

The Book of Proverbs

29

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we commence our study of the book of **Proverbs**. Like **Psalms**, **Proverbs** is in the form of poetry, often using different forms of parallelism to emphasize its meaning.

Although the book of **Proverbs** begins with the statement, "The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel," the book is actually a compilation of proverbs by a number of authors, including Agur son of Jakeh (**chapter 30**), King Lemuel (**chapter 31**) and other people called, anonymously, "the wise" (**22:17; 24:23**).

Although Solomon is said to have collected proverbs from far and wide (note **1 Kings 4:29-34; Ecclesiastes 12:9**), and many of the proverbs recorded in this book quite probably originated from Solomon, **25:1** indicates that the book of **Proverbs** was likely compiled in its final form in or just after Hezekiah's time.

The book of **Proverbs** is divided into ten main sections:

- The Purpose of the Book – **1:1-7**
- The Way of Wisdom – **1:8-4:27**
- The Warnings Against Folly – **5:1-7:27**
- Wisdom and Folly Compared – **8:1-9:18**
- The Main Collection of Solomon's Proverbs – **10:1-22:16**
- The Sayings of the Wise – **22:17-24:34**
- Hezekiah's Collection of Solomon's Proverbs – **25:1-29:27**
- The Sayings of Agur – **30:1-33**
- The Sayings of King Lemuel – **31:1-7**
- The Wife of Noble Character – **31:8-31**

As you read the first half of the book of **Proverbs**, note how the author personifies Wisdom and Folly as women, the first who calls and the second who entices. So pull up a comfortable chair, and let's embark on the first half of **Proverbs** – **chapters 1-15** – and allow the Lord to speak his wisdom into your life.

Memory Verse

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Proverbs 9:10

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!