

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Proverbs – What's it All About?

- **How should we Live Well?**
- **What does it mean to live a Good Life?**
- **Where to find Satisfaction and Fulfilment?**
- **Proverbs = a Handbook of /Instruction Manual**

WISDOM!

Proverbs – Who wrote and When?

WHO?

~ SOLOMON – “A WISE and DISCERNING heart. 1 Kgs. 3 :12

PLUS

~ Contributions from other Scholars and Sages

~ A library of accumulated Israelite Wisdom

WHEN?

~ Long editing/compilation process – several hundred years or more

Proverbs – What’s in it? (1)

“Proverbs” = “comparison.” Similes and Metaphors

- “Like a city whose walls are broken down so is someone who lacks self-control”

Longer poetic sections.....

- A Teacher’s/ Parent’s advice to a pupil, son or daughter
- Five poems on Wisdom and Folly personified as Women

~ Who will entice you?

~ Who will you follow?

~ On which will you build your life?

Proverbs – What's in it? (2) Chs. 30 & 31

Three characters who have chosen the path of Wisdom

- Agur – In humility learns that Divine Wisdom available to everyone
- King Lemuel – the wayward son
- The Queen Mother – restores her son to the right pathway

A noble women who embodies/personifies Wisdom

All Role Models for how to learn God's Wisdom and apply it

Proverbs – What are the Big Ideas? (1)

WISDOM

Practical Knowledge and its Application --- Knowhow

- **Discernment**
- **Sound Judgement**
- **Discretion**
- **Justice and fairness**

Its moral theological foundations.....

- **The Ten Commandments and Old Testament Law**

Proverbs – What are the Big Ideas? (2)

“THE FEAR OF THE LORD (is the beginning of Wisdom)” 1:7

Respect – Reverence – Awe

God All Mighty - not God All Matey!

A Relationship – not only Rule keeping

- Knowing God**
- Hearts, Minds and Strength**
- Hidden Treasure**

**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart.... He will make your paths straight”
3:5-6**

Proverbs' Outlook – Unrealistic? Naïve?

NO

- **Not Promises - [Guarantees for success and wellbeing]**
- **But Probabilities – [Living God's way likely to have better outcome]**

❖ **God-focused principles on how to live well**

❖ **Simply asks Two specific questions:**

~ **What pathway have we chosen?**

~ **What are the foundations on which we construct our lives?**

Jesus as Wisdom Teacher

~ **Wide is the gate/broad the road to destruction”**

~ **“Small the gate/ narrow the road to Life” Matt. 7: 13-14**

~ **“Everyone who hears these saying mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man.” Matt. 7: 24-27**

~ **He is the solid Rock for Life**

“You are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us WISDOM from God-our righteousness, holiness and redemption.” 1 Cor. 1:30.

**The deepest value, purpose and meaning of life
is found only by trusting in Him.**