gentle and wise (15:1-4).
9. Seek to know God's purposes (16:4).
10. Realize that respecting God keeps us from evil (16:6).