

Through the Bible Course

March 9, 1947

Proverbs

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Key Word: Wisdom

Key Verse: 1:7

Author: Solomon, who himself was very wise (1 Kings 4:29-34) and several unknown authors.

Proverbs: Means “a master sentence;” “a maxim.” An English author has described The Proverbs as “The Wisdom of Many, the Wit of One.” Dr. Arnold entitles the book, “Laws from Heaven for Life on Earth.” “The Proverbs teach how to practice religion and overcome the daily temptations.” Underneath these teachings, however, there was a firm belief in the existence of God and in His rule over the world.

Purpose: Is found set forth in 1:2-4

Note: The following outline taken from Dr. J. B. Tidwell’s, “The Bible Book by Book.”

- I. The Praise of Wisdom – chapters 1 through 9
 1. The design and some fundamental maxims – 1:1-19
 2. Wisdom’s warnings – 1:20-33
 3. Wisdom will reveal God and righteousness and save from wicked men and strange women – chapter 2
 4. Description of the life of wisdom – chapter 3
 5. Wisdom the best way – chapter 4
 6. The strange woman – chapter 5
 7. Against various evils – chapter 6
 8. Wisdom’s warnings against adulterous women – chapter 7
 9. Wisdom makes an appeal – chapter 8
 10. Wisdom gives her invitations – chapter 9
- II. Practical Proverbs of Solomon – separate and unclassified – 10:1 through 22:16
- III. Words of the Wise – sometimes called commendations of justice – 22:17 through 24:34
- IV. Proverbs of Solomon – copied by scribes of Hezekiah – chapters 25 through 29
- V. Words of Ague – from one who tried to find out God unto perfection and found the task above him – chapter 30
- VI. Words of Lemuel – chapter 31
 1. The duty of kings – vs. 1 through 9
 2. The praise of a virtuous woman or good wife – verses 10 through 31

Principal Topics Discussed and References

1. Wisdom – chapters 2, 4 and 8
2. Filial piety occupies prominent place in Proverbs – 1:8-9; 6:20-21; 13:1; 15:20; 19:26; 30:17
3. Bad company – the warnings are very urgent and solemn because they are immeasurably important – 1:10-19; 4:14-19; 13:20; 24:1-2; 29:24
4. Licentiousness – here again the warnings are very urgent – 2:16-19; 5:3-20; 6:23-25; 7:4-27; 22:14
5. Intemperance – nothing can exceed the vividness with which Proverbs portrays the evils of drunkenness – 22:1; 23:1-3; 23:29-35; 31:4-6
6. Contentions, strifes, disputings, family brawls, quarrels, etc. – 3:30; 10:12; 14:10; 15:1-2, 4, 18; 16:27-28; 18:6-8
7. Lying – here truthfulness and honesty are strongly pressed – 6:16-17; 12:13, 14, 21, 22; 19:5-9
8. The tongue – 4:24; 10:19; 15:4; 31:23
9. Sloth – Proverbs condemns idleness – 6:6-11; 10:4, 5; 15:4; 24:30-34
10. Pride and its consequences – 8:13; 11:2; 16:18; 29:23
11. A true description of riches – 11:4, 28; 23:5; 27:24; 30:8
12. Liberality – 3:9-10; 11:24-25; 13:7; 19:17

Note: The oriental method of teaching was constant repetition of wise and practical thoughts in a form which would stick in the mind. It seems these proverbs were designed primarily for the young. Surely if young people memorized and said over and over again some of The Proverbs they would be a great deterrent to evil and a guide post for good.