

PONDERING THE PROVERBS (1:1-7)

A. The BACKGROUND to PROVERBS.

1. The *setting* of Proverbs is that it is part of the _____ section and _____ literature of the Old Testament, along with the book of ...
 - a. _____ - which answers the question, “Why Do the Righteous Suffer?”
 - b. _____ - the hymnbook of the Old Testament.
 - c. _____ - which answers the question, “How Do You Live Wisely?”
 - d. _____ - which answers the question, “What is the Purpose of Life?”
 - e. _____ - which shows the wooing, joys, and heartaches of marital love.
2. The *title* in both the Hebrew Bible and the Greek Septuagint is “_____” (1:1)
3. The *primary author* is “_____, the son of _____, the king of _____” (1:1, 10:1, 25:1), though also some were written by _____ (30:1) and _____. (31:1)
 - What do we know about Solomon’s writing of various proverbs? (1 Kings 4:23)
4. The *original recipients* of Proverbs involved ... instruction from a _____ to a _____ (1:8, 2:1, 3:1, 4:1), and _____ wisdom sayings to _____ (10:1ff).
5. The *date* of Proverbs is primarily in the _____ century BC, though some were collected later.
6. The *outline* of Proverbs is: the _____ of Proverbs (1:1-7); Proverbs of Solomon for _____ (1:8-9:18); Proverbs of Solomon for _____ (10:1-24:34); Proverbs of Solomon Collected by _____ (25:1-29:27); _____ from Agur (30) and Lemeul (31).
7. The *subjects* covered in Proverbs are such practical issues as one’s relationship with _____ (3:5-7; 16:20); _____ parents (1:8-9); _____ bad company (1:10-19); being _____ to others (3:27-35); _____ your heart (4:23-27); _____ from sexual sin (5:1-14); being _____ to your spouse (5:15-23); not being _____ (6:6-19); choosing and being a _____ (13:20, 17:17, 18:24); being _____ (16:18, 18:12); taking _____ (12:1, 15:31, 32); the problems of being a _____ (21:24) or a _____ (17:12); the power of _____ (15:28, 18:8, 21, 20:19); educating and disciplining _____ (22:15); not making _____ (18:13, 17, 19:2); the importance of controlling your _____ (17:27 -28, 18:2, 19:11); dealing with

_____ (16:28, 17:14, 17:19, 20:3); the value of _____ (17:3); the _____ man (20:6); the _____ (14:1) or _____ woman (31:10ff); principles related to _____ (16:12; 21:1) and _____ (17:15, 23, 26), etc.

B. The BASICS about PROVERBS.

1. The word “proverb” (mislé) is derived from the Hebrew word, “masal” which means _____.

2. Proverbs are axiomatic and normative _____, not iron-clad _____ without exception, that utilize _____, _____, _____, and _____ to teach life’s profound truths in order to have _____ and _____ for living.

3. The purposes of the book of Proverbs are:

a) “To know _____ and _____”; to impart moral wisdom for right conduct and skill in living, including the needed corrections in life. (1:2a, 3-5)

- What are some of the characteristics of acquiring wisdom?

Proverbs 1:3-5 To receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity; 4 To give prudence to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion-- 5 A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,

b) “To _____ the words of understanding”; to give insight so as to mentally discern and personally grasp wise counsel from Proverbs. (1:2b, 6)

- Proverbs 1:6 To understand a proverb and an enigma, The words of the wise and their riddles.
- Where and how does one get this wisdom? (2:1-6)

4. The key verse of Proverbs is _____.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,
But
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

- How does this apply to you?