

**Prov: Principles Not Promises**  
**2023-06-04**

Prov 1:7

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

...wrong understanding of Proverbs caused me to question God's power/goodness.

- Main point: Proverbs are PRINCIPLES for life NOT PROMISES from God. 900 BC mostly Solomon (wisest person ever 1 Kings 4:29, 32) but this is God's wisdom
- Hebrews titl the book "Proverbs of Solomon", but it was shortened to Proverbs = "to represent, be like"

Outline of Proverbs

*Chapters 1-10      Counsel for the young  
How to choose and make friends; spot and avoid danger;  
build character.*

*Chapters 10-24    Wisdom for godly living*

*Chapters 25-31    Wisdom for healthy relationships*

- compare familiar with unfamiliar to teach guiding principle.

Proverbs are concise statements that express general truth about patterns of life.

- contains descriptive/insightful comparisons/similes in short sentences.
  - Each stand on own, usually not connected to proceed/follow
- Life does not always work the way proverb says. Proverbs 11:22, 18:19, 12:21, 15:1, 22:6
  - if ANYONE takes principles to heart, will avoid some of most common mistakes and life mainly turn out better than if ignore.

Almost every aspect of life touched upon: parent, marriage, finances, work, conduct, sex, charity, ambition, discipline, debt, character, alcohol 23, revenge, godly.

- Proverbs help see people, events, situations from high/lofty things to common, ordinary things as God sees them....life from God's perspective.

Proverbs 1:2-6

- provides understanding to distinguish truth/error, good/evil, wise/foolish, give ethical insight, awareness of consequences.
  - Guide to make wise daily choices consistent with God's ways.

Wisdom "*Hokmah*" 45 times used of skill of craftsmen, sailor, singer, admin, counsel.

- in reference to God....wisdom is being skilled in godly living.

- Verticle wisdom for horizontal living.

wisdom is the starting point and ruling principle: faith in God/Gospel. Proverbs 1:7, 1 Corinthians 1:30, 2:16, Colossians 2:3

- Life more fully understood and enjoyed through relationship with God.
  - Jesus Christ is the embodiment of wisdom so at salvation made holy with new mind, godly desires and greater access to God's wisdom/knowledge.
    - Indwelling Holy Spirit enables wise choices and empowers godly living.

Recurring principle: choose wisdom and follow God = blessed.

reject wisdom = shame, suffering, death. Proverbs 1:31-33, 3:13-18, 35, 10:21

- Wise follow Jesus' divine wisdom transcends history, chronological-age, culture.
  - Save much, if not all, heartache/trouble and be blessed by God.
    - Read in seconds; memorize in minutes; apply takes a lifetime
      - App: read study Proverbs/day....31

Wisdom available/accessible to all. Proverbs 1:20-23, James 1:5, Psalm 14:1, Proverbs 13:20

- Foolish to ignore/spurn Jesus' infinite wisdom and suffer serious consequence.
  - Christians make foolish decisions but they are not fools in Biblical sense.
    - Fool does not lack mental ability, has reason but reason is wrong
      - sees true as false, wise as foolish, good as bad.
    - Denial of God often accompanied. by wicked, destructive lifestyle now that ends in eternal separation from Lord.

Psalm is book of emotions, Proverbs speaks to human will, primarily with choices in life.

- Proverbs are PRINCIPLES for life NOT PROMISES from God.
- Proverbs godly wisdom produces holiness that replaces foolishness/evil.
  - Fruit godly choices is better life here filled with satisfaction in Jesus Christ.
    - Choice is yours: do life either easier way or harder way